



# the South Sydney Herald

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What a flock! Locals celebrate at the inaugural Woolloomooloo Parade on May 19. Photo: Michelle Haywood

Mr Blomfield said the parade told the nest story: "Community members spent two months building the giant Ibis, a giant egg and a giant nest. The community gardens created six mobile gardens, community members created and dressed up in bird outfits, and 50 children at the school made bird-based shakers, lanterns and masks. In the finale of the parade, a beautiful bird emerged from the giant egg and danced with local children. The piece was choreographed by a local artist and the dancer was a local Aboriginal woman."

Feedback on the event has been positive.

Postie Sue said the parade was fun and truly wonderful to be part of. "It was just big enough and just small enough. My friend works in community housing and was moved to tears. She said 'Now this is community'."

Other comments included:

- "The Woolloomooloo Parade on Forbes Street last Friday was absolutely fantastic!"
- "It was a lovely experience to enjoy with the community and to get to know different parts of it."
- "A lovely celebration and appreciation of the richness of the community."
- "It was truly by the community and for the community."

The Woolloomooloo Parade was supported by Vinnies and the Vinnies Community Development team. The following groups were involved in helping organise the event: Plunkett Street Public School, Mission Australia, Artspace, Ozanam Learning Centre, OLC Band, the Art Gallery of NSW, Botanic Gardens of Sydney, Bourke Street Community Gardens, Hopetree and OLC Community Gardens, Hopetree Baptistcare, Woolloomooloo Baptist Church, Woolloomooloo Pharmacy, 4Voices and the Woollo Connect Community group.

Woollo Connect is made up of local community members and local services who meet monthly and write new stories about Woolloomooloo. They have built giant pots, community gardens, the Seniors Morning tea and now the Woolloomooloo Parade.

For more information see [www.woolloomooloo.com](http://www.woolloomooloo.com)

## Woolloomooloo Parade takes flight

### FESTIVALS

SSH

**WOOLLOOMOOLOO** came alive with an avian-themed procession, flower-filled trolleys, live music and more at the inaugural Woolloomooloo Parade on May 19.

More than 300 local people attended the event, which was planned over a three-month period.

Local community group Woollo Connect, which conceived and rolled out the event, described it as a "good old fashion parade with the community; a parade to celebrate Woolloomooloo".

Thor Blomfield, Team Leader: Community Development with

St Vincent de Paul, said Woollo Connect was keen to explore ways to bring the community together and the idea of an old-fashioned street parade seemed a natural way to connect everyone together in a relaxed, inclusive and fun way.

Members of the planning group were adamant they didn't want to bring in outside experts to tell them what to do, he said. They weren't interested in creating a polished performance for the promotion of the area, but in creating something that was community driven, down-to-earth and about the real life of people in Woolloomooloo.

To garner local participation, Woollo Connect met regularly to plan the event. Ten different groups including the local

community gardens, Ozanam Learning Centre's drumming circle and band, Plunkett Street School, the pharmacy, Hope Street op shop and church, along with people who are homeless, LGBTQI, living in social and private housing and who come from a range of cultural and life backgrounds came together to build floats, sew costumes and practise their moves.

More than 80 locals and 50 children from the local school were involved in parade-related workshops. The project also employed over 10 locals, including people with photography, visual arts, sculpture, stage management, lighting, street performance, choreography and dance experience.

The bird theme, which emerged during the first meeting of the planning committee, centred around the idea that Woolloomooloo is like a nest in which people can feel safe, nurtured and included. The nest became a guiding metaphor for the event and children from Plunkett Street Public School wrote and drew a story about it.

"In the year of 2023 after the Covid pandemic, there appeared in Woolloomooloo a giant nest. All the birds of Woolloomooloo gathered at the nest. 'What does it mean?', 'Who has brought it?', 'Why is it here?' they chattered amongst themselves. Eventually a giant white Ibis appeared and brought a giant egg carried by six children. It was gently laid in the nest and gave birth to something new in Woolloomooloo ..."



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MEMBER FOR NEWTOWN



**Greens demand government accountability on housing crisis**

Whether it's NIMBYs, international students, foreign investors, or the previous government – every week it seems there's someone else to blame for the housing crisis.

But this blame game is a convenient distraction from who's *really* responsible for the dire situation we face today: successive governments on both sides of the aisle, who've repeatedly prioritised the profits of their big developer and investor mates over people.

While the Greens welcome recent moves by the NSW Minns Labor Government, including the audit of government-owned land that can be used for housing and the freeze of public housing sales, we know that more needs to be done.

Market solutions like institutional investors and higher-density private housing alone won't make housing more affordable, nor will proceeding with the privatisation of public housing estates in Waterloo, Glebe and Eveleigh. It's time to get serious about addressing the housing crisis and stop shifting blame and outsourcing responsibility to the private market.

Instead, the NSW Minns Labor Government could implement solutions like inclusionary zoning rules requiring all new private developments to include at least 30% affordable housing, or empowering councils to cap and regulate short term rentals based on community need and local vacancy rates. And it could investigate ways to boost public housing supply without demolishing existing homes – like infill and refurbishing the 3,000+ public housing dwellings that currently sit empty statewide.

The change in government provides an opportunity to finally end the narrative that the community is to blame for the lack of affordable housing in this state – and to move toward real solutions that put people first.

**Watch my full speech in the NSW Parliament urging the NSW Minns Labor Government to take accountability for the housing affordability crisis here:**



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



David Young helps out at Waterloo Recycling Workshop. Photo: Andrew Collis

**Workshopping community**

**LOCALS**

ANDREW COLLIS

**WATERLOO: David Young has volunteered with the Waterloo Recycling Workshop (WRW) for more than 10 years.**

Located in a garage beneath the Turanga flats at 1 Phillip Street, the workshop opens every Friday from 7.30am to 11.30am, providing affordable furniture and non-electrical household goods (crockery, utensils, bric-a-brac) to locals. The activity helps generate a warm community spirit.

Mr Young assists with setup, cleanup and customer service. "I love it!" he says. "I like to see the stalls looking colourful and interesting."

The WRW is a project of Counterpoint Community Services. The neighbourhood centre, with sites in Waterloo and Alexandria, was established in 1977. Its programs offer support to housing tenants, resident action groups, cultural organisations and more.

Workshop coordinator Elle Brind is delighted to see people gather for bargain shopping and social interaction. "It's so important to be with others, to share in community," she says. "We laugh a lot, and we help each other.

"The proceeds help cover costs and any additional proceeds go toward Counterpoint projects."

Over the years, the WRW has run alongside like-minded initiatives including the Cycle Recycle Club (bike repairs and maintenance), which now operates from the adjacent garage on Saturdays from 12pm to 5pm, and an expanded volunteer-run market.

The carpark market, managed by Gerard Virgona, is held on Friday mornings, with stalls offering fresh bread, fruit and vegetables, vintage clothes, shoes, musical instruments and collectibles. Gerard believes that "community includes everyone".

**The Counterpoint Community Services Volunteer Awards are coming up, so if you'd like to nominate someone, please email info@counterpointcs.org.au by Friday June 9.**



Kim Simpson outside Cafe Dreaming, Sydney Streets festival, May 13. Photo: Andrew Collis

**Community, food and service**

**LOCALS**

ANDREW COLLIS

**REDFERN: Cafe Dreaming, established in 2022, is a First Nations-owned business. Located on the corner of Renwick and Redfern streets, opposite the bank, the cafe occupies the space previously held by the Tin Humpy. According to owner-manager Kim Simpson, the cafe aims to create "an environment that celebrates community and gathering through food and service".**

One patron says: "Visitors are introduced to a range of flavours, foods this country has long produced, satisfying meals and tasty salads. There's something else, too, the community aspect. Customers enjoy being here, made aware of connections and family relationships, the harmony between people around them. This is unique and really adds to the experience."

Another patron comments: "The coffee is excellent. Rich and smooth. I take my coffee without milk or sugar, so the flavour is all-important."

The cafe is open *Continued on page 3*



# Celebration highlights growing need for homelessness aged care facilities

**HUMAN AFFAIRS**

SSH

**A Surry Hills facility set up to address the growing need for affordable and suitable aged care accommodation for people who had been rough sleeping, living in unstable housing, or lacked the financial resources and family support needed to access mainstream aged care facilities recently celebrated its 25th anniversary.**

But Mission Australia, who established it, says the need is greater than ever.

For many of the 339 residents who've lived at Charles Chambers Court over the last quarter century, it was the first true home they'd had in years.

One of the residents, Kerry, described the crowd celebrating the anniversary, the calm and tranquillity of the facility, and

the safety and relief she felt upon first arriving there.

"I felt someone was always going to watch over me, and I had my first real sleep in recent memory," she said.

Kerry said she felt she had landed on her feet and shared her delight at having the opportunity to participate in "song, dance, movies and morning teas".

Charles Chambers Court was built in 1998 in what was originally a heritage-listed church, and it is one of Mission Australia's three aged care facilities in NSW.

Named after Charles Chambers, Mission Australia's first chairperson, the Surry Hills facility enhances people's lives with high-quality care and a place to call home. It offers various services, such as visiting therapy dogs and volunteers who pop in for a chat and take residents out into the community.



A happy crowd celebrate the 25th anniversary of Charles Chambers Court in Surry Hills. Photo: Mission Australia

Mission Australia's General Manager of Aged Care, Steve Brooker, said, "For 25 years, Charles Chamber Court has provided residents safety, security, and dignity and the sense of community that is so important to their mental health and wellbeing.

"Social interaction and community participation are built into its fabric.

"The team at Mission Australia have seen firsthand the transformation of the lives

of residents many of whom were isolated before they came to live at Charles Chambers Court.

"The facility was established to address the growing need for affordable and suitable aged care accommodation for people who had been rough sleeping, living in unstable housing, or lacked the financial resources and family support needed to access mainstream aged care facilities.

"We all know that need has only grown more significant

over the last 25 years.

"One in six or nearly 20,000 people who are homeless are aged over 55 years, and that number is growing.

"As the housing and homelessness crisis escalates, we must take action to reduce the number of people, including older people, pushed into homelessness.

"Facilities like Charles Chambers Court are now more vital than ever," Mr Brooker said.

www.missionaustralia.com.au

# 'Montevideo Maru discovery should bring comfort to families'

**HUMAN AFFAIRS**

MARJORIE LEWIS-JONES

**WHEN the wreck of the Montevideo Maru was discovered on April 18, 2023, Canberra-based author Margaret Reeson breathed a huge sigh of relief.**

The discovery of the Japanese prison ship came 81 years after it set sail from the then Australian Territory of New Guinea and was torpedoed by American submarine, the USS *Sturgeon*. The attack took an estimated 979 Australian troops and civilians to their deaths off the coast of the Philippines in July 1942.

Margaret's relief was (and is) for the families of the Australian men who died in what is our nation's greatest maritime disaster.

In the late '80s and early '90s, Margaret visited and interviewed a number of the women who'd lost loved ones. In all she spoke with around 150 households (women, children and grandchildren).

Much of what she heard from them is gathered in her books, *Whereabouts Unknown* (1993) and *A Very Long War* (2000), which also probe the persistent and troubling question, "How could



Author Margaret Reeson wrote about the Montevideo Maru in two of her books – empathising with the agony encountered by women and children whose husband or father disappeared with the ship. Photo: Annie Reeson

such a tragedy, with a loss of Australian life twice that of the whole Vietnam War, be left forgotten and unresolved?"

Margaret said everyone who'd lost somebody in the *Montevideo Maru* incident had told her, "Nobody's ever heard of this. They've heard about Tobruk, they know about Kokoda. And yet, we lost more people in our disaster; twice as many as Vietnam died in that one incident." And so, even the fact that somebody (Margaret) was going to write their story and have it published meant, "Oh, at last."

Other pivotal moments which brought visibility and recognition



In July 2012, a memorial paying tribute to those Australians who died in the defence of Rabaul and also those who later died as prisoners in the sinking of the Montevideo Maru was dedicated in the grounds of the Australian War Memorial. Photo: Ron Reeson

were the commissioning and unveiling of a memorial sculpture in the grounds of the Australian War Memorial in July 2012, and a service for the 80th anniversary of the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru* in July 2022.

"I attended the 80th anniversary service," Margaret said. "And by then, it was a small group of people, very old and frail people in wheelchairs, people on walkers. And, so, a smaller group, but still there."

It was the Sydney-based Silentworld Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to maritime archaeology and history, that discovered the wreck in the

South China Sea, and its director, John Mullen, said, "The discovery of the *Montevideo Maru* closes a terrible chapter in Australian military and maritime history.

"Families waited years for news of their missing loved ones, before learning of the tragic outcome of the sinking. Some never fully came to accept that their loved ones were among the victims."

Margaret agrees the discovery should bring some comfort to families.

"I was so pleased for the families because it's been such a painful, difficult, endless time of waiting. There's just never been that resolution, and there's even been – as well as the grief and the hurt and the uncertainty – people who've denied the existence of the ship, saying, 'Oh no, they [the men] were all executed somewhere in New Guinea, and the ship is a myth.'

"And I think for people who've never had an answer, even to that question, this is really helpful just to say, 'This is the vessel that was reported torpedoed by the American submarine, reported lost by the Japanese ship owners, and remembered by people who travelled on it as tourists in pre-war years. Yes, it

was a ship. It was where they thought it would be, more or less.'

"Even the youngest of the children of the people who would've been on board are in their 80s, because they had to have at least been conceived by the end of 1941.

"So, the people who are really appreciating this discovery now are the surviving children and the grandchildren. And others for whom it's been a family legend that father, uncle, grandfather was on board that ship.

"For many of the next generations, it's been observing the impact on the mother, the grandmother – and many of the women told me they never really recovered their pre-war joy in life or sense of confidence that things could be all right for them. They fell into deep depression, mental health issues, all sorts of things.

"It was an invisible wound for so many of them.

"And so, for their children, and grandchildren, there's this family legend that is very deep, very painful, very meaningful.

"I'm just so glad for them."

Margaret Reeson has published 11 books and numerous academic conference papers, studies, liturgical material and private family histories.

Continued from page 2

Monday to Saturday, from 7am to 2.30pm. Kim works long hours and loves the work. She is ably assisted by dedicated staff including baristas Andrew and Binisha.

The layout is warm and welcoming. Photographs adorn the far wall near the kitchen. On one side there's Mum Shir,

the "Black Saint of Redfern". Pointing to a framed portrait on the other side, Kim says, "That's Charlie Simpson, my dad, who was a wonderful home cook. Dad and Mum are my inspiration."

The portrait sits atop a 1999 image of Wesley Patten in a Rabbitohs jersey. Patten played rugby league for Souths, Balmain,

St George and the Gold Coast. "He was deadly," Kim says. "He played in the Redfern All Blacks memorial team with my three brothers, Brian, Nathan and Charlie Jr – and Dad was the coach. They won the Koori Knockout four years in a row!"

Cafe Dreaming offers a menu of delectable breakfast and

lunch items, including Wattle Seed Acai Bowl, Buttermilk Pancakes, Koori Smash (kangaroo and beef patty burger), Saltbush & Pepperberry Squid. There are children's meals, as well as gluten-free, vegetarian and vegan options.

Staff are friendly and quick to acknowledge return customers,

serving food and drinks to tables inside as well as out on the Redfern Street footpath. There's also a back room with entrance via Renwick Street for larger gatherings. Amenities are accessible and comfortable.

Catering is available. Contact Kim for orders: cateringbycdr@outlook.com



**TANYA PLIBERSEK MP**

Federal Member for Sydney

**Our Budget gets wages moving, supports those who need it most, cleans up the mess left by the Liberals, and starts to build a strong economy.**

Here are some highlights:

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE:**

More than 7,200 families in Sydney will benefit from Labor's Cheaper Child Care when it starts on 1 July, saving families up to \$1,700 per year.

**MEDICARE:**

We're strengthening Medicare – tripling bulk billing incentives, delivering half-price medicines for 6 million Australians. This will help around 44,893 people in Sydney visit a GP with no out-of-pocket costs. More than 30,799 Sydney residents be able to buy 2 month's worth of a medicine for the price of a single prescription.

**ENVIRONMENT:**

We're protecting our precious places by doubling funding for national parks, investing \$45 million to help the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust look after sites around our harbour, \$121 million to establish Environment Protection Australia, and more.

**ENERGY BILL RELIEF:**

We're giving over 5 million households up to \$500 to help with their electricity bills. We're also investing more than \$1.6 billion for energy saving upgrades for homes, businesses and social housing.

**WOMEN'S SAFETY:**

We're investing \$589.3 million for initiatives to stop family and domestic violence. We're working with victims and survivors of sexual violence to improve the criminal justice system, and investing \$6.5 million to strengthen sexual assault and consent laws.

**HOUSING:**

We're boosting rent assistance for around 5,630 households in Sydney for the first time in 30 years. We're also providing an extra \$67.5 million to help tackle homelessness, and a \$10 billion fund to build more social housing.

**PAYMENTS:**

Jobseeker, Youth Allowance and other working age payments will increase by \$40 per fortnight. We're also increasing Rent Assistance by 15 per cent, benefiting about 5,600 households in Sydney.

**TAFE:**

We are delivering another 300,000 free TAFE places, bringing the total to 480,000.

**NBN:**

We're investing \$2.4 billion to fix the NBN. Thanks to this, 12,648 premises in Sydney have access to higher internet speeds.

**NDIS:**

We're investing \$73.4 million to better support participants to manage their plan, which will help around 2,072 NDIS participants in Sydney.

If you need any further information, please visit [www.tanyaplibersek.com/budget2023](http://www.tanyaplibersek.com/budget2023).

Best wishes,


**TANYA PLIBERSEK MP**

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Stephen Simpson (left), Lech Blaine (centre) and Judy Harris at the Charles Perkins Centre. Photo: Supplied

## Lech Blaine named Charles Perkins Centre 2023 Writer in Residence

**SPONSORED**

MARK SCOTT

**JOURNALIST Lech Blaine, author of *Car Crash: A Memoir* and Quarterly Essay "Top Blokes", will join the Charles Perkins Centre as the 2023 Judy Harris Writer in Residence.**

Blaine will begin his residency at the University of Sydney's Charles Perkins Centre in the latter half of the year, where he will spend 12 months at the Camperdown campus working alongside global health researchers and educators.

Now in its seventh year, the residency awards writers \$100,000 and the opportunity to explore some of the Charles Perkins Centre's major areas of focus, including the global mission to ease the burden of diabetes, obesity, ageing and cardiovascular disease.

Blaine will study the heart and the brain and the ability of diet and exercise to improve the condition of both. He will also contemplate the ethics of genetic editing and euthanasia.

"The thing that always really stood out to me about the Judy Harris Writer in Residence Fellowship was this incredible opportunity to work with leading health experts and researchers," he said. "And the potential to create prose from that collaboration.

"In my writing, I deal with some lofty topics, so to have experts and researchers around that don't find conversations about tough subjects awkward or taboo is invaluable," Blaine said.

"It will be exciting to talk to them, strip away the stigma

and soak up their insights and expertise. The fellowship is a totally mind-blowing honour. My gratitude is huge."

The Sydney-based author, who was born and raised in regional Queensland, is a writer of narrative non-fiction. His debut book, *Car Crash: A Memoir*, was released in 2021 to much acclaim and details his experience as the teenage survivor of a car crash that killed three of his best friends.

Blaine's second book, *Australian Gospel*, about the biological parents of his foster siblings, will be published in April 2024. He will use the residency to work on a third work of creative non-fiction about hereditary illness, family businesses, and the complex legacies of love.

"As a country, we need to break through the taboos about illness, disability and ageing, so that Australians can live and die with dignity," he said. "Governments won't adequately fund our health systems without public conversation and pressure. However, we're also lucky enough to live in a time of rapid medical advancements, thanks to people like the ones who I will be learning from."

In 2011, when Blaine was 19, his diabetic father passed away at the age of 61 from a major stroke – "a build-up of lifestyle choices and genetic predisposition". A couple of years later, his mother was admitted to a nursing home after being diagnosed with an incurable neurodegenerative illness. She died in 2018 at the age of 64.

"While my mum was dying, I was running the three-star motel in Bundaberg that my dad had been leasing," he said. "It was like *Fawlty Towers* meets

*Wake in Fright*. Even in the midst of existential despair, life can be unbelievably funny and colourful. To be alive is such a wonderful gift. The book will try to capture that range of experiences and emotions."

Blaine joins a list of acclaimed Australian writers to be awarded the generous – and unique – fellowship. Poet and editor Sarah Holland-Batt, the centre's current Writer in Residence, started her tenure in March 2022. She was recently awarded the prestigious \$60,000 Stella prize for her poetry collection *The Jaguar*, which "tenderly" explores her father's death from Parkinson's Disease.

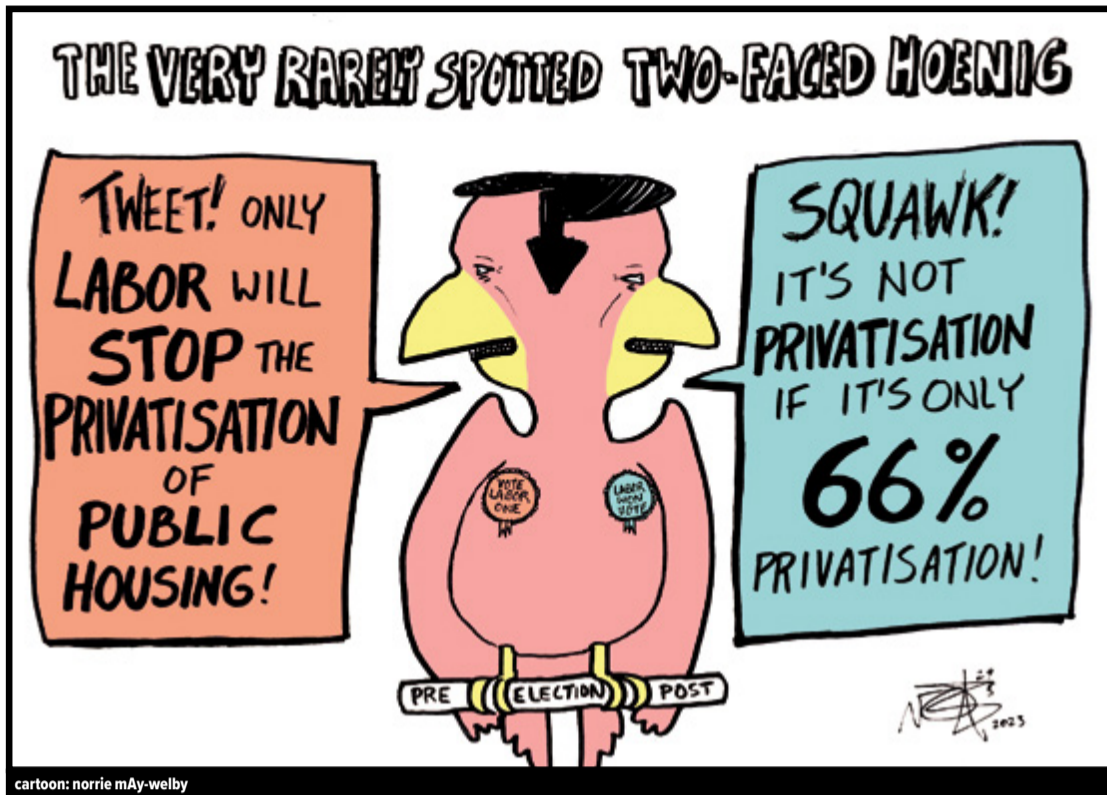
Stephen Simpson, academic director of the Charles Perkins Centre, said: "Lech is an incredible writer with an important story to tell. The Writer in Residence program, generously funded by our donor and Patron Judy Harris, is a transformative fellowship that enables the transfer of knowledge and insight between artists and the centre's broad research community.

"The calibre of writers that apply for this program is nothing short of exceptional. I am delighted that Lech is joining us and I look forward to working with him as he unpacks, with caring and curiosity, some of the great health challenges and questions that shape us as individuals – and our society." <sup>SSH</sup>



Authorised by Vice-Chancellor and President Prof. Mark Scott.  
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cartoon: norrie mAy-welby

# Growing up on The Block

## FIRST PEOPLES

LINDSAY WILLIAMS

**THE Block in Redfern was a unique neighbourhood to grow up in. More than an address, more than streets in a directory, The Block was created by Aboriginal people, and it created an Aboriginal community in working-class inner-city Sydney. This is where I was fortunate to grow up.**

I was born in Sydney around the same time The Block was established in the early 1970s. My childhood was spent in a neighbourhood with football, cricket, BMX bike riding and breakdancing on the street, where a closed front door meant no one was at home, where the children were known to everyone – they were in and out of homes all along the streets.

This is quite normal for much of suburbia but quite rare for an inner-city suburb. I recall one house with two televisions, one having the picture and the other having the sound. That brings me a smile in retrospect.

Both my parents were from country towns, my father from Gumbaynggirr country at Nambucca Heads and my mother from Wiradjuri country at Cowra, and they met at the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs, a legendary organisation in modern Aboriginal history. It was where the Black Lace band formed with Mac Silva on vocals and drums.

During the 1980s, it was common to hear, along Eveleigh Street on the weekend, Mac Silva's voice singing "Midnight Special", pitch perfect.

Another memory is the Koori Knockout, the Aboriginal rugby league knockout which began in discussions between young Aboriginal players at the Clifton Hotel in Botany Road in the early 1970s.



Portrait of Lindsay Williams. Image: Rosalind Hepher, with respect.

My family took me to the first game in 1971 at Camdensville Oval in nearby St Peters. The Koori Knockout has become the largest rugby league knockout carnival in the world and a way for many extended families to catch up each year – our big corroboree.

There were also a number of Aboriginal organisations developed during my childhood in Redfern: the Murawina preschool, founded by my mother and her family, which I attended along with my siblings and cousins; the Aboriginal Legal Service and Aboriginal Medical Service, which my father cofounded; the Black Theatre, co-founded by my uncle, Gary Foley, which helped impart cultural and political

information to the public.

There was always great activity and excitement in our neighbourhood on The Block. We all knew each other, went to school together and socialised together. I would not change a thing.

SSH

## CITY OF SYDNEY South Sydney Herald

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 SSH and the City of Sydney, is curated by Aunty Norma Ingram.

# Islam and non-violent civil resistance

## FAITH

FAHIMAH BADRULHISHAM

**AT the end of May, my friends and I linked arms and sat in front of the sliding doors to the National Australia Bank (NAB) headquarters in Sydney.**

Our mission was encapsulated in a nifty mantra: "Stop NAB working while NAB works for fossil fuels." We wanted to create a spectacle and embarrass the bank on mainstream media. The four of us are everyday people, and we discussed our worries in having to confront staff frustration. Nervous energy had been building over several days and none of us slept well the night before.

Sitting on the cold floor, we were surrounded by a forest of legs clad in corporate wool. One under-caffeinated young man attempted to skip over our humble blockade but was prevented from getting through by police. Staff were bottlenecked, the chatter grew increasingly louder and people whipped out their phones to photograph us. I felt my heart thumping in my chest and my palms getting clammy. I took deep breaths, closed my eyes and reminded myself why we were doing this: the world's scientists say we will breach the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold of global warming as early as 2027 but banks like NAB are still funding fossil fuels and governments are still greenlighting fossil fuel projects. I exhaled and smiled at no one in particular.

As a Muslim, I believe it is incumbent upon believers to stand up for justice. Being a believer is not a passive act. It means actively seeking to change unjust conditions, challenge inequalities and dismantle corrupt systems by standing in solidarity with the most adversely impacted.

Islam acknowledges a spectrum of possible actions but being passive or uncaring is not an option.

*"Whoever of you sees an evil must then change it with their hand. If they are not able to do so, then [they must change it] with their tongue. And if they are not able to do so, then [they must change it] with their heart. And that is the slightest [effect of] faith"* (Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, narrated by Abu Saeed al-Khudri in Muslim).

I thought long and hard about participating in non-violent civil resistance. I see climate change as a great injustice. I am scared of confrontation. I am educated. I have (some) money. I am loved and supported. I have youth and health on my side. I have all these advantages I can leverage to further the cause and so I chose to block the entrance to a bank that is funding fossil fuels. Even if that was a small gesture in the grand scheme of things, I hope it made a positive difference in the minds of the hundreds of people I forced to see me that morning.

SSH



# Healthy food choices

## LETTER

**RECENTLY, I had a long spell in hospital. There were times when it wasn't fun, but my job there got done and I'm on the mend.**

Before hospital, I was thrilled because I'd made a total weight loss so far of around 30 kilograms. In hospital, I realised that my normal weight-loss diet was going to be changing dramatically.

At home we eat lots of tomato soup, and lots of spinach, eggs, and chicken. I like meats, salads, fruits and cooked green vegetables. In hospital there were more desserts, potatoes,

bread and margarine than I'd been eating to lose weight.

One thing I really enjoyed about hospital food was the high-fibre options like minestrone, baked beans and prunes. Another thing I was often able to do was to eat only the meat and veggies and leave the white bread and white rice.

I was blessed to lose 3 kilograms in hospital despite the big changes to my diet that happened there. Thanks to NSW Health for giving hospital patients options to be healthy and lose weight.

Gill Robson  
www.gillspraticabookkeeping.com



# The Review

Arts & Culture in Your Neighbourhood

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## 'Last Night in Redfern Park'

An interview with Perry Keyes

MUSIC

STEPHEN WEBB

I'M writing this listening to Perry Keyes' album *Live in B Town* on the pretext of reviewing his new single "Last Night in Redfern Park" and a show at the Great Club early last month, which was a warm-up for sold-out shows at the Camelot Lounge.

Keyes has been described as one of Australia's premier singer-songwriters, with five critically acclaimed and award-winning albums.

He grew up in Redfern in a home populated by uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents. Every Saturday morning his grandmother would do the housework while playing Ray Charles and Roy Orbison.

Later, living in Waterloo, his band performed music inspired by the Clash, Elvis Costello, Lou Reed and Bruce Springsteen.

Keyes' songs speak of the inner-city working-class community, adolescence, dislocation and social exclusion, and trying to survive in Housing Commission homes.

According to a review in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, "Keyes

is the best chronicler of Sydney we've ever had" and "even in the grimmest stories Keyes finds kernels of humanity and love".

The high-energy "Last Night in Redfern Park" references drug dealers, gambling, high-rise towers, pub-crawls, living on the street, burning cars and policing.

"Stand up son. Empty your pockets. Keep your head down. Don't look at me."

The affirming words at the end of the video clip: "Hold fast."

Keyes said "Last Night in Redfern Park" was literally a series of snapshots that related to the environment he grew up in: Redfern and Waterloo.

"It's like an index. It's the opening song on the new album and it sets up some of the things that are touched upon in greater detail in the songs that follow."

Other new songs include "Wentworth Park", "Railway Square", "Bankrobber" and "One Cone Cul de Sac".

"My family has roots in Redfern that go back to the mid 19th century, maybe even earlier. I was born down in The Block. My family was a part of the old working class that used to live in that part of town.

"When I was about 11 years old



Perry Keyes, chronicler of Redfern, Waterloo and other inner-city communities, played at the Great Club in Marrickville on May 3. Photo: Stephen Webb

we moved out and ended up in the Housing Commission in Waterloo.

"Photographer Johnny Barker put together the clip that we released with the song. I think it matches the energy and angst of it pretty well."

Keyes played alternate sets with Tim Freedman and Ollie Thorpe at the Great Club. Freedman and Keyes, in addition to being great songwriters, are both magnificent chroniclers of and advocates for the denizens of Sydney's inner west.

Keyes said he'd known Freedman since the late 1980s when they played around the inner-city indie music scene. "There's a chance we may have

met earlier at Redfern Oval at a Souths v Manly game in the 1970s.

"I pretty much watched Tim, Stevie Plunder and Andy Lewis put the Whitlams together at the bar in the Sandringham Hotel in Newtown over a few Saturday afternoon sets."

The owner of the Great Club had been in the media in recent months speaking about being put under strain by noise complaints issued by a neighbour. She called for help from supporters of the venue.

Keyes said he thought if people move into an area with an existing nightlife and live music scene, they shouldn't be able to shut it

down. "I mean, if you want peace and quiet, stay in the suburbs."

Keyes said there wasn't an exact release date for the album but probably in the last quarter of 2023.

See the video for "Last Night in Redfern Park" here:



Australian Fashion Week featured stunning designs with something for everyone. The runway show at Carriageworks included timeless and elegant styles, with models of various ages, cultural backgrounds and body shapes. Fashionistas dressed up, accessorised and enjoyed every moment. Photo: Paul Bramble



The L.O.C.A.L. art exhibition opened on May 13 at the Orchard Gallery (South Sydney Uniting Church), Waterloo. The show, curated by Catherine Skipper, featured 24 works by artists from Waterloo and Redfern. Svetlana Rodgers performed Ukrainian folk songs and Spanish guitar pieces, and Wordplay poets read from recently published work. Catherine Skipper said: "In the face of the all-homogenising tendencies of globalisation, it has become even more important to foster a sense of belonging within local communities. Art is a very valuable tool in connecting people with each other..." The show, in celebration of Neighbourhood Centre Week, was held in conjunction with Counterpoint Community Services. The occasion was an opportunity to say thanks and farewell to Counterpoint operations manager Bill Yan (formerly of South Sydney Community Aid) who has served the community for more than 14 years. Photo: Svetlana Rodgers



**Theatre Review  
by Catherine Skipper**



**The Hound of the Baskervilles**  
Adaptation: Steven Canny,  
John Nicholson  
Director: Richard Cotter  
Genesian Theatre  
May 27 – June 17, 2023

For an enjoyable evening at the theatre the Genesian’s production of Steven Canny and John Nicholson’s hilarious re-invention of the celebrity detective Sherlock Holmes’s well-known case *The Hound of the Baskervilles* is a must-see. While retaining the basic plot and characters of the original but reducing the whole to chaotic absurdity by having all characters played by three actors, whodunit in-jokes and a lively delivery of zany dialogue, the play is daft and delightful.

The opening scene firmly establishes the play’s “what-ever-next?” context for the audience. After a dose of howling, spooky music and night fog they witness the melodramatic death – apparently from fright – of Sir Charles Baskerville (Oliver Harcourt-Ham) but are suddenly thrust back into reality for a “health warning” from the actors. The maybe puzzled audience is given the opportunity to leave the theatre should they suffer from “heart disease, nervous disorder or low self-esteem” and then flung back into the play. There follows an absurd re-enactment complete with a ghastly dying grimace by Dr Watson (Kate Easlea) as it is described by Sir Charles’s good friend, James Mortimer (Harcourt-Ham).

Mortimer is convinced Sir Charles didn’t die of a heart attack but was frightened to death by a demonic hound which, according to legend, has killed many of the heirs to the Baskerville title. Concerned the new heir will meet a similar fate, Mortimer appeals to the unconventional detective who agrees to speak with Sir Henry.

Having already been introduced to the totally self-absorbed Holmes, elegantly played by Alyona Popova, it is not surprising to find Holmes walking in on Sir Henry (Harcourt-Ham) while having a steam bath. It is surprising, however, that when Holmes learns Sir Henry is being shadowed, to find that the bath so easily converts to a train transporting Sir Henry and Watson to the country, and Popova converting first to a train driver and secondly and arbitrarily into a scary Halloween monster.

The eager and amiable Watson does most of the detecting as Popova is far too busy playing a bewildering array of characters inhabiting the country estate. She is dour as the wife of the devious butler, Barrymore, as Barrymore with glued-on food laden trays, charming as secretive Miss Stapleton with whom Sir Henry falls in love (and with whom he indulges in a Spanish inspired dreamy dance sequence) and creepy as her crippled brother Stapleton, complete with eye patch. In between she is Holmes, disguised as a hermit (or maybe a “turnip”).

The greatest challenge to Popova, and to Harcourt-Ham who also has several role changes, occurs after interval. Holmes has received a tweet critical of his performance and he makes the decision that they will redo a précised version of the first act before proceeding with the play – surely a good joke at the expense of TV serials that indulge in recapitulation. There follows a superfast and hilarious summation of the narrative which while very demanding of all three actors – their timing is excellent – delights the audience with its utter ridiculousness.

The production might well be entitled *The Case of the Flying Fireplace* as this item of furniture is in fairly constant motion depending on whether the setting is interior or exterior. Like the bath–train–bed, and window/picture frame, the props become an important element in this comedy of quick changes contributing to the general atmosphere of anarchic ingenuity.

There is much to enjoy in this production. The director, Richard Cotter, has fully entered into the spirit of a script that has an affectionate regard for the great detective and his creator Conan Doyle but, at the

same time, exhibits a lively sense of the ridiculous. The casting is exceptionally strong, and all three actors deliciously appropriate to their difficult roles ... and Popova insanely endearing as the great man.

**Film Review  
by Lindsay Cohen**



**November**  
Director: Cédric Jimenez  
Starring: Jean Dujardin, Anaïs Demoustier, Sandrine Kiberlain  
Genre: Vive la France

For a film inspired by true events, the terrorist attacks in Paris in 2015 and the subsequent police hunt for the terrorists, no other film feels as real as *November*. Indeed, so edge-of-the-seat fascinating is the film it is almost more docudrama than biopic.

There is so much happening, with lots of tension, urgent conversations and rushing from scene to scene, that the only difficulty with following the film is keeping up with the subtitles. That’s no criticism of it – an American version could never compare as it would most likely involve lots of patriotic flag waving, good looking superstars and over-the-top action scenes.

*November* is also interesting from a pure and nerdy bureaucratic level. It shows why rules, structures and procedures matter. If not followed correctly, then things can go very wrong. This is as true for politicians as it is for police.

It’s not a spoiler that while the bad guys are ultimately caught or killed this is far from a happy ending. The terrorists achieve nothing but terror, the police “win” nothing but returning life to some sort of status quo. The cost to everyone involved, and not just in dollars, is massive. The only real winners are the French public who can at least get on with life, but the context of it is forever altered.

As a film, *November* is well worth

watching. As an event, it’s something we’d never want to see again.

Rating: Cinq remerciements (five thank-yous)

**Book Review  
by Catherine DeMayo**



**An Indigenous Voice to Parliament – considering a constitutional bridge**  
Frank Brennan  
Garrett Publishing, \$24.99

Jesuit priest, author, social justice advocate and university lecturer are a few of Frank Brennan’s credentials. In 1982, he began advising the Queensland Catholic Bishops on Aboriginal issues and was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1995 for services to Aboriginal Australians.

Brennan dedicates this book to his father, the late Sir Francis Gerard Brennan, former Chief Justice of the High Court who wrote the lead judgment on the Mabo decision.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese described the upcoming referendum on the Voice as “a straightforward proposition ... a simple principle”. While Brennan is hoping for a Yes vote, he disputes its simplicity: “... at the moment I don’t see it as a straightforward proposition. The simple principle has been overlaid with complexities.”

In this short and cogent book, Brennan aims to clarify some of these issues, chart the development of the Voice initiative and present the views of a range of people, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, both for and against. He argues in its favour, urging proponents and opponents to listen to each other with respect (which seems increasingly like a pipe dream).

Brennan is upfront about the criticism he copped after publishing his 2015 *No Small Change*. Noel Pearson and Marcia Langton both chastised him for suggesting

constitutional changes that would be merely symbolic. Langton wrote, “Brennan calls himself an advocate for Indigenous rights, yet he supports no substantive reform.”

“In response, I said that I would accept the judgment of Indigenous leaders if it was their view that symbolic change was no better than no change,” he explains. (Brennan since worked with Langton and Pearson as members of the Morrison government’s Senior Advisory Group on the Co-Design of the Voice.)

Brennan describes the years of negotiations and delays which have beset attempts to enshrine the concept of a Voice. John Howard pledged action if his government was re-elected in 2007; we will never know if this promise would have been kept.

Soon after Albanese voiced his intentions to hold a referendum on it, Tony Abbot claimed it would “entrench separatism”, adding: “Indigenous people can never expect to achieve Australian outcomes without also embracing Australian standards.” Peter Dutton has slammed the Voice as “divisive, disrupting and democracy-altering”.

Conservative critics of the Voice, Brennan holds, contend that there is no need to make special laws or provisions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Yet laws such as the Northern Territory National Emergency Response Act 2007, were “special measures” under the Racial Discrimination Act of 1975 and applied specifically to Aboriginal communities.

In his final chapter, “Where to from here?” Brennan offers a few of his own suggestions for the Voice’s wording and recommends some preconditions. “There will be little point in proceeding with a referendum,” he concludes, “unless the words ... win the support of Noel Pearson as well as the likes of John Howard.”

Brennan’s concerns that partisanship and political point scoring will trump any sincere wish for change seem, sadly, to be well-founded. The book was reissued on May 1 with the revised title *An Indigenous Voice to Parliament – considering constitutional change*. This edition includes an epilogue titled *The Failed Quest for Bipartisanship on the Voice* that addresses the new discussions, plus additional appendices.



Sydney Story Factory offered poetry pills in bottles at the 2023 Sydney Writers’ Festival; a creative fundraising initiative! Photo: Stephen Webb



Dr Cath Keenan AM, Executive Director and co-founder of Sydney Story Factory doubled as a Story Factory Poetry Doctor at the Sydney Writers’ Festival in late May. Photo: Stephen Webb





Primož Roglič. Photo: Luca Bettini/Getty Images

## Roglić takes out the Giro D'Italia

### SPORT

STEVE TURNER

**SLOVENIAN cyclist Primož Roglič has taken out the general classification title at the Giro D'Italia. After the gruelling three-week stage race, Roglič reigned supreme over Geraint Thomas from Wales. Joao Almeda from Portugal was third.**

The cyclists competed over a 3,488km course, broken up into stages over varying distances. The picturesque course comprised many parts of Italy and some parts of Switzerland.

### The French Open is underway

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz is top men's seed for the French Open. The 20-year-old is looking to win his second grand slam, after winning the US Open last year. The top seeds are: 1. Carlos Alcaraz; 2. Daniil Medvedev; 3. Novak Djokovic; 4. Casper Ruud; 5. Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Poland's Iga Swiatek is the top women's seed. She is a short priced favourite to win the title. The top seeds are 1. Iga Swiatek 2. Aryna Sabalenka 3. Jessica Pegula 4. Elena Rybakina 5. Caroline Garcia.

In other news, legend Martina Navratilova has responded positively to initial treatment for cancer. "I'm doing okay," the 18-time grand slam champion said. "I'm taking it one day at a time. Some days are better than others." SSH

## TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE MARRIOTT STREET, REDFERN

20 JUNE 2023

Marriott Street will be temporarily closed to traffic from Cooper St to Cleveland St on Tuesday 20 June 2023 from 7:30am to Thursday 22 June till 3:30pm. The road is closed to allow construction activity.

Traffic controllers will be in attendance at Cooper St, Young Lane and Marriott St corners to provide local access.

The back-up date for these works is Tuesday 27 June to Thursday 29 June 2023. Following back up dates in case of inclement weather include the following:

04/07/2023-07/07/2023 (Backup)

11/07/2023-13/07/2023 (Backup)

18/07/2023-20/07/2023 (Backup)

For more information, please contact SHV Community Number on 0491 691 752

 TOGA

## Volunteers' News

PAT CLARKE

### The Convict Years, Hyde Park Barracks, Queens Square – 10am-6pm daily, free entry

I recently attended the current exhibition at the UNESCO World Heritage-listed convict barracks (architect: Francis Greenway). This is an interactive experience with wonderful displays and an excellent digital guide (one of the best I've come across). The devastating impact of settlement and convicts on local Aboriginal peoples has not been forgotten. Unfortunately, the beautiful *Murmurations* digital display outside the barracks will be over by the time we go to press. There were quite a few school groups when I was there, all enjoying the interactive tasks, and the gorgeous autumn sunshine.

### Celebrate South King Street – June 14-18

Inner West Council is sponsoring five days of shining a light on vibrant, creative and eccentric south King Street, Newtown. Starting with Shout Out at the Garden Lounge Creative Space, 573 King Street, on June 14, 6.30-8.30pm. There will be performance poets, including inner-west locals Tug Dumbly, Rosie Bogumil and more. Local coffee, food and drinks will be available. This event is free but you must reserve your spot at [eventbrite.com.au](https://www.eventbrite.com.au)

### 2023 Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of NSW – ends September 3

Once again the Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prizes are on exhibition in all their colour, extravagance and (can I say) weirdness. There are more works by women (30) than men (27) in this year's finalists, and 38 works by Aboriginal

artists. While entry to the Gallery itself is free, there are various ticket prices and times available: for instance Adult \$25, Concession \$20.

Open from 10am-5pm (last tickets available at 4pm). For information and a look at some of the prize-winners and entries go to [artgallery.nsw.gov.au/whatson](https://artgallery.nsw.gov.au/whatson)

### Refugee Week – Sunday June 18 to Saturday June 24

This year's theme is: Finding Freedom and the week includes World Refugee Day on June 20, whose theme is Hope Away from Home. Ron Williams Community Centre, 5-11 Kepos Street, Redfern, is hosting a talk by Refugee Council Ambassador Simon Shahin, a refugee from Syria. His talk will be followed by Zimbabwean music by Simba Mushete and his band, and refreshments. Free on June 21 from 10am-12pm, but to book tickets email: [jmayr@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jmayr@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

### 2023 National NAIDOC Week – Sunday July 2 to Sunday July 9

This year's theme is For Our Elders. The NAIDOC Week Poster prize this year was won by Bobbi Lockyer, born and based on Kariyarra Country in Port Hedland, WA.

### NAIDOC in the City – Saturday July 8

Discover food, song, art, dance and stories in Hyde Park North, from 11am-3pm.

I'm writing this on one of those glorious Sydney autumn days, and not eagerly awaiting my street footpaths being dug up and trees renewed for the next six weeks! SSH

## Vanilla Slice ... very nice!



JANE HOGAN

**I really enjoy cooking and baking. There's always something new to learn, and preparing something special for friends is very satisfying.**

Recently, I tried my hand at a classic vanilla slice. There's some cooking involved as well as assembling the components.

Perhaps you'd like to give it a try yourself. I'd love to hear from you – and, of course, to receive a photo of your creation. Please write to Food Editor, *South Sydney Herald*: [editor@ssh.com.au](mailto:editor@ssh.com.au)

### Vanilla Slice

#### Ingredients

- ½ cup (70g) custard powder
- ½ cup (115g) caster sugar
- 3 cups (500ml) milk
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 225g Arnott's Sao original crispbreads (28 biscuits)
- 1 ½ cups (230g) pure icing sugar
- 2-3 tbs passionfruit pulp

#### Method

1. Mix custard powder and caster sugar in saucepan then pour in cup of milk, then heat. Stirring ...
2. Add 2 cups milk, stirring ...
3. Place baking paper in tray and place Saos, pour in custard, layer Saos then chill ...
4. Mix icing sugar and passionfruit pulp, smooth out lumps then apply cold.
5. Put slice in fridge and let it set.

**OPTUS**

### PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE EXISTING OPTUS MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION WITH 5G AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATION

333 King Street, Newtown NSW 2042 [www.rfnsa.com.au/2042009](https://www.rfnsa.com.au/2042009)

- The proposed upgrade to the existing facility consists of the following works; replacement of two (2) existing panel antennas on new mounts on a new headframe, installation of nine (9) new 5G panel antennas on new mounts on the new headframe, associated ancillary equipment including new Remote Radio Units and one (1) new GPS antenna on new mounts on the new headframe and reconfiguration of existing equipment at the facility and within the equipment shelter, including removal of existing Remote Radio Units.

Optus regards the proposed installation as an Exempt Development in accordance with the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* based on the description above.

In accordance with Section 7 of C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal. Further information and/or comments should be directed to: BMM Group, 1300 260 834, [submissions@bmmgroup.com.au](mailto:submissions@bmmgroup.com.au) by **21st June, 2023**. Further information may also be obtained from the website provided above.