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What are you ... a drongo?

ENVIRONMENT

MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

A laughing kookaburra watches for prey in Redfern Park ... A black swan shows off its white flight feathers in Sydney Park ... A crested pigeon struts its stuff in Centennial Park ...

If you missed these local avian displays - don't despair. These and other plumage idiosyncrasies, flight patterns and preferred habitats have featured on the South Sydney Herald (SSH) website and Instagram feed over the last month - all captured by bird enthusiast and SSH writer and photographer, Stephen Webb, and his naturephotographer partner Penny.

Our ornithological focus initially aimed to encourage people to take part in the Aussie Bird Count as part of National Bird Week, Monday October 17 to Sunday October 23 (if you missed it this year, sign up in 2023).

Longer term, we're hoping to inspire more city dwellers to find pleasure in the birdlife in our urban environments.

Stephen has had a great time asking citizens, councillors and scientists to nominate their favourite birds and to tell him what they most like about them.

Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney (CofS), Clover Mayor, is fond of the butcherbird and enjoys its wonderful song.

CofS Councillor Jess Scully's choice was more controversial. She cited the white ibis (which many Sydneysiders call the bin chicken but not Jess) as her favourite.

"They're not bin chickens." she said in their defence. "They're elegant prehistoric time travellers who have somehow ended up in the heart of a 21st century city, and they're finding a way to survive.'

The spangled drongo was chosen by Darryl Jones, Professor Emeritus, Centre for Planetary Health & Food Security and School of Environment and Science, Griffith University.

The spotted pardalote (found in urban areas with a good cover of eucalypts) was chosen by quantitative ecologist and PhD candidate Carly Campbell, one of the authors of "Big changes in backyard birds: An analysis of long-term changes in bird communities in Australia's most populous urban regions".

Experts Stephen interviewed also shared some great advice about cultivating birdfriendly gardens, what books to help you identify birds and their behaviours, and insights into why protecting our birds is so important.

Bird life is at stake in our cities as parkland and open spaces get taken over by high rise, industrial areas and motorways – so there are things the ornithologists and urban biodiversity experts are saying we

Mural honours league legend

SPORT

LYN TURNBULL

ONE-HUNDRED-AND-ONE years to the day after 15-year-old Maggie Moloney wowed the crowd at Sydney Showground watching the world's first women's rugby league game in September 1921, a mural honouring her was officially launched at the corner of James and Morehead Streets, close to her childhood home.

Her granddaughter Maureen said: "Her interest in football came from kicking a footie in the streets with her big brother Bryan who played for South Sydney. She grew up knowing all the rules and was so excited when she discovered that there was going to be a women's game."

In the mural on the back wall of the St Vincent de Paul Community Centre, the artist Sharon Billinge has captured Maggie from a very worn and creased photo believed to have been taken moments after the match in which she scored four tries in front of a 30,000-strong crowd that the 1921 press reported had "come to jeer [but] stayed to cheer".

The artist has also included a Dally M branded football in the mural. NSWRL authorities had issued a ban on the women's match, but its first star, Dally Messenger defied the ban and used the women's game to launch the football bearing his nickname with a half-time kicking exhibition.

Among the 30 members of the Moloney family who attended the opening was her eldest granddaughter Margaret Heard who bears a striking likeness to Maggie in the mural. She recalls the weekend visits Maggie made to their home as they grew up in Seven Hills. "Nan used to sleep in one of our beds in the big room she had built on the back of

FOOTBALL AGUE

e Moloney's granddaughters Margaret Heard, Maureen Black, Karen Heard and Tracey n in front of the mural commemorating their grandmother's starring role in the world's rst women's rugby league game. Photo: Lyn Turnbull

the house for us four girls to sleep in, and she would tell us stories at night." Maureen agreed, "She just loved running, high jumping and athletics."

Maggie lived until 1971 and throughout her life was always interested in sport. She was a major Rabbitohs supporter and loved the Seals Club at Maroubra Beach where she lived as an adult.

Kath Haines, a rugby league historian who lives in Redfern, collaborated on the mural project with 107 Projects and the City of Sydney. She noted that "Maggie

Moloney's story isn't well known but she was a true groundbreaker and I love that her hidden story can reveal history on a wall in Redfern so close to where she starred as a 15 year old. As the women's league only survived until 1923, she didn't have a continuing career, but Maggie is very much a trail blazer as Dally Messenger was for the men's game. It would be fitting if the NRLW medal awarded to its Player of the Year were named the 'Maggie M' after Maggie Moloney.'

need to do to stop species from declining and disappearing.

First step: Put away your device and unplug your earphones.

Stand as still as you can and look up. The sights and songs of our urban birds are splendid. Free for the taking.

Follow@southsydneyherald on Instagram to see our birds of the day and learn about protecting urban biodiversity. Visit the SSH website for longer, bird-focused articles.











South Sydney Herald

To read these online-only stories and much more, go to: southsydneyherald.com.au

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Reimagining the Newtown Tram Sheds

From the late 1800s to the mid-20th century, Sydney had one of the biggest tram networks in the world. Electric trams criss-crossed the city from La Perouse in the south to Lane Cove in the north, following the varied topographies of Sydney's suburbs, city, and seaside.

The trams are long gone but a relic of this golden era of mass investment in public transport remains in the form of the Newtown Tram Sheds. Nestled into the very heart of our neighbourhood, between Newtown and Erskineville, the Sheds once housed trams connecting Newtown to Glebe, Canterbury, Earlwood and Tempe.

After these services were replaced by buses in late 1957 the Newtown Tram Sheds were shut and entered a new era of demolition by neglect. Over the past 65 years they've been gutted of trackwork and tramway fixtures and served a range of uses from bus parking and railway support services to private tenancies.

Despite massive community energy to transform them into a creative or cultural space the Tram Sheds have sat unused and in a growing state of disrepair, overlooked even during a major facelift for Newtown Station in 2012 that saw the forecourt of the former depot adaptively reused as shops.

We know what happens to large, centrally-located public assets like this under the NSW Liberal-National Government: they're sold off to the highest bidder and redeveloped for private interests. We've seen it happen to public housing, public buildings, and public foreshore – we don't want to see it happen to the Newtown Tram Sheds next.

That's why we're getting on the front foot and building a community-led vision for the future of the site and a grassroots campaign to make it happen.

Join us for a public meeting on the future of Newtown Tram Sheds at 5.30pm – 6.30pm on Monday November 14 in the Main Hall at Newtown Neighbourhood Centre – all welcome!

RSVP here:





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



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Clothing Store Precinct preparing for sale

URBAN DESIGN

GEOFF TURNBULL

THE Clothing Store Precinct between Carriageworks and Pines Estate in Newtown may be the first part of North Eveleigh to be redeveloped.

At the end of October, the Transport Asset Holding Entity (TAHE), which owns the site, held a two-evening by-invitation design workshop to "refine previous community feedback".

The invitation said: "Over the coming months the NSW government will undertake market engagement and look to secure a development partner to redevelop the Clothing Store Sub-Precinct site. Your feedback about the future public and open space and possible community uses at these sessions will inform our market engagement and ensure the successful delivery of the sub-precinct."

At the workshop TAHE said it would likely retain a longterm interest in some of the site. It also confirmed that the precinct is zoned "mixed use" with a concept plan approved in 2008, and it will use existing planning controls to determine the level of development.

New Redfern station pedestrian crossings

Gibbons Street and Regent Street, Redfern, will get new signalised pedestrian crossings to facilitate pedestrian movement to busses and the Southern Concourse which is currently being built. The crossings will use Marian Street as the connection between Gibbons and Regent streets.

Work on the Gibbons Street crossing will commence in

early November and continue into December before a break until mid-January. Work will be undertaken between 8pm and 5am from Sunday to Friday with no work on Saturdays or public holidays. One tree in Gibbons Street will need to be removed.

NOVEMBER 2022

It was hoped the proposed building above the Eastern Suburbs railway platforms would include a bus interchange but the twin one-way roads make such an interchange difficult, so better pedestrian connections seem to be the compromise solution.

ALP NSW Conference supports public housing

With a state election in March 2023, some inner Sydney ALP branches successfully gained support from the NSW ALP conference to try and change how an incoming ALP NSW government would deal with public housing redevelopment.

The resolution calls for a moratorium on privatisation of public housing, implementing legislation that guarantees the number of public housing units increase both in aggregate but also as a proportion of new housing stock, including in the inner suburbs of Sydney.

The resolution proposes legislation to provide guarantees where the government rebuilds or renovates existing public housing. The guarantees cover relocations, right of return, improved access to services and amenities, quality of construction and how construction companies treat their workforce. You can see the full motion on the REDWatch website. SSH

Geoff Turnbull is a co-spokesperson for REDWatch.

World premiere of multi-media opera

MUSIC

SYLVIA LESTAVEL

THE Cooperative is a young Sydney-based arts company and social justice project, whose ambitious mission is to create and champion art to influence audiences and society as a whole.

Historically, art has always played a part in provoking social change, and the core purpose guiding The Cooperative is that there is no better medium to explore and confront contemporary social issues than opera.

Next on The Cooperative's 2022 program will be the world premiere of Felicity Wilcox's Threading the Light. This production marks the first new opera presented by The Cooperative.

Wilcox's work is haunting and compelling, a pertinent and cathartic work. Designed for live performance with real-time interaction between performed and pre-recorded elements,

Threading the Light is a multimedia gem-like concert opera for string orchestra, singers and percussion, electronic surround sound and images.

The title refers to the universal phenomenon of ritual. a constant in human culture, designed to transcend worldly concerns. The work features surround diffusion effects and delay and spectral processing that invite the audience to be drawn into this sculptural composition structured in four movements and named after elements commonly associated with ritual practices: Light, Water, Blood and Fire.

Text for the work has been sourced from prayers and contemplative writings across a broad range of faiths.

This production marks the world premiere of this extraordinary new work. There will be two performances at Pitt Street Uniting Church on November 25 and 26 at 7.30pm. ssn

www.events.humanitix.com/ threading-the-light

'Is your child struggling to read? Get help early' - An interview with Sally Rippin

EDUCATION

MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

SALLY Rippin's son, Sam, struggled to read – but she ignored her gut and thought he'd pick it up over time.

She was wrong. Her new book, Wild Things: How we learn to read and what can happen if we don't, describes the research she unearthed and the heartbreak she endured in her long quest to get him help.

What was the most heartbreaking impact for your son, Sam, of struggling to read?

Every subject in school requires reading. So, Sam eventually found he was unable to do well in anything, even maths, which he had previously enjoyed. This meant he soon became completely disengaged with school and learning, and his self-esteem plummeted. He gravitated towards other kids who were doing badly and lost faith in the adults around him, even those who were on his side. It was a really scary time.

What warning signals do you advise other parents not to ignore?

The biggest message I received from all the parents I interviewed for this book is to trust your gut and get help as soon as you can. There is no reason why neurodivergent kids can't thrive in school, but we need to make it accessible for them by understanding how they may learn differently and providing any supports they may need. It's not about fixing the person - neurodivergent kids are perfect as they are - it's about creating an environment that has been adapted to their needs.

How important is it for parents whose children are having difficulties with speech and reading to get them assessed?

Early intervention is absolutely essential. We need to ensure we are giving our teachers all the education and assistance they need to understand how to identify and support these children within the classroom, wherever possible.

What would you like to say to the teachers who go the extra mile and look out for the kids who are doing it tough?

Teachers can change lives. I know how exhausting the last

Biggings Saly Rippin Saly Ripp

Bestselling children's author, Sally Rippin, says, *Wild Things* is the book she needed when her son first started school. 'I wanted to share my story in the hope that other struggling parents might feel less alone.' Photo: Supplied

few years of remote learning have been for so many teachers, who were often juggling their own families, too, and how often they are subjected to souldestroying criticism and unfair expectations. Too many parents can forget that most teachers go into teaching because they want to make a difference in kids' lives, and while kids may not be able to show their gratitude at the time, I reckon almost every adult I know could look back

on a teacher they had at school who they can feel grateful for.

Tell us a little about the characters in your books.

All my characters face challenges in some ways, often unable to fit into conventional society, but eventually find their strengths and then soar. These are the themes I hope my young readers will take away from reading my stories.

What was the best thing you learned from your experience with Sam's reading and learning difficulties?

I have realised there can be so many reasons why our darling offspring can suddenly turn into a Wild Thing, but a lot of the time this challenging behaviour can be just a cry for help. And the sooner we can find a way to love and support our children exactly for who they are – not who we think they should be – the more chance they will have of finding a way to live a full life in their own unique way.

Wild Things: How we learn to read and what can happen if we don't by Sally Rippin, Hardie Grant, \$29.99



Street bunting, beats and beads

FESTIVALS

ANDREW COLLIS

REDFERN: It wasn't raining on Saturday, October 22. Well, maybe just a little. Between Regent and Chalmers streets, closed to traffic for the day, Redfern Street sparkled.

Part of the City's Sydney Streets festival series, the event attracted hundreds of locals as well as curious visitors.

Redfern businesses offered fine food and drink – bush tucker delights at Cafe Dreaming, prosecco and pizza at La Coppola Woodfire Pizza, and a pork spit at Redfern and Co.

Markd Tattoo welcomed walkins with tattoo artists for their Flash Day event. 107 Projects hosted musical performances and a clothing swap. There were also DJs, food stalls and games at The Tudor Hall Hotel, The Redfern, The Sunshine Inn and the Nobel Hopps.

Amid the pop-ups and alfresco diners, artists and musicians shared their work.

Tiga Bayles has been playing the didgeridoo (yidaki) since childhood. His partner, Chantal Mary Lea Haigh, makes fine beaded bracelets and necklaces – red, black and yellow beads with silver clasps.

The proud Birigubba/Gungalu/ Wanurrua/Bundgalung/Yugerra man and Wakka Wakka/ Bidjara woman enjoyed their interactions with passersby.

"We travelled from Brisbane to Sydney," said Mr Bayles, a traditional culture man. "We started our culture-sharing all over the streets, south, east, west and north sides of Brisbane and Ipswich. We'll be part of the entertainment tomorrow at Olympic Park [for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup], performing with Koomurri Incursions."

"My beading work is inspired by Tiga's grandmothers," Ms Haigh explained. "Maureen Watson was a respected activist and educator – she co-founded Radio Redfern. And Katherine Reilly was a strong and beautiful woman, too."

Mr Bayles and Ms Haigh create art and poetry at BIMBI DU on Facebook



Savouring sun and song at the SSH picnic

LOCALS

SSH

A dazzlingly sunny day greeted volunteers and supporters of the *South Sydney Herald (SSH)* October 15 as they gathered in Redfern Park to picnic and celebrate the paper's wonderful family.

"I can see clearly now the rain has gone" was the perfect opener from the Sydney Street Choir to cheer the *SSH* crowd, which had not gathered in person for a picnic since 2019 (pre-Covid).

Spirited renditions of "Let it be" (which the choir dedicated to the *SSH* team) and "Try a little kindness" were also audience favourites to which they sang and swayed along.

The trivia quiz, devised by longstanding volunteer distributor Eleanor and assisted by friend of the paper and previous volunteer coordinator Allison, jogged participants' brain cells.

Questions about what Sydney suburb was named after a famous battle, the age of bones in Lake Mungo (and therefore the length of First Peoples' habitation in Australia), why Cook's landing spot was called Botany Bay, the date of the battle of Hastings and what year the South Sydney Herald began sparked fierce competition for the Rabbitohs jerseys and the book, music and art supply vouchers in the prize pool.

Muffins and coffee from the Park Cafe were relished and the new *SSH* caps with their jaunty red brims worn with pride.

'It was a great celebration," said SSH Managing Editor,
Marjorie Lewis-Jones, "with
the paper's volunteer working
group, writers, editors, proof
readers, photographers,
distributors and readers enjoying
a great day in the sun.

"Our citizen journalism and independence are rare in Australian media," she said, "and stem from our deep commitment to giving marginalised people a voice and reporting their concerns.

"We're a diamond in the rough looking for supporters, sponsors and advertisers. If you'd like to help, please get in touch."



TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney



2022 FEDERAL BUDGET

Recently our government delivered its first

Budget. It was a responsible budget to help relieve
cost of living pressures and invest for the future.

KEY MEASURES:

- •The Environment is back front and centre where it belongs. We're investing \$1.8 billion to protect and restore our environment, including \$1.2 billion to protect and restore the Great Barrier Reef.
- •\$224.5 million to protect threatened species and \$91.1 million to clean up local waterways.
- Providing \$66.5 million to support 10 new Indigenous Protected Areas so First Nations Australians can manage land and sea country.
- •Expanding Paid Parental Leave to 6 months by 2026.
- •Cheaper early childhood education and care for around 1.26 million families.
- •Implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full, starting with enshrining a Voice to Parliament.
- •Providing \$54.3 million to train 500 First Nations Health workers and practitioners.
- •Providing 40,000 new social and affordable homes.
- •\$100 million for emergency accommodation for women and children.
- •Reversing funding cuts to the ABC restoring \$83.7 million in funding previously cut by the Liberals.
- •Delivering 10 million homes and businesses faster internet access by late 2025 and providing free internet access for 12 months for 30,000 homes without internet access.
- •Investing to upgrade school infrastructure and providing better support for student mental health and wellbeing.
- •Supporting tertiary education with 20,000 extra uni places and 480,000 free TAFE places.
- Making seeing a doctor easier through our 50 new Medicare Urgent Clinics.
- •Providing Cheaper medicines by reducing maximum cost of general scripts on PBS from \$42.50 to \$30.
- •Fixing the crisis in aged care providing \$30.6 billion dollars in funding.

TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney

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University of Sydney jumps four places in 2023 THE rankings

SPONSORED

MARK SCOTT

THE University of Sydney has jumped four places in the 2023 edition of the Times Higher Education (THE) World University rankings to 54th position globally out of 1,799 institutions worldwide.

Research excellence was a major contributor to the result, with research being the University's strongest overall indicator, cementing our status as a world-leading, research-intensive university. The University also scored highly for international outlook, reflecting the University's established position as a global institution.

Our research activity and international connections, including partnerships and research collaborations, underpin this outcome, and I congratulate our academic and professional staff on our competitiveness in this ranking. As we commit to our next 10-year strategy, aspiring to be one of the world's great universities, we have an excellent foundation to build on.

The University has been at the forefront of Covid-19 research, from advising governments on public health measures and developing variant-proof vaccines in collaboration with industry. And to fast-track the path to Net-Zero, we are pioneering advances in waste management, solar panel and battery technology.

We collaborate with some of the best research universities in the world, including Harvard University, National University of Singapore and UCL, and have the largest student mobility program in Australia.

Professor Emma Johnston AO, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), said: "Improvement in the rankings is one way the



excellence of our research activity is acknowledged, alongside indicators such as our strong record of successful start-ups and spin-outs, our 29 academics named as world-leading experts and the \$40 million we were recently awarded under the Medical Research Future Fund.

"They are an encouraging recognition of the importance and quality of our efforts as the University strives to address pressing global challenges with new discoveries and translational research.

"Examples of recent exemplary research include studies that monitored 78,500 adults to confirm 10,000 steps at a quick pace lowers risk of disease, critical contributions to two pioneering studies identifying genetic signatures explaining ethnic differences in the severity of prostate cancer, our contribution to a Nature prehistory paper on the discovery in Borneo of the earliest evidence of an amputation, and a PhD student developing a tool to assist surgeons in planning complex jawbone reconstruction by generating a 'digital twin' of the patient using CT scan data."

This is the 20th edition of the annual Times Higher Education (THE) rankings which judge

universities across citations, research, teaching, international outlook and industry.

In other rankings results this year, the University of Sydney performed strongly in the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) for the third year, improving nine places globally to 60th, as well as the ShanghaiRanking Global Ranking of Academic Subjects, recording 14 research areas in the top 50 globally, including nursing (7th), telecommunication engineering (9th) and transportation science and technology (10th). In the **QS World University Rankings** released in June, the University ranked 41st in the world.

This year Australia has seven universities in the world top 100, up from six last year, and 10 universities in the world top 200 – making it the joint-fifth most-represented country in the top 200.



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

Shingles can be shocking - so get ahead of it

HEALTH

MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

IT'S more than a decade since I suffered my most debilitating post-herpetic nerve (PHN) pain in response to shingles but I still get shivers down my spine whenever I think about it.

It was horrible. When I get shingles it mainly affects my facial nerve (and they call this trigeminal). The first time it happened, my left cheek appeared to have rapidly acquired a bonsai-espaliered tree made of flaming red blisters. The blisters later turned into crusty yellow sores – and the whole experience scared the heck out of me.

And yes, before I got the antivirals, the pain and the tiredness were both incredible.

My severe episode of PHN happened long before there was much reliable information about shingles or PHN on the Internet. I hassled all the health professionals in my life for information a lot because the pain seemed so unrelenting, crippling and searing it was stopping me from doing just about anything.

Shingles is also known as herpes zoster and it is the reactivation of the varicella zoster virus, the same virus that causes chickenpox.

My best line of defence has been the antivirals, but now there's also a vaccine – and some people are eligible for it for free. Ineligible people need to pay for it and the cost depends on the type of vaccine, the formula and where you buy it from.

The Know Shingles campaign launched last year is raising awareness of the signs, symptoms and risk factors shingles and its website makes it very easy to find what you need from it.

I learned from the site that up to 1 in 3 people risk developing shingles in their lifetime, which is a lot when you think about it. The site also confirmed that up to 25 per cent of Australians with shingles may develop PHN, which can result in persistent nerve pain for months or even years after the initial shingles rash resolves itself.

Please don't wait to get shingles before you check the Know Shingles website out and, as it advises, please also talk to your GP.

www.knowshingles.com.au



More than thanks? Teachers change lives

EDITORIAL

SSH

A teacher-friend recently said she'd got some dirty looks for wearing her "More than thanks" T-shirt in Macquarie Street in the CBD.

"People wonder why there's a teacher shortage," she groaned. "It was once a caring profession but the government and bureaucracy are killing it. Real wages are falling – and, for the responsibility and out-of-hours slavery, it's extremely low pay."

Covid-19 has significantly added to the challenges faced by already over-extended education systems and teachers throughout the world.

But there is still an element of society that thinks teachers just don't do enough.

"Remember when former Morrison government minister Stuart Robert lashed out at 'dud' teachers?" asks Nicole Mockler, Associate Professor of Education, University of Sydney, in a piece for *The Conversation*. Or when the then acting education minister said the "bottom 10 per cent"

of teachers "can't read and write" and blamed them for declining academic results?

These slurs were more than just sensational headlines or a politician trying to get attention, Mockler argues. In fact, she says, the way teachers are talked about in the media has a flow-on effect to how people feel about becoming a teacher, and how current teachers see their place in the community.

Mockler's new book examines how teachers have been represented in the print media in Australia for the past 25 years. In her world-first study, she examined more than 65,000 media articles from all 12 national and capital city daily newspapers, including all articles that mentioned teacher and/or teachers three times or more.

"When you look at the harsh criticism and blame placed on teachers," she says, "it's no wonder we are not attracting enough new people to the profession and struggling to retain the ones we have."

Mockler notes three key findings from her research that are critical when it comes to the way we think and talk about teachers and their work.

We are fixated on "teacher quality" - "Teacher quality" is a way for politicians to place the blame elsewhere when they should be committing to addressing the root cause of these problems: inadequate and inequitable funding, excessive teacher workload, unreasonable administrative loads, or teachers being required to work out of their field of expertise.

Teachers' work is made out to be simple (it's not) – Teaching is relentlessly difficult, and while not everyone needs to understand that – in the same way not everyone needs to understand exactly how to conduct brain surgery – we do need to pay some respect to the 300,000 or so Australian teachers who navigate the profession every day. Just because the complexity may not have been evident to us in our 13 years as school students doesn't mean it wasn't there.

Teacher-bashing is the norm – "I found stories about teachers were disproportionately negative in their representations. I did find 'good news' stories in my research but they were outnumbered by articles that focused on how teachers, collectively and individually, don't measure up."



All Hallows Eve

FΔITH

DOROTHY MCRAE-MCMAHON

IN October we would have noticed all sorts of things around us to remind us of Halloween. Most people, understandably, would be unlikely to link this with religious festivals. We would be observing all sorts of ugly images.

However, Halloween has a mixed history, part of which is related to the Western Christian feast for All Hallows Day, also known as All Saints, which falls on November 1. It began with the observance of "Allhallowtide" which was a time in the year dedicated to remembering the dead – including saints and martyrs.

Some people believe that many Halloween traditions were linked with Celtic or Gaelic harvest festivals. Others suggest that these may have been made Christian and expressed as "All Hallows Day" within the

:.....

early Church. Other academics believe that it originated as a solely Christian holiday which was mainly celebrated in Ireland and Scotland. Irish and Scottish migrants brought these Halloween customs to North America and elsewhere in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

This focus on remembering and respecting those who have died became a significant part of the lives of many people, which added to their lives and cultures, rather than simply letting people die and eventually become forgotten. Halloween can stand against the temptation to push away grief when someone we love has died and, rather, dare to enter feelings of grief with deeper respect.

Even though Halloween may be a tradition which has not been a significant part of our religious life, we may find that it can be a gift to us if we study more about its history and tradition – something which we may value.

Mockler says that, as we consider what to do to improve teacher numbers in Australia, we need to think about the way we talk about teaching and teachers in the media.

If all people hear is that teachers are to "blame" for poor standards and they should be finding their demanding, complex jobs easy, this is hardly likely to encourage people into the profession. Nor does it give those already there the support and respect they need to stay.

Australia celebrates World

Teachers Day on the last Friday of October each year. But why not also thank teachers *this week* for the important role they play in our communities and for the positive impact they have on the lives of students.

Bestselling author Sally Rippin (page 3) tells us teachers are often subjected to soul-destroying criticism and unfair expectations – but a dedicated teacher can impact a child's future.

"Teachers change lives."
They deserve more than thanks for this, of course. But saying thank you is a start.

Forest Advocacy Ministry calls for an end to industrial native forest logging in NSW

ENVIRONMENT

MIRIAM PEPPER

A Uniting Church project that aims to stand in solidarity with native forests and all who depend on them has now launched.

Initially based on the Mid North Coast, where logging is escalating, and with a vision to expand across the warm temperate and subtropical coastal forest ecosystems of NSW from the Hunter River in the south to the Queensland border in the north, the project will also connect with efforts for forest protection in other areas of the state. This includes the Campbelltown-Macarthur area of the Sydney Basin, where koalas are increasingly under threat,

and the Great Southern Forests.

Known as the Forest Advocacy Ministry, the project has three main goals. The first is to work with others to achieve a rapid end to industrial native forest logging in NSW. The second is to increase the involvement of Christians in efforts for forest protection. And the third is to acknowledge, encourage and support spiritual connection with Earth.

Uniting Church members from across the east coast of NSW visited the threatened forest ecosystems of Gumbaynggirr land in September. The group was welcomed to country by Gumbaynggirr Elder Uncle Micklo Jarrett and met with members of the Forest Ecology Alliance, Friends of Tuckers Nob, Friends of Pine Creek, Friends of Conglomerate and the Kalang River

Forest Alliance. Activities included a time of celebration with the forests at Gleniffer Church, verification of a native forest remnant inside the Tuckers Nob plantation area near Bellingen, and a convergence at the forest protection camp at the Kalang Headwaters.

Jeff Kite, chair of the Forest
Advocacy Ministry Implementation
Committee, said, "The weekend was
a wonderful opportunity to listen
to the concerns of First Nations
Elders and forest defenders, and to
see firsthand the magnificent native
forests and headwater catchment
areas of parts of the proposed
Great Koala National Park."

The Rev. Phil Dokmanovic from Bangalow-Byron Bay said, "Local people are standing up to protect the places that they love and on which we all depend. It is important that the churches offer them our support and add our voices to theirs."

Dr Miriam Pepper from South Sydney Uniting Church said, "Forests are critical to maintaining Earth's life support systems but they are in crisis because of climate change and logging. Industrial native forest logging operates at a loss of millions of dollars a year in NSW. For the sake of forests, the communities in forested regions, and ultimately all of us, including those living in urban areas, industrial native forest logging needs to end."

Jessi Mervyn-Jones, a ministry candidate from Port Macquarie, said, "The native old growth forests are so precious and important to all of life, and in the immediate to life forms that are endangered. So much has already been lost. We all need to look after what remains. And care, appreciation and nurturing of life, especially vulnerable life, is an important element of worshipping God."

The Rev. Dr Jason John, resident of Hydes Creek near Bellingen, said, "The Uniting Church affirms that all creatures and ecosystems have rights and that God's Creation is good in and of itself, as well as in sustaining human life. The churches are called to serve the 'reconciliation and renewal of Creation' – that is, the healing and wholeness of the Earth. We are committed to challenging the destruction of the forests."

For more information about the Forest Advocacy Ministry, go to www.unitingearthweb.org.au/forests

The Review Arts & Culture in Your Neighbourhood



'Aurora-like play of light in glass' An interview with Bernadette Smith

EXHIBITIONS

MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

BERNADETTE Smith captured light waves interacting within heritage glass at close range for works to reveal an "aurora-like display" in her new exhibition Light Interactions.

Your exhibition is called Light Interactions. What most interests you about photographing light as your subject?

Light for me offers a myriad of transient forms to explore that never fail to surprise me especially when I look closely at the result on the screen and become drawn into this miniature world. As I enlarge the view I find more and more hidden facets that normally can't be seen with the naked eye offering a unique perspective that only close up photography can provide.

You first discovered the unique properties of 1880s industrially produced glass while undertaking postgraduate research at Sydney College of the Arts then sited in Callan Park. What impelled you to explore it?

It had just been announced that my art school campus was to close and I felt a terrible sense of loss when I returned to my studio and experienced it for the first time in an emotional way. After staring blankly at the closed window for ages I started to notice the sensation of flickering shadows moving across the glass while tree branches gently swayed in the breeze beyond. As the sun went





down there was an aurora-like display happening within the western facing windowpane which impelled me to investigate further and led to two years of observation and recording with a high definition camera.

What is so unique about this glass?

Callan Park was built in 1882 with windows produced with a superseded manufacturing process. Because of its unique qualities my studio glazing has a range of minor imperfections and permutations such as minute bubbles and textural changes that amplify sunlight refractions.

What do you mean when you say the works show "the viscerality of light to emphasise non-human agency"?

The viscerality of light refers to its undeniable physical presence,

which asserts itself despite the prevailing world view of so-called human "progress" and omnicidal extractivism that has led to climate crisis. The focus on objects rather than humans therefore helps to offset an overly dominant anthropocentrism de-emphasising human agency. My shock discovery of an aurora-like play of light within the miniature non-human world of the glass happening almost daily regardless of whether humans are there to witness it, metaphorically illustrates the way the planet will continue on even without humans if the Anthropocene era causes mass species extinction.

You have an interest in water sustainability and wrote a chapter for A Speculative Field Guide to Blackwattle Bay. What's at stake in

the Glebe and Blackwattle waterway?

Blackwattle is a beautiful recreational area with many layers of social history and use, but is under imminent threat from inappropriate and unsustainable massive overdevelopment. The problem of rainwater run-off with existing housing has not been adequately addressed, so further expansion will only compound water quality issues with storm water drains leading straight into the bay without natural filtration ponds or biological solutions. Fish from around Blackwattle are not safe for human consumption because toxicity levels are already too high. What we are seeing - and not just in Blackwattle - is the commodification for private benefit of the last remaining communal lands that are publicly owned.

What do you most love about Alexandria/ Erskineville and working in your studio?

I have been working in a studio in Alexandria, not far from Erskineville, for many years, but because of rising land values and personal circumstances I am looking for a studio further out west.

It would be good if local and state governments made more provision for local artists who aren't yet established particularly disabled artists who are often ignored.

I love grabbing a coffee or lunch in Erko and really enjoy the village vibe. It's a great place to unwind and catch up with friends, so I won't stray too far for long.

•••••

Light Interactions is at Ironbark gallery in Strathfield from October 20 to December 19.

'Ethical expressions' Artist Profile: Danielle Joy Golding

ANDREW COLLIS

LOCAL artist Danielle Joy Golding was a recent Blak & Blu pen-onpaper award recipient. Competition judge Dee Smart commented on Golding's free-flowing lines, as well as a sense of mystery in the work.

The artist has been busy throughout the year. "I was doing a series of self-portraits a few months ago, in preparation for a show at the IAF Gallery in Surry Hills," she said. "There will be six when completed.

"I approached them on a personal level, expressing different stages in my life - over the past 10 years. The portraits are set in various places, including North Ryde Inside Out Gallery, and Bondi Junction. They are all based on photographs."

Golding first started making art in high school - drawing mostly, some printing. "I remember the feeling of being expressive – feelings as well as thoughts and ideas. We had a lovely teacher called Mrs Gates, who encouraged us to develop ourselves artistically.

"When I returned to education as a mature-aged student I had Eva Prochaska as a teacher. She came out to see my exhibition at TAP earlier this year. Lesley Dimmick OAM at TAP has also been very supportive."

Golding's influences range from Expressionism and Surrealism to Pop.

"I've been appreciative of German Expressionism over many years. I think they're some of the most expressive artists of all time, responding to the political climate of their day. I like Otto Dix and Edvard Munch a lot, also Max Beckmann, Francis Bacon.

"I also listen to various musicians when I'm working. Sometimes Lou Reed, Laurie Anderson, '80s music is good, Iggy Pop or David Bowie. The new Iggy Pop album, Free, is great!"

Golding will show a selection of drawings at the Orchard Gallery in Waterloo next month. The drawings, mostly in black and blue biro, explore issues of Australian politics, feminism, legal cases, mental health and environmental activism.

Ethical Expressions opens at the Orchard Gallery, 56a Raglan St Waterloo, on December 10, from 5pm.



Theatre Review by Catherine Skipper



Let the Right One In Writer: Jack Thorne Director: Alexander Berlage Darlinghurst Theatre October 12 - November 30, 2022

As John Ajvide Lindqvist's novel Let the Right One In was a bestseller, was made into a moving film in 2008 and finally successfully revamped for the stage by Jack Thorne, it obviously speaks to contemporary times. However, while the narrative features characters of popular interest, a young vampire, a socially isolated young boy, a serial killer, and school-ground bullies, as well as a liberal measure of close-up brutality, it is the appealing age-old story of lovers frustrated by circumstance that wins our hearts.

A tongue-in-cheek attitude is established as the play opens with two conventions of the horror genre: loud pounding music and a dark blur in a door's glowing panel. We expect, as we almost get, a nasty scene of bloodletting - note the plastic curtain - the wellprepared killer brings anaesthetic on a trolley and seems more concerned with practical procedure than in brutality. We later learn, via a televised police announcement, that there have been several murders and no one is to go "into the woods". Strange given that the cold square outside the apartment block in Oslo, where we first meet Oskar and eventually Eli, seems far from any woods.

Awkward Oskar (a winning performance by Will McDonald) seeks refuge in the Square from the small flat in which he lives with his mum (Monica Sayers). Increasingly resistant to his mother's appeals, but still innocently eyeing sweets with childlike wonder,

Oskar is an outsider at school and unable to defend himself from mean boys. In the Square he meets new neighbour Eli (a beautifully nuanced performance by the trans-feminine Sebrina Thornton-Walker) and despite their charmingly gauche connection, Eli tells him they can't be friends.

Friends they become. She is puzzling to Oskar as she doesn't feel the cold and has a wet dog smell, and he a puzzle to Eli as he lacks her certainty and independence – but they come to share an affirming intimacy.

Yet things are not as they seem. Hakon (Stephen Anderton) who appears to be Eli's dad at first, turns out to be a later version of Humbert Humbert, a serial killer foraging blood to feed young vampire Eli. Ultimately, Oskar must be told and if eventually he can come to terms with her "otherness" society cannot, and Eli is forced to take an action that will separate her forever from Oskar.

Strangely, while we see Eli deceive and attack a kindly stranger and suck the lifeblood from a policeman it by no means affects our feelings for her. It may be because we appreciate the reference to Thornton-Walker's recent transformation, but it is more likely that we pity Eli's sadness, bound to a compulsiveness that is not of her choosing and her loss of spontaneous joy in a world that is old, and which the actor so poignantly portrays.

The escalating bullying perpetrated by Jonny (Eddie Orton) and Micke (Callan Colley) – convincing escapees from a Tarantino film – are leavened by the element of pastiche. Responsible adults are too obviously stereotypes – and the teacher who is looking away, the mother who drinks, the absent gay father are woven into a bizarre and absurdist tapestry. By contrast, it is Hakon who emerges as heroic in his protection of Eli and Eli, in turn, is heartily endorsed by the audience when she reappears as guardian vampire of the tortured Oskar.

The play has some very funny dialogue, mostly generated by the naivety of Oskar, and comical scenes such as Eli's casual production of a Faberge egg from her sleeping casket. The zany mixture of violence, comedy

and tender love comes to a very satisfying close with Oskar hugging the casket holding Eli and the tap-tap-tap of their love messages in code.

>> theatre@ssh.com.au

Film Review by Lindsay Cohen



Decision to Leave
Director: Park Chan-wook
Starring: Tang Wei, Go
Kyung-Pyo, Park Hae-il
Genre: Squid-free

Decision to Leave is probably a gripping crime thriller with an intense and complex interwoven love story. It probably features outstanding actors and is likely to be extremely well-written and directed (Park Chan-wook won best director at Cannes this year). But I'm not Korean and Decision to Leave is.

That's not to say that I didn't enjoy the film and don't appreciate its excellent qualities. Yet it became clear to me early on that not only was I likely missing subtle nuances because I was speed-reading the fast-paced subtitles, but I was most likely also not picking up political sub-plots and some social commentary. I suspect this is the case for plenty of other Korean (and other international) entertainment I've watched, such as *Parasite* and *Squid Game* to name the best known and most recent.

It makes me realise that foreign viewers of Australian films are likely to miss the Australian cultural elements of our films too. Think *Crocodile Dundee*, *Mad Max* or *The Castle*.

So, it is worth seeing *Decision to Leave*. It's the official submission of South Korea for the Best International Feature Film category of the 2023 Academy Awards after all.

But when odd things happen that don't make sense, like obscure mentions of China, gangster actions that just seem odd or personal activities you can't relate to, just take it in your stride. The film is certainly interesting, the story is multi-layered and the performances are all great.

And if you're still frustrated by any of the missed subtleties then just wait for the inevitable, and not as good, Hollywood remake.

Rating: Four Kimchi

) film@ssh.com.au

Book Review by Catherine DeMayo



The Midnight Library Matt Haig Allen&Unwin, \$29.99

If Edith Piaf truly regretted nothing, as she claimed in song, she was highly unusual. How many of us can honestly make that claim? The exciting job turned down, the romance broken off, the lottery ticket not purchased, the capitulation to a stubborn family member ...

The Midnight Library, in the same vein as films like Sliding Doors and It's a Wonderful Life, posits a wide range of alternative scenarios based on different life choices. A New York Times best-seller, it has sold more than two million copies.

Thirty-five-year-old Nora Seed, its protagonist, is depressed. Her cat has died. She has lost her job. Her childhood was unhappy. She is estranged from her brother, who has held a grudge for years because Nora left the rock band they had formed years earlier.

Instead of death, Nora finds herself in the Midnight Library, where Mrs Elm, the librarian whose kindness had been a beacon of light for the school aged Nora, presides. In this library, Nora can choose her own adventure – parachute into the life she would have had, had she chosen differently at numerous life

Nora, who lost interest in swimming despite being a talented swimmer and promising Olympian, gets to sample a life where she keeps up her grueling swim training rather than quitting. She dips into stardom as lead singer/songwriter with the band that she abandoned in real life. Nora samples life with the man she almost married. She joins an Arctic exploration as part of her dream – encouraged by Mrs Elm – to become a glaciologist. Perhaps not surprisingly, each road not taken comes with plenty of potholes.

Of course, Haig seems to be saying, we never know how that unchosen path would turn out. Will the perfect partner soon turn cranky and jealous? Will the swimming medals and exuberant music fans make up for the sacrifices and tragedies that accompany them?

The Midnight Library is funny at times, particularly when Nora, parachuted into her new lives, has to hit the ground running, arriving in the midst of her alternative lives with no instruction manual. There is a sense at times of Nora having to undergo trial after trial – from fending off polar bears in the Arctic to trying to figure out the name of her young "daughter" who runs to her in the middle of the night after a terrifying nightmare.

British author Matt Haig writes with deep compassion about Nora and her depression. At age 24, Haig himself nearly took his own life; his struggle and recovery are recounted in his acclaimed *Reasons to Stay Alive* (2015).

The last few sections of *The Midnight Library* do stray a bit toward self-help tropes; Nora learns how her seemingly small actions have had profound effects on others, and how important it is to stop and look at the flowers: "silently communicating the breathtaking majesty of life itself". This is, however, a minor quibble with a book that is highly readable, poignant and funny while dealing with serious issues.

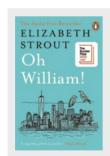
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Five books to praise and prize SELECTED BY MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES



Courage to act

Claire Keegan's Small Things Like These is the shortest book recognised in the history of the Booker Prize. Longlisted in 2022, it probes the terrible truths that underscore our societies and systems and how easily we can get caught up in them. When Bill Furlong discovers a shivering girl locked in the shed of a convent, will he risk his hard-won security and daughters' futures by defying the Catholic Church and the Irish state? (The author's note about the Magdalene laundries, is chilling.)



William on a whin

I wasn't surprised to learn that Oh William! had been Longlisted for the 2022 Booker Prize. Lucy (My Name is Lucy Barton) and William reflect on their marriage breakdown and the partnerships they've pursued since. They unearth family secrets (how William's mother reshaped herself at great cost is a pivot point), and confess the worry and wonder of having mature-aged children to still look out for but who also look out for them. Not quite Olive Kitteridge, but Elizabeth Strout you've done it again!



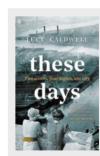
Grass baths and badger

At 16, when Robert Appleyard sets off from his coal-mining village in Durham, he has no idea how his life will be shaped by a chance meeting with Dulcie, a middle-aged eccentric who opens his mind to his potential. "Regimes rose and fell," Robert muses later in life, "and I kept coming back here, to the meadow, to write and read and think, to take grass baths in the moonlight and watch badgers at dawn." The Offing by Benjamin Myers is a delightful book.



'Time dilates and shrinks'

Sarah Holland Batt's The Jaguar is a recent release which wraps fresh and compelling language around dementia and its degenerative effects - and it is beautiful. Holland Batt's poetry doesn't sugar-coat her father's 20-year trajectory with Parkinson's dementia. It does honour her father's humanity and chart her loss, sing with sorrow and chime with celebration. We learn of the strength of his grip like a claw, the way his "time remaining dilates and shrinks", and of green jelly fed to him in a tender "last rite".



'Magnesium flares falling'

Lucy Caldwell's novel These Days is set in Belfast over four days and nights of bombing during the Blitz in 1941 seen (mainly) through the eyes of the Bells, a middleclass family. Audrey sees "the first magnesium flares falling, bursting into incandescent light, hanging there over the city like chandeliers"; it's real but also a metaphor for the intensity in their relationships. Working class cameos show us bombs do not discriminate. These Days is a gripping and exquisitely told story.



Diamonds shine at Constellation Cup

SPORT

STEVE TURNER

A stirring third quarter earned Australia a comeback win over New Zealand to claim the Constellation Cup in October. The Diamonds trailed by six goals early at a packed Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, and the Silver Ferns maintained strong all-court intensity to hold a five-goal lead at the main break. Australia came back to win 57-53.

"I probably showed a bit more emotion today than I did when we won gold at the Commonwealth Games," coach Stacey Marinkovich said. "I live and breathe what this team goes through and our loudest voice is what we do on the court."

The match was played as Netball Australia took stock of Hancock Prospecting's decision to withdraw a game-changing \$15 million sponsorship deal. It came after Indigenous player Donnell Wallam's concerns over the company's record on Indigenous matters, dating back 40 years to offensive comments by owner Gina Rinehart's late father Lang Hancock. The team backed Wallam's concerns.

Ko on the go at BMW Championship

Lydia Ko won her 18th career LPGA Tour title recently after shooting a seven-under 65 in the final round at the BMW Ladies Championship in South Korea. The Kiwi star lifted the trophy after finishing four shots clear of the United States' Andrea Lee at Oak Valley Country Club. Ko recorded eight birdies against one bogey and secured US\$300,000. It was her first victory in South Korea, where she was born and lived before moving to New Zealand at age four.

Ko, the world No. 5, became the fifth LPGA player this season to earn multiple victories. Her first title was back in January at Gainbridge LPGA at Boca Rio. This is her first multiple-win campaign since 2016.

"If only it was easy," Ko said.
"You know, it was a pretty packed leaderboard. I knew that I needed to have my A-game. I set a goal of five under, and if someone plays better than me and I don't end up winning, that's all I can do. It's great to be back in the winner's circle. I think it means a lot to win in Korea, the place where I was born, and I think makes it very special."

Volunteers' News

DAT CLADVE

I hope everyone enjoyed our Volunteers and Supporters Picnic in Redfern Park on Saturday October 15. The day was fine. I was unable to attend, due to a prior engagement, not because of my distaste for picnics!

The City of Sydney has two events this month of interest to older people.

Ways to Save: Rebates and Vouchers for Older People – Wednesday November 9, 10am-2pm at Ron William Community Centre, 5-11 Kepos Street,

Mr Harry Ramani from Service NSW will explain all the savings available including, free pensioner vehicle registrations, toll relief, regional travel discounts and Will and estate planning. Mr Ramani will be available for one-on-one meetings after his talk. This is a free event, but bookings are essential at www.events.humanitix. com/over-70-ways-you-can-save or contact Jack Chen at City of Sydney 9265 9180.

Safety Awareness Workshop for Older People – Wednesday November 23, 10.30am-1pm at Cliff Noble Community Centre, Cnr Renwick and Suttor Streets, Alexandria

Hear from personal safety expert Chris Futcher-Coles and NSW Police, followed by a delicious lunch. This is free but bookings are recommended. Phone: 9265 9116.

2021-2022 Sydney Peace Prize Award Ceremony and Lecture – Thursday November 10, 6.30pm-8pm at Sydney Town Hall

This year the prize honours the ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART. Professor Megan Davis will present the keynote address, and journalist Narelda Jacobs will be in conversation with Pat Anderson AO and Noel Pearson, who

together with Professor Davis worked so tirelessly to deliver the Statement in 2017. Award-winning singer-songwriter Dan Sultan will perform. Event organiser is the Sydney Peace Foundation and tickets range from \$25 concession, \$40 and \$70. Contact: www.events.humanitix. com/2021-sydney-peace-prize-award-ceremony-and-lecture

Cana Farm Communities Christmas Cakes

Yes, it's that time of year again and Cana Farm Christmas cakes, hampers and other goodies are now available. The Christmas cake is particularly good at \$30 plus delivery. A few years ago my sister-in-law said it was the best Christmas cake she'd ever tasted! Cana Communities supports the disadvantaged through community, education and employment opportunities. Place your orders at: www.canafarm.com. au/our-shop/p/cana-christmas-cake

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FOR YOUR DIARY

Sculpture by the Sea – will end on November 7.

Marrickville Music Festival – Saturday November 19,
11am-4pm.

Until next time, Pat Clarke

» volunteers@ssh.com.au

Call for nominations

City of Sydney Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel

Local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members are invited to nominate for the panel.

Panel members provide advice on City of Sydney policies, programs and events and matters of importance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Members are appointed for a term of up to three years. At minimum, six meetings are held each calendar year with the potential for extraordinary meetings if required.

Panel members are paid a fee for each meeting attended.

To be eligible, you must live, work or study in the City of Sydney area.

Nominations close **5pm Thursday 17 November 2022**.

For information on the panel, and to access a nomination form, visit **city.sydney/advisory-panel**

You can also contact Calley Clarke, Business Support Officer, City Engagement on 02 9265 9333 or CClarke@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

 For more information call 02 9265 9333 or email council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au | cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

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