

the South Sydney Herald

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Community access gives lift to Redfern station

URBAN DESIGN

GEOFF TURNBULL

A new southern concourse at Redfern station was opened by Premier Minns on October 8 at a reported cost of \$166 million. The concourse replaces the southern bridge to the station removed in the 1990s. Alexandria, Waterloo and Eveleigh will get improved access to the station through entrances in Marian and Little Eveleigh streets.

In a major win for the community, the concourse provides open community access across the railway line, saving five minutes on the earlier route via Lawson Street. The six-metre-wide concourse will be shared by both train users going through the barriers and an open gate with the only "community access" signs in NSW. On the downside, when the station is closed there will be no local access.

One unexpected outcome of the community access has been the number of people walking their dogs across the concourse. Pets are banned from Sydney and regional train services and stations, and there is currently a campaign to allow people to take pets on public transport in Sydney in line with Melbourne, Adelaide and Canberra.

Delivered under the Transport Access Program, the enclosed concourse provides lift access to the 10 above-ground platforms. The concourse has steps at the eastern end and accessibility requires the use



Community members gathered at the Marian Street entrance to Redfern station on October 27. Photo: Lyn Turnbull

of the platform 10 lift to move between concourse levels. Access to underground platforms 11 and 12 will not be delivered until a proposed 14-storey over-station development is delivered. That development will also allow at grade access to the new pedestrian lights across Gibbons and Regent Street for bus interchanges.

In 2011 the "Lift Redfern" campaign delivered petitions with over 11,500 signatures to NSW Parliament for the installation of lifts at Redfern. That campaign resulted in one lift in November 2015 which made Redfern accessible if people heading to Redfern changed to that line elsewhere. There is still

some way to go before Redfern station is fully accessible.

No locals, including the *South Sydney Herald* were invited to the opening. A separate event was held on October 27 to thank those who had been most inconvenienced by the build which took three years longer than expected. Regular loud "no smoking"

announcements annoying Watertower residents have now ceased, but Little Eveleigh Street residents are waiting for clarity about the impact of "no stopping" signs in front of their houses and the traffic reversal proposed in their street.

.....
Geoffrey Turnbull is the spokesperson for REDWatch



The 2023 Sydney Peace Prize was awarded to Nazanin Boniadi at a ceremony at Sydney Town Hall on November 2. Lord Mayor Clover Moore presented the award to Ms Boniadi, an Iranian-born human rights activist and actress, in recognition of her commitment to advancing women's rights in Iran. Photo: Michelle Haywood



Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty David Harris MP with Elders at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence to celebrate the first NSW Aboriginal Languages Week, October 22-29, raising awareness, sparking conversations and highlighting the incredible work our local communities are doing to reclaim and revitalise Language. Photo: Michelle Haywood

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TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney

Thanks to everyone who helped on the referendum last month. It was great to see so many in our community come together to campaign, talk to their neighbours, and show support. Unfortunately, we didn't get the result we wanted.

While Australians said no to this particular constitutional change, it is clear that most want to see us close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Now, we must redouble our efforts to tackle Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage, and that's something we can all get behind.

In Government, we've been listening and involving First Nations voices to better protect our environment.

We are doubling the number of Indigenous Rangers this decade and we've just announced funding for ten more Indigenous Protected Areas, including the Wuthathi IPA, which I recently formalised in Cape York. We are currently bringing clean water to remote Aboriginal towns, like Yuendumu in the Northern Territory, which will also make sure we can deliver the housing and health infrastructure they need.

The government is also focused on the transition to renewable energy, as part of our pathway to net zero.

It's a massive job. We've put our commitment to net zero by 2050 in law, and set a target of 82% renewable energy by 2030. We're building renewable energy generation and storage. We're rolling out transmission lines to get more renewable energy into people's homes and businesses. We're increasing the take up of electric cars. We're making homes and businesses more energy efficient. We're investing in clean fuel technology of the future.

In the last month alone, I've approved three new renewable energy projects. In Queensland we have approved Smoky Creek solar farm which will power 200,000 households and cut carbon emissions by a million tonnes each year - the equivalent of removing 310,000 cars off the road every year.

Near Chinchilla we approved another solar farm to power 40,000 homes which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 230,000 tonnes annually - equivalent to taking 72,000 cars off the road each and every year and supporting up to 200 jobs.

In Plumpton, Victoria we have approved a renewable energy hub to build the largest battery system in Asia - one of the largest in the world - to store wind, hydro and solar energy to power over 1 million households.

Our strong new climate laws, the safeguard mechanism, developed with the Greens Party and independents including teal MPs, mean that coal and gas projects must comply with Australia's commitment to net zero.

The safeguard laws allow the Climate Minister to stop coal and gas projects adding to Australia's emissions. There are serious criminal penalties for breaking these laws, including gaol time for company executives.

Australians elected a government committed to action on climate change - and that's what we're doing.

Of course, while we work to better protect our environment and tackle climate change, we're also focused on tackling the cost of living pressures we know people are facing.

I'm proud of what we've already achieved, including:

- o Energy bill relief
- o Cheaper child care
- o Increased rent assistance
- o More Medicare bulk billing
- o Cheaper medicines
- o Boosting income support payments like pensions
- o Fee-free TAFE training
- o Building more public housing and affordable homes
- o Expanding paid parental leave

We're getting wages moving, and have set a record with over 550,000 jobs created since we came to office. These are the things that make a tangible difference to people's lives, and we're getting on with the job of delivering them.

Tanya

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Federal Member for Sydney

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Carolyn May Miller, Catherine Skipper and Lambert on the 'no worries and never give up' bench at Mirrung Garden. Photo: Andrew Collis

Garden invites community to grow into belonging

LOCALS

MIRIAM PEPPER

WATERLOO: The garden at South Sydney Uniting Church is flourishing and community members are invited to be part of it.

The garden has a proud history of providing a safe, inclusive space, in its various incarnations since the 1980s. This included some years as an activity of the Luncheon Club, a support group for men with HIV/AIDS.

After a hiatus during the pandemic, last year's demolition of the degraded former air raid shelter on site opened up more space for gardening, contemplation and community gatherings.

So far, volunteers have mulched the site, constructed new garden beds and a new hen house, reinstalled the water tank, and prepared accessible paths and bays. Most recently, native and contemplative garden areas have been established. A matching grant from the City of Sydney and a community grant from South Eveleigh greatly supported these efforts.

On Saturday October 21, ahead of a formal garden opening early next year, those involved in the journey gathered to celebrate, give thanks and encourage each other.

The morning's activities included an Acknowledgment of Country; music by Boy Torch (Joe Fenech and Edmond Kairouz); presentation of an artwork to Auntie Linda Corley in appreciation of her contribution to the native garden; and an unveiling of the "no worries and never give up" sandstone bench in honour of garden volunteer and

horticulturalist Chris Lodge and his late mother Nancy Lodge.

Thanks were extended to South Sydney Uniting Church, Cana Communities and volunteers from the neighbourhood, the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence, Café Dreaming, Wildflower, IndigiGrow and others.

The Rev. Andrew Collis, minister at South Sydney Uniting Church, said: "It is important to make a contribution on the ground after the referendum result. Whatever unfolds here on Gadigal land will continue to be done with guidance from and respect for First Peoples. Mirrung is a Gadigal/Dharug word for belonging, and we hope to call this place Mirrung Garden. In this garden we learn about relationships between people and the land that are so important. We rededicate ourselves to gardening, to community, and to growing in belonging."

Dr Cathie Harrison, Garden Working Group co-convenor, said: "The garden has been about community since the start. There are many hands, many helpers, and many contributions of recycled materials from across Sydney. You don't always know what a gesture of openness and kindness leaves behind. In ways big and small, people are being touched by their connection to this garden."

The garden welcomes new members and friends. Drop by at a community working bee on the third Saturday morning of the month for more information. Alternately go to www.southsydneyuniting.org.au/garden or scan the QR code.



NOTICE

To celebrate the third annual Urban Food Month, Charlie's Community Garden in Abercrombie Street, Darlington, is having an Open Garden Saturday on November 18, 9-11am. All welcome.

Pasifika leaders call for a just and fair transition to a safer climate future

ENVIRONMENT

MIRIAM PEPPER

AT a gathering at Sydney Olympic Park on October 7, Pasifika leaders and community members from the Uniting Church and beyond called on the government to respond boldly to the climate and cost-of-living crisis.

Co-chaired by pastor Joyce Tangi and the Rev. Vinnie Ravetali, the event was a celebration of Pasifika culture and a space for “talanoa”, which means discussion or dialogue in several Pasifika languages.

The event began with a Welcome to Country by the Sydney Metropolitan Land Council’s Brendan Kerin and an address by Nathan Tyson, Manager, First Peoples Strategy and Engagement with the Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT. Speakers from the Pacific, the Torres Strait and Western Sydney then shared their stories of the impacts of climate change on their everyday lives. This includes the existential threat posed by rising seas and cyclones in the islands of the Pacific and the Torres Strait, as well as the burden of extreme heat and flooding in places like Western Sydney, which hosts many Pasifika community members who are on low incomes and have few economic resources to adapt to these challenges.

The Rev. Mata Havea Hiliiau, Moderator of the Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT and a Pasifika woman by birth,



Participants at the Pasifika Empowered climate forum at Sydney Olympic Park. Photo: Supplied

said, “Climate change affects everyone, but not everyone equally. Pasifika people, First Nations peoples and communities in Western Sydney will be hit earlier and harder.

“I want us to spare a thought for those who cannot afford a fan, let alone air conditioning. As always, it is those who can least afford it who are being unfairly impacted by the climate and energy crisis playing out today.

“And to our friends across the Pacific watching their homes, their lands, their culture seemingly destined for the bottom of the ocean – we see your struggles, we stand with you, we will campaign with you.”

As well as calling for drastic greenhouse gas emission reductions, increased funding for climate adaptation in the Pacific, and dialogue with Pacific nations about migration and resettlement, those gathered called on the

government to assist community members in Western and Southwestern Sydney to access energy efficiency measures and renewable energy. This included the idea of a mobile community energy information hub to help residents to understand what support is available with cost of living and climate adaptation. They also urged that a fair share of the employment opportunities arising from the transition to renewable energy go to people on lower incomes.

All requests received a warm response from the Hon. Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Climate Change and Energy, who attended the event along with the Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC and the Hon. Mark Buttigieg MLC. Mr Bowen agreed to continue to work with the Pasifika leaders on a just and fair transition to a safer climate future, including to meet with them again in the new year.

SSH



Warren Roberts, Siobhan Bryson, LaVerne Bellear and Nathan Moran. Photo: Geoff Turnbull

Aboriginal housing for Waterloo welcomed

FIRST PEOPLES

GEOFF TURNBULL

THE CEOs of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC) and the Aboriginal Medical Services Limited (AMS) have welcomed the NSW government’s commitment to a minimum of 15 per cent of all social and affordable housing in the Waterloo South redevelopment being for Aboriginal people.

The Redfern Waterloo Alliance of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and Allies arranged a media event, with Warren Roberts speaking as the chairperson and campaign organiser, and Siobhan Bryson, the CEO of Weave, speaking on behalf of the allies.

In announcing changes to Waterloo South, Housing Minister Rose Jackson increased both the amount of social and affordable housing in that redevelopment as well as the proportion that would be dedicated to Aboriginal people. The changes guarantee there will be at least 135 Aboriginal social housing homes and 90 Aboriginal affordable housing homes delivered in Waterloo South through an Aboriginal affordable housing provider.

“This is an opportunity to show a commitment to the Aboriginal community remaining in the area that is famous for Aboriginal people, and where our rights movement commenced and is based,” said Nathan Moran, MLALC CEO.

“The Aboriginal Medical Service Redfern considers housing a major component toward improving better health outcomes for Aboriginal

people in our community,” said LaVerne Bellear, AMS CEO.

The Redfern Waterloo Affordable Housing Campaign was formed in 2020 following a letter to the premier signed by most of the Aboriginal organisations and supporting agencies in the inner city. These organisations were acknowledged and thanked in the campaign’s media release.

The campaign calls on the NSW government to deliver:

- (1) 10 per cent Aboriginal affordable housing in all government redevelopments in the area;
- (2) An increase in Aboriginal social housing, ensuring that any community housing provider would either be Aboriginal community controlled and managed or work in partnership with an Aboriginal community controlled organisation;
- (3) Aboriginal jobs and ongoing employment, including targets for Aboriginal employment and contracts for construction and Aboriginal employment in the provision of ongoing services in all government redevelopments in the area.

While Waterloo South only guarantees a minimum of 7.5 per cent rather than the 10 per cent requested, the campaign wanted to celebrate the Waterloo win saying it shows the campaign can achieve more together than they can as individuals.

In the nearby Explorer Street rezoning, on exhibition until December 1, the proposal only guarantees 16 out of 400 units as Aboriginal housing, a long way from the campaign’s ask of 10 per cent.

SSH

Geoffrey Turnbull is the spokesperson for REDWatch

Always a new challenge, every trail different

FIRST PEOPLES

ANDREW COLLIS

RECENTLY appointed CEO of the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE), Grant Cameron, is positive about the future. A Kamilaroi man with strong connections to Redfern, Grant says, “The NCIE is a unique cultural hub where people can come, learn and grow.



Grant Cameron. Photo: Supplied

“I was first involved in 2013, through the Clean Slate Without Prejudice program led by Tribal Warrior,” Grant says. “I remember early mornings, physical workouts and yarns with young people.

“Before that, I was a tradie for 20 years. Working in the upholstery and antique restoration industry.

“I gained confidence at the NCIE, a Diploma in Community Services and work placement with the after-school youth program – 50 to 60 kids a day. I remember Friday Night Live,

Oz Tag, swimming, basketball. Then a full-time position as Program Coordinator. I fell in love with the place and with the community.

“I got to experience a lot – with groups like Headspace, The Fact Tree and The Settlement. A 10-day youth leadership camp, a trip to Uluru and Kata Tjuta, was amazing and life-changing. I knew then that I wanted to use my life experience to try to reshape pathways for mob, to inspire and empower.

“I wasn’t tech savvy but

wound up working with the Indigenous Digital Excellence (IDX) team, learning about robots, tablets and 3D printers, completing the in-house training and taking on a management role. Over the next five years, I visited cultural sites in Rockhampton, Townsville, Elcho Island, West Arnhem Land, schools and community centres, more than 35 remote communities. The basic idea is ‘tech for good’ – using computers to create archives, using drones to map and showcase country. I remember being invited to speak at a national drone conference!

“I left the NCIE in 2020 to support First Nations leadership development with the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation as National Manager. I took many cohorts around Australia, but the most memorable was to Aotearoa-New Zealand for a unique cross-cultural immersion. I learned about the Maori culture – truth-telling, treaty, and trauma-informed community care. There were many ‘aha’ moments.

“So, coming back in 2023 is like I’ve come full circle. This feels right. I saw what the staff went through with the divestment, and want to praise them for their hard work, loyalty and resilience. I want to offer support, to lead and repair, to engage with key stakeholders. The NCIE is here for its members. That’s the priority. The vision is about consolidating programs including Young, Fit and Deadly, the School Holiday Program, Fitness

and Aquatics; reactivating programs, responding to what community wants, breaking down stereotypes ...”

Back in 2013, as part of the Life Program at the NCIE, Grant was introduced to mountain-biking. He took a bike home and has been riding ever since. “It’s a passion!” he says. “It’s something I really love – training and competing on courses all over the country. There’s always a new challenge, every trail is different.”

SSH

JENNY LEONG MP
MEMBER FOR NEWTOWN



**Community Activism Triumphs:
Redfern Station accessibility gets a boost**

After numerous delays and budget overruns, the Government has opened the long-awaited \$166 million Redfern Station Upgrade. The upgrades to the station come after years of notable grassroots activism and advocacy from the community, including key groups REDWatch, The Factory, and the Alexandria Residents' Action Group (ARAG), as well as the Lift Redfern Campaign that involved over 11,500 signatures! So many people were individually involved in this campaign over so many years that we don't have the column space to mention them all here!

This much-anticipated opening delivers a significant improvement in accessibility and convenience for Sydney commuters - and promised barrier-free community access across the station through the new southern concourse.

In a disappointing turn of events it seems the freshly installed access gates at the Marian Street and Little Eveleigh Street entrances will be closed overnight (outside of usual station operating hours), forcing non-train travelers to detour via the Lawson Street bridge to cross the rail tracks. We are on a mission to get this decision overturned!

We also know that the accessibility improvements don't extend to all lines. Underground platforms 11 and 12, servicing the T4 Eastern Suburbs and Illawarra Line, remain without lifts, a significant oversight that undermines the commitment to make Redfern Station fully accessible and compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act, and leaves a significant portion of commuters without the improved accessibility they were promised.

While we support any works undertaken to make Sydney's public transport more accessible for those with a disability, limited mobility, or even passengers with prams or luggage, the failure to deliver a truly accessible Redfern Station, despite the costly delays, raises serious questions about the management of critical infrastructure projects- and underscores the need for a more transparent and accountable approach to fulfilling commitments made to the commuting public.

We believe that the Government should fulfill its promise of a fully accessible Redfern Station. To make our collective demand for change heard, I encourage you to scan the QR code below and sign a petition for 24-hour access to the southern concourse and lifts for the remaining two underground platforms.



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

Simulator lets students and researchers pilot aircraft, spaceship

SPONSORED

MARK SCOTT

LOCATED in the School of Aerospace, Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering, the New Zealand-manufactured Eight360 NOVA Simulator will be used to conduct teaching and research. It is currently the only simulator of its kind at an Australian university.

It operates "untethered", realised by a freely mobile ball resting on rollers powered by electric motors that enable precise ball positioning at varying speeds. As the pilot manipulates the controls, the ball adjusts its positioning to mimic the flight vehicle's orientation and accelerations.

Associate Professor Nicholas Lawson, who joined the University in 2021 and leads Aircraft Performance and Operations, said that the simulator will expose students to the feeling of flight, so they can link theoretical areas of study, such as aircraft design and flight mechanics, to practice.

"These days, so much is done online. It's vitally important that students gain practical experience, especially in an area like aerospace and aeronautics which is, of course, all about movement!" said Professor Lawson, who was a qualified flying instructor and previously worked as Chair of Aerodynamics and Airborne Measurement at Cranfield University, which is highly regarded globally, in the field of Aerospace Engineering.



The Eight360 NOVA simulator. Photo: Eight360.

Bachelor of Aerospace Engineering student, Kaylee Li, said the simulator had significantly contributed to her understanding of aerospace and space engineering.

"The highly immersive experience of piloting the simulator has been very rewarding. It is an excellent, hands-on complement to theoretical learning", said Ms Li, who will this month travel to Azerbaijan for the International Astronautic Conference and Space Generation Congress as a student delegate, where she will present on the role of the next generation in the future of space.

The simulator also has the potential to be used for simulated space environments, including controlling crewed vehicles on planet surfaces. This area

is being developed by Visiting Professor Gregory Chamitoff, a former NASA Astronaut.

DISCLOSURE

The flight simulator was funded by the James N. Kirby Foundation and Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor's CAPEX funding. Improvements to the Bennett Laboratory were funded by a donation from the William & Agnes Bennett Research Fund.



Authorised by Vice-Chancellor and President Prof. Mark Scott.
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Rough Edges Roughtober
27th October 2023

Roughtober, a sleepout event in support of Rough Edges (providing free meals and connection), was held in the grounds of St John's Church Darlinghurst, October 27-28. Participants experienced a little of what it's like to be homeless, spending one night without a bed or a roof over their heads. For more information or to donate visit: www.roughtober.org/donate

Photo: Paul Bramble



Local Aboriginal Elders and supporters at the NCIE on October 15. Photo: Michelle Haywood

Letter a must-read for all Australians

EDITORIAL

SSH

ON behalf of our volunteer contributors and distributors, the South Sydney Uniting Church, partner organisations and community groups, the South Sydney Herald offers heartfelt thanks to the delegates and authors of the Uluru Statement from the Heart (2017).

We acknowledge the invitation to listen and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experience and wisdom – to recognise 65,000 years of care and co-creativity on Country, as well as the violence and pain of colonisation and settlement – to recognise sovereignty and to support a constitutional means of advising government on matters affecting Indigenous peoples. It was and remains a gracious invitation.

We acknowledge the resounding Yes vote in discrete and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We acknowledge the high level of support for Yes in South Sydney.

And we thank First Nations Elders and activists – many local leaders and Aboriginal organisations – who have led a national conversation that will change our country’s future for the better.

With all who cast a vote for the Voice we share a deep sorrow. With all who cast a vote for the Voice we hold to deep hopefulness – sentiments expressed strongly amid cultural and political analysis in a three-page letter by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders who supported Yes, circulated to the Australian public and media on October 22.

The Statement for Our People and Country re-commits to the Uluru Statement – to Voice, Treaty and Truth: “We will continue to uphold the outcomes of the Uluru Dialogues to which more than 1,200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across the country contributed – culminating in the Uluru Statement signed by

250 people on May 26, 2017. It is evident that many Australians are unaware of our cultures, our histories, or the racism imbued in the Australian Constitution.”

Across 12 paragraphs, the Statement for Our People and Country addresses a number of key issues. The tone is broken-hearted and resolute.

“We thank the 5.51 million Australians who voted Yes to recognition. This represents approximately 39.2 per cent of Australian voters on October 14, 2023 ...

“The support for the referendum collapsed from the moment Liberal and National Party leaders, Mr Dutton and Mr Littleproud, chose to oppose the Voice to Parliament proposal after more than a decade of bipartisan support ...

“Lies in political advertising and communication were a primary feature of this campaign. We know that the No campaign was funded and resourced by conservative and international interests who have no stake or genuine interest in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We know this funding supported multiple No campaigns that intentionally argued in varying directions to create doubt and fear in both non-Indigenous and Indigenous communities. This included resurrecting scare campaigns seen during the 1990s against land rights, but the scale of deliberate disinformation and misinformation was unprecedented ...

“There has always been racism against First Nations people in Australia. It increased with multiple daily instances during the campaign and was a powerful driver for the No campaign. But this campaign went beyond just racism. ‘If you don’t know – Vote No’ gave expression to ignorance and licensed the abandonment of civic responsibility on the part of many voters who voted No. This shameful victory belongs to the Institute of Public Affairs, the Centre for Independent Studies and mainstream media ...



Three prayers for peace

FAITH

ANDREW COLLIS

ACT for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches Australia. Its focus is on assisting the most conflict- and disaster-affected communities to be safe.

Act for Peace reports: “We have witnessed unfathomable death and destruction in the Gaza Strip and Israel. Thousands of people have been killed, injured and displaced, and as we go to print, nearly 200 remain held hostage, including children and the elderly.

“In Gaza, the UN has said that water, food, fuel, medical supplies and even body bags are running out due to the siege. The UN warns that people – particularly young children – will soon start dying of severe dehydration. Neighbourhoods have been destroyed and turned into complete rubble.”

FOUNDED in 2014, Roots is a Palestinian and Israeli initiative for understanding, nonviolence and transformation.

The Palestinians and Israelis involved in this initiative do not hide the many deep disagreements between them. On the contrary, they are deeply aware of the complexities of the conflict and of the lack of equality between the two sides. What unites them is their honest search for human understanding and nonviolent resolution to the conflict.

Roots members, including Ali Abu A’wad and Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger, are from different worlds though they live in the same land. They discuss coming to know themselves through a process of transformation born of their willingness to see each other as human beings who belong to the land. They speak of their respect for each other, their love for their people, and their shared commitment to working for peace and justice. They are working together because the future being imagined for them is not the future they want. Together, they articulate a powerful vision of the future they do want: freedom, security, mutual flourishing for both Israelis and Palestinians.

Currently finishing his book, *Painful Hope*, Ali Abu A’wad is a leading Palestinian activist teaching nonviolent resistance, and reaching out to Jewish Israelis at the heart of the conflict. Ali has toured the world many times over, telling his riveting story of violent activism, imprisonment, bereavement and discovery of the path of non-violent resistance, a story of personal transformation.

Hanan Schlesinger is an Orthodox rabbi and teacher, and a passionate Zionist settler who has been profoundly transformed by his friendship with Ali. His understanding of the reality of the Middle East conflict and of Zionism has been utterly complicated by the parallel universe that Ali has introduced him to.

REBECCA J. Alvarez, a queer mixed-race trauma therapist and a member of Jewish Voice for Peace (New York), says: “To be clear, I don’t condone the taking of innocent life.

“Regardless of what many people believed Zionism was, the ultimate impact of this ideology has been oppression and conflict. The Israeli government may have just declared war on Hamas, but its war on Palestinians started over 75 years ago. Israeli apartheid and occupation – and international complicity in that oppression – are the source of this violence.

“For the past year, the most racist, fundamentalist, far-right government in Israeli history has ruthlessly escalated its military occupation over Palestinians in the name of Jewish supremacy, with violent expulsions and home demolitions, mass killings, military raids on refugee camps, unrelenting siege, and daily humiliation.

“I teach my clients about trauma-informed care, which includes coming out of my own freeze state and into thoughtful responses to human suffering. It includes separating out the false binary of a victim/perpetrator narrative and instead seeking ways to empower choice, voice and freedom.”

Please give urgently today:
www.bit.ly/45Yymm



“Post-referendum commentaries that exculpate those who voted No were expected as the usual kind of post-election approbation of the electorate. The truth is that the majority of Australians have committed a shameful act whether knowingly or not, and there is nothing positive to be interpreted from it. We needed truth to be told to the Australian people.”

The process now, as Aboriginal people determine, is about healing, working through the issues and discerning the way forward.

With respect for the process, our sixth in a series of six First Peoples profiles curated by Aunty Norma Ingram will not be published this month. The profile on Aunty Joyce Wymarra will be

published in the December SSH. SSH

Please read the open letter in full:
www.bit.ly/47dcuX



The Review

Arts & Culture in Your Neighbourhood

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Novella way to catch the bus

BOOKS

CATHERINE KEENAN

HAYDEN Field describes his life as plot twist after plot twist. So it's not surprising that, in his final year of school, he went to Story Factory to write his own book, a novella called *Bus of '96*.

Published early this year, the book draws on his experiences in "nitty gritty" Western Sydney to tell the stories of people travelling together on a bus.

"It discusses things like poverty, family, love," Hayden says. "It has some parts to do with death and letting go of grudges or friendships or expectations."

Hayden, 19, describes himself as a trans disabled writer. He says: "I personally have always felt really secluded from my peers and separated because of my differences."

Finding like-minded people at Story Factory made him feel part of a community.

"I had no idea there were so many people that cared about writing because for a lot of the time it was just me," he says.

"Story Factory kind of taught me to hold my head up higher than it was before and that my work has value."

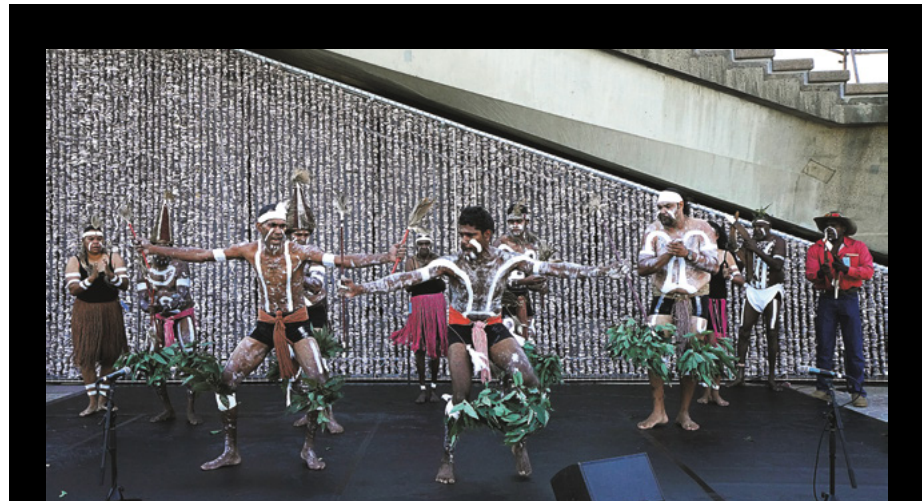
Excerpt from *Bus of '96* by Hayden Field

Stand J held the least amount of people. Yet, you noted, it collected the most trash. Empty take-out bags were spread unevenly on the platform – the product of a subtle wind in the late evening. Graffiti littered the place more densely than the other stands, and the synthetic glass that surrounded the bus bay was cracked in two places. The people around you didn't notice this. There was only one who bothered to look at the timetable, only to be



defeated by graffiti that had been rampant for a lifetime. You found yourself smiling at them. They must be new around here – no regular would look at the timetable, nor look so antsy when they look at their friends. Regulars all knew that the bus came when it would – this stand was not a place for the impatient. This bus, the only bus that came to Stand J, considered emergencies a state of mind. All one could do was wait.

You can purchase Hayden's book here: www.shop.storyfactory.org.au/products/bus-of-96-by-hayden-field



The Mornington Island Dancers perform at the harbour as part of the Sydney Opera House 50th anniversary celebrations on October 21. Photo: Michelle Haywood



The ICON audio-visual laser show was accompanied by an original soundscape composed by Robin Fox, part of the Sydney Opera House 50th anniversary celebrations on October 21. Photo: Michelle Haywood

Let's talk about climate distress

A conversation about hope and community action in our neighbourhoods

When: 11th November at 3pm-5pm

Where: Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre, 405 Crown St, Surry Hills **Cost:** \$5

Speaker: Dr Sally Gillespie

- Where do we find hope?
- What are some strategies for coping with our emotions and the reality of what is going on in our environment?
- How can we become a more resilient neighbourhood?

Discussions and information around climate change can often feel daunting. Sometimes we can feel hopeful, other times we might feel stressed and overwhelmed about what we are hearing. In this workshop we will share with one another what we are feeling and think about some ways we can thrive in a culture that must come to terms with the reality of our changing climate and environment. As we come to terms with the loss of and change in our natural world as we know it and an uncertain future, what can we do to take care of ourselves, our community and our world?

Our speaker and facilitator is Dr Sally Gillespie. Sally is a writer, workshop facilitator, lecturer and public speaker with a background in depth psychology and ecopsychology. Her book *Climate Crisis and Consciousness: Reimagining our world and ourselves* (Routledge, 2020) explores the psychological experience of engaging with climate change and related ecological concerns. She has presented talks and facilitated workshops in this area for academics, activists and the general public since 2010, both nationally and internationally. She is an active member of Psychology for a Safe Climate in Australia and the Climate Psychology Alliance in the UK.



Orchard Gallery SPRING FAIR

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25, 3.30-6PM

BBQ & Drinks, Clay Workshop,
Silent Art Auction (local artists),
Poetry Book Launch,
Christmas Cakes & Gifts

Live Music by I Cantarini and Boy Torch!

Gold coin donation (Lucky Door Prizes)

All welcome!

SOUTH SYDNEY UNITING CHURCH
56a Raglan Street, Waterloo

Graphic: Carlyne May Miller, 2023.

Theatre Review by Catherine Skipper



The Memory of Water
Writer: Shelagh Stephenson
Director: Rachel Chant
The Ensemble Theatre
Until November 25

Shelagh Stephenson's 1996 prize-winning play *The Memory of Water* is surprisingly relevant as it explores the influence, actual or imagined, of a mother upon the future lives of her children. When three sisters come together ahead of their mother's funeral, the unhappiness each of them carries reaches crisis point as memories resurface and secrets are revealed. While their bickering is exceptionally funny, and their individual characters completely absorbing, the issue of who is to blame for their unhappiness remains, wisely, unresolved.

The three daughters undoubtedly feel that their mother Violet (Nicole da Silva) is to blame and although her "appearances" are few she is ascendant. The play opens with Violet seated at her dressing table, her hair styled, her face made up, wearing an emerald-green dress and matching necklace. The immediate impression of faux elegance is heightened as the stage lightens to reveal a stiflingly pink bedroom, with white telephone and many-pillowed bed. Mary (Michala Banas), the eldest daughter, emerges from beneath the capacious spread to commune with the "presence" of her sharpish, critical mother, an attitude that Mary, despite her rejection of her likeness to her mother, reflects in her exchanges with her sisters.

When Teresa (Jo Downing) breaks into Mary's attempt to get extra sleep, it is apparent that she is deeply resentful of Mary's successful life as a neurologist and of her married lover. It is apparent she feels her life was sacrificed to ensure Mary's success and has continued to see herself as a martyr. Mary, for her part, makes constant jokes at the expense of Teresa's chosen vocation, the selling of homeopathic remedies, and the pair fall into an obviously familiar dialogue of wrangling over little things. When the youngest and needy Catherine (Madeleine Jones) arrives, she constantly bemoans that she was always left out and that no one values her.

As the three interact, their in-character dialogue is very amusing and half-teasing, half-hurtful comments to each other very typical of an uneasy sibling rivalry. They are very amusing as they bicker over their memories of childhood which seemed to have melded into a collective family memory and share a joyful and hysterical moment as they try on Violet's clothes. As they cavort in her hats, hair pieces and "feminine" dresses, helpless with laughter, in a kind of comical catharsis, Mike (Johnny Nasser), Mary's lover, literally breaks into their sisterly interlude.

While Mike is less believable as character creation, he brings some objectivity to the family narrative, pointing out to a sceptical Mary that Catherine's attention-getting

is a genuine need for support and acceptance. Another valuable reality check is Frank (Thomas Campbell), Teresa's husband. He is less vocal but his looks of plain disbelief at some of the emotional excess of the three sisters bring some stability. When it is time for secrets to be revealed he has his own important and dignified contribution.

The most devastating secret is the news that Teresa has no option but to reveal to Mary, who has already revealed a secret of her own. Violet has played a major part in these revelations as a decision maker, and consequently having had a profound influence upon shaping Mary's life. Given the context, she took a responsibility she thought was hers. Her pervasive influence is undeniable, and all characters at some point find themselves in Violet's bed.

Whom do we blame for who we become? Memory – highlighted through Mary's amnesiac patient and Violet's Alzheimer's, and the widely disputed theory of water – is subjective, unreliable, malleable, and a suspect witness.

The greatest pleasure of this production is the uniformly excellent performances of the cast who managed Stephenson's skilful mix of comedy and tragedy with both flair and depth.

Film Review by Lindsay Cohen



Killers of the Flower Moon
Director: Martin Scorsese
Starring: Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert De Niro, Lily Gladstone
Genre: Feel the length

When is an epic not epic?
 When it's just long.

Killers of the Flower Moon is almost three-and-a-half hours long. Lots of film reviewers and marketing people are referring to it as an epic. But only because it is very long. That doesn't mean it's a bad film. Quite the opposite. It may lack epic aesthetic and broad landscapes, massive casts and huge special effects, but it's a story that drags you in, exposes you to American Indian shocking historical insights and keeps your attention for the full three-and-a-half hours.

Combine that with fantastic acting, especially from Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert De Niro, who tend to be over-the-top character actors (not that that's a bad thing) but in this case are subtle and complex, and you have some fascinating storytelling.

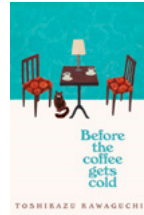
But that begs the question of why this is a film at all. It's not a story that would work better on a big screen than a small screen. And that goes to the reason why this is not an epic. It would work just as well as four episodes on a streaming service. Maybe it was the choice of the famous director Martin Scorsese, whose reputation is all about making famous "epics" such as *Gangs of New York* (2002 – 168 minutes), *The Wolf of Wall Street* (2013 – 180 minutes) and *The Irishman* (2019 – 209 minutes).

So, feel free to wait until the film is released on TV and then pick and

choose when your episodes start and finish. It won't negatively impact the story; indeed it may even help you if concentration isn't your thing.

Rating: Three-and-a-half hours.

Book Review by Catherine DeMayo



Before the Coffee Gets Cold
Toshikazu Kawaguchi
Pan MacMillan, 2019

Before the Coffee Gets Cold is one of a series of four novels by Japanese author Toshikazu Kawaguchi, whose previous work was as playwright, director and producer for theatrical group Sonic Snail.

The book centres on an idiosyncratic basement café in Tokyo where customers can time travel – provided they adhere to idiosyncratic rules. They can time travel, but nothing they do can change the present. This rule shocks many potential travellers; after all, if travelling back in time cannot help you fashion a better present, what's the point?

In their travels, they can only encounter people who have been in the café. They can only sit in one particular seat while travelling – and they have to wait until the occupant makes her daily visit to the bathroom to grab that seat. Having been poured a cup of coffee, they must return before it's cold.

This book is quirky – but that term falls short of describing how genuinely touching this short novel is. While it is not a demanding read, it has depth and soul. While its small cast of characters suffer heartbreak, they also find new insights from their visits back in time which help them heal.

The book focuses on four characters who visit the café and succeed in following the rules to time travel. Fumiko goes back a week and understands her boyfriend's feelings of inferiority which led to a seeming rejection. Kohtake, nursing her husband Fusagi, who has dementia, changes her attitude after a visit to the past allows her to receive a heartfelt letter from him.

Hirai has avoided her sister despite the latter's repeated letters, calls and visits. When her sister dies tragically on her way back from another fruitless attempt to see Hirai, a trip back in time helps her take steps toward reconciliation with her parents.

I found the last vignette, Mother and Child, the most touching. Kei, whose friendly and kind presence is a guide and inspiration to the café's clients, dies soon after giving birth. The time travel rules are bent to allow her to travel forward, not backward, in time to meet her daughter Miki.

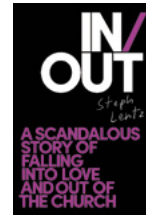
In the book's final pages, Kei explains: "I finally understand. The present hadn't changed, but those two people had. Both Kohtake and Hirai returned to the present with a changed heart ... I was so absorbed in the things that I couldn't change, I forgot the most important thing."

Before the Coffee Gets Cold was adapted from a stage production.

At times, it reads like a stage manager's directions, which can seem awkward. The characters' clothing is described in detail, as are their entrances and exits. All the action (such as it is – this is not an action-packed book!) takes place in the café, Funiculi, Funicula.

But this is a minor quibble in a book that delivers life lessons with charm and a light touch. I look forward to the other three novels in the series.

Book Review by Melinda Kearns



In/Out: A Scandalous Story of Falling into Love and Out of the Church
Steph Lentz
HarperCollins, 2023

Steph Lentz rose to prominence in 2021, after being sacked by her conservative Christian school when she spoke about her lesbianism. Having seen and experienced insidious and covert attacks at some Sydney Anglican schools, her story resonated deeply with me and I strongly felt her desire to model and facilitate a compassionate Christianity for the students in her care.

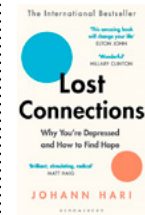
Lentz records her early experiences with Sydney Anglicanism and its debilitating circumscription of her sexuality and gender, leading her into an early marriage despite her gnawing anxieties around her attraction to some of her female friends.

When she falls in love with one of her church mates, her faith and sense of community founder. The relationship is difficult, as the woman is ultimately indecisive about her future with Steph, and they separate after some years together. However, she is a significant catalyst for Steph's journey and her reflections on her faith, sexuality, the Church and the conjunctions between these factors are the backbone of her memoir.

She contemplates, in a thoughtful, erudite and considered manner, how Church dogma has become so damaging for so many, referencing many alternative, more conservative perspectives on gender and sexuality, articulating their views clearly and giving them due consideration before ultimately deciding that they do not reflect her experiences or aspirations.

The issues that Lentz discusses are timely and meaningful, in the time of the same-sex marriage debate and the religious discrimination allowed by Church-affiliated schools. While on the path of becoming the true version of herself, Lentz frankly admits the damage that she has done to others and the damage that she has done to herself, seeking acceptance and forgiveness while acknowledging the grief of her many losses. Her memoir is an insight into the damage that conservative Christianity can do and how an open perspective on ourselves and our roles will allow us all to be at peace.

Book Review by Gill Robson



Lost Connections: Uncovering the Real Causes of Depression – and the Unexpected Solutions
Johann Hari
Bloomsbury, 2023

Johann Hari writes compellingly about his struggle with depression and addiction. He writes about what it means to be human, the compelling nature of our connection to one another, and to nature.

Many authors have written recently about the benefits of natural spaces for the human nervous system and brain. Hari devotes a whole chapter to exercise outside. Another chapter is about meaningful and enjoyable work, and still more is written about the simple benefits of friendship.

Lost Connections is a book of hope, discovery and joy. Highly recommended.

Sponsored by Blak Douglas – Archibald Winner 2022

Blak & Blu
 Annual pen on paper art prize

EXHIBITION DECEMBER 2

Drawings on A4 paper (minimum weight 300gsm) using black and/or blue and/or red biros. The work should comment on a social or environmental issue pertaining to summer.

Blak & Blu is inspired by 19th-century Aboriginal artist Tommy McRae, who used art to comment subtly and not-so subtly on social conditions – satirising colonial culture, calling out entitlement and injustice.

There will be a \$1,000 prize, a Junior prize (thanks to Art on King, Newtown), a People's Choice prize, as well as formal commendations and opportunity to have work included in an exhibition at the Orchard Gallery (56a Raglan St, Waterloo) at 3pm on DECEMBER 2.

For more information contact Andrew: sshandrew@bigpond.com



Raygun and J Attack have written themselves into history as Australia's first Olympic break-dancers by taking out the Oceania Breaking Championships. The pair took out the solo Bboy and Bgirl categories at Sydney Town Hall to clinch two direct places at next year's Paris Olympics. Photo: Michelle Haywood

Break-dancing for Paris Olympics

SPORT

STEVE TURNER

BREAK-DANCING, or breaking as it is globally known, made its Olympic debut at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires in 2018. Following its outstanding success, breaking has been chosen to feature on the Paris 2024 Olympic sports program as a new sport, along with surfing, skateboarding and sport climbing.

At the Paris 2024 Games, the breaking competition will comprise two events – one for men and one for women – where 16 Bboys and 16 Bgirls will go face-to-face in spectacular solo battles. Athletes will use a combination of power moves – including windmills, the six-step and freezes – as they adapt their moves and improvise to the beat of the DJ's tracks in a bid to secure the judges' votes and take home the first Olympic breaking title.

Kerr helps Matildas win Olympic qualifier

Super-sub Sam Kerr came off the bench to score the clincher in front of her hometown fans in the Matildas' recent 2-0 Olympic qualifier win over Iran in Perth.

Watched by 18,798 fans at HBF Park, Ellie Carpenter opened the scoring in the 19th minute before Kerr sealed the deal with her 78th-minute tap-in.

Matildas coach Tony Gustavsson warned on the eve of the match that he wouldn't be throwing his jet-lagged stars into the deep end, and a glimpse at the bench proved those words to be true. "Mixed feelings", Gustavsson said of the win. "This might have been one of the most challenging preparations I've had with this team. Very little prep time, a lot of jet lag."

A subsequent 3-0 win over Chinese Taipei now means the Matildas will play for a place at Paris 2024 with a home-and-away game against a yet-to-be-decided Asian nation in February.

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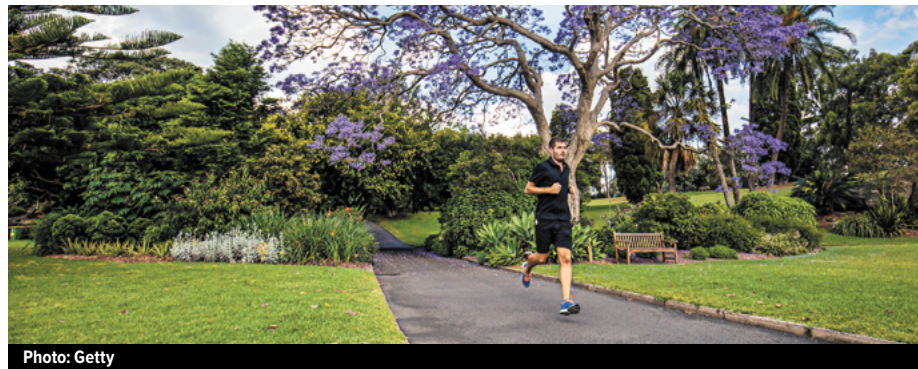


Photo: Getty

Volunteers' News

PAT CLARKE

November last year the Uluru Statement from the Heart won the Sydney Peace Prize. After the failure of the Yes referendum campaign, the Statement and the reasons for a Voice to Parliament are still relevant and won't be forgotten. A long article from Professor Marcia Langton in the *Saturday Paper* of October 14 is wonderfully compelling and heartfelt, as well as a history lesson of injustices and broken promises.

Buy Nothing Garage Sale – Alexandria Town Hall, Saturday November 11, 12-6pm

Organised by the Alexandria Residents Action Group as part of the Garage Sale Trail, you can bring things you no longer have a use for and maybe find a treasure from someone else for free. This is a free event, but no details currently on the arag.com.au website.

Martin Place Christmas Markets 2023

Opening on Friday November 24 to Saturday 26, then on each Thursday to Saturday leading up to Christmas, the Markets will feature artisan stalls, gourmet food and live music.

Canafarm Christmas cakes

This is my annual plug for a great organisation and their enterprising farm shop. The highly prized Christmas cakes weigh 1kg and sell for \$35 plus delivery. Place your orders at: www.canafarm.com.au/our-shop/p/cana-christmas-cake

Summer art blockbusters at the Art Gallery of NSW

Vasily Kandinsky – November 4 until March 10, 2024. Works of this highly influential Russian-born expressionist are from the Guggenheim Museum, New York.

Louise Bourgeois – November 25 until April 28, 2024. Acclaimed French artist's works will be in the North Wing of the Gallery. Tickets are timed and must be booked. Cost for each is \$35 adult, and \$32 Concession.

For your diary

Transgender Awareness Week – Nov 13-19

Buy Nothing Day – Nov 24

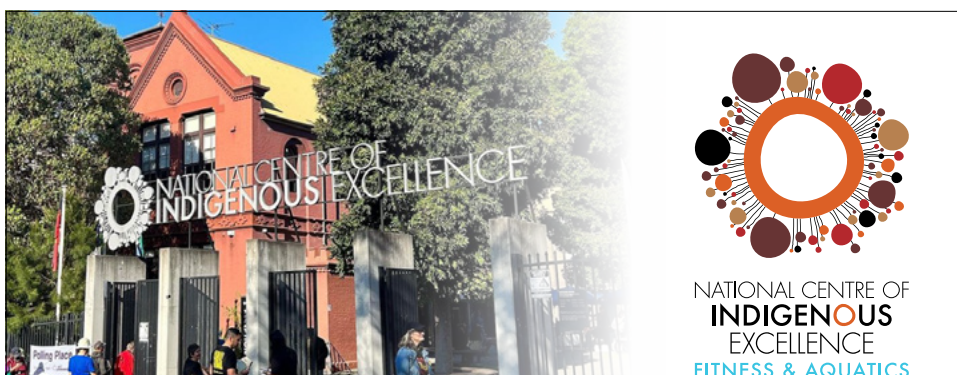
National Fairy Bread Day – Nov 24

Last Day of Spring – Nov 30

(Summer Solstice December 22)

SSH

Pat Clarke
volunteers@ssh.com.au



Sauna now open

NCIE Fitness and Aquatics is proud to announce the opening of a brand-new sauna, located on the pool deck. But if you're imagining glowing coals and steam, think again!

This is an infrared sauna, with ten carbon fibre heaters that can produce temperatures of 65 degrees celsius.

Constructed from Canadian hemlock wood, there are many therapeutic benefits to stepping inside NCIE's newest addition and allowing the dry heat to soothe and relax whilst alleviating those sore muscles and tired, aching joints!

The sauna is just the latest great offering from the NCIE, and available to people aged 16 years and older. It costs \$9 for a casual entry, \$36 for five visits and \$63 for ten.

National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE)
180 George Street, Redfern
ncie.org.au



Have your say on our rezoning proposal for Explorer Street Eveleigh

The Department of Planning and Environment is seeking feedback on the plan for the Explorer Street social housing estate. The rezoning proposal aims to deliver:

- up to 400 new homes including about 120 new social homes and 80 new affordable homes
- better use of South Sydney Rotary Park with improved outdoor spaces for recreation and quiet enjoyment
- new and improved pedestrian connections to the surrounding street network.

Scan the QR code to find out more about the plan and have your say by the extended due date 1 December 2023.

planning.nsw.gov.au/explorer-street

