

the South Sydney Herald

Number Two Hundred and Twenty Five ~ May 2023

Circulation 10,000 ~ First Published 2002

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Fintan Magee's mural in Darlington of Patyegarang and William Dawes will remain in place until the end of 2023. A permanent artwork to recognise Patyegarang is in the works to be a part of the Eora Journey's program, Yananurala, a curated nine-kilometre harbour walk that highlights Aboriginal stories, people and places. Photo: Supplied

New mural shimmers in Darlington

FIRST PEOPLES

MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

FINTAN Magee's new mural in Darlington of Patyegarang and William Dawes is compelling. "Lost Figures" stretches four storeys high and is located at 501 Wilson Street, near Carriageworks. The mural was commissioned by the City of Sydney's Art & About program – but what inspired Magee to paint these portraits?

What was it like to work on the mural with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council?

They were very accommodating. It was important to me that we go through the correct channels when representing Indigenous people in public art – particularly

given Patye is an important figure. Nathan Moran who heads the council right now was really encouraging and didn't push back on my ideas at all. I was excited how it all came together.

How has the local community responded to the mural?

So far so good. It's a funny location as it can be quiet during the week but there is a lot of foot traffic when there are events at Carriageworks. During the production of the work everyone was very supportive.

Why is it important to tell the story of Patyegarang and William Dawes?

The story of Patyegarang and William Dawes is important but it's also a difficult one. William was a scientist and botanist who came out on the

First Fleet and Patye was an Eora girl, still a teenager. It's not known exactly what the dynamic of their relationship was, but it is known that they spent a lot of time learning language, translating and documenting the languages of the Sydney area. William's notebooks became essential to the documentation and preservation of the Gadigal language. What's amazing is that the notebooks got sent to London and buried in the basement of a museum, and it wasn't until the 1970s that the books were found again and a language that was essentially extinct got rediscovered. The time after the arrival of the First Fleet must have been incredibly painful for the Gadigal people around Sydney but it is important to remember that, despite the violent displacement

of war and colonialism, there were people working to preserve, share, learn and protect each other and culture also.

How does this mural connect with your work on political murals?

I came up with the concept for the project in 2020 when the Black Lives Matter protests were happening. I wanted to paint historical figures that didn't fit the traditional image of power or had been forgotten or under-represented in public art. I was watching works in the US get pulled down, the Edward Coulston bronze in Bristol got torn down and the James Cook in Hyde Park got vandalised. A lot of conservative commentators were getting mad about it at the time and acting like history was being erased, but the reality is statues always get torn down for different reasons at different times. Even the Queen Victoria

statue now in Sydney was torn down during the Irish revolution in Dublin before it was eventually transported to Australia. I decided to paint Patye and William Dawes for this reason. I think we need to have a dialogue about colonialism and why people like Cook get a sculpture when Patye doesn't. I grew up painting graffiti so my art has always been ephemeral. We can't make interesting art if we don't pull things apart occasionally.

Where else in South Sydney might people see your work?

I have work in a bunch of spots in Sydney – Newtown, Enmore, Redfern. Just keep an eye out! You'll see them when you see them.

Fintan Magee is one of Australia's leading public artists and has travelled extensively, completing projects in countries across the world. See fintanmagee.com



South Sydney Herald

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PUBLISHER

South Sydney Uniting Church
Raglan Street, Waterloo.
The views expressed in this newspaper are those of the author and the article and are not necessarily the views of the Uniting Church.

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GasolineGroup | www.gasolinegroup.com.au

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Spotpress Pty Ltd | www.spotpress.com

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TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney

ANZAC DAY IN SYDNEY:

This year marked the 108th anniversary of ANZAC soldiers landing on the shores of Gallipoli. ANZAC Day is a chance to reflect on the Australians who have served our nation in war and peacekeeping operations. It's an opportunity to contemplate their experiences and to consider the scale of their sacrifice, and the impact on their families and our community. This year I attended the Dawn Service in Martin Place, the morning service at Mustard Seed Uniting Church in Ultimo, and the Coloured Diggers march in Redfern. Each of these events offered a moving tribute to the courage and sacrifice of our service men and women. Thank you to everyone who attended a service or volunteered on the day. For those who have served, for those who continue to serve, we can never thank you enough. The Albanese Government is implementing the Veteran's Royal Commission recommendations because it is our duty to look after our service members and their families, during and after their time in the ADF.

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT:

As Australia's Minister for the Environment and Water, I'm determined to protect more of what's precious, restore more of what's damaged, and manage nature better for our kids and grandkids. We've just announced \$262 million of new funding for Australia's national parks, including Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta. After a decade of neglect and chronic underfunding, these special places need urgent help to repair infrastructure, upgrade facilities and manage threatened species. And that is what our government is delivering.

Here's what else I've been busy working on in the last few months:

- Passing our new climate change laws, putting Australia on a clear path to net zero
- Approving renewable energy projects twice as fast as before
- Setting up a new national Environment Protection Agency
- Writing stronger national laws to protect nature and give faster, clearer approval decisions
- Introducing the Nature Repair Market Bill to Parliament, to encourage farmers and landholders to restore nature on their land
- Extending marine park protection at Macquarie Island, to preserve this magical home of royal penguins
- Delivering the Murray Darling Basin Plan, to sustainably manage Australia's most critical river system
- Increasing protections for the greater bilby, just in time for Easter
- Rolling out our fund to protect koalas and their habitats
- Doubling the number of Indigenous Rangers who are employed to look after their traditional country

Tanya

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Federal Member for Sydney

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Public housing hiatus

URBAN DESIGN

GEOFF TURNBULL

PUBLIC housing tenants anxiously await news from the NSW Labor government about the future of their homes. Prior to the election, Ron Hoenic, the MP covering Waterloo, sent an authorised text to electors saying that "only Labor will stop the sell-off & privatisation of public housing in NSW".

Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) is currently assessing developer proposals for Waterloo to shortlist two options.

In April, after new Housing Minister, Rose Jackson, first met with LAHC, tenants at the Waterloo Redevelopment Group (WRG) were told LAHC hadn't been told to stop work on the project so, until early May when LAHC expects to brief the Minister on Waterloo, business as usual continues.

The government made some immediate changes to its structure upon election, with wider restructuring referred to as "de-clustering" flagged for after June. The promised recombination of LAHC, DCJ Housing and the Aboriginal Housing Office into "Homes NSW" is likely to start then.

These Machinery of Government (MOG) changes take time until new executives get across their briefs; a high priority will be reviewing public housing maintenance contracts due for 2024 renewal.

A challenge for Jackson, as second most junior minister

in cabinet, will be convincing Treasury to change public housing operating constraints and do things differently while competing with senior colleagues' portfolio demands. Budget black holes are already being publicised, preparing the electorate for delays in delivering some promises. There was no financial commitment to fund new social housing in Labor's election promises, only an aspiration in Labor policy. High hopes seem to be focused on federal funds held up in negotiations with the Greens.

Jackson will also need to hold off Planning Minister Paul Scully's urgent search for new housing opportunities in Sydney along rail and metro lines. That was the last government's rationale for the Waterloo estate redevelopment and the rezoning would provide some of the housing Scully urgently needs. The Labor government's policy for 30 per cent social and affordable housing is the same as the previous government.

"I know there are residents there who are genuinely wondering what a change of government means for them, and where they're going to live, and I do not want that uncertainty to continue any longer than is possible to avoid," Jackson said recently in the *SMH*. Given the complexities, the full public housing picture might take some time to emerge from the hiatus. **SSH**

Geoff Turnbull is a Co-spokesperson for REDWatch. REDWatch has asked the Minister to respect tenants and to deliver the news about Waterloo's future to them before any media announcement.

Newtown NC's new digs

HUMAN AFFAIRS

SSH

ON March 24, after an extensive renovation, Inner West Council Mayor, Darcy Byrne, officially opened the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre's new premises at 11-13 Darley Street.

CEO Elaine Macnish said that after four decades of the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre (NNC) supporting the community from its address at 1 Bedford Street, the NNC was starting an exciting new chapter in its Darley Street location.

"I am thrilled to welcome our service users, community members and partners to our beautiful new, purpose-built centre, where we will be continuing to serve our local community though our homeless, aged care and community strengthening services."

The customised hub, designed to meet the needs of the community, will build on the services the NNC has provided for over 40 years.

More than 100 community members, local services and valued partner organisations attended the launch along with Community Elder and Board member Uncle Boe, First Nations Ceremonial Dancers and Member for Newtown Jenny Leong MP.

Participants heard how the Inner West Council had invested over one million dollars into the site to create a welcoming, fresh and functional centre.

They also heard how the new premises would:

- provide opportunities for increasing aged care and family support;
- offer unique spaces for Newtown community members to hire for meetings and celebrations; and
- foster connections with residents, services, businesses and volunteers to maintain the wellbeing and unique culture of Newtown.

The Inner West Council has committed to opening a Pride Centre at Newtown Town Hall where the NNC was previously located.

It has also created Pride Square outside Newtown Town Hall, which was officially opened by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on February 11, in the lead up to Sydney WorldPride 2023.

"The Inner West community has been the beating heart and soul of the long struggle for equality and civil rights in Australia," said Mr Byrne.

"Our naming of Pride Square is an act of recognition and respect for the LGBTIQ+ community." **SSH**

See www.newtowncentre.org or phone 02 9564 7333 for services or support.



The Coloured Digger event and Anzac Day March commemorates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who served our country in overseas conflicts. This year marked the 17th year of the march down Redfern Street. First Nations personnel, veterans and families like Melinda Chouhan (pictured) are pleased to be involved. Melinda said: “I’m here with my family and my husband Harpal. I am a proudly serving RAAF officer and proud Koori woman. I am especially honoured to commemorate this occasion with my children, who are the next generation to remember and pay respect to those that served before.”

Photo: Michelle Haywood



Multi-faith group praying in the lobby of National Australia Bank headquarters, Sydney. Photo: Supplied.

People of faith call on NAB to move beyond coal

ENVIRONMENT

MIRIAM PEPPER

OVER ten days in late March and early April, people from diverse religious traditions took part in almost 50 peaceful protests across Australia against the National Australia Bank (NAB), targeting the bank’s continued funding of fossil fuels.

Laws to strengthen Australia’s climate change response recently passed our federal Parliament. For the first time, there is a national policy in place to genuinely reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels. This includes caps on emissions, constraints on the use of certain taxpayer funds for industry projects, restrictions on offsets, and pollution assessments for new fossil fuel projects.

It means that some fossil fuel projects that were otherwise likely to go ahead no longer will.

However, the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change shows that there can be no new fossil fuel projects if the world is to have a reasonable chance of avoiding the worst excesses of global warming, a goal agreed to by the world’s governments.

Stronger action is needed to keep fossil fuels underground.

On April 5, people from Muslim, Christian and Buddhist faiths prayed and meditated in the lobby and outside of the NAB headquarters in Sydney calling on the bank to stop funding fossil fuel projects, starting by ruling out any further funding of Whitehaven Coal’s coal expansion plans. Whitehaven Coal is seeking a renewal of NAB’s \$110 million debt facility by the middle of the year.

The Rev. Dr Chris Walker, a retired

Uniting Church Minister, said, “My concern about climate change arises from my Christian faith in God the Creator who calls us to care for and appreciate creation. It is imperative that action be taken now before it is too late to prevent serious climate warming and the devastating effects that it is already bringing.

“Coal is the worst offender. Coal export is Australia’s biggest contribution to the global climate crisis. We, people of faith, are distressed by NAB’s stubborn financing of fossil fuel extraction. All of us, wherever we live, will be subject to the negative consequences of climate change, yet it is people who have contributed least to the problem that are suffering the consequences most.

“Today we are joining with the Move Beyond Coal movement to call on Ross McEwan, NAB’s CEO, to explicitly rule out funding for companies like Whitehaven Coal – a company that has no transition plan, no climate policy and, if financed, their plans would lead to further climate catastrophe.”

Since January 2016, NAB has loaned \$9.5 billion to fossil fuels, even while pledging to align with limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees.

Fahimah Badrullhisham, a Muslim architect who joined the pray-in, said, “I am currently observing Ramadan, a month where Muslims fast during the day to cleanse our body, mind and spirit. It is also the month where we remember and help the less fortunate, and level up our efforts in seeking justice. Which is why today, in this holy month, I am standing with Pacific Islanders, young people and climate-vulnerable communities of the Global South by taking a stand against NAB.”

The holding vigil refused requests by NAB management to leave the lobby. Police were called and removed the protestors.

SSH

‘Living with Parkinson’s is no cakewalk’

HEALTH

SSH

LONG-TERM Redfern resident, Emma, grew up on the Central Coast, with an active school life and dreams of becoming a flight attendant.

“After school, I joined the Contiki travel company. After gaining hospitality experience I began working in Europe as site representative in Antibes, a beautiful French Riviera town and later became the mobile cook on many camping tours. I subsequently returned to Australia, married and had two children.”

A couple of months after Emma’s honeymoon in Paris in 2010, the first hint of health problems arose. “I had issues with my vision,” says Emma, and my GP asked whether I’d experienced numbness or tingling. I recalled previous incidents of pins and needles in my hands. My eye problems were diagnosed as optic neuritis, which led to a Multiple Sclerosis (MS for short) diagnosis.”

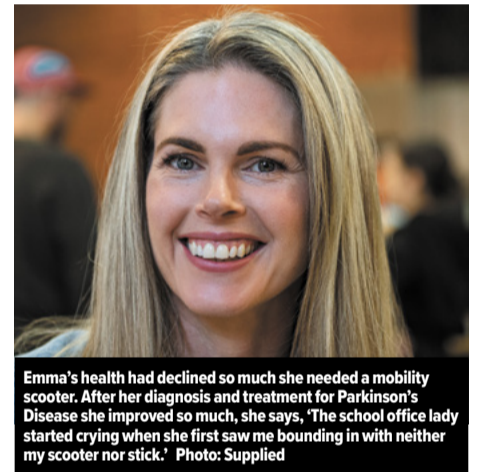
In 2013 Emma became Ambassador for MS research, raising tens of thousands of dollars for research. The *South Sydney Herald* supported Emma’s fundraising and in May 2017 Emma was featured on our front page. Then in early 2019, Emma again faced some uncomfortable symptoms.

“I was in yoga class when my leg started shaking uncontrollably. A couple of months later when out walking I realised I needed to think consciously about moving my leg and that my left arm didn’t swing naturally whilst walking.”

Emma returned to her MS neurologist who advised that her symptoms would go away.

The symptoms continued and Emma decided to see a physiotherapist through MS Plus and was given an exercise program. Months later, with no improvement, she returned to her neurologist and was advised that she had Functional Neurological Disorder (FND).

FND occurs following serious stress or trauma which skews messages between the brain and the central nervous system resulting in a variety of symptoms though there’s no structural damage to the brain. “During the next 18 months things deteriorated and I went from a limp to a walking stick to a mobility scooter. I had a tremor in my right hand and a fixed position in my left. I couldn’t write, type or text, and eating was a challenge. Quite often I wouldn’t make it to the toilet in time. Drinking was only achieved



Emma’s health had declined so much she needed a mobility scooter. After her diagnosis and treatment for Parkinson’s Disease she improved so much, she says, ‘The school office lady started crying when she first saw me bounding in with neither my scooter nor stick.’ Photo: Supplied

through a straw. The biggest challenge was walking on a flat surface and yet I could do short sprints on the beach. It was all very weird but indicated that some messages were getting through. Watching my struggle with the simple tasks was awful for my family and friends.”

By October 2021 Emma sought the opinion of a second neurologist. After a thorough assessment rather than FND I had early-onset Parkinson’s. “The medications which came with the new diagnosis made an almost immediate and life-changing difference. Four weeks later, instead of my mobility scooter I was able to walk with just a limp. I’ve had so much support from friends, family, and the local school – my heart burst to see their joy in my recovery.”

Emma is learning how to pace herself. “Fatigue is one of my main symptoms and I have to constantly tell myself to not overdo things. Looking after myself and my girls is my priority. Plus, I am a huge advocate for medical research and spread awareness for MS and PD (Parkinson’s Disease) wherever and whenever I can.”

Emma attends a local Parkinson’s support group and has found online groups very helpful.

“Connection with others is vital. I have a lot of people I can lean on, including NDIS. Parkinson’s NSW, Michael J Fox Foundation and MS Plus have many resources on how to live well, and maintain a really positive outlook. “Learning to live with PD has its ups and downs and is constantly changing. Cooking for a bus load of tourists all over Europe is a piece of cake compared to living with PD and MS.

SSH

A version of Emma’s story was first published on the Parkinson’s NSW website. See www.parkinsonsnsw.org.au/women-with-parkinsons-and-their-stories

JENNY LEONG MP

MEMBER FOR NEWTOWN



Greens to push for emergency rent freeze in new parliament

As the first parliamentary sitting since the election of the NSW Minns Labor government looms, the Greens are gearing up to introduce legislation that would immediately freeze rents across the state.

Over the past 12 months, rents have risen at four times the rate of wage growth, and costs of living have skyrocketed. People who rent in our local area and beyond are struggling to make ends meet, with record low vacancy rates meaning they can't simply find a new place to live when hit with a massive rent increase.

Conditions for renters across the state grow more dire by the day, but so far both major parties have failed to treat the crisis with the urgency it requires.

That's why, in the first sitting week of the new parliament, the Greens will introduce legislation that would freeze rents in NSW for two years. This would prevent all residential rents from rising above their current rate for the next two years – regardless of whether a tenancy ends at a property – and provide immediate relief to renters living in fear of another rent hike while broader reforms can be undertaken.

Beyond this, we know that the root causes of the rental affordability crisis – worsening inequality, laws that disproportionately favour landlords over tenants, and a public housing shortage – require long-term, systemic solutions.

That's why during the 24-month emergency rent freeze period the Greens would work with the new parliament to develop and implement long-term solutions like an end to unfair no-grounds evictions, rent controls, expansion of rental subsidies and massive investment in public and social housing.

Lockdown-era eviction moratoriums and rent freezes for commercial tenants showed us that, if they want to, governments can take swift and substantial action to protect renters from a volatile housing market. We know an emergency rent freeze is an immediate solution to stop the escalation of the current crisis. What we need is the political will and a community-led, grassroots movement to make it a reality.

Support The Greens' push to immediately freeze rents by signing our petition at www.jennyleong.org/fix_the_rent_crisis or scanning the QR code below:



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

Life-changing scholarship brings Sumit from the Tigri slum community to the University of Sydney

SPONSORED

MARK SCOTT

LAST year Sumit was living with his family of four in a one-room shanty in the Tigri slum community of south Delhi.

Today he is studying a Master of Public Policy at the University of Sydney, making friends from all over the world and, for the first time, learning to swim.

Sumit, 21, won the 2022 Sydney Scholars India Equity Scholarship, worth up to \$60,000 and arrived in Sydney in February 2023 to begin his postgraduate studies. The scholarship was created for exceptional students residing in the slum communities of Delhi, in collaboration with Indian charity, the Asha Community Health and Development Society (Asha).

Sumit described the challenges of growing up in a slum environment.

"Every night, I would use a small battery-operated light to study after the other members of my family went to sleep. I would wake up in the mornings to stand in a long line to fill water from the common street tap. There were also problems like petty crime, violence and drinking."

After achieving a mark of 95 per cent in his senior secondary school exams, the team at Asha spotted Sumit's potential and provided financial assistance for him to complete his Bachelor of Arts (Economics and Political Science) at the University of Delhi.



Sumit, 21, winner of the 2022 Sydney Scholars India Equity Scholarship. Photo: Supplied

The first in his family to go to university, Sumit was motivated to continue his education by Asha founder and director, Dr Kiran Martin, who became his mentor; and his father, a tailor for the neighbourhood.

"My father was a very good student at school but couldn't continue his studies because of his financial circumstances – he had to work after my grandfather died quite early. His dream for me is to stand on my own feet and be successful in life," said Sumit.

The scholarship reflected the importance of Australia's educational ties with India and the University's commitment to supporting social equity and building a diverse and inclusive student community.

We deeply value our relationship with India and recognise the vital importance of strengthening

educational links between our two nations, helping to develop talented graduates who will address the world's most complex challenges.

In a year where we are celebrating the centenary of welcoming the first international student to our campus, we are delighted to welcome Sumit to our University community and look forward to seeing him realise his full potential.

We're proud so many of our students have life-changing experiences while studying with us. A key pillar of our 2032 strategy is creating more pathways to ensure a greater diversity of students succeed at Sydney, and our partnership with Asha is an important part of this work.

Following his studies, Sumit hopes to develop his career as a policy analyst in the corporate sector and use his skills to support his local community back home.

"My goal is to return to India and 'pay it forward' by contributing to the development and improvement of my community. I would also like to become a role model for younger students and inspire them to dream big."



Authorised by Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof. Mark Scott.
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Swifties in a spin

LOCALS

ANDREW COLLIS

ESTABLISHED in 2007, Record Store Day (RSD) is an annual event held on the third Saturday in April to "celebrate the culture of the independently owned record store". The day brings together fans, artists and thousands of independent record stores around the world. A number of records are pressed exclusively for RSD, with a list of releases for each country.

RSD 2023 took place on Saturday April 22. It featured Jason Isbell and Amanda Shires as ambassadors and included *folklore: the long pond studio sessions* by Taylor Swift in grey vinyl (double LP) format. Recorded live, the album features Taylor Swift, Aaron Dessner (The National), Jack Antonoff (Bleachers) and Justin Vernon (Bon Iver).

At Hum on King in Newtown, store owner Peter Thiele was delighted by the turnout. "Swifties waited in line outside the store from as early as 4.30am," he said. The queue continued well



Taylor Swift fans Maddison and Caitie pose with their vinyl purchases. Photo: Andrew Collis

into mid-morning.

"This is a day for people to come together and celebrate the unique culture of an independent record store and the role these stores play in their communities."

This year's releases include gems across every genre: BB King, Willie Dixon; Bill Evans, Shirley Scott; Motörhead, Mötley Crüe; Jason Isbell and Amanda Shires; Bert Jansch, Marianne

Faithfull; Acid Mothers Temple, Groundhogs; movie soundtracks by Ennio Morricone and David Byrne; live recordings by the Allman Brothers, Donna Summer, the Cure and Pixies.

Some RSD releases are still available over the counter from participating stores, including Hum on King and Egg Records in Newtown, and Title Music, Film & Books in Surry Hills.

Remembering Father Bob

FAITH

ANDREW COLLIS

I remember when Father Bob Maguire (1934-2023) came to Sydney in 2010. He was the after-dinner speaker at Buon Gusto Italian restaurant in Darlington, the occasion a fundraiser for the South Sydney Herald hosted by Julie McCrossin AM.

I remember the excitement – SSH founding editor, the late Trevor Davies, was in his element. Father Bob spoke about social justice and spirituality, media and politics in a way that made us laugh, think and feel that we were capable of reforming our institutions, reshaping society.

As a parish priest, community activist and media personality, Bob spoke up for workers and unions, migrants and refugees, those experiencing hunger and homelessness. His longstanding friendship with journalist John Safran bore witness to good humour and kindness – and faith as openness to the other.

“Father Bob Maguire was a brave and tireless advocate for LGBTIQ+ equality and he will be greatly missed”, says Rodney Croome, Just Equal spokesperson and former national director of Australian Marriage Equality. “He stood up for the recognition of same-sex relationships and against anti-gay and anti-trans prejudice

when few other public leaders were willing to do the same.”

Deputy leader of the Liberal party in Victoria, David Southwick, remembers “a larrikin, a man of deep faith and source of endless kindness ... a champion for the less fortunate – a voice for those who needed one”.

Nina Taylor, Labor MP for Albert Park, acknowledges “a formidable social justice campaigner whose devotion to the plight of the most vulnerable will be an enduring inspiration”.

Frank O'Connor is founder/patron of the Father Bob Maguire Foundation (<https://donate.mycause.com.au/charity/1553>). Father Bob has been an inspiration for so many people for so many years, he says, “because [his ministry] was always about those less fortunate in the world ... the unloved and the unlovely”.

Religion can be overly complex and confusing. Put simply, though, it's about imagination. Father Bob's life and work invite me to refocus – to imagine divinity appearing in the flesh of a preacher-poet, in the sharing of food and drink (basic resources and opportunities); to imagine a diverse gathering of people transfigured as family, transformed into God's body; to imagine the world infused with light and love.

SSH

The Rev. Andrew Collis is parish minister at South Sydney Uniting Church.



cartoon: norrie mAy-welby



Rough sleeping is on the rise with nearly 300 people sleeping on city streets each night, and in makeshift resting spots like this one on Victoria Street in Darlinghurst. Photo: Rough Edges

More rough sleeping on the streets of Sydney

HUMAN AFFAIRS

GABRIEL LACOPA

THE City of Sydney released its Street Count figures on April 12. It is not surprising, but rough sleeping is up by 23 per cent compared with the same time last year. Two-hundred-and-seventy-seven people were found sleeping rough in the local area, up from 225 in February last year.

It adds up. We are getting much greater demand on our services at Rough Edges, a drop in centre for vulnerable people in Darlinghurst. We simply can't keep up with the number of calls we receive for assistance directly from people on the edges or from other services. In recent conversations I've had with Rough Edges patrons, two of them spoke with me about evictions hanging over their heads. Sadly, I believe this will be a common story this year.

The Street Count is one way the City of Sydney looks

at important markers on homelessness in the inner city and its surroundings. Not only is rough sleeping up, but there was also a slight increase for people living in assisted accommodation. According to Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, “When the city went into lockdown, people sleeping rough were rushed into temporary accommodation and many were then supported into longer term housing. We now have nearly 300 people sleeping on city streets each night, with much of the extra help available through the pandemic now dried up or discontinued.”

Her comments relate to the significant efforts state governments made to provide adequate housing for homeless people during the pandemic, many of whom were provided hotel accommodation as short-term relief. This is perhaps one of the main factors why we dropped from 334 rough sleepers in February 2020 to only 225 two years later. National Census figures also bear this out as the

actual number of rough sleepers dropped between 2016 and 2021.

But, at least two things need to be borne in mind: the complexion of homelessness is changing, with a major shift of people moving into assisted housing and boarding houses, the latter providing little protections for their residents. The other point is that homelessness is so complex that we need multiple services to help people not only to find homes but help them stay there.

Funding, practical help and stronger networks are necessary to provide long-term accommodation solutions to what is a major problem in our city.

Rough Edges provides an important contribution to a complex problem. But will 2023 prove an even bigger challenge than the Covid years for smaller agencies such as ours?

Gabriel Lacoba is CEO of St John's Community Services, including Rough Edges. Donate here www.roughedges.org.au/donations

Constant stream of noisy buses

LETTER

FOR four years, the state government has been running nearly empty buses up and down Raglan Street. On the current 392 route, we see very few passengers on most runs. Local residents have asked Transport for NSW representatives about the cost of running empty buses and they have dismissed the question.

In the past, our street was quiet, and we never realised what a dramatic effect the heavy bus traffic would have on people's lives – the deafening noise and the fumes. It never stops even when everything is quiet on public holidays. All we can hear is revving buses. The buses trample over the sensitive residential area which includes a heritage zone.

Many are seriously ill (heart conditions, asthma, AIDS, mental ill health, old age, etc.) and house bound. Many suffer in silence, unable to articulate their pain.

There's a childcare centre, Waterloo Green, the Factory community centre, the church, three community gardens, etc.

The terrace houses here are designed to face the street for people to communicate. Now even this has been denied, as we cannot hear ourselves over

the buses every five minutes. Children cannot play near the street anymore. In the future, this area will be densely populated with planners recommending severely reduced car traffic, as well as a new park between Raglan and Wellington streets.

Such heavy traffic should be sent along the major corridors such as Elizabeth and Redfern streets. We have a “no right turn” sign from Elizabeth into Raglan Street to reduce car traffic, but the government overruled it for buses. So, cars cannot turn but buses can – this invites the heavy traffic into our street.

We see this as a case of social injustice – the NSW government did not hesitate to trample over the last vestiges of a quiet, disadvantaged neighbourhood.

At the same time, in well-off suburbs such as Newtown, Centennial Park and Paddington, there are many quiet streets blocked from heavy traffic to be enjoyed by wealthy residents.

No one consulted us about this major impact on our lives. We are deprived not only of the right to quality of life but even to contemplate a carbon-free future when the senseless “carbon on steroids” is on our doorsteps.

Svetlana Rodgers
Waterloo

The Review

Arts & Culture in Your Neighbourhood

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Maritime training, cultural programs, radio broadcasts, musical performance ...

FIRST PEOPLES

TIM GRAY

MY name is Timothy Gray and I'm a Gumbaynggirr/Wiradjuri/Bidjigal man and I live on Gadigal country in Redfern.

I've been working as a Visitor Services Guide at Barangaroo Reserve for eight years. We run Aboriginal cultural tours Monday to Saturday on the Reserve, as well as other First Nations-themed tours and events.

Since 2006, I have been involved with the Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation where I did my maritime training, and now I'm on the board of directors.

Watching Tribal Warrior grow over the years has been an amazing experience, and I'm so proud of what everyone has and still is achieving in our community. Tribal Warrior started as a maritime training organisation and has now extended into tourism with cultural tours on the harbour as well as chartered cruises.

Clean Slate Without Prejudice is a successful boxing program run

by Tribal Warrior in partnership with the local police and major stakeholders including the Governor General David Hurley, and most importantly, the community.

A shout-out to Shane Phillips and Luke Freudenstein for starting such an amazing and important program, and Home which is led by Lillian. Tribal Warrior staff are always going above and beyond.

I also volunteer at Koori Radio as a broadcaster on Saturday evenings from 6 to 8pm and the show is called Social Change. This is important to me because I focus on world politics not just First Nations mob here, and we try to put a positive spin on whatever subject we come up with including climate change, war, etc.

Redfern is very close to my heart even though I'm not from here in terms of my tribal connections, although my Timbery ancestry is important for me, having connections to La Perouse and Wollongong.

Both of my parents' families lived on The Block at some stage, so the Buchanans on my mum's side and the Grays/Smiths on my biological father's side. I was fostered out to non-Indigenous parents when I

was 10 months old and grew up not far from Redfern, all the while not knowing my family was living there.

I play piano and sing in our band, the Green Hand Band. Live music is so important to me and my community in Redfern and the South Sydney area. We have just started recording an album with all new songs which will be released later in the year.

Green Hand Band is the best way I can express myself, my political views, spreading the message of love and compassion. My songwriting is mostly inspired by Bob Marley and our music has influences such as No Fixed Address, Coloured Stone, the Black Turtles, the Wailers, etc.

This is the first in a series of articles by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living and working on Gadigal land. The series, a joint project of the South Sydney Herald and City of Sydney, is curated by Aunty Norma Ingram.



Green Hand Band in Redfern (Tim Gray in back row, with glasses). Photo: Amanda Dwyer



Emergence is testament to the transformation Milk Crate brings to people's lives. Photo: Supplied

Joyous, immersive, lyrical and satirical

EXHIBITIONS

CATHERINE SKIPPER

Emergence
Artistic Director: Margot Politis
107 Projects, Redfern
April 5-13, 2023

Emergence is a retrospective look at, and a celebration of, Milk Crate's 24 years of making performance work by and with people with lived experience of homelessness, mental health issues and disability. Engaging in a range of forms, Milk Crate offers its participants the

space to transform their difficulties and turmoil into resonant theatrical presentations which play an important role in both their personal emergence and in bringing their issues to the wider community.

A slow walk around the exhibition looking at the large collection of photographs from Milk Crate's earliest days at Edward Eager Lodge (1999-2001) to their present day affirms wholeheartedly Milk Crate's belief in the power of theatre to release and transform. The energy and sense of living fully in the faces and gestures of so many different participants is moving and exciting. Theatre is a joyous and immersive experience and the photos – including the early black and whites of unknown photographers – testify to the truth of this.

The inclusion of several film suites offers an experience of a different kind. *Waterloo* (2022), a series of short films created and performed by the residents with lived experience of the uncertainty engendered by the redevelopment of the Waterloo Estate, gives a variety of responses from lyrical to satirical. The individual authenticity of each creation bears out the value of Milk Crate's mission that all work be specifically crafted for and by the individuals involved – encompassing "what they wish to express" and the self they discover while they're expressing it.

Reading the information attached to the many productions, we can get a sense of what engaging in a range of forms entails. *Natural Order* (2021) for instance, developed over two years, was created from workshops

in live performance, writing, visual art, film, music and sound design and, in performance, led its audience on a journey around a shifting installation. A searching play, it poses a question very much relevant to the immediate present: how to challenge a politico-cultural order considered "natural" by the most powerful?

Finally, a word of praise must go to the stage setting of *Tiny Universe* (2021), a play which probes the gap between our inner and outer worlds and is the product of collaboration between Margot Politis and Natalie Rose of Shopfront Arts Co-op. In a brilliant stroke of stagecraft, the setting was composed of two levels of individual cubicles each

personalised by the character whose small world it represented; one among many small and separate worlds. The setting is beautifully evoked by the 107 installation and accompanied by a film.

The opening night of the exhibition was abuzz with excitement and laughter, the meeting of friends and the reuniting of people from the past. After a sympathetic and warm Welcome to Country by Michael West, Margot Politis gave a lively picture of the genesis of the exhibition followed by charming interview with a long-time participant who testified with love to the transformation Milk Crate had brought to her life.



Alexandria Sunday Fun Day on April 30 offered activities for all ages including face painting, food trucks, pet stalls, live music and more. With thanks to DJ Sean Powderly and the fabulous Miranda Fair. Photo: Andrew Collis

Theatre Review by Catherine Skipper



UFO

Writer: Kirby Medway
Director: Solomon Thomas
SBW Stables Theatre
April 20-29, 2023

Once again, Griffin Theatre has brought experimental and absorbing theatre to its small stage in *UFO*. While the narrative asks some serious questions of the world we live in while playing with some well-known science fiction motifs, the process of telling the story is completely bewitching.

A UFO – suggested by a large panel of lights – has landed on a golf course and like its many fictional precursors sits quietly, either waiting to destroy the earth or attempting to communicate. In this case, it is assumed to be the latter and through a system of flashing lights. Two young people have been hired to document its activity which proves so boring and so persistent, it provokes one of them to question the validity of their task, and the other to run out of paper which causes a major crisis.

The question of relative size is ingeniously overcome. The golf course is reproduced on waist-high tables complete with a fairy tale-inspired clubhouse, a pond with ducks, and a low hillock around which four actors (Matt Abotomey, James Harding, Angela Johnston, Tahlee Leeson) manoeuvre miniature 3D-printed puppet versions of themselves and give them voice. The puppet's

actions are live-videoed and appear as slow-motion animation on two screens above the set.

The miniatures (design, Chris Howell, Sol Thomas) look like old-fashioned wooden dolls on the screens, an impression supported by the wires that give them limited arm and neck movements, and which fits with the fairy tale club/doll house. Add to this the charm of the ducks, who turn out to be a very important element in the story, and the duck version of the folk-tale goose-girl, and sci-fi and fairy tale come together, a fitting match, as science fiction is the folk-tale of the present. Through the many versions of aliens – from mobile whiplashing plants to ET – we deal with anxieties about the unknown.

In this encounter of the more-or-less third kind, the awful alien invader gets a mention in the form of a spider in a rather *Our Man in Havana* (film version) sequence and is linked to the paper chase. The dialogue between the two observers while comedic contains some Kafkaesque reflections on bureaucracy. When strictures on more economical notetaking are handed out rather than paper – and paper has clearly been used up unproductively by the indecisive decision makers – the more rebellious data collector exclaims something along the lines of “if they want us not to do our job properly then if we're not doing it properly we are doing our job properly”.

While there is both bite and charm in the story, the main intent of *UFO* is to visually immerse the audience in the performance. In this aim it is entirely successful. We watch the miniatures as the actors manipulate them, and the actors as they manipulate the miniatures, and we watch the actors as they video the different sequences and then screen as the story unfolds.

We are constantly moving our focus, actively watching rather than passively receiving. It's exciting.

Film Review by Lindsay Cohen



The Pope's Exorcist

Director: Julius Avery
Starring: Russell Crowe, Daniel Zovatto, Alex Essoe
Genre: 666

In doing my research for this review the one thing that stood out was that nearly every exorcist-themed film screen grab and movie poster contained girls and boys with bad hair, gnarly teeth, bloodshot eyes, and bloodstained pyjamas and nighties.

Exorcism films aren't so much a genre rather a series of clichés and stereotypes. Maybe, therefore, you can give credit to some of the trailblazers like *The Exorcist* (1973), *Exorcist II: The Heretic* (1977), *The Exorcist III* (1990), *Exorcist: The Beginning* (2004) and *The Exorcist* (2023). *The Pope's Exorcist* is no exception.

But what (in theory anyway) is supposed to make *The Pope's Exorcist* differ from every other film in the “genre” is that it's based on a true story. It is true that Father Gabriele Amorth was the Chief Exorcist of the Vatican from 1986 until his death in 2016. But that's it, really, as far as reality goes. And that's a shame because it is

a lost opportunity demonstrated by the film's first 30 minutes.

In the first few scenes Father Amorth (Russell Crowe) performs an exorcism but then reveals to the Pope it was actually an exercise in psychology and he undertook actions to merely calm down an ADHD child. The subsequent amusing debate (apparently the real Father Amorth embraced humour because the Devil hated humour) was interesting, well-acted and potentially set up a unique and compelling drama.

Which, of course, all went out the window (sometimes literally) when Amorth's exorcism of a possessed American child in Spain went standard Devil horror with jump scares, gymnastic calisthenics, deep-throated murder promises, head spins and multicoloured body explosions.

Apparently, Russell Crowe enjoyed making the film. The same can't be said of those who watch it.

Rating : 111

Book Review by Marjorie Lewis-Jones



Shirley Hazzard: A Writing Life
Brigitta Olubas
Hachette, \$24.99

In 1980 when Australian author Michelle de Kretser read Shirley Hazzard's new novel *The Transit of Venus* she wondered what all the fuss was about. Twenty years later she

reread it, and “the sensation came, like a blow to the breastbone”, from the first page, “the shock of the great”.

This anecdote from Brigitta Olubas's brilliant biography of Shirley Hazzard reminded me of my own encounter with *Transit* in the early 1980s – how it floored me with its elegance.

Olubas writes that “the genius of Hazzard's fiction is that she is able to convey great love, monumental feelings, with supreme control”. The grist to this mill was Hazzard's unhappy family home life in Australia, her arrival in Hong Kong at 16 and falling in love with Alexis Vedeniapine, a 32-year-old officer in the British Army, and then in her mid 20s her “destined” meeting with Francis Steegmuller in 1963, at a party in New York.

“We sat down in a corner together and stayed there,” Hazzard writes. “When we came out of that corner, you might say, we went and got married.”

Hazzard's marriage to Steegmuller changed her life – orienting her towards literature, and giving her rich intellectual companionship, travel and connections.

At her last public appearance in September 2012, Hazzard was frail and debilitated by dementia but her eloquence touched the audience.

“I have felt increasingly in recent years,” she began, “that the world has a kind of Vesuvius element now, that we're waiting for something terrible to happen, and we do have an idea that it might be life, but maybe we're pleasing ourselves with that because it might be much more terrifying.”

Hazzard died in 2016 but thanks to Olubas we can continue to ponder her ingenuity across four novels, two story collections and several works of nonfiction, as well as in her speeches and personal letters.

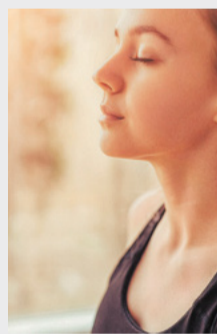
Five health hacks to get me moving more

SELECTED BY MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES



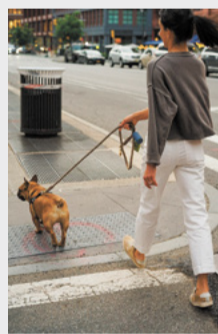
Go to ground

Mobility pioneers, Juliet and Kelly Starrett, are on a mission to get more of us moving and their new book *Built to Move: The 10 Essential Habits to Help you Move Freely and Live Fully* (Hachette, \$34.99). I share five of their hacks here. The first tip I've introduced into my routine is to get up and down from the floor without assistance. Kids know the benefits to the body of being on the ground more – a move which can lessen joint pain and the need for joint replacements.



Breathe easy

The Starretts offer breathing strategies to help people move more freely and manage stress and pain. These encompass breathing well, breathing slowly and breathing through your nose rather than your mouth. Ask: “Can I breathe well in this position?” Slumping and slouching compromise the pulmonary system, whereas effective breathing creates a pressurised chamber to support your spine. Good breathing habits reduce stress and foster health. However, when you mouth breathe, “a lot of your body mechanics stay on the hit-the-gas mode when you're trying to slow down”.



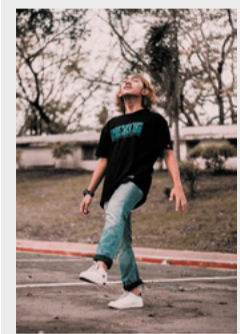
Walk more

The Starretts say we're built to move and walking is an efficient way to get it done. They write, “The simple act of walking surpasses any fitness gadget or club membership you can buy; it's the best movement tool available.” Walking more is helping to put my hips into extension, lengthen tissues shorted by sitting, and put my body back into biomechanical balance. Walking can also foster creativity and help stave off obesity, diabetes, heart disease, some cancers, osteoporosis, arthritis pain, colds and flu, depression and anxiety.



Squat a lot

A tricky meniscus and a broken fibula made me cautious of squatting – but my excellent physio and the Starretts' explanation of its benefits have convinced me to get back into the game. I'm building up to their Tabata squats and doing eight cycles in four minutes. Thankfully, the Starretts give lots of levels and mobilisations in their effort to get people to make squatting part of their regular health regimen. “What you're practising when you squat,” they say, “is the root language of getting up and down.”



Beaming balance

I've been trying to balance on one leg for 20 seconds with my eyes closed, and also to pick up and put on my lace-up shoes without holding on to anything to keep me from toppling. I hope to improve! The Starretts say, “When your ankles have a good range of motion, your brain knows it and acts accordingly, sending signals that enable you to quickly recover when elements in the environment challenge your balance.” I've also been bouncing and jumping more to help build stability and bone density.

True spirit of Souths

SPORT

JOHN LANZKY

THE memorial for John Sattler (1942-2023) at Redfern Oval on April 21 was an incredibly moving event. MC Ray Martin said, "Sattler was the iconic, archetypal Rabbitoh warrior who asked for no favours."

The grandstand was full of Rabbitohs supporters and many who just wanted to pay their respects to an inspiring leader, on and off the field.

It was good to see George Piggins there alongside Souths legends Bob McCarthy, Eric Simms and Ron Coote, with John Sattler's son Scott and several players from the current NRL team.

John Sattler's ashes were scattered on the oval under the southern goalposts (some of the ashes will be scattered at Heffron Park).

Redfern will always be Souths' spiritual home but Heffron promises a state-of-the-art training facility. Let's hope the club can do something to help fans get out to Heffron. I know there are supporters who have come week after week to training sessions at Redfern – they are the heart and soul of Souths. Perhaps there could be a bus organised to transport fans from Redfern to Heffron, on some days at least.

Hall of Fame (nrl.com)

As a youngster John Sattler did not like rugby league but he was finally persuaded to give the sport a try when he was 16. He joined the Kurri Kurri club and in 1962 had his first taste of major representative football when he was selected as the lock



Ray Martin at Redfern Oval for the John Sattler memorial on April 21. Photo: John Abdul

for Newcastle against Great Britain.

Souths were obviously impressed with his potential but no one could have anticipated the wonderful impact he would have on the club.

In 1967 he was named first-grade captain, and at the end of that season in which the Rabbitohs won their first premiership in 12 years, he was selected in the Kangaroos team to tour Great Britain and France.

By this point Sattler had made the transition from lock to the front row, and he led Australia from that position on the tour to New Zealand in 1969 and in the second Ashes Test of 1970.

Sattler captained Souths to four premierships between 1967 and 1971, the most famous from his perspective being in 1970 when he suffered a fractured jaw but told his team-mates to hold him up so the opposition would not know he was hurt.

Incredibly, he played through the remaining 75 minutes of the match, which Souths won 23-12, but the injury cost him a place in Australia's World Cup squad, when there is no doubt he was on the short list to be named captain. SSH

Volunteers' News

PAT CLARKE

WELCOME to autumn and it's probably time to get out the jumpers, socks and coats, but also time to enjoy the beautiful colours of leaves and flowers in the gardens and parks around us. And, as always, Sydney in May is full of things to do.

National Maritime Museum, Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2022 – until October 30, 2023

Wonderful photos of wildlife, sea creatures, insects etc., from many countries. Some of them will break your heart at the degradation of habitats on land and sea for so many creatures. The photographic exhibition is from the National History Museum, London, and is running in conjunction with Brickwrecks. These are models of famous shipwrecks in Lego and there are lots of interactive activities for children. Very popular on the day I was there. There are various ticketing options on the website: sea.museum/wildlife and sea.museum/brickworks

Sydney Writers' Festival 2023 – May 22-28

Festival hubs this year are at Carriageworks and Sydney Town Hall and will feature writers such as Alexis Wright, Tim Winton, Jane Harper, Geraldine Brooks, Benjamin Law and Sam Neill, to name just a few. Other venues are at the State Library with the 2023 Premier's Literary Awards on May 22, and Parramatta, Blacktown and Penrith. Some events are free, but still require booking ahead. Book tickets at ssf.org.au/planyourfestival/

Vivid Sydney 2023 – May 26 to June 17

Opening night on May 26 will be a unique Welcome to Country from 5.30-6pm at Campbell's Cove. As always Circular Quay and surrounds will be awash with LIGHTS ON: Sydney Opera House sails will have Life Enlivened; a tribute to artist the late John Olsen, with his works animated and projected on the SOH sails; Barerringer ("Country" in the Boonwurrung language) by Maree Clarke at the MCA façade; Harbour Life at the National Maritime Museum between 6 and 9pm nightly; Walsh Bay from 6-11pm and the Harbour Bridge Pylons from 6-11pm. Carriageworks Night Market will be on June 16, between 5 and 10pm.

70th Sydney Film Festival – June 7-18

Films will be shown at various cinemas over Sydney and will feature a retrospective of the films of Jane Campion. For tickets and information contact: ssf.org.au

Made in Redfern Festival until May 7

Whether it's something for the family, for doing solo, or for getting the crew together, there are loads of brilliant inspiring, creative, fun and Redfern-centric things to do. Proudly supported by the City of Sydney. See the full program here: bitly.ws/DA6H

Locals art exhibition at the Orchard Gallery (56a Raglan St, Waterloo) – opens May 13, 5pm (celebrating Neighbourhood Centre Week)

National Sorry Day – Friday May 26
National Reconciliation Week until June 3 which is Mabo Day.

Until next time, don't forget your flu shots and your next Covid jab. SSH

VOLUNTEER POSITION

COMMUNITY GARDEN CO-ORDINATOR

Eden Community Garden (in the grounds of South Sydney Uniting Church) is looking for a Co-ordinator (initially a three-month appointment, with potential for longer-term involvement).

The Garden is a safe place for anyone to grow food, relax, contemplate and build relationships. We have a lot of dreams for the future and are looking for someone who can provide leadership in community development, gardening knowledge and skills.

The Garden includes 10 egg-laying hens and a new coop (under construction).

The Co-ordinator will:

- Live in Redfern/Waterloo – or close enough to come to the Garden at least once a week.
- Initiate and co-ordinate systems that will support the growth of the garden community, including regular communication, rostering and troubleshooting. Good people skills are important in this role.
- Have a commitment to First Nations justice.
- Have a commitment to organic gardening and permaculture principles (or be interested in exploring permaculture).

This is a volunteer position but we can offer:

- The satisfaction of contributing to community health and wellbeing.
- Connection to a community of enthusiastic experienced and beginner gardeners.
- Opportunity to practise and build your community development and gardening skills.
- Access to at least one plot of your own in the garden.
- Possibly some assistance towards further relevant education.

This role involves contact with children and vulnerable people, so will require a current Working with Children Check.

If you're interested in knowing more, please contact Eden Garden convenor Megan Weier at edencommunitywaterloo@gmail.com



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