

# the South Sydney Herald

Number Two Hundred and Forty Four ~ February 2025

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Dean Brady on the Yabun main stage, January 26. Photo: Michelle Haywood

## 'A legend in the making'

### FIRST PEOPLES

ANDREW COLLIS

**GADIGAL LAND:** Introduced as "a legend in the making", Dean Brady takes to the Yabun festival stage – effortlessly cool, loose shirt, broad smile.

It's hot. The mood is joyous. Yabun is the place to be. Recipient of the 2023 First Nations Emerging Career Development Award as well as a 2024 Dreaming Award (Creative Australia), the 21-year-old First Nations and Zimbabwean singer-songwriter is based in Meanjin (Brisbane). His debut single, "Falling",

is clearly a crowd favourite – a gorgeous R&B song reminiscent of the Motown era, with bass-heavy off-kilter beats in the manner of contemporary producers like Kaytranada and Anderson Paak. We sing along: "What if we fall in love ...". Brady's commitment to craft is evident. His cool is

accompanied by a natural stage presence. He clearly enjoys performing. At one point, he turns to his bandmates and says, "I really love that one!" The sense of fun is infectious. Descended from the Gugu Yalanji and Birrigubba people and the Matabele Zimbabwean people, Dean Brady was born into a musical household. His parents were both members of the legendary "outback Motown" group Banawurun, and he grew up hearing their band practise

in the living room and listening to his mother singing old soul songs as she cooked dinner. As a child, he would perform Michael Jackson songs for friends and family, obsessing over the pop icon's moves and sound, and even at a young age was tracing a lineage of soul singers that, eventually, would all be woven into his own musical DNA: Stevie, Marvin, Frank Sinatra, Usher. Going to a Justin Bieber concert at a formative age flicked a switch in him.

SSH



Joe Ambour outside his store in Redfern Street. Photo: Lucy Gleeson

## Ambour Hardware - closing up shop

### LOCALS

LUCY GLEESON

**REDFERN:** As reported in our December issue, Ambour Hardware will soon close its doors. After 55 years of serving the community, Joe and Marie Ambour are retiring.

Joe is seeking someone who would like to take on the

business and continue to operate as a local hardware store. He will start discounting items at the beginning of February. The SSH has received multiple emails from locals expressing their appreciation to Joe and Marie. Ambour Hardware means a lot to residents and workers in the area. Several people commented on Joe's expertise and

generosity – always willing to discuss a project or help with repairs. Marie's attention to detail goes hand in hand with patience and good humour. We will all miss Joe and Marie. Of course, we wish them every happiness in retirement.

SSH

If you have any inquiries about the premises or business, or regarding purchase of stock, please contact Joe at the store or phone (02) 8937 0556.

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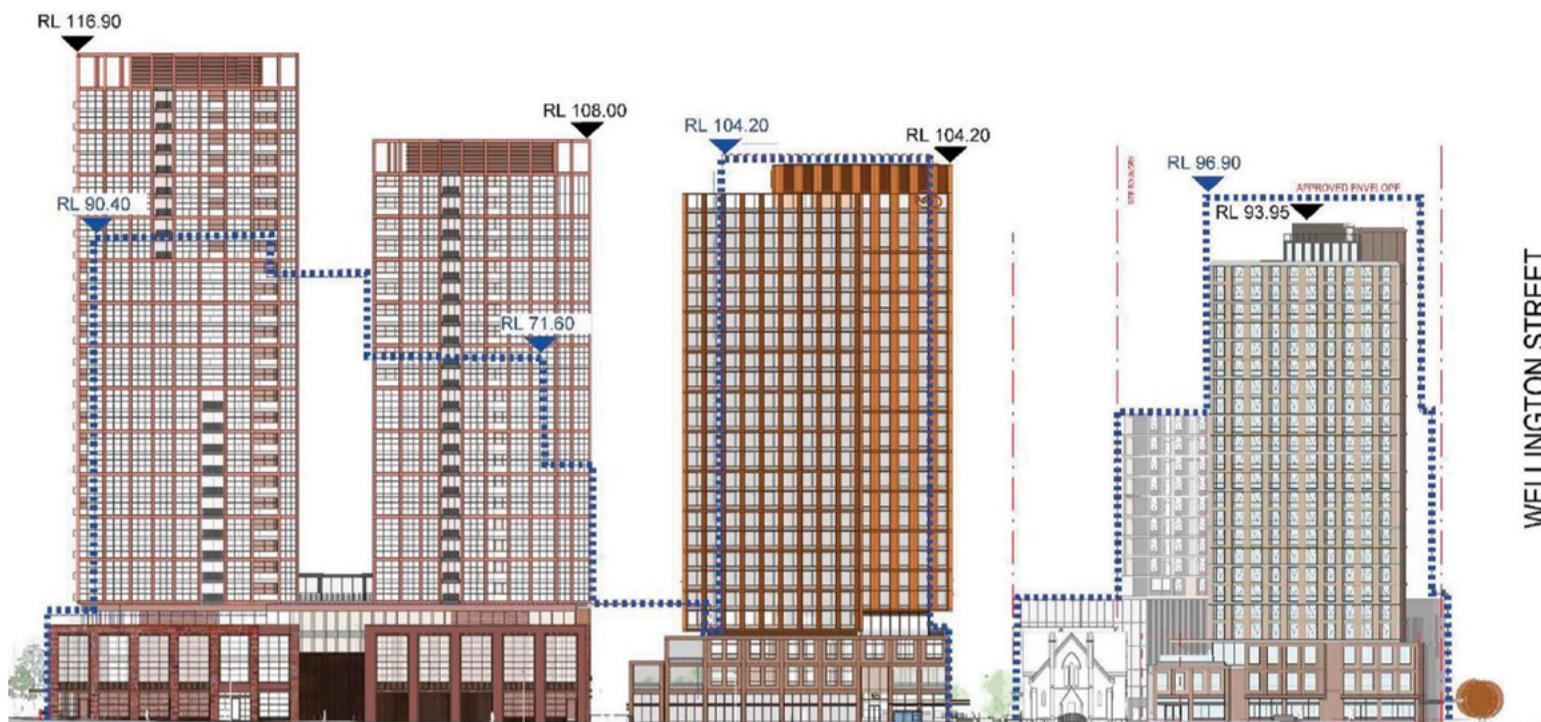
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Proposed Second Amending Concept compared with current approved height (dotted blue). Image: Bates Smart

# Waterloo Metro changes threaten park

## URBAN DESIGN

Geoff Turnbull

**THE developer of the over-station development at Waterloo Metro wants to change the approved plan for the site by introducing a fourth tower and increasing the height of the northern building. These combined changes will have a significant shadow impact**

**on the new park approved for east of Cope Street and the station development.**

The developer argues the approved commercial development is no longer viable and wants to revert to residential. While not asking for extra floor space, the developer needs taller buildings to achieve residential solar access. Rather than revert to the earlier residential plan

the developer wants to add an extra co-living building, suitable for student housing.

The changes would add 448 co-living units in the new tower in addition to the 474 co-living units in the southern building. There would be 50 additional market units and to maintain the required 5 per cent affordable housing units, an increase of 16 affordable units.

An overview can be found in

"Waterloo Second Amending Concept DA\_Scoping\_Dec24" on the NSW Planning Portal. The developer will further develop their plans with a view to a formal exhibition later this year. REDWatch will organise a community meeting for the developer to explain their proposal.

Geoff Turnbull is the Spokesperson for REDWatch.

# Through the lens – summer in South Sydney and beyond

Photographer Michelle Haywood captures the moments that matter – joyful, poignant ...



Holocaust survivors, their families, members of the Jewish community and dignitaries commemorated the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. For Australia's Jewish community, the past weeks have been overshadowed by acts of vandalism, violence and personal-targeting that eerily hark back to the pogroms and actions against the Jews of Europe that led to the Holocaust. The Great Synagogue, Sydney, January 27.



The Genesian Theatre has a new home at 2B Gordon Street, Rozelle. Bishop Danny Meagher officially opened the new 130-seat venue – built in the parish hall of St Joseph's, next to the Sydney Community College.



When Prabodh Malhotra (centre) took his seat at the SCG on January 3, he could have been excused for taking his time to get up. The retired Melbourne economist, 71, had just walked the final steps of a 1,000km, 52-day trek between the Melbourne Cricket Ground and Sydney Cricket Ground to raise funds for the McGrath Foundation.



Wayside Chapel has provided unconditional love, care, and support for people on and around the streets of Kings Cross and Bondi since 1964. The Rev. Jon Owen, CEO and Pastor, pictured Christmas Day 2024, says: 'Join me on what we're calling the Cheeky Challenge this Valentine's Day!' Visit <https://shorturl.at/hXCTI>.

# TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

## Federal Member for Sydney



*Dear SSH readers*

Happy New Year 2025!

At the next election I will be campaigning to be your federal representative in the Albanese Labor Government.

We've made some good progress getting inflation down and wages up and rolling out responsible cost of living relief, but we know people are still under pressure.

### We are:

- Supporting higher wages – the minimum wage is up \$7,000.
- Delivering tax cuts for all 13.6 million taxpayers.
- Building a universal early education system providing 3 free days of care a week, and building 160 centres in areas of need.
- Increasing childcare subsidy rates and limiting fee increases.
- Energy bill relief for 10 million households and 1 million small businesses.
- Expanding Paid Parental Leave.
- Higher wages for aged care and childcare workers.
- Tripling Medicare bulk billing incentives and lowering the cost of PBS medicines.
- Delivering 500,000 free TAFE places.
- Helping small business by extending the instant asset write-off and improving payment times.
- Fairer supermarket prices.
- Cutting HECs debt by another 20% on top of the \$3 billion already wiped from accounts.
- Opening more than 30 Medicare Mental Health Centres providing free mental health care to everyone who walks through the door - with more to come.
- Delivering clean, cheap, reliable renewable electricity.
- Making EVs cheaper.
- Landmark legislation to properly fund public schools plus \$16 billion extra.
- \$32 billion housing plan – more help to rent or buy.
- New laws to make multinationals pay their fair share of tax.

In contrast, Peter Dutton's Coalition has blocked cost of living help at every turn and when he and the Coalition were last in Government they undermined Medicare and wages.

### We have also:

- Created the National Anti-Corruption Commission which has 29 investigations afoot and five matters before the court.
- Legislated a minimum age of 16 years for social media.
- Increased funding to the ABC and SBS.
- Provided over 60 organisations in Sydney with \$3.6 million in community, volunteering and other funding this year.

**We know Australians are still under pressure.** There's still more to do and plenty to lose if we don't do more. We will stay focused on helping Australians however we can with cost of living challenges.

### Volunteer Grants

The 2024-2025 volunteer grants, for amounts between \$1000 and \$5000 to help community organisations support their volunteers, are now open. Not-for-profit organisations can apply for funding to cover insurance and communication purchases including computers, internet and software subscriptions. Expressions of Interest (EOI) must be returned to my office by 5pm Friday 15 January 2025. **Contact my office for an EOI form.**

### Stronger Communities Funding

The Albanese Government is funding local infrastructure and essential community equipment to ensure Australia's communities are even better places to live. Every federal electorate will receive \$150,000 under the program. These funds can be allocated towards up to 20 projects, with individual grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000.



This program supports local infrastructure projects informed by local priorities.

### Protecting the environment

The Albanese Labor Government is doing more than ever to protect and restore our environment.

- We've protected an extra 70 million hectares of Australia's land and oceans – an area bigger than Italy and Germany combined.
- We've delivered Australia's first national environmental chemicals standards – banning or ensuring the safe use of 900 industrial chemicals, including 'forever chemicals' such as PFOS, PFOA and PFHxS, from 1 July 2025.
- I became the first Environment Minister in Australian history to block a coal mine due to unacceptable risks to the Great Barrier Reef.
- We're boosting recycling by more than 1.3 million tonnes a year and stopping paper and soft plastics from going to landfill.
- We've put net zero emissions into law and approved almost 70 renewable energy projects, enough to power over 7 million homes.
- We've delivered a national framework for a circular economy by 2035.

### And so much more.

You can find out more about the work we're doing here



*Tanya*

# TANYA PLIBERSEK MP

## Federal Member for Sydney

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**JENNY LEONG MP**  
MEMBER FOR NEWTOWN



## Public education should be fully publicly funded

No one should have to make difficult decisions about how to pay for their children's public education.

We love our local public schools, and have such appreciation for all of the teachers and staff who work in them - as well as the P&Cs that go above and beyond to raise funds - and know that at the moment it's getting harder and harder for classrooms running on dwindling budgets.

The Federal Labor Government continues to hand out billions in public funds to wealthy private schools, while the NSW Government isn't providing our public schools with the funding needed – meaning that so many costs are passed on to families who are already struggling to make ends meet.

We know that too many families are being asked to pay for essentials like excursions, stationary, sports, and tech – all of which should be funded by the government in our public schools.

Sending your child to school shouldn't mean that you are out of pocket paying for essentials. We could address these issues today by ending the heavy subsidies to wealthy private schools, and fully funding public education.

But while we keep pushing for this systemic change, we want to offer some immediate relief to ease the pressure families are facing.

The Newtown electorate office is currently offering free back to school packs for local children. They include a backpack, pencil case, pens, highlighters, sharpie, ruler, pencils, notebook, textas, eraser, sharpener, antibacterial wipes, and tissues. Packs are available for parents and school kids who live in our electorate to collect. There's no eligibility criteria: just call ahead on (02) 9517 2800 to make sure we still have some available.

We'd also love to hear how much parents in our community are expecting to pay for their children's public education this year: what are the hidden and not-so-hidden costs? .

Scan the QR code below or visit [jennyleong.org/backtoschool2025](http://jennyleong.org/backtoschool2025) to take our short 5-minute survey – we'll use this information to inform our campaign to make sure public schools are fully funded.



Authorised by Jenny Leong MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.



University of Sydney student Caleb Niethe travelled to Asia while studying. Photo: Supplied

# Scholarship recipients working to shape Sydney

### SPONSORED

MARK SCOTT

**STILL fresh in their careers, Lendlease Bradfield Urbanisation Scholarship recipients Caleb Niethe and James Kapaniris remain committed to blue-sky thinking about the Harbour City.**

James Kapaniris never imagined his time at the University of Sydney would see him working on a project extracting methane from recaptured animal waste.

Initially enrolling to study law and commerce, the Dalyell Scholar took an interdisciplinary course that gave him the opportunity to work from Australia with Engineers Without Borders in Cambodia.

Soon after, he listened to his gut and swapped law for civil engineering, where his Barcelona-inspired “superblock” housing design later saw him land the 2019 Lendlease Bradfield Urbanisation Scholarship.

“The scholarship allowed me to focus more on my studies and take up internship opportunities as well as a summer exchange program at the London School of Economics, and from there I travelled to Barcelona,” James said.

“It was special and exciting to be in the city that inspired me. I love Sydney, it's one of the best places on earth, but we can still learn from other cities to take us from a 9-out-of-10 to an 11-out-of-10.”

Since graduating with a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) and Bachelor of Commerce last year, James has put both his degrees to good use with his role in Aurecon's infrastructure advisory

team. He's currently working on the Namabunda Farm Cultural Centre on behalf of the Bundjalung Tribal Society, which was recently awarded Project of the Year by the NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce.

Similarly thriving is Bachelor of Design in Architecture (Honours) and Master of Architecture graduate Caleb Niethe, who is working on a modular construction project at Cox Architecture.

He modelled a similar (albeit more futuristic) prefabricated “building block” design that saw him awarded the Lendlease Bradfield Urbanisation Scholarship in 2017.

“The scholarship shaped my university experience and my career. My role at Lendlease exposed me to a range of complex challenges in the construction industry and gave me the opportunity to work on innovative solutions,” Caleb said.

“The financial support enabled me to travel to Asia, the United States and Europe, which wouldn't have been possible otherwise. It changed my perspective and gave me an increased appreciation of Sydney and a greater understanding of the unique culture here, and how that impacts our architecture.”

The fellow scholarship recipients remain idealistic about Sydney's potential for increased housing density and improved affordability without sacrificing the city's high standards of living.

For James, the answer is balance: “Our current approach is all-or-nothing. We have 50-storey apartment buildings in one

suburb and single-storey homes 100 metres from a train station the next suburb over.

“We need to make it more attractive for developers to build medium-density, multipurpose projects with family-friendly apartments, not just studios and one-bedders. It's about getting the right type of housing built in the right places,” James said.

Caleb believes a broader cultural shift is needed to see housing as public infrastructure rather than just an investment vessel.

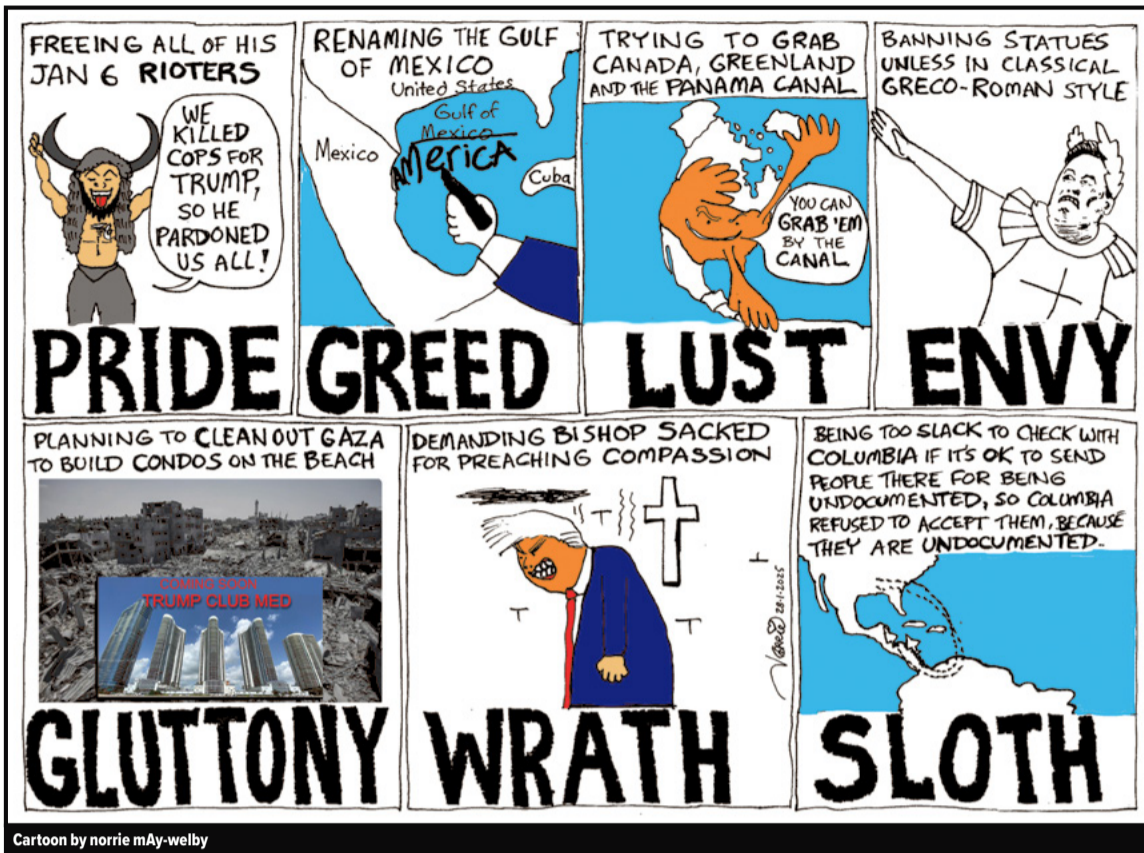
“The Sydney Metro is a powerful example of a city seeing the benefits of major public infrastructure realised from long-term vision. Public housing stock and public transport go hand in hand, and there's room in our current climate to shift our thinking about housing as public infrastructure,” he said.

Caleb is also passionate about retaining spaces for culture and the arts, and creating public spaces that amplify rather than distract from Sydney's natural beauty.

“Sydney is a great city by almost every metric, but the risk of all modern cities is we create a hermetic smoothness. We need to protect local spaces for culture and the arts, which are so important for the community, social cohesion, the local economy and enjoyable living.”



Authorised by Vice-Chancellor and President Prof. Mark Scott.  
Enquiries: 9351 2000  
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Cartoon by norrie mAy-welby

# Sustainable news delivery and social enterprise

## EDITORIAL

SSH

**THERE are challenges ahead for a community newspaper like the SSH. How to sustain our news delivery and social enterprise? How to reach readers old and new?**

We are focused on building a versatile editorial team for 2025 and beyond, exploring possibilities for community events and sponsorship. There are exciting opportunities

for innovative digital storytelling (podcasts, profiles, interviews, reviews) – multimedia and mutually supportive projects.

One exciting project will be a second series of First Peoples Profiles, curated by Auntie Norma Ingram, in partnership with the City of Sydney. This year's profiles will feature local Aboriginal businesses.

After 15 years as a volunteer, in recent years as assistant editor and member of the SSH working group, Louisa Dyce has resigned. Louisa's contributions have included writing and

editing, strategic planning and hospitality, promotion and distribution – long hours on the road helping to deliver the papers each month. We acknowledge her countless acts of generosity and care – for the paper, fellow volunteers as well as the community. Thank you, Louisa. We will miss you.

Whatever the challenges, the SSH exists only because of the positive and passionate contributions of volunteers like Louisa.

Thanks to all our volunteers for their commitments in 2025. SSH

# Vale Margaret Mary Gooley rsj (1929-2025)

## LOCALS

MARCELLE HOFF

**A longtime friend, Sister Margaret Gooley, died on January 19.**

I met her when I lived in Pymont. Together with Sister Teresa Noon she moved to Ultimo in 1982, when it was a tough and neglected area. For 30 years they sought to confront poverty and marginalisation by a “ministry of walking and talking”. They were open to all and

worked closely with Ultimo Mustard Seed Uniting Church. They often told me they were praying for me.

I marvelled at the fact that they were able to operate independently, despite having taken a vow of obedience and being ruled by a mob of patriarchs.

Sister Margaret was renowned for her work with prisoners from Parramatta and Long Bay gaols. She wrote to, visited, brought books for, and comforted inmates there.

On one occasion Margaret visited a woman from Hong Kong who had been accused of

drug running. The woman was convicted and, after completing her sentence, returned to Hong Kong. In gratitude she invited Sisters Margaret and Teresa to Hong Kong. They usually didn't take holidays but this time they went. They had a great time and, typically, visited a refugee camp.

The nuns were a fixture at the Lord Wolseley Hotel on Friday nights, talking to patrons and drawing the raffle that supported their work. Margaret's courageous, gentle and compassionate nature will be sorely missed. Rest in peace. SSH

# Reach out

## RELIGION & ETHICS

### PHILOSOPHIA AT HOME

**DAYS ago, I was reminded that sometimes when you most need it, you can get a break – if you just reach out and seize the moment.**

A Facebook friend posted that she needed help packing up the contents of the house she'd lived and worked in for 40 years, because it was sold – vacant possession was in two weeks and she was snowed under and panicking.

The house, tucked into a rainforest valley in the Gordon area of the North Shore, is a tear-down: a rambling, century-old wooden cottage that's been extended back and down at least twice, and now includes two ample bedrooms, two lounge areas and four balconies, an office corner and other workspaces, a grand piano, dining for eight, a spa room, a full recording studio housing an historic desk – and 30 or 40 display cabinets, dressers, sideboards and occasional tables of varying sizes and vintages, crowded with countless fascinating objects, from early transformers and scientific glassware to clocks, bowls, figurines, vases, vintage film equipment, exquisite weighing scales, trumpet-speakered turntables, old records, books and magazines, maps and paintings and posters and photographs, and lamps made of giant shells or translucent, hand-painted hide.

Everywhere you turn, there's more amazing stuff; the heritage of several varied lives and generations – it's a beautiful,

valuable and possibly significant collection. Mostly it will go into storage – plans for an exciting new venture are afoot.

Because it's time: one corner of the house sags noticeably; there are ducks nesting in the parlour fireplace; birds of all sorts hang about the verandas and flit (or in the cockies' case, strut and flap) through the open glass doors of the lounge area and across the room to the kitchen veranda, sometimes via a quick food-snatch from the table.

Where the ducks track from fireplace to door, the polished wood floors are speckled with bird shit. Termites are eating the place from the ground up, and on the walls at the back, 20 metres above the garden that falls to a rippling creek, cockatoos have gnawed away much of the woodwork. All day one shouts at them and bangs on the windows, but they just come back, clawing bandy-legged along the joists, grinding away with their itchy beaks.

The house, sadly, is doomed.

Still, being where it is, it fetched a pretty price, which meant my friend had what I most urgently needed – cash – and I, having packed my grandparents' and parents' estates, know exactly how to deal with this kind of crisis. So, I reached out and boldly offered, and it's going to be a very busy, fulfilling, exhausting, exhilarating and profitable two weeks.

*Carpe diem*, I say. Reach out. SSH

### \*Philosophia

Philosophia is a YouTube channel promoting intersectional, activist philosophy. Its core principles are radical reasoning and radical love. Email [philosophiaathome@gmail.com](mailto:philosophiaathome@gmail.com)



## LETTER

**RESIDENTS of Raglan Street, Waterloo, are pleading for urgent action to address the excessive frequency of the 392 bus service.**

For six years, they have urged Transport for NSW to reduce or reroute the 200 daily buses that disrupt their once-quiet residential street. Despite repeated complaints and community impact statements, officials have ignored their concerns. Residents criticise the dismissive response from Transport for NSW, which

prioritises increasing bus services despite their suffering. The metro should serve as the main transport option, reducing the need for heavy bus traffic. The 392 route duplicates services already covered by the train and light rail, with most buses running nearly empty. Residents demand a 50 per cent reduction in bus frequency, not the token 0.5 per cent change made in the latest timetable. They call on Minister Jo Haylen to personally intervene, as previous promises – such as introducing electric buses – have not been fulfilled.

Svetlana Rodgers, Waterloo

# Friends of Darlington

The opening of the **Darlington Activity Centre** followed a community campaign to get the centre open and available again.

Currently it is a “for hire” venue but there is an arrangement for it to be used at no cost by local groups.

**Friends of Darlington** is a new group set up to facilitate community activities in the Centre.

If you would like to lead a community activity, see some specific activity in the local area, or support this new group and its aims then contact [friendsofdarlington@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdarlington@gmail.com)

## Literary programs lead to published works

### BOOKS

ELIZABETH ARRIGO

ON Sunday December 15, 2024, a group of nine teenagers from Western Sydney became published authors as they launched their very own novellas or collections of poetry through Story Factory's Year of the Novella and Year of Poetry programs.

These programs are two of Story Factory's most intensive, where high school students commit to writing an entire novella or collection of poetry over the course of a year. Along with their family and friends, these young people celebrated their achievements at a launch event at the University of Sydney.

Dr Catherine Keenan AM, Story Factory Executive Director, said: "These remarkable young people have worked incredibly hard, and we were delighted to celebrate their successes by launching their books into the Sydney literary landscape. Our Year of the Novella and Year of Poetry programs provide young people with the opportunity to really see themselves as authors, and find and use their voices for whatever they choose."

Students attended workshops once a week during school term, where they brainstormed, wrote and



Published authors celebrate their achievements. Photo: Supplied

reworked, before submitting their manuscripts for professional editing. In addition to writing support and guidance, the young writers were also provided with the opportunity to meet and learn from established authors including Benjamin Law, Debra Oswald, Will Kostakis and Tiffany Tsao, who gave their time and expertise to support the students on their writing journeys.

Along with nine new participants from the very first Novella Kitchen – a two-day, bite-sized, book-writing bootcamp that gave

students a taste of Story Factory's Year of the Novella program – these 18 students glowed as they spoke about the difference the programs had made in their lives, and thanked their family and friends for supporting them on the journey to becoming authors.

Year of Poetry student, Sarah Dizon, said: "Had I not wanted to join Story Factory every Thursday, I wouldn't be where I am today: a published author who gets to bravely share her written art to the world. Thank you, Story

Factory, for your generosity over these three years; I was able to nurture my creativity without judgement. For my friends in my class and those in the Year of Novella, keep writing, keep saying your silly metaphors and similes, always keep your creativity close. Turn your anger, ache and love into art. Write a poem, write a story – because art is what keeps the world moving, and young voices like ours deserve to be heard, always."

This event not only celebrated the young people's achievement

but also recognised their growth into confident young authors.

An excerpt from "There Is Happiness in a Bowl of Shrimp" from *orange peelings* by Sarah Dizon:

I'm peeling a bowl of shrimp while my mother has a massive jackfruit / that she's intensely trying to get into. Her eyes light up the kitchen / when she sees a glimpse of the yellow fruit inside, and suddenly she's / like a little monkey in the wild trying to salvage through hunted fruit. // "Mum, relax, it's like it's your last day alive," / And she's there eating her reward with two hands, "It could be!" // Her hands covered in sticky mess, how do I even tell this silly monkey / she is the reason I find love in small things? // Because she is hanging out with her best friend and all I notice / from afar is that her eyes sparkle a heaven when she smiles and her laughter is louder / than what I'm used to hearing. / Because I see pieces of her crafted within me – and I write because / I am proud. / How could I tell this woman she is the embodiment // of a little glimmer of yellow jackfruit in a bed of weeds?

Purchase your own copy of the students' work on the Story Factory website: <https://shorturl.at/L2MIC>



Photo: Supplied

## Friendship bracelets at Newtown

### FESTIVALS

SSH

LOOKING for a creative and engaging activity for the whole family this Mardi Gras?

Come and join the friendship bracelet workshop at Newtown Library. Learn how to make beautiful friendship bracelets with a variety of colourful beads and threads.

Perfect for all ages, this hands-on event is a fantastic way to celebrate the spirit of Mardi Gras while making lasting memories and colourful keepsakes.

- No prior experience needed – staff will guide you every step of the way.
- Leave with a handmade bracelet that you can cherish or gift to a friend.
- Enjoy a vibrant, inclusive atmosphere that captures the joy and excitement of Mardi Gras.
- Spaces are limited, so be sure to secure your spot today.

Wednesday, February 26, 4 to 6pm.  
Newtown Library: 8-10 Brown St, Newtown.  
Email [library@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:library@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au).



Image: Justine Youssef, *Somewhat Eternal*.

## Queer artists make it and break it

### ART

SSH

SUSAN Rothwell AM, Chair, National Art School Board and Simon Cooper, Interim Director and CEO, warmly invite you to attend the opening night of *Queer Contemporary: Chaosophy*, as part of Mardi Gras 2025.

*Queer Contemporary: Chaosophy* brings together three generations of queer artists (including recent National Art School graduates) who make and break language across the intersections of art, activism, poetry and performance.

Through their individual aesthetics and distinct voices, together the artists disrupt histories, conventional silences and cultural forms.

Artists: Kika Kereru Baker, Daniel Browning, Sam Chan, Blake Griffiths, Frankie L.A, nikita lelu, r e a, Victoria Spence, Jake Starr, Ali Tahayaori, Magic Young and Justine Youssef.

With special guests Swamp Daisies.

*Queer Contemporary: Chaosophy*  
Curated by Dr Liz Bradshaw  
Thursday February 13  
Opening Night: 6-9pm  
Building 25 Project Space  
National Art School



# Transfigured Night

## LOCALS

JEAN LITTLEFIELD

**THE dark had crept in, and now the rain. He was unable to move as he'd been out longer than expected and forgotten his medication. He'd told her he was going for a walk around the block: "Needed exercise after a day at home."**

Hadn't said he was going to the supermarket to stock up on peanut butter (his addiction). He had trouble using his phone and his wife didn't drive even if he contacted her. Uhm ...

Out of the gloom he heard, "Can I help?" as he was covered by the young man's large umbrella. The rain was heavy now. The stranger walking home from the supermarket had noticed him.

After hearing his situation, the man phoned his surprised wife. She quickly came and together they assisted him home. Before

leaving, the new friend gave his contact details and offered further help if they needed it.

"Transfigured night" he thought as he settled into the warmth and security of home.

Another day, another supermarket. Again, he'd found it necessary to rest. His wife returned from gathering groceries to find a young couple sitting and talking to him. They insisted on ordering an Uber to take them home.

These cheerful acts of kindness made him feel less vulnerable and able to take the risk to leave home to meet with friends at a coffee shop, go for a walk in the park, to the local shops and post office. They put the unity into community. As people walk in Surry Hills he'd exchange a casual hello or a few words as he went out for exercise.

He enjoyed meeting friends at the neighbourhood centre where Steve and his helpers made Devonshire teas and other snacks. Steve trains in cooking

and catering skills and encourages connections and opportunities.

Residents had fought to keep the library in this central position and now it's a fertile place where people connect through meetings, meals, exercise and other classes. They'd made many good friends this way. And now, with his reduced mobility, it was important to have friends who lived nearby.

Our postie, while delivering mail with messages of love and support (as well as the bills!), observes so much about our neighbourhood. She talks to all, including the lonely and shunned. She keeps conversations light and sunny but shows levels of deep, unaffected sympathy.

He thought of people who invite others for meals and festivities when they need company, and neighbours who cook and assist the elderly nearby.

It's corny, of course, but it made him think of something said in old westerns: "There's gold in them there hills."

**Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre (SHNC) café operates every Friday from 10.30am**



# Toast of the town

## FOOD

ANDREW COLLIS

**REDFERN: "This is my favourite bread shop," says one customer waiting to place her order at PT Crown Bakery in George Street. "I can't believe it's closing. This is really sad."**

After 20 years in business, Tovi and Bun have decided to sell their bakery equipment – ovens, racks, chillers – and make a fresh start somewhere else. "The rent is too high," Tovi says. "It gets higher every year."

Bun and Tovi work long hours, six days a week. All the bread (preservative- and sugar-free, white, wholemeal,

sesame-seed) is baked on the premises. So too the cream-buns and lamingtons, chocolate eclairs and vanilla slices. There are fresh pies, too, sausage rolls and spinach pastries.

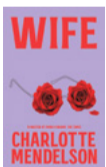
Customers rave about the sandwiches and rolls – fresh chicken and tuna, egg, ham, tomato, cheese and all the trimmings. "The rolls are filled with the freshest salad items, delicious herbs and spices," another customer says. "Tovi puts so much into each one."

"I'll just miss them so much," says a man with a Rabbitohs cap. "They've been here day after day, working so hard and always friendly. It's good to stop and chat, even if we just share a few words and a smile."

**to 2pm. It is a warm and welcoming space for all community members. It also provides services that support the community. Last year a writing workshop called Connecting Words engaged people to write about the topic**

**of community. Jean Littlefield's piece was chosen for publication. Currently, At the Edges Writer's Studio is happening on Thursdays 9.30-11.30am, \$50 for four sessions or \$15 per session. www.attheedges.com.au**

## Book Review by Melinda Kearns



**Wife**  
Charlotte Mendelson  
Pan MacMillan, 2024

*Wife* charts the beginning and eventual dissolution of the long relationship between Zoe Stamper and Penny Cartwright, both working as academics in London academia, Penny in literature and Zoe in classics.

They meet at a party – Penny is older, more established and impossibly glamorous to Zoe, who is quickly besotted by Penny's charming façade. Penny is, however, living with another woman, Justine, and one of the early red flags of this relationship is how quickly Justine is shuffled out of the flat, but never entirely out of their new relationship.

As their relationship progresses, a central theme becomes Penny's overwhelming desire to have

children and the father that they choose is Justine's domineering brother, with all possible boundaries breached in the pursuit of Penny's eventual goal.

*Wife* is written with a "then" and "now" structure, describing the beginning of the relationship and the steps along the way that lead to its destruction. Penny remains unchanged throughout – she is narcissistic and manipulative, regularly demonstrating her failure to protect Zoe or the relationship between them. She frequently calls upon "all her friends" to demonstrate the appropriateness of her extreme behaviour and marginalise Zoe's feelings.

This toxic relationship is finely drawn, as Charlotte Mendelson observes the development of Zoe's awareness of how damaged and damaging her lover is and how much of herself she has sacrificed in the pursuit of someone who mostly existed in her imagination.

As Zoe extricates herself and her children from this terrible marriage, Penny becomes increasingly dramatic and emotional, but this is who she always was – Zoe didn't see it due to her love for her partner.

A highly engaging story that outlines the development of individual awareness and surviving a toxic marriage.

## Theatre Review by Catherine Skipper



**Jacky**  
Writer: Declan Furber Gillick  
Director: Mark Wilson  
Belvoir Street Theatre  
January 16 – February 2, 2025

*Jacky* is an uncomfortable play demanding our rigorous attention and offering little relief but wisely leavened by genuinely comedic moments. Gillick shines a harsh light on the white society in which his central character, a young Indigenous man, is struggling to find a place. His success can only come at the price of betraying his culture.

The play opens with the reunion of Jacky (Guy Simon), a sophisticated urban Indigenous man with his

brother Keith (Danny Howard), a laid-back larrikin straight from the "Mish". Jacky is pleased to see Keith and has plans to make over his younger brother in his own image. A go-ahead young man, Jacky aims at having a permanent job and owning his own flat. In the meantime, he works part-time for Linda, founder of Segue, an Indigenous community organisation, and pays for his rent by working in the sex industry.

Jacky's relationship with the white society is pictured through his relationship with Linda (Mandy McElhinny) who is genuinely concerned to help Jacky obtain his dream, and through Glenn (Greg Stone), a sex-work client with a racial fetish with whom Jacky develops a deeper connection. While the initial relationship between a supportive Jacky and Glenn provides some funny dialogue, Glenn's sexual naivete masks a more sinister drive which eventually surfaces in a brutal and disturbing scene.

While Linda is a kind-hearted woman, Segue is dependent on funding, and when public funding is withdrawn, she is forced to look for

sponsors. Donors require "buttering up" which takes the form of making them feel in touch with local Indigenous culture. Sorry business calls local women away from a planned dinner and a desperate Linda turns to Jacky to provide the necessary and authentic Indigenous connection with locality. What she asks him to do shows how oblivious she is to the culture she is promoting.

Simon is very moving as Jacky, bringing to his role an elegance and warmth but also a frightening vulnerability. He believes in the values that underlie his aspirations and is critical of Keith's lack of enthusiasm for long hours at low pay. Keith's resistance to Jacky's arguments while providing laughter also highlights the fundamental inequity of capitalism, compounded by colonialism. Jacky's pursuance of capitalist goals almost effaces him as an Indigenous man but for his unlikely and likable saviour.

The simple but psychologically effective set (Christina Smith) showcased the actors who could not be faulted, all giving strong and nuanced performances in a play that at times was almost too painful to bear.

# Waves of nostalgia - a surfer's tale

**SPORT**

ANDREW COLLIS

THE scents and sounds of summer evoke vivid memories of youth. The SSH sat down in the sand with a seasoned surfer to reflect on long days in and by the ocean.

“When I first got into it, I was about 13. In the '70s – at Bondi and Manly. The board I learned on was a red 'BJ', a single fin. My first 'real' one was a Morning Star by 'Narrabeen' Col Smith. I had that board a while.

“The best thing about surfing is the lifestyle – the sense of freedom, the thrill of speed, the g-forces, the camaraderie.

“There were only a few surf brands then – O'Neal, Rip Curl, Golden Breed, Crystal Cylinders, Hang Ten. The names bring back so many memories.

A 'fashion-conscious' surfer would wear Levi Californians, a Golden Breed shirt and thongs. My brother went barefoot all year, even at the night-club!

“I remember the surfing movies: *Five Summer Stories*, *A Winter's Tale*, *Morning of the Earth* with a soundtrack by G. Wayne Thomas (he lived at Bondi Junction).

“I remember going up the coast to Crescent Head, near Kempsey. I lived on a farm there with hippie surfers. I was 16. I surfed all day every day. The hippies always had a pot of



Backhand re-entry – Ronan Ball at Maroubra Beach. Photo: Paul Bramble/Lost Photography

brown rice and lentils, which really fills you up ...

“The elite surfers of the day were Michael Peterson from the Gold Coast and Simon Anderson from North Narrabeen; Ron Ford and Steve Jones from Bondi. And then, into the '80s, Richard Cram and Cheyne Horan from Bondi and Tom Curren from Santa Monica, California.

“I also remember Brad Mayes who was a beach inspector and a board-maker. He was a Bondi surfing legend, same as his father, Bluey Mayes.

“The ocean teaches independence and confidence, respect for Mother Nature. Surfing taught me not to panic, even in extreme situations. There are rips and rocks, slabs and reefs, sand banks and channels, winds and tides ... lefts and rights, ups and downs.

“Spending time in the ocean, you see amazing things. Once at Bondi, I saw an orca breach. Native Americans say it's good luck to see an orca. It symbolises family and community, protects you and leads you back home.” SSH



Latrell Mitchell – all set for a big year. Photo: Rabbitohs.com.au

# Rabbitohs fitter and faster

**SPORT**

JOHN LANZKY

**I went out to Matraville to check on Souths' preparation and I was impressed. I saw a lot more enthusiasm, players look fitter and faster. They look organised.**

Latrell Mitchell looks fit and strong.

Coach Bennett was sitting up the back, keeping a good eye on the action. Ben Hornby was there, along with Steve Antonelli. John Sutton is development coach this year.

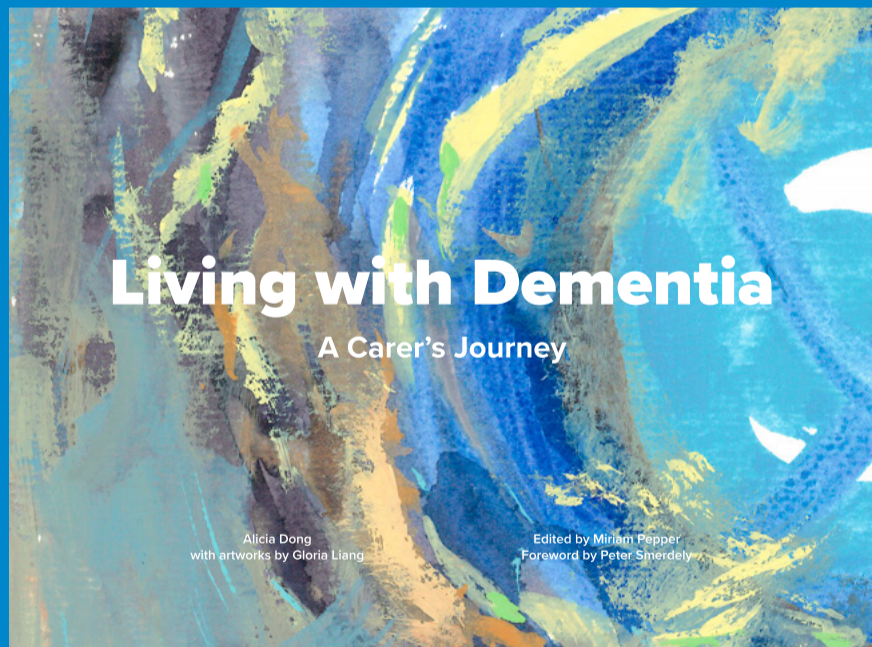
These are good signs for

season 2025. Trials take place this month. The Charity Shield game against the Dragons is on February 22 in Mudgee.

Meanwhile, training is in full swing out at Erskineville. SG Ball and Harold Matthews teams are looking strong, too. There's a lot of young talent coming through.

I watched an SG Ball game between Souths and Manly in late January. Manly didn't score a point!

My predictions for the NRL finals may surprise some people. The top four will be Penrith, Melbourne, Souths and Newcastle. Wooden Spoon contenders: St George and Parramatta. SSH



**Living with Dementia**  
A Carer's Journey

Alicia Dong  
with artworks by Gloria Liang

Edited by Miriam Pepper  
Foreword by Peter Smerdely

**Living with Dementia: A Carer's Journey**

Alicia Dong with artworks by Gloria Liang

Edited by Miriam Pepper

## Book Launch & Art Exhibition

PADDINGTON UNITING CHURCH | 395 OXFORD ST, PADDINGTON  
6PM, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

“This book gives a clear and honest look at what it's like to care for someone with dementia and offers useful advice for anyone in a similar situation ... It's also a reminder of how much love, patience, and effort carers give every day. By sharing her experiences, Alicia helps us understand the challenges carers face and how we can better support them and the people they care for.”

PROFESSOR PETER SMERDELY, GERIATRICIAN

# Volunteers' News

PAT CLARKE

**WELCOME**, as we slither into the Year of the Wood Snake, and the 24th year of the *South Sydney Herald*. Thank you for your support in 2024 and we hope you will continue to enjoy our stories, articles, local colour and cartoons in 2025.

There are lots of articles online which will explain the customs and beliefs about the Year of the Snake. Colours for good luck are red, green and gold.

**Recycle It Saturday – Alexandria Canal Depot, Saturday February 22, 9am-3pm**

A huge list of recyclables and how to bring them is available on the City of Sydney website. Available to residents of the City of Sydney, Waverley and Woollahra councils only. You will be asked for your address on the day.

**Sydney Streets on Stanley February 22, 11am-10pm**

Stanley Street will be closed to traffic from 8am to 11.30pm between Yurong and Crown streets. This is a local festival with stalls, live music, alfresco dining and kids' activities.

**Student Life: University of Sydney, Chau Chak Wing Museum – until July 1**

This exhibition of modernist photographer Max Dupain documents student life at the University of Sydney in the early 1950s. This is free exhibition until Tuesday July 1, 10am-5pm Mon-Fri and 12-4pm Sat-Sun. Dupain's black-and-

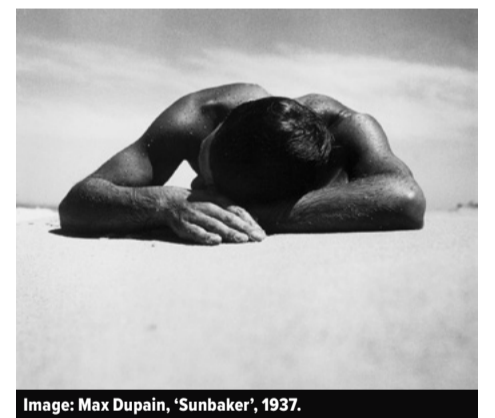


Image: Max Dupain, 'Sunbaker', 1937.

white print “Sunbaker” (1937) is arguably Australia's best known photograph, and while there is a copy at the Art Gallery of NSW it doesn't appear to be on display with his other works.

**Belvoir St Theatre Unwaged Performance Program 2025**

Always in our February issue I publish the Belvoir Unwaged Program for our theatre-loving volunteers and readers for the coming year. Unwaged performances for 2025 are on **Thursdays at 1pm** and to claim your ticket visit the Belvoir Box Office from 11am on day of the performance. Pensioner, Health Care Card, Vets Card with photo ID (MEAA and Equity cards also accepted).

February 20: *Song of First Desire*  
May 22: *The Wrong Gods*  
June 26: *The Spare Room*  
August 14: *Grief Is the Thing with Feathers*  
October 16: Meow Meow's *The Red Shoes*

Until next time,  
Pat Clarke.

volunteers@ssh.com.au