

the South Sydney Herald

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Yabun Festival – enjoyment for everyone

FIRST PEOPLES

ANDREW COLLIS

GADIGAL LAND: Yabun Festival is the largest one-day gathering and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures in Australia, held annually on January 26.

Established in 2003 by Gadigal Information Service Aboriginal Corporation, Yabun (“music to a beat”) is a free event that features live music, a bustling stalls market, children’s activities, traditional cultural performances, panel discussions and community forums on Aboriginal issues.

This year’s festival at Victoria Park, Broadway, followed a smoking ceremony at Barangaroo and Survival Day march from Belmore Park.

The musical line-up was outstanding. Meanjin-based songwriter Tia Gostelow performed a sparkling set of folk and disco-pop tunes, drawing from her brilliant *Thick Skin* (2018) and *Chrysalis* (2020) albums. DRMNGNOW (Neil Morris), with guest vocalist Emma Donovan, brought high energy, and calls for liberation and justice.

Trawlwoolway woman Denni Proctor performed with partner Greeley. Awarded Tasmanian Aboriginal Artist of the Year (2020), Denni released her



Tia Gostelow and her band at Yabun Festival. Photo: Andrew Collis

third EP, *Growing Pains*, in 2021, as well as an impressive run of singles and collaborations including “Strongest Mob” (ft. Craig Everett & Greeley), “Gumption”, “My Nita” and “Tapiliti Mapali” (ft. Craig Everett & Greeley) in 2022.

Aodhan (Aidan Whitehall) performed with garage rock band

Floodway. Based in Wollongong, the 18-year-old continues to develop as a songwriter and vocalist. His set included lively renditions of hit singles “Butterflies”, “Twelve Again” and “Daily Meditation”.

Robert K. Champion presented Manta Milmilpa, haunting guitar music and compelling songs

of life, love and loss. Blanche (John Grant), Maurial Spearim, Kyarna Rose and Matty Walker completed the bill – all worth checking out and supporting.

The Corroboree Ground was in front of the Yabun Stage, an arrangement that worked well to showcase dance groups Ngaran Ngaran, Harbour Beizam, Buuja

Buuja Butterfly and Redfern-based Broлга Dance Academy.

Props to Koori Radio 93.7FM, emcees Aunty Marlene Cummins and Damien House, festival artist Munkimuk, volunteers and crew, stallholders, sponsors and partners including City of Sydney, University of Sydney, Inner West Council and Bridge Housing. SSH

Pop into Gleebooks’ pop-up shop at the old Glebe Post Office



Gleebooks Director David Gaunt is eager for people to visit the bookshop’s temporary home while the shop’s normal premises undergo a major renovation. Photo: Stephen Webb

LOCALS

MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

IT’S as Glebe as Galluzzo’s fruit and veg, so it’s great news that Gleebooks has a temporary home in the old Glebe Post Office and will be back in its longstanding site at 49 Glebe Point Road as soon as its major renovation there is complete.

The bookshop’s pop-up shop, at the corner of Glebe Point Rd and St Johns Rd (opposite St Johns Church), opened on January 16 and is just a four-minute

walk away from the site nearer to Broadway that has been Gleebooks’ home in the suburb for more than 30 years.

It is also just up from the iconic bookshop’s original premises – next door to Galluzzo’s – where it traded from 1975 until the early ’90s.

“We opened there in ’75 and then in ’85 we were going gangbusters so we took over the deli next door,” explained Gleebooks Director David Gaunt. “Then we bought the building down at 49 Glebe Point Road in ’89, moved in in ’92, and by the time we got everything down

there (which took a year) business was so strong that we had to leave the original shop open. So, for a while we had two!”

Mr Gaunt said the inevitable wear and tear from 30 years of selling books at the Sydney University end of Glebe Point Road meant the Gleebooks building had deteriorated to the point of needing major renovation, which started in January.

Foundations, floors, walls, ceilings, roof and wiring were all being replaced, he said, plus disabled access and lifts would be installed, the events space overhauled and Continued on page 3

Tribal Warrior ferry relaunched Online-only

Willowman review Online-only

REDFEB heart health Online-only



South Sydney Herald

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JENNY LEONG MP
MEMBER FOR NEWTOWN



Every vote. Every MP. Every time.

What an exciting time for Sydney: World Pride, Fair Day, and Mardi Gras are just around the corner. The festivities are on the horizon and the Greens can't wait to celebrate with you!

After all, there's a lot to celebrate. Let's start by acknowledging the 78ers, the first to protest police discrimination and brutality against the queer community by marching through Oxford Street back in 1978. They set forward a bold legacy for us to follow. Since then, our amazing communities have won protection against discrimination and achieved marriage equality. But we know there's still so much more to do to ensure full equality and rights for trans and gender diverse communities.

Let's not forget that Pride began as, and remains, a protest. We know that so many in our community are still facing ongoing, real harm and we acknowledge the activists continuing the struggle on the streets. Sadly, it's still a reality that people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer continue to be denied work, access to health, services, and housing and face harassment and even violence just because of their identity. The Greens won't stop working for justice for the LGBTIQ+ community until it is fully achieved.

But oh, will we be partying and dancing into the revolution. We're so excited for Mardi Gras to be returning to its Oxford Street roots! As a global greens movement, we can't wait to show the world how proud we are of our community and each other, to meet and connect with likeminded people from across the world, and to see art, culture and community come together in joy and resistance at World Pride.

Keep a look out for our dancing in the parade!
Come chat with us at our stall at Fair Day on
19 February and join us as we March down King
Street to take rainbow rights back to the streets.

From your Greens MPs



Authorised by D. Hayden for The Greens NSW. 19a/1 Hordern Place Camperdown NSW 2050.

Bridge Housing wins on
600-660 Elizabeth Street



Concept image for the Elizabeth Street development. Image: DPE

URBAN DESIGN

GEOFF TURNBULL

REDFERN: Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) announced a consortium led by Community Housing Provider Bridge Housing with infrastructure advisor Capella Capital to develop the site opposite Redfern Oval which includes the PCYC. Construction is expected to start in 2025 and be complete in 2028 with Hickory as the builder. LAHC expects to use its social housing for some relocations from Waterloo South.

As a not for profit, Bridge will use its developer margin to build around 40 homes it will own and operate as low- to middle-income affordable housing units. It also proposes 80 affordable housing units for key workers, 11 specialty disability homes in addition to the 100 social housing units it will build and operate for LAHC. Only 100 market homes are proposed, half the 200 in the rezoning proposal. There will also be "3,500 square metres of community space as a hub for local services, potentially including the PCYC subject to funding, and Bridge Housing's new head office with community meeting space".

Bridge has said that "10 per cent of all of Bridge Housing's allocation of homes will be

dedicated to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tenants" and it has given a "commitment to engagement with First Nations communities to find opportunities for involvement in the further development of the project". This goes some way towards the outcomes sought by the Redfern Waterloo Aboriginal Affordable Housing Campaign.

This site was part of a master plan for a public-private partnership redevelopment approved by South Sydney Council in 2002. When a developer could not be found, LAHC sought approval in 2007 to build the public portion between Walker and Morehead Street itself, which was completed in 2010.

The original walk-ups on the Elizabeth Street site remained fenced off until, after a campaign to formalise homeless people sleeping in them failed, the housing was knocked down. The site sat vacant since as demand for public housing increased. It was a focus for protests of government housing inaction and the sale of government owned land to fund new housing rather than government funding new social housing on land it already owned.

Geoff Turnbull is a co-spokesperson for REDWatch. For more information visit Bridge Housing's Redfern Estate Page and the Elizabeth Street Tab on the REDWatch website.

State election boundary changes and coverage

The New South Wales state election is on March 25

and boundaries for electorates within the suburbs where the South Sydney Herald is distributed have changed.

We've published maps and links online for the Sydney, Newtown, Heffron and Balmain districts to help you check which electorate you're now in. Our coverage of candidate profiles and platforms will appear in our March issue, in print on March 7.



www.southsydneyherald.com.au/whats-your-electorate-check-as-boundaries-have-changed

SOS from the seaweed farming families of Beniamina

ENVIRONMENT

ADAM SÉBIRE

IN August 2022, I was the first foreigner to visit Beniamina in some years. When I arrived, the island Chief banged on an old diving cylinder as a bell to summon villagers to the maneaba (meeting house). Elders told me they wanted to communicate to the outside world how vulnerable their Solomon Islands home had become.

I offered to use my drone to show from the air just how closely the sea was approaching. The village children took a break from home schooling to hold hands and form an SOS – a traditional maritime distress code.

The seaweed farming families of Beniamina (Peniamina, population 130) cling to a precarious existence atop a vanishing coral reef island. The Solomon Islands have become a sea level rise hotspot, with Pacific Ocean waters rising three times the global average there at 7-10 millimetres per year.

Five islands of the Beniamina atoll, which have existed some 300 years, have disappeared in recent years, under some of the fastest rising seas in the world.

The farmers' fast growing *Kappaphycus* seaweed crop absorbs large amounts of carbon dioxide in the six weeks it takes to mature. But increasingly intense storm systems can rip whole lines



Children of Beniamina in the Solomon Islands form an SOS on the beach to show the world how rising sea levels provoked by climate change are endangering their homes and livelihood. Photo: Adam Sébire

of seaweed from the underwater tethered stakes. Meanwhile, the multitude of seaweed varieties are gradually being reduced to one predominant colour by rising ocean temperatures and acidity.

The islanders' produce is sold to France, Vietnam and China: an important source of foreign exchange for the Solomons. But Beniamina, like its neighbouring lagoon islands, is disappearing rapidly: large parts of the village and its drying tables, divided between the remaining 20-odd families, have been washed away when storms breach makeshift sea walls made of dead coral. Its rapid rate of erosion – losing over 50 per cent of its size in

the last decade – offers a vision of the future for coastal communities around the world.

In Beniamina's case, the Pacific Regional Environment Program recommended revegetation and has also proposed to install 300 submerged concrete "reef balls" to minimise coastal erosion and increase resilience while also providing hollowed-out habitats for marine life. But it's unclear how this might be funded.

For all the talk of "loss and damage" and climate adaptation funding at global climate conferences (including COP27 declaring it will establish a fund to compensate vulnerable nations for "loss and damage" from climate-

induced disasters), no funding has been forthcoming for Beniamina.

In January, I heard from seaweed farmer Andrew Nakuau that they'd survived their annual Christmas king tides in 2022 which were "very high" and their sea wall was damaged. Some homes were gone too, he wrote, "[and] it's a sad full thing for us here". There'd also been no word of any help.

Rising seas due to ice melt and ocean thermal expansion now have such momentum that they will continue for at least 150 years after developed nations and their industrial greenhouse gas emissions. Yet those least responsible for the causes (be they

First Nations, women, future generations) stand to suffer the greatest loss of lives, livelihoods, land and culture. This is what climate justice is about, and it's acutely felt by the inhabitants of Beniamina in their South Pacific Ocean island home.

The average Solomon Islander has a fossil fuel footprint of just 430 kilograms per year. Yet, they face the second highest exposure to disaster risk globally according to the 2021 *World Risk Report* and potentially the greatest loss of lives, livelihood, land and culture from climate change. The Solomons and other small island states are thus leading the charge for climate justice.

Neighbouring Vanuatu, for example, is asking the International Court of Justice for an opinion on the responsibilities of developed countries on climate change. There may be legal demands for compensation (and taking climate refugees) made of countries including Australia.

The big breakthrough of COP27 was the agreement to establish a fund for loss and damage. This would involve wealthy nations compensating developing states for the effects of climate change, especially droughts, floods, cyclones and other disasters.

Who pays and who benefits is a battle to come. But how long must Beniamina wait for help? SSH

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Adam Sébire is an Australian artist-filmmaker
www.adamsebire.info

Ann's avid about the Aussie Bird Count

ENVIRONMENT

STEPHEN WEBB

THE Aussie Bird Count 2022 Results are in, with 3.9 million birds of 620 different species counted in Australia and 1.2 million birds counted in NSW.

Over 77,000 people across Australia collected data that will help Birdlife Australia's researchers better understand the birds we live with and how their populations are changing over time.

One of those 77,000 was Ann Willy, a Lane Cove resident whose backyard bird experience reflects issues *SSH* covered in a series of articles on urban birdlife late last year.

Ann heard about the Bird Count just before it began and thought it sounded like fun. She used the app provided by Birdlife Australia and found it very helpful and easy to use.

Ann has a sheltered garden with agapanthus, clivia, a large fig and a lot of gums, including a big stringy bark where magpies nest. There is also a birdbath so a lot of birds come for a bath or a drink.

Sometimes she gives the magpies sunflower seeds as treats and it seems they have been leaving presents in return: blue coat hangers.

Lorikeets are the most plentiful birds in Ann's garden and that accords with the results of the Bird Count.

The rainbow lorikeet easily took out the number one spot as most numerous bird — for the ninth year running.

In NSW the next most counted birds were the noisy miner and sulphur crested cockatoo.

Ann also has a lot of noisy miners. "They are probably the second most dominant birds in our garden. They are quite bossy and chase a lot of things away."

Ann doesn't consider herself a bird nerd or citizen scientist. "I don't know enough to be a nerd. I'm just someone who likes birds and does as much for them as I can."

She stuck with the Bird Count for two weeks and said the time went quickly. "It was fun. I tried to increase my count each day as I was learning."

She said she understood how the count was a barometer for the health of the environment.

"I have certainly noticed a change in the birds that we've had in our garden," she said.

"When we first moved in there were a lot of smaller birds that we don't see now. When we got a cat the small birds moved out.

Pop into Gleebooks' pop-up shop at the old Glebe Post Office

Continued from page 1

an extension constructed to house a mezzanine level café and wine bar.

"When I discovered it was going to take a minimum of 12 months to renovate, I realised we had to find alternative premises," Mr Gaunt said.

Knowing Glebe's history, he also knew there weren't many buildings of the right size and character available for short-term lease.

Additionally, Gleebooks' identity in Glebe is very important for the shop and had to be considered when choosing a site, given that Gleebooks is probably the next oldest "institution" after Galluzzo's, which has been in the suburb since the 1930s.

"We needed a building that not only fitted everything in it, but also stood out a bit."

With hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of books to relocate, he said the move itself was a logistical nightmare.

"I think it's probably the hardest work I've ever done in this business. It's incredibly complex, difficult and anxiety

producing because you're without revenue while you're closed and, of course, you don't know whether anyone's going to turn up in the new space."

Mr Gaunt said it had been exhausting making plans, letting people know "you're a shop on the move" and also physically moving stock and equipment to the new site, which involved packing and unpacking 1,100 boxes, shifting 120 bookcases and supervising eight removal trucks worth of trips.

"Apart from the actual truck movement, our staff moved everything."

The major rebuild was exciting. Or would be, he said, when he'd regained his energy.

"Now I have to think about how it's meant to look, what colour and shape the shelves are, what paint to use ... things I'll normally run a long way away from making decisions about because books I know, that I don't.

"When it's finished, the building will be about a third bigger than it is currently to accommodate the café, bar and all the stock downstairs.

"It will be much more state of the art than it was."

The revamped events space will incorporate a high-tech sound system, easily accommodate Gleebooks' popular literary soirées and also be available to hire for other events like yoga classes and music gigs.

The shop's redesign is one of the most momentous changes in Gleebooks' 47-year history and Mr Gaunt said he was curious to see how well it would be received.

"In fact, I'm anxious 12 months beforehand about how it might go because we've had an identity built up over nearly 50 years now, and it won't look like it looked in the 1970s, '80s, '90s and 2000s – and it will be interesting to see how people respond to that."

Until then, the Gleebooks Pop Up shop is open for business, neat as a pin, well lit and with all the books you could ever want to browse and buy, beautifully displayed. The staff are welcoming, too, and knowledgeable. Eager to serve when you pop in. SSH

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Visit Gleebooks Pop Up shop at 181a Glebe Point Rd, online at www.gleebooks.com.au

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"Now we are without cats we have more birds, but not the small ones. I think the noisy miners have a lot to do with it."

.....
The Aussie Bird Count was a very rewarding experience, she said. "I'm happy that I've done it and I'm sure I'll do it again next year." SSH

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The 2023 Aussie Bird Count will take place October 16-22. For more information see www.aussiebirdcount.org.au

TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney

Since being elected last year, the Albanese Labor Government has been hard at work delivering our commitments to you.

Already we have passed legislation to take action on climate change, take the pressure off power prices, make medicines cheaper, deliver fee-free TAFE places, get wages moving again and much more.

From July, we're making child care cheaper for families and expanding paid parental leave.

2023 will be big - looking forward to working together to build a better future for our community.

Tanya

LOCAL NEWS**Funding for local schools**

I recently announced that two of our local schools will receive funding to upgrade their learning environments.

Inner Sydney High School will receive \$50,000 for weather proofing outdoor areas, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel will receive \$66,000 for classroom upgrades. We committed to funding these important school upgrades during the election - and we've delivered. It will mean better equipment and facilities to make sure our kids can learn and play in a top-class environment.

Round two of our Government's school upgrades grants is now open.

Grants are available for small-scale projects worth up to \$25,000 to create healthier and safer learning environments - things like new laptops and iPads, classroom upgrades and outdoor learning areas.

I encourage local schools to apply at the following link <https://www.education.gov.au/schools-upgrade-fund>

Clean Up Australia Day in the Sydney Electorate

On Sunday 5th of March I'll be out in our electorate for Clean Up Australia Day. It's an opportunity for us to meet as a community to care for our local environment together.

I would love if you could join me.

For more details please contact my office on 9379 0700 or email Tanya.Plibersek.MP@aph.gov.au

Sydney World Pride and Mardi Gras 2023

Every year people around the world come together to celebrate World Pride and Mardi Gras to march, dance, celebrate and demand change.

I'm proud to welcome everyone to Sydney this year - the first city in the Southern Hemisphere to host World Pride.

Here are some of the World Pride and Mardi Gras events in our community. You can find out more about them online.

•Sydney Mardi Gras Fair Day at Victoria Park

Saturday 19th of February from 10:00AM- 9:00PM

•Sydney Mardi Gras Parade on Oxford Street

Saturday 25th of February from 5:00PM - 11:00PM

•Sydney World Pride March across Sydney Harbour Bridge into the CBD

Sunday 5th of March from 7:00AM- 10:00AM

TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney

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New scholarship supports under-represented students

SPONSORED

MARK SCOTT

THE University of Sydney is changing the way we support students from disadvantaged backgrounds as we prepare to welcome a more diverse intake in 2023.

A new University scholarship intended to level the playing field of education has seen the number of places offered to school leavers from low socio-economic areas increase by 18.5 percent for Semester 1, 2023.

The MySydney Entry and Scholarship Scheme offers every eligible student admission to an undergraduate degree based on an adjusted ATAR, plus an \$8,500 per annum scholarship for the duration of their degree. It is available to domestic students from areas listed in the bottom 25 percent of the Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio-Economic Index for Areas, Index of Education and Occupation. It includes targeted support to help them succeed.

The new MySydney scholarship package will help talented students who might not otherwise be able to attend university, continue their education and fulfil their immense potential.

Importantly, students from different backgrounds bring a diversity of thought and experience to solving the world's greatest challenges, which is fundamental to the role that higher education plays in our community.

Recognising that many students need more than financial assistance to thrive, the University is offering MySydney



Gilbert Diep (left) from Canley Vale High School plans to study Applied Science (Diagnostic Radiography) and Canley Vale High School student Chi-Meng Chen is looking forward to studying Electrical Engineering. Photo: University of Sydney

scholars a range of non-financial supports. They include a dedicated MySydney Scholar space designed to facilitate making friends and receiving advice. Our new scholars can also access mentoring programs to help them with their studies, find casual employment and plan their careers.

Students look forward to university life

Recent school leaver Chi-Ming Chen from Canley Vale High School is eligible for the MySydney scholarship and plans to enrol in a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Sydney in 2023.

"I was initially planning to go to another university but saw the help that many of my friends will get through the MySydney scholarship, and so I switched unis.

"My parents don't make a lot, so the \$8,500 every year will help out so much. I'm really looking forward to the university experience next year, both for the learning and also for the societies and clubs I can join."

Gilbert Diep, also from Canley Vale High School, plans to study

a Bachelor of Applied Science (Diagnostic Radiography) in 2023. His parents came to Australia from Vietnam as refugees.

"The financial assistance through MySydney will be very helpful for the whole family. My parents work a lot, every day, and so having that financial support will mean I won't have to rely on them as much.

"The last year of school was stressful and so I'm really looking forward to the freedom and meeting new friends next year," said Gilbert.

By 2032 the University aims to support an additional 1,000 eligible students to study at the University of Sydney each year through the MySydney Entry and Scholarship Scheme.



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

Enquiries: 9351 2000

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The Eden Community Garden workers continue to make steady progress. This summer has seen the leveling of uneven ground, extensive weeding and planting in readiness for a new shed to be installed in February. Eden Garden is located behind South Sydney Uniting Church in Raglan Street, Waterloo, and will soon feature a rainwater irrigation system, new hen house, compost bins and bush tucker beds. There are opportunities for involvement. Please contact Megan: edencommunitywaterloo@gmail.com Photo: Lachlan McGregor



To re-orient our lives

FAITH

ANDREW COLLIS

LATE last year, I was admitted to RPA Hospital for treatment to allay oral pain and fever. I was in some distress – and very mindful of family and community support.

One upside was witnessing the healing work of public hospital staff, including nurses, of course, who perform astounding feats of expertise, dependability, kindness, day after day. I saw again their commitment to others, long shifts and double shifts – their calls for safe nurse-to-patient ratios (one-to-four, one-to-three in emergency) ignored.

In August 2022, the NSW Industrial Relations Commission increased midwives and nurses' pay by just 3 per cent. There was also a one-off payment in recognition of astounding feats throughout many months of the pandemic.

Nurses have repeatedly called for unified action alongside workers engaged in industrial disputes, including other health workers, as well as teachers and rail workers.

For too long the base rate of the JobSeeker payment has been below the poverty line, with Youth Allowance even lower. In 2020, the coronavirus supplement temporarily increased income support above the poverty line and changed lives – people were able to keep up with rent and bills, and access essentials like prescription glasses, a working fridge and dental care.

For many people trying to survive on \$48 a day means going without medication and medical care.

It can be difficult to endure illness of any kind but how much worse when our nurses are unsupported and feel unsafe at work. How much worse for people – waiting for hours in understaffed emergency departments – unable to afford medicines.

ACOSS (the Australian Council of Social Services) argues we need to "Raise the Rate for Good" so that everyone has enough to cover the basics of life.

Neoliberal social policy includes terms like "workfare", "mutual obligation", "help and hassle" – people feel blamed and shamed, punished for circumstances beyond their control.

Under free-market capitalism the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, as the poet Percy Shelley first astutely observed (1821).

In our time and place, the average net worth of the top 20 per cent of households is more than 93 times that of the lowest 20 per cent – some \$3.2 million compared to just \$35,200. The gap continues to widen.

Calls for peace with justice reverberate ... and how we demonstrate our values counts.

The gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to peace, health and wellbeing, right relationship and community, and to re-imagine sharing life with others, holiness and country. To unite or set at one. To re-orient our lives. SSH



cartoon: norrie mAy-welby

Taking care of ourselves in challenging times

GUEST EDITORIAL

CATHY KEZELMAN

THE death of Cardinal Pell was unexpected but not so the intensity of polarised responses to his passing. For many within the Catholic Church Cardinal Pell was a towering leader while for other people, and particularly for many survivors of child sexual abuse, he embodied, rightly or wrongly, the systemic failures of so many institutions to protect innocent children and keep them safe.

Many survivors see Cardinal Pell as a divisive figure, whose repeated appearances in front of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse left them aghast. He arguably did not acquit himself well, and his seeming emotional detachment left many survivors who watched firsthand or who later saw quotes, triggered, distressed and outraged.

For lots of survivors and their loved ones Cardinal Pell came to represent the then lack of accountability of many institutions which failed to act

in the epidemic of institutional child sexual abuse by prioritising institutions, clergy and leaders over the wellbeing of children and survivors, even after the fact when seeking compassion, support and justice.

His conviction in 2019 for child sexual abuse charges and subsequent release when the conviction was quashed launched another emotional rollercoaster for many victims which continued for years. There is little doubt that Cardinal Pell's death has heightened similar intense feelings and distress, which often throws them back into their own experiences in which they often battled secrecy, silence and denial. For many survivors, justice, redress and support not only remain elusive but so do the apparently simple desires to be listened to, heard and believed. Many people still struggle every day just to feel and be safe, and to move past their prior betrayals to be able to trust again and to reach out for support.

For anyone reading this who is living with the impacts of their own trauma, regardless of what it is, please remember to be as gentle with yourself as you can be and as you deserve.

Such events generate a great deal of media, and in this day and age, social media can totally buzz with powerful judgements and personal commentary. If you are being affected by some of this, try to disconnect from it, and turn your head to doing the things that help ground and soothe you. Whether it's going outside and feeling the sun on your back, or being in nature – in the green of a park or the gentleness of a stream.

And remember that even if it feels like no one understands or that there is no one there to walk alongside you, there is hope and there is help. Not saying it's easy to reach out for support and comfort but maybe just think about who could be there for you through challenging times – whether a friend, another survivor, a family member, a member of your community or a counsellor – if you want. And please know that you can also call the Blue Knot Helpline and Redress Support Service on 1300 657 380 between 9am and 5pm seven days a week to speak with a specialist trauma counsellor. Take care. SSH

Dr Cathy Kezelman AM is President and Executive Director, Blue Knot Foundation.

NSW 2023 State Election - I Rent and I Vote

POLITICS

CATHRYN CALLAGHAN

THE upcoming election has renters in the hot seats, especially in marginal seats in Sydney's west. Closer to home, voters in the over 92,000 renting households in the seats of Sydney, Newtown, Balmain and Heffron have a lot at stake.

This includes the nearly 9,500 social housing households, many facing disruption and dislocation; the 5,000 or so households waiting up to 10 years for social housing; or the average renting household living with the harsh reality of a tenancy system that is tipped against them.

While NSW Labor and Liberals have offered the usual politically attractive (though largely self-defeating) first-home buyer offers, neither has announced any large commitment to reverse the decade-long reduction in the state's social housing safety net – now languishing at well below 5 per cent of total housing.

Shelter NSW calls on all renters and anyone who cares

about equity, fairness and inclusive growth to critically assess the housing and homelessness commitments being made.

Here is a range of notable housing and homelessness commitments announced so far.

1. Rental stability and security – removing No Grounds Evictions: Supported by **Labor** and **Greens**.

2. Rental affordability: **Labor:** allow rental bonds to be transferred directly to another property reducing the financial burden. **Greens** support.

Ending rent bidding and unfair rent increases.

Liberal: in December 2022, the NSW Government outlawed the practice of solicited rent bidding. But prospective tenants can still make offers. **Labor** made a subsequent commitment to tackle this by improving transparency. **Greens** have gone broader: calling for an immediate rent freeze.

3. Making it easier to own pets in rental homes: Supported by **Labor** and **Greens**.



4. Improved enforceable minimum standards in rental dwellings including energy-efficiency standards: Supported by **Greens**.

5. Grow the stock of social and affordable housing **Labor:** mandatory requirement for 30 per cent of all homes on surplus

government land to be set aside for social, affordable and universal housing; deliver more affordable rental housing in regional areas. **Liberal:** notes that it has already commenced doing this around transport sites. **Greens:** ban the sale of public housing and land that can be used

for housing; require 30 per cent affordable housing in all new large private residential developments and legislate a target of 10 per cent of all housing to be public and not-for-profit community housing. SSH

More notable housing policy commitments concerning data privacy; shared equity home purchase schemes; the creation of a Rental Commissioner and increasing the regulation of Short Term Rental Accommodation, links to NSW Labor, NSW Greens and NSW Liberal Party housing policy platforms and to Shelter's Election Asks and platform can be found on the

South Sydney Herald website at www.southsydneyherald.com.au/nsw-2023-state-election-i-rent-and-i-vote/

Cathryn Callaghan is Senior Policy Officer with Shelter NSW.



Kamahl's fight for equality and justice

MUSIC

ANDREW COLLIS

THIS year will mark the 160th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, a speech US President Abraham Lincoln delivered during the American Civil War at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery, now known as Gettysburg National Cemetery, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on the afternoon of November 19, 1863, four-and-a-half months after the Union armies defeated Confederate forces in the Battle of Gettysburg.

The short speech (272 words) has long inspired Malaysian-born Tamil-Australian recording artist Kandiah Kamalesvaran AM, better known by his stage name Kamahl. The singer of love songs and ballads – one of the great stars of Australian music – recorded it for his 2012 triple-CD *Heart and Soul* (ABC). In 2013 he was invited to deliver the Address at Parliament House on the 150th anniversary of the original oration.

It's clear Lincoln's words, in their own way "musical", hold personal and political meaning for Kamahl. They resonate with the singer's own experience of life – struggle, betrayal and disappointment as well as the joys of connection, community and family.

Gettysburg's themes: the fight for equality, for peace with justice, for freedom – "government of the people, by the people, for the people" – invite creative engagement on the part of an artist as for anyone

concerned to see decency and democracy prevail. Indeed, the wellbeing of all depends on a certain wisdom – our learning to embody kindness, fairness and faithfulness.

One of Kamahl's highest charting singles, "The Elephant Song" (1975), made him a household name all over the world. The lyric speaks to contemporary ecological crises: "Tell me said the elephant/ Tell me brothers if you can/ Why all the world is full of creatures/ Yet we grow in fear of man ... Listen said the elephant/ It is conservation time/ So take the warning when we trumpet/ For the future of mankind ..."

Kamahl has recorded over 30 albums containing many number-one hits and earning over 100 gold and platinum records. He has performed in prestigious venues

including Carnegie Hall (twice) and the Sydney Opera House. The longevity of his success has few parallels.

For his philanthropy along the way Kamahl was made a Member of the Order of Australia (1994). He was Australian Father of the Year in 1998, and was awarded the Australian Centenary Medal by the Queen in 2004.

In 2011, Kamahl met President Barack Obama, whose memoir, *The Audacity of Hope* (2006), continues to inspire.

"Life is made of memories and music," Kamahl says. "These have spiritual meaning, precious and beautiful. That you can reach out to people, and be accepted in return, is the highest reward possible in performance and life."

"Life is made of memories and music"



Kamahl signs a copy of his self-titled album released in 1971. Photo: Andrew Collis

New book highlights faces and voices of Sydney's First Nations people

FIRST PEOPLES

MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

IF you want to learn more about the ongoing impact of colonisation on Indigenous Australians living in Sydney – and particularly those living and working around Redfern, Waterloo, Glebe and La Perouse – *Yellamundie: Voices & Faces of First Nations People in Sydney* is an excellent place to start.

Thirty Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people, including artists, firefighters, students, carers, pastors, activists, Stolen Generations survivors, teachers and community leaders, tell their stories and paint a sobering (though ultimately energising) picture of where we are in our journey towards reconciliation. The photographs are lovely and project a strong message of resilience and determination.

Yellamundie is a Dharug word meaning "storyteller" and author Irish-Australian Michelle McGrath clearly earned the trust of her 30 co-authors in bringing their stories to life.

Michelle is a teaching assistant with Redfern Jarjum College, a school that educates urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. A number of the moving



When Quinton Silva came to work at Redfern Fire Station he was one of the first Aboriginal firefighters. Now half the crew are Indigenous. Photo: Yellamundie

stories in *Yellamundie* are those of her colleagues and students.

Les is a Gamilaraay man from Coonabarabran who works at Jarjum College as a teacher and Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer. "When done well, being there for a kid can change lives," he says. "You can change a life."

'We're still here'

Mark is from the Yuwaalaraay people. He was removed from his parents when he was just a few months old.

He says, "This disconnection of families, the Stolen Generations, has caused layer upon layer of trauma

for Aboriginal people ... Through the assimilation policy, the Stolen Generations, they tried to breed us out, tried to make us fit in. But we're still here, that's the bottom line."

Lua is a Wiradjuri woman who grew up in Dharug country near Toongabbie. She says, "It's so important that we listen to the Uluru Statement from the Heart and really push for some common ground and universal recognition of past injustices, so we can move forward together as a country."

Shane is from Redfern and has connections to the Bundjalung, Wannarua, Guringai and Yugembeh mobs. He says, "There's

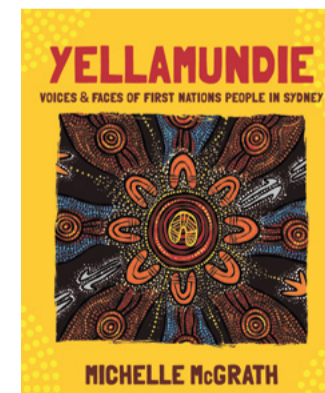
a whole movement of people now trying to drive strength-based communities. You can feel it in Redfern. It has become a place of can-do. I just feel blessed and grateful that I'm part of that."

Liam is a Gumbaynggirr man who says what has happened over the past 250 years needs to be talked about. "It all needs to come out and not be bubble-wrapped," he says, "because what ends up happening is we're hiding the truth, and then people don't understand that a trauma that happened generations ago is still affecting us today."

Blak Douglas, urban artist and Archibald Prize winner for

"Moby Dickens" in 2022, says, "Schoolkids today should know about the massacres and the slavery, to acknowledge the injustices that were caused. Paul Keating's Redfern speech is a great place to start."

To assist the education of young and old, *Yellamundie* offers helpful resources to read and to watch, as well as a list of links to resources for teachers – including an excerpt from Keating's influential speech.



Yellamundie: Voices & Faces of First Nations People in Sydney
Michelle McGrath (author) and Garry Purchase (artist/illustrator)
\$34.95 soft cover, \$39.95 hard cover
Buy *Yellamundie* on the website, Amazon, Booktopia and Barnes & Noble. All profits to Redfern Jarjum College.
www.yellamundie.com.au

Film Review by Lindsay Cohen



Triangle of Sadness
Director: Ruben Östlund
Starring: Thobias Thorwid, Harris Dickinson, Charlbi Dean, Woody Harrelson
Genre: Meaning of Life

True laugh-out-loud movie comedies are hard to come by these days. Long gone are the glory days of *Blazing Saddles* (1974), *Life of Brian* (1979), *Flying High* (1980), *The Blues Brothers* (1980) and *This is Spinal Tap* (1984). So, it was great to watch *Triangle of Sadness* embrace its inner Monty Python.

Now, admittedly that doesn't mean it's to everyone's taste. There were scenes where some people in the audience were squirming and watching the film between their fingers. But to me, that's a good thing (and as an aside – full credit to *Everything, Everywhere All at Once* for its Oscar nominations as it is so surreal, funny and weird in parts that only those capable of dumping their reality perceptions at the cinema entrance can fully embrace it).

That's not to say that *Triangle of Sadness* compares to a TV skit show of cutting edge humour bordering on gratuitous violence undertaken by extreme personalities.

But where *Triangle of Sadness* does resemble Monty Python is that it operates at two levels. Every comic scene is underwritten by social commentary, with insights into racism, sexism, socio-economics and politics. This is realised by pointing out that beauty and billions of dollars

don't help when you're stranded on a desert island, nor do they prevent you from getting seasick and embarrassing yourself in front of friends, family or other billionaires.

Summing up *Triangle of Sadness* is best done by quoting Monty Python; "Always look on the bright side of life" and "Better get a bucket".

Rating: Four and a half flesh wounds.

» films@ssh.com.au

Book Review by Catherine DeMayo



The Ninth Life of a Diamond Miner
Grace Tame
Pan Macmillan, \$49.99

The Ninth Life of a Diamond Miner, the memoir of 2021 Australian of the Year Grace Tame, is a fascinating look at the person behind the headlines.

As a 14-year-old, Tame was groomed and, by age 15, sexually abused by her then 58-year-old maths teacher at a prestigious private school in Hobart. Her advocacy on behalf of countless other such survivors has been widely praised, though her refusal to smile for the cameras has also brought her derision.

Tame's memoir does cover the harrowing story of her abuse at the hands of a man she should have been able to trust. Yet that is only part of the book, just as being a survivor is only part of her identity. She is also funny, creative, deeply thoughtful, tenacious and a talented writer. She has travelled, struggled, fallen in love, spoken truth to power. She has known,

loved and lost devoted friends and family members. She is also a survivor of abuse who refuses to allow that abuse to define her.

What I found striking in the description of the abuse she suffered was just how cunning her abuser, Nicolaas Bester, was, how he skillfully and manipulatively used psychology to keep his victim silent and compliant. Until, that is, Tame spoke out and disclosed the abuse. As Tame puts it: "Child abusers are among the most sophisticated of criminals."

By the time Bester began his abuse, Tame's parents had already met with the school twice, expressing concerns about his inappropriate behaviour. Yet Bester went on to rape her repeatedly (on school premises). The school, Tame later discovers, hid a lot – including the fact that there were other victims of abuse dating back some two decades prior to hers. If this level of abuse can continue against someone who is surrounded by family and friends, and where alarms have already been sounded, what hope do those whose abusers totally fly beneath the radar have?

Some commentators, most notably writer, psychologist and men's rights advocate Bettina Arndt, have expressed support for Bester and sympathy for middle aged male teachers endangered by teasing teenage temptresses. Tame's response to this line of thought is crucial to understanding the difference between affairs and abuse.

Tame says she wanted the book to be called *Diamond Miners and Rock Spiders*, but her editor wouldn't let her. The diamond miner of the title is the sixty something year old Jorge, who occupied the attic of a share house she lived in for a summer in Portugal. With few physical possessions, he had immensely rich life experience (diamond mining being just one of his many adventures.) "Jorge's irreverent authenticity helped reinforce for me what is truly important in life, and what has genuine value. People. Places. Experiences. Love. And connection."

It seems from her memoir

that Tame, in less than half of Jorge's years on earth, has done pretty well on those counts.

» books@ssh.com.au

Theatre Review Catherine Skipper



Dance Clan
Bangarra Dance Theatre
Artistic Director: Frances Rings
Bangarra Studio Theatre
February 3-18, 2023

This year's thrillingly bold revival of the *Dance Clan* program begins a new era as the gracious Frances Rings assumes the role of Artistic Director at Bangarra, formerly held by the iconic Stephen Page. Rings is strongly committed to building a sustainable future for both the company and artists, and *Dance Clan 2023* includes emerging theatre designers and composers.

As an on-screen introduction to each work, the choreographers – Sani Towson, Ryan Pearson and Glory Tuohy-Daniell – give the audience an insight into the personal and cultural inspiration for their storytelling. For Towson it is a deeply felt desire to show respect for his Torres Strait Island heritage but also to pay homage to his grandfather that motivates his reflective work entitled *Kulka* or bloodlines.

In the opening sequence a blue-clad ethereal Tuohy-Daniell seems to float magically above the dark figures supporting her, evoking a lovely sense of connection between spirit and island world. By contrast, the formality of flag signalling, important to Towson's grandfather, emphasised through geometrical floor lighting, suggests the lines and protocols that bind a group together. The complexity of the whole and shifts in feeling

must have presented a challenge to composer Amy Flannery.

Ryan Pearson's *5 Minute Call* is an instant crowd pleaser. In his introduction Pearson recalls madly joyous times spent with his sisters rapping to Missy Elliot, capturing his audience and keeping them on the up-beat as his crew of six dancers share individual moments of crazy happiness. While their togetherness is evoked through a "uniform" of oversize shiny suits, each is individualised by a motif, and a deeper connection suggested through the interchange of jackets. A medley of voices – sisters, friends – give an intimacy to the storytelling, and composer Brendon Boney sustains the energy.

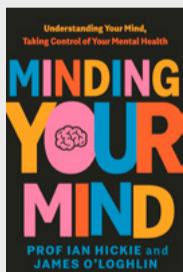
A well-balanced program, the final work choreographed by Tuohy-Daniell, *Keeping Grounded*, brings us back to earth. In her introduction, Tuohy-Daniell meditates on the loss of energy once gained through walking barefoot on the earth, linking it with the disconnection experienced in moving from Country to city. A massive net with gaping holes – suggesting both lack of protection and entrapment – dominates the stage and is manipulated to indicate different moments in Tuohy-Daniell's story of spiritual dislocation. Clever use is made of the hands-in-the-pockets stance that seems to typify the assumed assurance of urban attitudes but also evokes a sense of restricted movement as does the tightening sharp-elbowed knot of the dancers. Most memorable is the isolated and despairing figure of Daniel Mateo both caught in or falling through the net.

Shana O'Brien's sets are imaginative, Clair Parker's costumes are responsive to choreographic intention, the composers create a musical backdrop that supports and enhances the audience's perception of the choreography, and the choreography carries Bangarra into an excitingly reimagined future. The dancers, as always, are grounded in culture and dazzlingly contemporary in style.

» theatre@ssh.com.au

Five books for when life is painful

SELECTED BY MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES



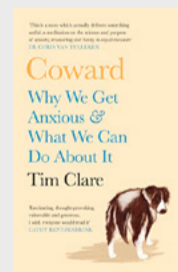
Do you mind?

Minding Your Mind is based on James O'Loughlin and Professor Ian Hickie's popular podcast and it broaches burn-out and depression, humour and community, trauma and addiction, anger and self-control, managing your body clock and more. Like a warm chat on a cold day, it offers insights into how we can understand, change and improve our mental health. From the chapter on burn-out: "This is all about minding your mind pre-emptively. Do some planning to try and make sure you have a good life."



Opting in

Matt Haig's depression came laced with anxiety and it hit him hard. "Now, listen," he writes in *Reasons to Stay Alive*, "if you have ever believed a depressive wants to be happy, you are wrong. They could not care less about the luxury of happiness. They just want to feel an absence of pain." He links the increased prevalence of depression and anxiety to the broader malaise of modern society (wanting more than we have, worshipping work above play) and also writes, "Where talk exists, so does hope."



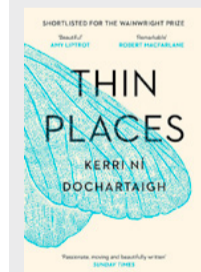
Panic stations

Tim Clare tried everything he could to be free of the debilitating anxiety and panic attacks he'd suffered for over a decade. He interviewed experts, read research and became a guinea pig – trying exercise, SSRIs, hypnosis, cold water bathing, walking in nature and more, to beat his foes. In *Coward: Why we get anxious and what we can do about it* he shares what helped him and might help others. A high intake of fruit and vegetables, bibliotherapy, supportive workplaces, expressive writing ... and more.



Articulate and meticulous

A Kind of Magic by Anna Spargo-Ryan is a frank and meticulously researched memoir that shepherds us into doctor's surgeries, therapy sessions, the mind of a terrified parent, the brokenness of Australia's mental health system and more. It shows us the stigma that comes with certain diagnoses and the relief that flows when you can finally walk outside your house on a Sunday when you haven't done so for years. She concludes: "You can learn to self-advocate, or you can get worse."



Nature nurtures

Born and raised in Derry, the daughter of a Catholic mother and Protestant father, Kerri ní Dochartaigh grew up with sectarianism and violence. When she was 11 a homemade petrol bomb was thrown through her bedroom window – and the family narrowly escaped. When they returned home, strangers had moved in. The Troubles left their mark on ní Dochartaigh – altering her nervous system and her psyche. But *Thin Places* is ultimately a survivor's story, and nature is palliative. A curlew's cry in a soft December sky heals a rift ...

Sydney World Pride - all set to go

SPORT

STEVE TURNER

SYDNEY is gearing up to host this year's World Pride Festival. The international festival began in 2000, with cities competing to host each year's event. Sydney is the first southern hemisphere city to host the festival. It will incorporate the usual Mardi Gras festival events, with an increased offering across visual and performing arts, sports, as well as First Nations planning sessions and a human rights conference.

Beginning on February 17, the festival will culminate with the Mardi Gras Parade on March 5. A highlight is the concert in the Domain on February 24, featuring performances from Kylie Minogue, Jessica Mauboy, Casey Donovan and Courtney Act.

There is a wide array of sporting events on offer during the festival. These include the Rainbow Golf Tournament at Moore Park Golf Club, the World Pride Tennis Tournament at Rockdale, the Rainbow Racquets Squash Tournament at Hiscoe's in Surry Hills, the World Pride Ice Hockey Cup at Macquarie Ice Rink, the LGBTI Soccer World Championships at Tempe Recreation Reserve, the World Gay Boxing Championships in the Winx Stand at Randwick Racecourse, the Sydney World Pride Martial Arts Championships at KGV Convention Centre in The Rocks, and more.

People who wish to compete in sporting events can register through the World Pride website. Likewise, people who wish to attend any of the events can buy tickets online.



Courtney Act will perform at Sydney World Pride this month. Photo: ABC TV

Australian Open results

The Australian Open in Melbourne has concluded. After an eventful two weeks, the final results were:

Men's singles champion:

Novak Djokovic (Serbia)

Women's singles champion:

Aryna Sabalenka (neutral)

Men's doubles champions:

Jason Kubler/Rinky Hijikata (Australia)

Women's doubles champions:

Barbora Krejckikova/Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic)

Mixed doubles champions:

Rafael Matos/Luisa Stefani (Brazil)

Men's wheelchair champion:

Alfie Hewett (Great Britain)

Women's wheelchair champion:

Diede de Groot (Netherlands)

The next grand slam of the year is the French Open in May.

SSH

Volunteers' News

PAT CLARKE

Hello and welcome to another year of the *South Sydney Herald*. We are in our 22nd year of publication and, like many not-for-profit organisations, we rely on financial support from a number of sources, one of which is donations from our loyal readers and followers. If you can spare even a small amount, you will help to keep us publishing. You can donate towards our fundraising for this year's issues at www.southsydneyherald.com.au

Youth Self-Defence Classes – Cliff Noble Community Centre (3pm Wednesdays from February 8 to March 29)

The classes are part of Stay Safe, an after-school empowering and confidence-building program for young people. Phone 8512 8771 for more information.

Seniors Social Group – Ron Williams Community Centre, 5-11 Kepos Street, Redfern (10am-12pm Wednesdays until June 28)

This is a pop-in social group for seniors with refreshments, board games and chat. Community bus transport can be arranged for residents of the City of Sydney local area. Contact: Jack Chen on 9265 9180 or email Jchen2@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Belvoir St Theatre Unwaged Performance Program 2023 – Thursdays at 1pm

Always in our February issue I publish the Belvoir Unwaged Program for our theatre-loving volunteers and readers for the coming year. Unwaged performances for 2023 are on Thursdays at 1pm and to claim your ticket visit the Belvoir Box Office from 11am on day of the performance. Pensioner, Health Care Card, Vets Card with photo ID (MEAA and Equity cards also accepted).

Blessed Union – February 23



Sydney World Pride from February 17 to March 5 is offering over 300 events celebrating Australia's diverse LGBTIQA community. Photo: Supplied

- Into the Woods* – April 13
- At What Cost?* – May 11
- Scenes from the Climate Era* – June 8
- Miss Peony* – July 13
- The Weekend* – August 17
- Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill* – September 21
- The Master & Margarita* – November 23

Sydney World Pride 2023 – GATHER, DREAM, AMPLIFY (February 17 to March 5 and Sydney Mardi Gras on February 25)

Watch Sydney come alive as our LGBTIQA community celebrates this international event starting with Live and Proud, the opening concert on February 24, 7pm at the Domain, and ending with Rainbow Republic, the closing concert on March 5, 3pm also at the Domain. Also, on March 5 at 7am Sydney Harbour Bridge will close for the Pride March which will also celebrate 45 years of Sydney Mardi Gras. Tickets available by ballot, and there is a waitlist. There will be a Flag-Raising Ceremony at Sydney Town Hall on February 17, and this is a free event.

Marri Madung Butbut First Nations Gathering Space – Carriageworks (February 23-28)

Catch up with all the glittering events at the very comprehensive website: www.sydneypride.com/events

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» volunteers@ssh.com.au



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COUNTERPOINT

SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

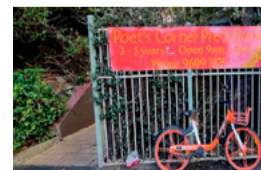
- Individual support, case management and advocacy
- Support for local groups
- Specialised children and family services
- Community events and social activities
- Meeting spaces for hire
- Free computers internet access and office facilities
- Social, educational, cultural programs
- Specialist services provided by partner agencies covering legal issues, health, counselling support, harm reduction
- Poets Corner Preschool
- Outreach services



Factory Community Centre
67 Raglan Street, Waterloo



Multicultural Centre
73 Garden Street, Alexandria



Poets Corner Preschool
Rear of 55 Morehead St, Redfern

CALL: 02 9698 9569
info@counterpointcs.org.au
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