

Number Two Hundred and Twenty Nine

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A different approach to sustainability

ENVIRONMENT

CHRISTINE CHEN

ENVIRONMENTAL charity Bower launched a repair festival in August, sponsored by the City of Sydney, to promote sustainable habits in the community and usher in what it hopes will be a repair revolution.

The two-week-long event, called the Festival of Repair, took place at 107 Projects, Redfern.

People from all walks of life - from DIYers and seasoned professionals, to businesses and local organisations - took part in a range of activities and information sessions, sharing skills and knowledge.

"We live in a very wasteintensive society, and Bower is trying to promote the circular economy, to have fewer items go to landfill, produce less waste, reuse items more often, and repair items," said Bower General Manager, Michelle Sheather, speaking at the festival's opening night on August 9.

"The festival is an opportunity to get into repairing our own clothes, bikes, furniture,



electronic goods, even musical instruments instead of throwing them away and buy new ones."

Accordingly, the festival's agenda featured activities like repair and sustainable art workshops, market days, talks ranging from power tool safety to the impacts of fast fashion, and an Antiques Roadshowstyle appraisal session.

By empowering locals with basic repair skills so that their broken household items could be fixed instead of thrown out into landfill, Ms Sheather said

she hoped to foster a cultural change and ultimately a "repair revolution" in Australia.

"We would like this festival to be annual and for it to become a real event on the calendars," she said. "This is the first festival of repair in Australia, and I

think it's the first repair festival in the Southern Hemisphere!"

The festival is the latest of Bower's efforts to encourage sustainable habits and reduce waste. The Marrickville-based environmental charity, founded in 1997, regularly resells upcycled donated household goods and building materials.

In 2014, Bower started running a community Repair Café where locals could bring broken items to be fixed for free. In the same year, it caught the attention of the City of Sydney, and it has since received over \$155,000 in grants from the council.

Councillor Adam Worling recognised the amount of waste the City of Sydney's residents, businesses and visitors produced and said it was important to support sustainable initiatives both on a policy and personal level.

"I could talk about waste forever. What I love about this festival is that it's the start of systemic change that we need in behavioural issues when it comes to consumption," he said.

In 2017, Lord Mayor Clover Moore pledged to achieve zero waste by 2030 in the City of Sydney, Mr Worling said, and progress was on the right track. "We do keep bringing our targets forward because we are getting there a little bit faster."

Bad space weather may make life impossible near Proxima Centauri

ENVIRONMENT

TARA MURPHY & ANDREW ZIC

IF you look up in the sky (even in the city) you can see two stars, pointing towards the Southern Cross. One of these "pointers" is Alpha Centauri, which is actually a pair of Sun-like stars that are too close together to tell apart by eye.

There is a third member of the Alpha Centauri system as well: Proxima Centauri (Proxima Cen for short), which circles the central two stars in a wide orbit. This is the Sun's nearest neighbour, at a distance of just 4.2 light years (this means it would take

However, our research at the University of Sydney has detected the signature of fierce space weather from Proxima Cen, which implies any orbiting planets would be blasted with hazardous particles and magnetic fields.

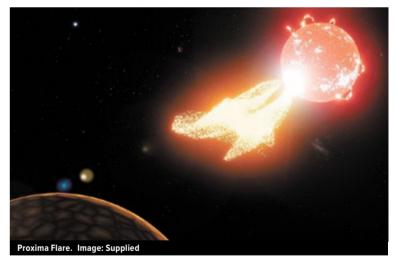
Our Sun is a relatively unremarkable yellow dwarf star, hosting the only known life-bearing planet in the Universe: our Earth. Proxima Cen is very different. It is a red dwarf star, with a diameter only 15 per cent of the Sun's, and a surface temperature of 3,000K (degrees Kelvin), much cooler than the Sun's 6,000K.

We know Proxima Cen has at least two planets: Proxima Cen b, a rocky "super-Earth" located in the middle of Proxima Cen's Goldilocks zone, and Proxima Cen c, a "sub-Neptune" located further out. The

Goldilocks zone is what scientists call the region that has the right conditions for liquid water, and hence might be able to support life.

The "space weather" of red dwarfs is an important factor in determining how hospitable they are to life. While flares involve intense bursts of light, space weather events mean the magnetic field and charged particles from the star can interact with planets directly.

We used CSIRO's Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder telescope in Western Australia to detect a massive space weather event with an estimated total energy output of 16 septillion joules. (That's nearly 17 million years' worth of Australia's current



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This blast of radio waves implies the space weather environment around Proxima Cen is quite violent, and the planet would be blasted regularly. So when you next look up at the Southern Cross, and think about our nearest stellar

neighbour, you can be pretty confident it isn't harbouring life as we know it.

about 6000 years to get there, with current technology). It is possible one of Proxima Cen's planets is suitable for life.

electricity output.) On the Sun, flares this big happen only once every decade. But on Proxima Cen, they happen every few weeks.

Based on this article: www.theconversation. com/bad-space-weather-may-make-lifeimpossible-near-proxima-centauri-150979



South Sydney Herald

SSN 2652-453

PUBLISHER

outh Sydney Uniting Church Raglan Street, Water The views expressed in this newspaper are se of the author and the article and are no necessarily the views of the Uniting Church

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ADVERTISING

MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 3288 Redfern NSW 2016

LETTERS se send letters and emails to The South Sydney Herald Email: editor@ssh.com.au oply sender name and s Size: 150 words or less. may edit for legal or other reasons

FOUNDING EDITOR Trevor Davies (25.5.1956 – 14.6.2011)

MANAGING EDITOR Marjorie Lewis-Jones ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR NEWS EDITOR Lvn Turnb ASSISTANT EDITOR Louisa Dyce BOOKS Catherine DeMavo EDUCATION Melinda Kearns ENVIRONMENT Miriam Peppe FAITH Dorothy McRae-McMahon HEALTH **FOOD** Jane Hogan **LOCALS** Adrian Spry THEATRE Catherine Skippe FILM Lindsay Cohen MUSIC Stephen Webb **SPORT & FITNESS** RUGBY LEAGUE nn Lanzky URBAN DESIGN Geoff Turnbull SUB EDITORS Melinda Kearn DISTRIBUTION

DESIGN oup | www.gasolinegroup.com.au PRINTER Spotpress Pty Ltd | www.spotpress.com

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SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER - VOICE TO PARLIAMENT REFERENDUM

The campaign for the referendum to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our constitution continues

This referendum is about two things: recognition and listening. It's a chance to recognise 65,000 years of First Nations history and culture, and to deliver practical outcomes to close the gap. With our referendum now announced for Saturday 14 October, we have work to do. There's never been a more important time to get involved. The campaign needs all of us to win.

Make sure you're enrolled to vote - go to www.aec.gov.au to check your enrolment, update your details, or get on the roll

If you would like more information on the campaign, my office has fact sheets, posters, stickers and other helpful resources to share with your friends and family.

If you're interested in helping out on pre-poll, referendum day or any other local campaigning activities, please get in touch with my office for more information on (02) 9379 0700 or email Tanya. Plibersek. MP@aph.gov.au

RECORD FUNDING INVESTED IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Since its election, the Albanese Labor Government has worked hard to protect the Reef, act on climate change, and protect Australia so that we leave it better off for our kids and grandkids. Our government is catching up on a wasted decade on climate action. This includes:

• An emission reductions target of 43% by 2030, a clear path to net zero by 2050 in law

• Doubling the rate of renewable energy approvals - and we are just getting started

- \$2 billion for green hydrogen
- \$1.6 billion for home and small business electrification and supporting electric vehicles

• Passing the Safeguard Mechanism - big polluters will have to cut their pollution

• \$20 billion for Rewiring the Nation – getting more renewable energy into the grid - 82% renewable by 2030

 Establishing massive new offshore wind projects around the country

• \$3 billion in the National Reconstruction Fund for renewables and low emission technologies

- Protecting 30% of our land and 30% of our oceans by 2030
- No new extinctions \$224 million to protect threatened species • \$1 billion to increase recycling capacity by 1 million tonnes a year
- Stronger rules on packaging, tyres, electronic waste, mattresses, and fashion to reduce waste

• Setting up a new Environment Protection Agency - stronger laws, quicker decisions, a tough cop on the beat • Doubling funding to national parks like Uluru, Kakadu and

Booderee; creating jobs on country

• Delivering the Murray-Darling Basin Plan in full - I have delivered more environmental water in 12 months than the previous government did in 9 years

• Tripling the size of the Macquarie Island Marine Park - protecting penguins and whales in a high protection zone bigger than Germany • \$1.2 billion to protect and restore the Great Barrier Reef - rejecting

a coal mine that would have had direct impacts on the Reef • Proclaiming 10 new Indigenous Protected Areas and doubling the

- number of Indigenous Rangers
- Establishing a Nature Repair Market more money for the environment; less green-washing
- Passing stronger laws to protect the ozone layer
- \$200 million to revive urban rivers and catchments where half of our threatened animals and a quarter of our threatened plants live

And we're only getting started. For more details visit www.dcceew.gov.au/environment

VOLUNTEER GRANTS

Volunteer Grants are now open. These grants provide between \$1,000 - \$5,000 to support volunteer organisations in the community. Expressions of interest are now open and will close on the 14th of September 2023. If you'd like to apply, please contact my office

TAX HELP 2023

lama

My office in Redfern is offering Tax Help again this year. It's free for people earning \$60,000 or less. If you would like assistance and are eligible, please contact my office. You must have an ent and a mygov account to be able to access this

N E W S 2 South Sydney Herald **SEPTEMBER 2023**



Waterloo South – 50 per cent social and affordable

URBAN DESIGN

ANDREW COLLIS

THE 1,000-plus public housing residents of the Waterloo South public housing estate have recently learned of the new government's plans to redevelop the estate.

The SSH reports:

"The development will now see social housing increase from 28 per cent to 30 per cent (from 847 to 900 units) and affordable housing increase from 7.5 per cent to 20 per cent (from 227 to 600 units). In addition, a minimum of 15 per cent of both the social and affordable housing will be dedicated to Aboriginal people. This means Aboriginal affordable housing goes from 23 to 90 units - an increase roughly the size of the Pemulwuy project".

Critics point out the challenges of what will be a vastly denser precinct, and the government's reluctance to guarantee affordable housing in perpetuity. Others are hopeful that developers might deliver above the minimum requirements.

Action for Public Housing condemns the decision, pointing out it entails the demolition of 749 existing public homes and forced relocation of tenants "so that the estate can become mostly private housing". Rachel Evans says: "On top of the distress it will cause current residents of Waterloo South, forced relocations and demolition of the estate will further delay housing for thousands on the waiting list."

Waterloo public housing resident Karyn Brown adds: "Don't believe the spin about 'affordable housing', which can be leased for 80 per cent of market rates. In Waterloo, that means a two-bedroom 'affordable' apartment can be leased for \$776 per week!"

Mike Shreenan of Counterpoint **Community Services comments:** "The announcement is as good as it gets within current NSW Housing policy and is a welcome step forward. However, until government has the foresight and political spine to pay directly for new and additional public housing the current housing crisis won't be abated. We need to ensure adequate accessible support and community ownership as plans move to implementation."

Co-chair of the Waterloo Redevelopment Group, Cathryn Callaghan, also speaks for Shelter NSW. She says: "As the NSW government assesses which consortia bids make their way through the commercial process, we encourage them to look hard at what's being proposed.

"Which bid offers affordable rental housing in perpetuity or a commitment to ensuring low-income people secure those tenancies? Which consortia has really thought about the lives of the thousands of people living in the private dwellings, many of them low-income renters.

"There is still time for the government to extract more value out of these proposals - by setting and demanding high standards for this redeveloped estate."

Allison Forrest	enverreutson
Roger Jowett	Heather Robinso
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Sinead Kennedy	Mark Scott
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service

I hope to see you on the campaign trail to say Yes.

TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

Federal Member for Sydney

1A Great Buckingham St, Redfern NSW 2016 T: 9379 0700 E: Tanya.Plibersek.MP@aph.gov.au



The seven-million-dollar bedroom

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URBAN DESIGN

IAN STEPHENSON

AT 82 Wentworth Park Road Glebe the NSW Land and Housing Corporation's plan for total demolition will provide 53 public housing bedrooms at a cost of \$21,723,996.

The alternative prepared by Hector Abrahams Architects to retain and refurbish the

existing building and build a new building behind it will provide 52 bedrooms at a cost of \$14,050,700. Demolition is wasteful and reduces the supply of public housing for several years. It's much better to retain, refurbish and extend.

Ian Stephenson is President of The Glebe Society. More details at www.southsvdnevherald.com.au/ the-seven-million-dollar-bedroom

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Opportunities at Story Factory

EDUCATION

APHRODITE DELAGUIADO

SINCE opening in Redfern in 2012, Story Factory has supported more than 50.000 young people to write and share their stories. Now, it's helping budding young writers thrive in the world after school too.

Story Factory is a not-for-profit that runs free writing programs to support young people aged 7 to 17 to build their literacy and find their voice. It has always worked with primary and high school students, but has now introduced Year of Opportunities, a program for young people who have graduated from these programs.

These young people, aged up to 22, have been through Story Factory's longest programs, Year of the Novella and Year of Poetry, so have all written and

professionally published their very own book. Some even have two or three books under their belts.

Every fortnight, this group of diverse and beautiful young writers comes together at Story Factory's creative writing centre in Parramatta to discuss how they can continue their writing journeys.

As soon as they walk in, they are welcomed with big smiles and open arms by Story Engineer Bilal Hafda and Storytellerin-Chief Richard Short. The morning starts with a heartfelt Acknowledgement of Country and it's at this point that Story Factory is transformed into a home where these young people from different cultures and linguistic backgrounds feel safe to speak their minds and share their ideas.

Through their connections with Bilal and each other, they find out about writing prizes, publishing internships and creative projects

they can apply for. They also share what they're working on.

Jihad Yassine, author of two books of poetry published by Story Factory, River and Interpretation, said: "The poetry workshops at Story Factory are amazing, and they create a very welcoming space and a very comforting and warm environment ... They also helped me understand what opportunities there are as a creative artist, as a creative writer and they also help me find confidence within my own voice and my own performances because I was encouraged to perform my poetry in front of an audience.' SSH

.... Story Factory works with young people at all stages of their writing journey. To learn more about its after-school and holiday programs for students aged 7-17. go to www.storyfactory.org.au/programs/ after-school-holiday-programs



Big heart at Le Petit Tarte

LOCALS

ANDREW COLLIS

GLEBE: Fan (pronounced "fun") Zheng is a much-loved café owner and chef at Le Petit Tarte. The café is open seven days from 7.30am to 6pm, and Fan, also known as Mark, is the consummate host. Regular patrons and staff express appreciation for one who treats them with unfailing kindness and respect.

"Mark's qualities strike you from the moment you enter the café," says regular patron Tom. "He always sees the good side of people and is keen to support the needy with a free meal or a kind word. He has driven me to my home, helped me move, even made a small table for my TV. Mark is prepared to put his intelligence and diligence to work for others."

"Earlier this year, I was knocked over while riding a bicycle and suffered a serious leg injury. Mark made me feel I was valued by organising a group of fellow customers to phone me while I was in hospital. Mark has the power to lift fallen spirits," says Jethro.

Deborah states: "Fan would have to be one of the nicest humans I've met in many years. He has a big heart and he's a kind man."

"As a single person, I often feel lonely," says artist Sonia. "The café is somewhere I know I'll be greeted with kindness and friendliness." Barbara reflects: "He seems to pick up immediately whether

or not we feel like talking. If we do, he listens and keeps track of where we're up to in our thinking. Not only that, he introduces like-minded people to each other. What also attracts customers to visit the café, even after moving away from Glebe, is Fan's awareness of politics, sport and local news as well as his strong sense of humour, general wellbeing (he's super fit!), and, of course, his excellent cooking. His staff love him."

"I started working at Le Petit Tarte seven months ago," says barista Shreeya. "Working under Mark's guidance has been transformative. Mark's kindness extends to the kitchen where he has shared his culinary expertise with me – and cooked lunch for me every day. His dedication to creating a friendly café zone – a second home – has had a profound impact on everyone."

"Given the hours he works, and his family commitments, one wonders when he sleeps," says Oleh. "He provides a welcoming cocoon where we meet and feel safe to be ourselves."

"I come to Mark's café almost daily, not just for the coffee," says Pat. "I love the environment. It is such a friendly place. Mark and the staff are all so obliging and they are like family. There's no place like home!"

Printed copies of the SSH are available from Le Petit Tarte (219 Glebe Point Road). See our website for a full list of print locations: www.southsydneyherald. com.au/distribution



JENNY LEONG MP MEMBER FOR NEWTOWN



We're taking to the streets for housing

From the inner cities to the regions, we've all heard the stories of people forced to sleep in cars or tents, families being priced out of their rental homes, and students and young people languishing in overcrowded sharehouses.

With every new horror story that hits the headlines, one thing is increasingly clear: the private housing system is broken. The cracks were years in the making, and choices by successive state and federal governments on both sides of the aisle to prioritise developer and investor profits, sell off public housing, and privatise public land have all contributed to the dire situation we face today.

Across the country, communities are feeling the effects of the worsening housing crisis – and coming together to build a powerful, grassroots movement for housing justice.

In early July, community activists and public housing tenants in Melbourne organised a defiant occupation of the Barak Beacon public housing estate as demolition crews rolled in. The next month, hundreds took to the streets outside Labor's national conference in Brisbane to demand the party finally take meaningful action to protect renters.

And in Sydney, a flurry of housing-related actions in the past fortnight included a rally for a rent freeze outside the Sydney hearing of the Senate Inquiry into the rental crisis and a snap action, organised by Action for Public Housing, opposing NSW Labor's shameful plans to demolish and privatise 70 per cent of the Waterloo South public housing estate.

The movement for housing justice is gaining momentum – and we need to keep it up.

Next Saturday, September 9, at 1pm, we're teaming up with GET A ROOM: Students for Affordable Housing to host a rally at Sydney Town Hall urging the NSW Labor Government to take serious action to address the housing crisis. All are welcome to join us to demand an immediate rent freeze, massive investment in new public housing, and higher taxes for developers and uber-wealthy corporate giants.

From students and renters to public housing tenants and those struggling with a mortgage, it's up to all of us to keep housing at the top of the agenda and the pressure on state and federal Labor to act.

Scan the QR code below to RSVP to the rally or visit: www.fb.me/e/RaiGsjKm

South Sydney Herald

N E W S



as, a tiny ginger kitten v

How a cat got people talking about rare neurological diseases

SPONSORED

MARK SCOTT

A wobbly "scouse" cat named Phineas belonging to two biomedical researchers at the University of Sydney has become an internet sensation, capturing the hearts of millions worldwide and securing a prominent place in the "meme cat" hall of fame with over 1.8 million followers on TikTok and Instagram.

Phineas's wobbling is caused by cerebellar hypoplasia – a condition that affects his coordination and balance. His owners, Drs Daria and Collin Anderson, who earlier this year joined the University's School of Biomedical Engineering and School of Medical Sciences from the United States, research epilepsy, disorders of the cerebellum, Parkinson's disease, and Tourette syndrome.

The Andersons' research focuses on human conditions and living with Phineas has helped mould the way they think about the cerebellum. He has become a fun part of their teaching when lecturing on movement and the cerebellum, and through social media has emerged as a source of inspiration for people living

Change makers honoured at **Volunteer Awards**

with rare neurological disorders. How Phineas came to be an influencer in neurological diseases hails back to 2016, when the Andersons were working as early career researchers at the University of Utah. Scrolling through social media one night the couple decided to adopt the runt of a litter who'd been diagnosed with cerebellar hypoplasia, otherwise known as "wobbly cat" syndrome - a condition similar to the disorders they study in humans.

Phineas the wobbly cat

Over the next couple years, Daria and Collin began chronicling Phineas's journey on Instagram, accumulating 100,000 followers within a month in 2018 after they posted a video of Phineas wobbling to his dinner with his typical, excited meows.

Phineas's condition shares many similarities with cerebellar disorders in humans. One such disorder affecting the cerebellum is Christianson Syndrome, a rare but severe disorder affecting approximately 1 in every 100,000 males. It presents in infancy with symptoms including intellectual disability, seizures, speech impairments and problems with balance and coordination - the latter mirroring Phineas's own

challenges. One of Collin's largest active research projects revolves around developing a gene therapy to treat Christianson Syndrome.

"I have been working on Christianson Syndrome for the last few years which has been an incredible experience," said Collin. "Given that it's a rare disorder, the research community is small and there are a lot of opportunities to interact with Christianson Syndrome support groups. It's been very motivating to get to meet families with boys and young men with Christianson Syndrome, and my life with Phin has helped me to make stronger connections with them."

Now the Andersons use Phin's Instagram account to make short videos about neuroscience for the general public. "We bring our passion for neuroscience education outside the classroom and onto the smart phones of millions of people around the world."

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







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

LOCALS

ELLE BRIND

LOCAL volunteers were honoured at Alexandria Town Hall on August 10. The room was full of incredible individuals who embody the theme of this year's National Volunteer Week: "We are the Change Makers." These dedicated volunteers have made outstanding contributions in Alexandria, Waterloo and Redfern, bringing people together and creating a better community.

At Counterpoint's 17th annual Community Volunteer Awards, 120 volunteers were recognised for their generous efforts. To celebrate their achievements, **Counterpoint Community** Services hosted an awards ceremony complete with a delicious lunch and live music. One individual stood out as the Volunteer of the Year (Founder's Choice Award). Congratulations to Phong Luu for his exceptional and diverse contributions. Phong has made a positive impact in so many ways – from his work with Peer Education,

Waterloo Redevelopment Group, Waterloo Recycle Workshop, Milk Crate Theatre, and his mouthwatering Watermelon Cakes! We acknowledge his dedication, personal growth and increased self-confidence. Together, we are making a difference. We deeply value the collective effort of volunteers from various organisations and community groups, and we are immensely proud of every one of you. SSH Elle Brind is Acting Factory Community **Centre Coordinator (Counterpoint Community Services).**

Blessing of the animals

EDITORIAL

SSH

FOR many years Monika Biernacki and a group of volunteers have been rescuing animals from council pounds. Monika's Rescues has up to 200 dogs for adoption at any time – plus cats, rabbits and guinea pigs. More than 500 animals are saved every year.

The organisation has a "no kill" policy so all pets are re-housed or stay for life with Monika's.

Monika says: "Many of our rescue dogs haven't had the happiest of starts, and our policy is to re-home them in an environment where they will become a loved member of the adopting family. For this reason, we look for families where the dog will be allowed access to at least part of the house while family members are home, and where the dog is able to sleep indoors."

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Animals rescued from the pound are microchipped, heartworm-tested and vaccinated by a veterinarian, who also gives them a basic health check and provides an estimate of age. The pets are desexed (if required) and given any additional veterinary treatment to return them to good health. Once the pets have completed 8-10 days quarantine, they stay at Monika's shelter at Ingleside until they are adopted or can be placed into a foster home.

A traditional Blessing of the Animals service will be held at South Sydney Uniting Church (56a Raglan St Waterloo) on Sunday October 1 (from 10am). The service, a commemoration of saints Francis and Clare of Assisi, invites people to bring their pets, symbols or photos of pets (all dogs to be kept on leashes please).

A collection will be taken in support of Monika's Rescues. Contact the Rev. Andrew Collis on 0438 719 470.



and help you increase your saving to cover important needs as they arise. Photo: Getty

Notice the savings

HUMAN AFFAIRS

GILL ROBSON

DO you like shiny stuff? I do too. I especially like craft materials and books – but I've also got 20 places to put every dollar I earn and sometimes savings get de-prioritised.

I've found that the day I get the money into my account is the best day to put some of it into savings. And I've found one way to prevent me from spending my savings when I feel I really need that shiny, shiny new knitting wool is to put it into a Notice saver account. my notice saver, and I can't access the money for 31 days. (Banks providing notice saver accounts for personal use will typically offer notice periods of either 31 days, 60 days or 90 days and you can access your savings without penalty once your period of 'notice' has passed.)

however much I can afford into

Every time I want to access the savings, I put a request in, wait my 31 days and I get my savings ... and if it happens that after a couple of days I think "I don't actually need \$200 worth of knitting wool" I can cancel my order straight away and my savings are intact. Good luck, and happy savings. ssm

www.gillspracticalbookkeeping.com

Gill Robson writes at



hoto montage: norrie mAy-welby

Support and nurture through culture and dance

FIRST PEOPLES

JODIE WELSH

SSH

MY name is Jodie Welsh and I am a proud Gamilaroi and Murrawarri woman born and raised on Gadigal country in the Redfern community. I am a mother of five fabulous children who stand strong in their culture and whom I draw my strength from.

I went to Canterbury Girls High School which I loved and embraced as it was a multicultural school of so many students. I got to learn about their cultures, and I also loved to share my Aboriginal culture.

While I loved school it wasn't until my senior years that I really started to take education seriously. I loved sports, arts and culture. Unfortunately, it was only in years 11 and 12 that I was able to undertake Aboriginal studies in high school and that was at Cleveland Street High and then Canterbury Boys High.

I was the student who pushed for Aboriginal studies in my school because while I was learning about other languages and cultures there was no opportunity for myself and other students to learn about the oldest living culture in the world.

My family, whose last name is Welsh, moved to Redfern from Gunnedah when my mother



lodie Welsh, founder and artistic director of Brolga Dance Academy Photo: Trent White

my Aunty Kerry was always involved in Aboriginal health and dental with the AMS. Kerry also worked in palliative care at Bankstown Hospital. My uncles were involved in the Aboriginal land rights movement and National Parks and Wildlife. I'm very proud of my family who are hardworking and who have strongly contributed to the local community. My passion has always been in arts and culture and the opportunity to empower and create pathways and opportunities for young people. I've put all my passions into creating a business that provides access to learning,

supports and nurtures our young people with culture and dance

Notice savers are a bit like term deposits but you can add money to them whenever you like. I put \$20, \$100 or

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Buses excessive and loud

LETTER

The constant noise of buses travelling up and down Raglan Street, Waterloo, is only suited to main roads. The buses are a noxious imposition not unlike a military convoy. The noise is heard even within our homes. It is abrasive to gentle inner-city folk. However convenient a route, it is the excessive frequency that constitutes a disturbance of the peace. Those responsible have denuded our lifestyle.

Richard McMahon Waterloo

was young. My grandfather, Raymond Welsh, was a very hard worker and was able to buy a six-bedroom home in Newtown, which was great for his large family. I draw my family and work ethic from loving and humble grandfather Raymond. Indeed, my family has been involved in Aboriginal and local politics in the Redfern area, which has also strongly influenced me and my journey. My mother Marjorie was one of the first Aboriginal trained nurses to work at the Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) and

in particular. I would love to see all young people engaged, learning and sharing our culture. This is the essence of Brolga Dance Academy. ss

brolgadanceacademy.com.au

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CITY OF SYDNEY 🚯 South Sydney Herald

This is part of 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.

The Review Arts & Culture in Your Neighbourhood





Book Review by Martin Langford



Walking in Stealth: After Pushkin **Noel Jeffs** MoshPit, 2022

Walking in Stealth is a book of meditation poems "written in the morning light with culture in mind" as Noel says in a prefatory note: "morning meditations as the sun rose over my right shoulder." They are written "after Pushkin" – the great 19th-century Russian poet - largely, as I read it, because Noel saw a way to frame his meditations using the slightly truncated lines – rhyming tetrameters - that Pushkin used. He didn't stay with them - perhaps the majority of the poems use different lines, many of them longer – but they were a way in, a starting point. Artists are always looking for starting points. And so are humans. Ways "into themselves": towards greater understanding, and, for believers, closer contact with God. There is a long history of religious meditation in verse, not only in English - George Herbert, Thomas Merton, William Everson - but in every language where people have framed and tried to

understand a spiritual life. All poems, however, are meditations, attempts to frame understandings of the things that the poet doesn't fully grasp, whatever is resistant, or evasive. Ways in.

Why the title, "Walking in Stealth"? It is, of course, a reference to walking quietly, to someone accustomed to thinking to themselves while the craziness goes on around them. But there is also, I think – whether consciously adopted or whether prompted by an unconscious link – a reference to the idea that the narratives we construct for ourselves are not always honest, that too often, they present not the truest, but the most convenient perspective - disguises we adopt because we think it offers the best chance of negotiating our gods and our societies without unwelcome confrontations. Hence the stealth: we are in fact hiding ourselves from ourselves the parts, at least, that we don't want anyone to see. Sometimes, we come across people who seem to manage their less-thancredible personae as schtick - as a permanent part of their performance – who turn an implausible self-portrait into what seems like a successful life-story. No one ever quite believes them, and most find them very annoying - if not downright corrupt. But while many accept that this is too strong an impulse in us, few are happy about it. One way of dismantling such stories is with poetry. Poetry – literature in general

- is one of the ways society has invented for scratching around behind the public face, for peering beneath the mask, for sorting the trustworthy from the delusional. It deals in alternative viewpoints, personal touchstones, the quiet, the uncomfortable and the solid. Poems can be a way of being naked - or at least, less preposterously dressed – to ourselves, to our others, to our gods.

One can't achieve this, however, simply by willing it to be so. We are complex creatures. We resist examination - even - perhaps particularly - self-examination. Some perspectives are stubborn and hard to shift. Some simply refuse to emerge into consciousness. So, when Noel says, "Tonight will I be chased through the mirrors again?" we know he is not talking about a light-hearted visit to the fun fair. When he says, "In morning light I begin again today beyond its pain", there is already an assumption that the day will be something to struggle with, that as well as the willingness to push onwards, there is an expectation that it may not be easy. And one way that Noel has chosen to confront these difficulties is with poetry: "I felt as though consumed, and in my bed rolled/And I cast my bread upon the waters of writing." "I have need", he says in another poem, "of my own words for release" - and while he is no doubt referring to the release occasioned by the creative impulse, I also read this as release from

the forces that lead one to walk in stealth, that lead one away from the simplest and truest acknowledgements.

Book Review by Stephen Webb



Shake Some Action: My Life in Music (and other stuff) **Stuart Coupe** Penguin Books, 2023, \$35

For 40 years Stuart Coupe has been an acquaintance, interview subject and, thanks to many books and his prolific social media activity, a constant companion. So this review is biased:

Coupe is a hero of mine. We have lived parallel lives. radio presenter, publicist and tour promoter - many as one to envy, some as a celebrated failure. In addition to music, he has two-timed with crime fiction, prominent as a book reviewer, founder and editor of Mean Streets magazine and co-founder of the Ned Kelly Awards.

His story of passionate obsessions is a rollercoaster ride that alternately makes you laugh and wince. Today, having turned away from some other bad habits, he's still a music junkie.

At one of the many publicity events since the book was published, responding to a question about what could be done about the reportedly diminished live music scene in Sydney (something to which he referred in his book), Coupe said, "Go out more.

"I don't think it is as bad as people think it is. I think it is really healthy."

He said there was a tendency to romanticise the late '70s to early '90s and that Sydney didn't suffer for a lack Izzy n The Profit at Hustle & Flow Bar in Redfern on Thursday

The show, Izzy's 40th birthday jam, featured DJ Maniac, Beyond Dope, Oakbridge & Mighty Ash with beats by Deej Aye and marked the 10th anniversary of Izzy n The Profit's album Pulling Strings (2013).

Check out latest release: 'Strain' ft. DJ Maniac (Bandcamp). Unreleased demos and remixes

Rock The Block every Thursday 7pm-12am at Hustle & Flow.

making amends for the enormous promotional mistakes he self-effacingly documents in his book.)

There's lots of justifiable name-dropping in Shake Some Action: Roadrunner, RAM, Sun Herald, National Times, Dolly, Dylan, Hoodoo Gurus, Paul Kelly, Lucinda Williams, Link Wray, Harry Dean Stanton, Rosanne Cash, Mary-Chapin Carpenter, Lawrence Block, Elmore Leonard, PJ O'Rourke, The Clash, The Cramps.

And Coupe says he is still the same crazy fan. And who wouldn't be after hanging out with Springsteen in Paris and seeing him play live dozens of times, and Jagger, Cohen, Gudinski, Brian Wilson, Larry Flynt, Chris Whitley, Graham Parker, Steve Kilbey, Neil Diamond ...

The book is easy to read. Coupe's style is to write like he is speaking to you – just to you (something he learned from radio and the music writers he admired).

Even though he's become

He has said and done much of which I am extremely jealous and some with which I fiercely disagree. If you are a music obsessive like me you will love this book. From age 11, Coupe says, he has wanted to share his love of songs with others. And though there were "moments of arrogance" in his 20s when he wrote "some caustic reviews" he now says, if people are listening to music that matters to them, he's cool with that. Coupe has worked as a journalist, author, editor, manager, record label director,

of venues. The biggest problem was that people didn't go. Referring to Australian folk artist Grace Cummings and singer and guitarist Cash Savage, he said seeing those artists playing in Sydney was just as life-affirming and exciting as anything in the halcyon years of the Sydney music scene. "I don't buy into the 'music isn't as good as it used to be'. There is so much great Australian and international exciting music." (Keep in mind that Coupe is still a music publicist

a music lush in his old age and I still prefer my music writers to educate and share their aesthetics – and to be willing (compelled) to write caustic reviews when required - Coupe was and remains a supremely knowledgeable and tasteful guide to the music that matters. And he makes you think about what you like - or don't like - and why. If you are interested in music new and old, read this book, listen to Coupe on FBi and 2SER, and follow him on Facebook. Jump aboard his long, strange trip.

Theatre Review by Catherine Skipper



The Hollow **Playwright: Agatha Christie Director: Molly Haddon Genesian Theatre** August 19 to September 23, 2023

The Genesian always offers a very pleasant and entertaining evening at the theatre. The opening night of Agatha Christie's The Hollow was no exception starting with a discreet glass of champagne and ending with genuinely appreciative applause without yahooing. Under Molly Haddon's direction, Agatha Christie's "country house murder" beautifully indulges our nostalgia for a partly imaginary past while allowing its major characters complex motivation.

The play takes place in the one setting, the Garden Room of the Hollow, Sir Henry Angkatell's house. Designed by Haddon, the room, painted a fresh sky blue, creates a sense of being close to the outdoors supported by glass doors looking onto a vine-clad wall. The room, pleasant as it is, is dominated by a painting of Ainswick which hangs above the fireplace, the former grand home of the charmingly muddled Lady Lucy Angkatell (Penny Day). Several of the guests who assemble for the weekend have different and deeply emotional connections to Ainswick.

Lady Lucy regrets the loss of Ainswick to Edward Angkatell (Thomas Southwell) as the estate was entailed to the male line while the unconfident and lovelorn Edward feels inadequate to the task. An obviously troubled Henrietta Angkatell (Jess Davis), an up-andcoming sculptor, prefers not to remember her childhood memories of Ainswick when she was happy, while Midge (Cariad Weitnauer) determined to earn her own living as a shop assistant – dreams of happy times spent at Ainswick to help her survive. Sir Henry (Vincent O'Neil) is mostly and ineptly concerned that everyone gets on together.

Into the mix come the invited guests from outside the Angkatell family: the successful but egotistical Dr John Cristow (Chad Traupmann) and his devoted wife Gerda (Emily Saint Smith), and an invader, glamorous Veronica Craye (Alannah Robertson). Craye intends to revive her previous romantic relationship with Cristow and, at first, it seems he might be tempted. A difficult situation, as Cristow is having an affair with Henrietta, who while she has no illusions about him, is unable to resist him sexually. Nevertheless, as a strong and truthful woman she is unhappy with herself. When Cristow is murdered, Inspector Colquhoun (also, Traupmann with an admirable

Robertson) and the loyal close-

diversion as does an egg-basket, and there is no lack of suspects. When the truth is out, it is more a pitiable revelation than a big reveal but there yet remains a little and ironic surprise.

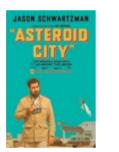
The actors are uniformly good. Jess Davis is excellent as an intelligent woman trapped by a passion she may despise. Chad Traupmann makes an unlikeable but possibly redeemable Cristow and a likeable and canny Inspector. Emily Smith gives Gerda the right degree of helpless dependency. Penny Day is convincing and charming as a woman who uses vagueness as a shield and Weitnauer is very appealing as a young woman who finds happiness at last.

Christie remains enjoyable and is most enjoyable when it is presented as an escape into another time and how good costumes (Susan Carveth) can convey era - and when it is faithful to the original text. An exception would be the addition of lively and apposite songs to the present performance.

Film Reviews by Lindsay Cohen



Barbie **Director: Greta Gerwig** Starring: Margot Robbie, Ryan Gosling, Issa Rae, Will Ferrell **Genre: Plastic fantastic**



Asteroid City **Director: Wes Anderson Starring: Lots of Hollywood A-listers Genre: Meteor howler**

As an adult male with teenage boys, the idea of seeing Barbie seemed a bit odd. We knew nothing about the tall skinny blonde doll or any of the other dolls, the houses, the vehicles or any of the other plastic Mattel toys.

For me, seeing Barbie was more about being a movie critic and being on trend, though admittedly I am yet to see Oppenheimer. So it was quite a pleasant surprise to see that

I generally really enjoyed the film.

Full credit goes to Mattel for

am told is popular with teenagers. And it's funny. Okay, there aren't

many laugh-out-loud moments but the self-deprecation, over-thetop performances by pretty much everyone and clever meshing of human domestic activities with doll houses and their appliances created plenty of smirks.

From a purely aesthetic perspective, the comparison with Wes Anderson's Asteroid City is real - from the colour palettes to the set designs. But Asteroid City's story lines don't gel and they wander in and out. It is also difficult to follow and as a movie-goer you can't help but be distracted as you try to spot the Hollywood superstars that make cameo appearances, including, ironically, Margot Robbie.

Barbie is full of amusing piss-takes and subtle social commentary. Asteroid City is generally boring and a failed attempt at a modern take on 1950s human and alien perceptions. Only Wes Anderson purists will like Asteroid City. Even impurists will like Barbie! Ratings

Barbie: Four perfect faces. Asteroid City: Two imperfect storylines.

Book Review by Melinda Kearns



Orphia and Eurydicius Elyse John Harper Collins, 2023, \$32.99

Orphia, in Elyse John's debut novel, is prepared to live (and die) for love and poetry. Elyse John, an Australian novelist and poet, has taken the Greek legend of Orpheus and Eurydice, made the protagonist of her novel female, and reinvented the world that she inhabits by reconsidering how these fundamental aspects of our Western culture are shaped by male perspectives.

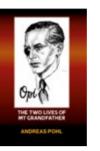
Orphia, at the beginning of the novel, is training as a warrior on the small Whispering Isle, under the protection of her father, Apollo, and enjoying the company of Jason who later enlists her as one of the Argonauts.

She fleetingly meets the shield maker Eurydicius, who strives to only protect and nurture in opposition to the masculine figures of aggression surrounding Orphia including Zeus and Hades. When King Dorus objects to her humiliation of his son, Ixion, he tells Apollo that Orphia is no longer welcome on the island and in return, Apollo torches the whole place. Orphia, in addition to her warrior self, longs to be a poet which she only comes to understand when she meets her mother, the muse Calliope. Apollo took the baby Orphia from her mother and did not reveal her true ancestry, hiding the true source of her feminine strength. Orphia embraces the many possibilities that her identity offers her, training with the muses and using her gifts of poetry to achieve strength, beauty

and fame as a poet. Eventually she is reunited with Eurydicius, who shows her a path to equal love, where they can both explore all aspects of their identity, and neither individual is possession or pursuer.

Elyse John has reinvited this classic tale to consider ideas about gender, identity and sexuality and how ideas about love, heroism and virtue derived from mythology need to be overturned to allow humanity to fully achieve artistic success and fulfillment through love.

Book Review by Catherine DeMayo



Opi: The Two Lives of My Grandfather Andreas Pohl Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2023, \$39.99

"My grandfather was the best grandfather a child could wish for. He ... was also a Nazi."

So begins Opi: The Two Lives of My Grandfather by Andreas Pohl, who was born in Germany and moved to Australia in the 1980s. Pohl and his wife Tracey Lister have lived in Vietnam and published several books on Vietnamese cuisine.

Opi is a thought-provoking book that raises questions about guilt, responsibility, atonement and more.

As Pohl becomes aware of Germany's history, he finds it harder to reconcile his beloved grandfather (christened Friedrich Wilhelm) with the young ardent Nazi.

Opi was not a war criminal; he did not preside over selections for the gas chambers, murder prisoners of war or machine gun civilians. He was, however, a propagandist for the Third Reich (a widely respected one) and, later, a soldier in its army whose short military career was ended by injury.

The author grapples with several questions: Why was Opi so easily drawn to Nazi ideology? After the defeat of Germany, when - why did his perspective change? How should the knowledge of a beloved family member's past change the way we feel about him or her?

The first question is virtually impossible to answer. Opi himself can't really answer satisfactorily, citing the timing of his birth and the nearly seamless transition from quasimilitary church-based youth group to Hitler Youth. The other questions are more pertinent, and universal. However one judges the youthful Opi, he clearly grappled with his past and made gestures of atonement. He concluded after the war that his association with Nazism should make him "forfeit his right to face an audience as a writer". By the early 1950s, Opi gave up writing fiction.

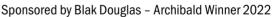
While a fascinating story of one man's response to a shameful past, Pohl's writing at times would have been improved by judicious editing. His descriptions of Opi's works of fiction, while useful in illuminating the ideology they advance, are more detailed than this reviewer found necessary.

Pohl recounts, from notes found after Opi's death, the story of the family's desperate exodus from Sudetenland at the end of the war. Petrified (for good reason) of being stuck in the Russian-occupied zone, Opi and his family join thousands of panicked Germans in a quest to reach the American zone. Pohl's mother, age six at the time, remembers this ordeal.

Despite his obvious affection for Opi, Pohl is a clear-headed and critical analyst. He describes Opi's account as "both illuminating and infuriating. The mixture of political naivety, self-pity and lack of awareness of what the Nazis did in the preceding years is appalling."

Yet Opi's draft memoir, found by Pohl after his grandfather's death, described his evolution.

"My real life did not end in 1945 ... what I learned and had to eventually acknowledge as the truth suffocated all will to live, because month by month, it became clearer and clearer. Guilty, guilty, guilty. Kyrie Eleison. Auschwitz, Auschwitz."





the greatest marketing exercise in history, maybe apart from Red Bull's ubiquitous sporting presence. And special note to the writers for successfully tiptoeing along all sorts of lines, from cleverly packaged Mattel selfcriticism, to genital references, sexism and macho male music. Scottish accent) and Sergeant Penny The film also operates at many (Natalie Reid) have a formidable task. different generational levels, from A likeable garrulous maid, Doris (also Gen-X movie references like 2001: A Space Odyssey and Monty mouthed housekeeper, Mrs Gudgeon Python films, actors well-known to (Emily Saint Smith) provide a worthy 20-somethings, and music which I ÷

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.

Send entries to Blak & Blu, Orchard Gallery, PO Box 3288 Redfern NSW 2016 (please include stamped self-addressed envelope so we can return your work). Entries close NOVEMBER 3, 2023.

Please complete the online Entry Form: www.bit.ly/47XzuP3



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



The South Sydney District Junior Rugby Football League is an affiliation of junior clubs in the inner-southern and south-eastern suburbs. It was fantastic to see the A-grade grand final at Redfern Oval on Sunday August 27. The game was an epic contest between the Matraville Tigers (2022 premiers) and the mighty Redfern All Blacks. Congratulations to Redfern who won in the final minute with a brilliant try to winger O'Shay Tyerman – the play was set up superbly by second rower Jay Belgrove who landed a perfect chip and chase before slipping the ball to Tyerman. The final score: 20-18. In other rugby league news, the Rabbitohs have failed to make the finals – a confounding and disappointing end to the season. Photo: Paul Bramble



On August 12, anxious Sydneysiders were transfixed during the penalty shootout that ultimately saw the Matildas beat France 7-6, claiming the biggest win in their history, and reaching the Women's World Cup semi-finals for the first time. Photo: Michelle Haywood



Strengthening the local community

One of the things we pride ourselves on at NCIE Fitness and Aquatics is the role we play in strengthening the local community. It is our top priority, even higher than our efforts to help members stay fit and healthy. There is a sense of camaraderie that magically appears when a group of like-minded people are all working together towards a shared goal, similar to that which can be found in a sporting club or charity organisation.

The benefits to individuals are obvious, supporting their mental health alongside their physical development, but the advantages are far more widespread. NCIE is a hub, one of the keystones holding the local community together. You can see it at our various events, such as the monthly barbecue we host, when a diverse group of people come together for a great time. It's even more obvious at our annual NAIDOC celebration, which this year was attended by more than 2,000 people.

Volunteers' News

PAT CLARKE

By the time this goes to print, spring will be upon us. My trip to Queensland last month turned into a bit of a disaster as my friend and travelling companion and I both caught some particularly nasty virus, although we did manage to catch up with friends, who fortunately didn't catch it.

While in Cairns I visited the Cairns Art Gallery, where the works of three First Nations artists were on display: Judy Watson (*Bagging Colonialism*) Simone Arnol (*seeRED*) and Archie Moore (*Pillors of Democracy*). All three told stories of various aspects of ill-treatment and colonialism with a high degree of poignancy, and some humour. Archie Moore has been chosen as Australia's entrant in the 2024 Venice Biennale.

Congratulations SSH volunteers

Once again the *SSH* has won a local Volunteer Award, presented on August 11 at Alexandria Town Hall. Thanks as always to our wonderful volunteers, and all award recipients.

AHC's new art gallery

The Aboriginal Housing Company opened a new art gallery on The Block on July 25, as part of its 50th anniversary and completion of the Pemulwuy project. All welcome to visit the gallery and the historical works on display.

Thanks

A big thanks to *SSH* photographer Michelle Haywood who has been very active in the community – at The Block, following excited Matildas supporters, Greyhound Adoption Day and Vietnam Veterans 50th commemoration of withdrawal of Australian troops from Vietnam.

BlaQ Together Day – September 23, NCIE, 11am-3pm

A community event bringing together LGBTQ+SB Mob, and activities on the day include community services, BBQ, fitness sessions and more. At the NCIE (180 George Street, Redfern). BlaQ Aboriginal Corporation can be found on Facebook, Instagram and www.blaq.org.au

Ron Williams Community Centre 5-11 Kepos Street, Redfern

Free Haircuts with Volunteer Rano on September 25 from 10am-2pm. Bookings are essential: Jchen2@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.qu

Balance Bike School Holiday Clinic at Sydney Park

Cycling Centre – September 25-29, from 9am-11am Suitable for 3–8-year-olds. This is a free event, just turn up to register with the instructors.

Significant Dates for September 2023

Sep 1-30 – Save the Koala Month Sep 12 – National Bilby Day Sep 14 – RUOK Day Sep 19-25 – International Deaf Week Sep 25 – Oct 6 – NSW School Holidays

SSH

Until next time, Pat Clarke volunteers@ssh.com.au



We live in a society of increasing isolation, each of us siloed to varying degrees from our neighbours. An organisation like NCIE is perfectly designed to break down the walls of separation, giving you the chance to meet new people and become part of a larger family.

Hope to see you soon!

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

