

Book launch celebrates Aunty Beryl's legacy in Redfern



Aunty Beryl with an audience member at her book launch signing. Photo: Scarlett Thompson

FIRST PEOPLES

CHLOE FRAGOS

HUNDREDS gathered on Tuesday, 31 March, at the National Indigenous Centre of Excellence to attend the cookbook launch of Aunty Beryl Van-Oploo OAM. The event marked not just the release of a book, but a moment of cultural significance for Redfern, reflecting history, legacy and a contribution to future generations.

As the opening lines in Aunty Beryl's book state, "Here I am. I'm a Gamilaroi woman, eighty-three years of age, and I have written a cookbook."

For many people at the launch, it was a moment to recognise the impact of Aunty Beryl, as well as an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate her work.

The event began with a smoking ceremony, grounding attendees in memory and history. It highlighted cultural

practices central to community life across south Sydney and beyond, reflected in Aunty Beryl's approach to food and storytelling.

Aunty Beryl's niece spoke about First Nations peoples' roles and responsibilities as sharers and carers, including practices such as harvesting pipis from freshwater, women's work and the role of First Nations women as some of the oldest bread makers in the world. These connections to food – from sourcing it, to preparing it, to sharing it – extend beyond sustenance, reflecting broader systems of knowledge, care and community.

Aunty Beryl's cookbook reflects this commitment to community. Alongside these themes, it includes a range of recipes, from simple meals to larger shared dishes.

The launch offered an opportunity for attendees to engage with and learn more about First Nations food practices, as well as the stories and knowledge embedded within them.

SSH

Science can help you choose your honey: single-o for taste, multifloral for health!

ENVIRONMENT

EMMANUELLE BOTTÉ

HONEY is beloved for its many virtues, from its sweetening effect to its antimicrobial properties. But not all honeys are created equal, and a recent Australian study has found just how true that is, with implications for our health and that of our ecosystems.

Honey prevents bacterial growth, because what we consider food is a deadly cocktail for microbes. Dr Kenya Fernandes from the University of Sydney and her colleagues recently discovered that bees that forage on many plant species produce honeys that are consistently more potent against two harmful bacteria than bees feeding on a single plant species. To get there, they compared 56 samples of honey collected across New South Wales and Victoria, and tested



Dr Kenya Fernandes. Photo: University of Sydney

their ability to prevent microbial growth. The scientists used the bacteria *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus* (the infamous "golden Staph") in their experiments, as they both show resistance to antibiotics, and contribute to the millions

of deaths caused by antimicrobial resistance each year worldwide. Overall, while 77% of honeys prevented both bacteria from growing, the most efficient ones were multifloral. The team also found that some chemicals are linked to stronger antimicrobial

activity, but it is the complexity of the interactions between these chemicals that truly boosts antimicrobial strength. This type of work perfectly illustrates the tight links between our health and that of the environment. "If we

protect our forest biodiversity, and support local beekeepers working in biodiverse bush, we can contribute to the production of a natural product so complex that it outperforms single-origins honey, which we often assume to be of superior quality," Dr Fernandes says.

Honey lovers often seek a particular taste that can only result from single-flower foraging. This study might change our perception of locally produced honey, as it shows that Australian multifloral honeys could play a role in the fight against global antimicrobial resistance. It also implies that whenever we can, we should support initiatives that preserve and boost biodiversity. With many honey samples collected in areas that are still recovering from the 2019 bushfires, here is another example of how taking care of nature ultimately means taking care of us.

SSH



Sydney's growing love affair with pinball P4



Manifesting memory P6



Pure dumplings rise to the occasion P7

This issue inside & online



South Sydney Herald
Read these stories and more at:
southsydneyherald.com.au

PUBLISHER

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

NEWS

news@ssh.com.au
Phone Lyn 0400 008 338

ADVERTISING

adverts@ssh.com.au

MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 3288
Redfern NSW 2016

LETTERS

Please send letters and emails to:
The South Sydney Herald.
Email: editor@ssh.com.au
Supply sender name and suburb.
Size: 150 words or less.
We may edit for legal or other reasons.

FOUNDING EDITOR

Trevor Davies (25.5.1956 – 14.6.2011)

MANAGING EDITOR

Anna Jahjah

NEWS EDITOR

Lyn Turnbull

ENVIRONMENT

Emmanuelle Botté

BOOKS

Melinda Kearns

LOCALS

Gerry Sont

THEATRE

Catherine Skipper

FILM

Lindsay Cohen

MUSIC

Stephen Webb

RELIGION & ETHICS

Andrew Collis

RUGBY LEAGUE

John Lanzky

SPORTS

Big T

URBAN DESIGN

Geoff Turnbull

ADVERTISING/SPONSORSHIP

Gill Robson | adverts@ssh.com.au

DISTRIBUTION

editor@ssh.com.au

DESIGN

Gasoline Group | gasolinegroup.com.au

PRINTER

News Corp Australia | newscorpaustalia.com

"We gratefully acknowledge the many volunteer contributors and distributors who make this publication possible."

CONTRIBUTORS

Alky Avramides
Silvia Casolari
Andrew Chuter
Pat Clarke
Barbara Coene
Florian Craissac
Joe Fenech
Chloe Fragos
Murray Gillett
Lucy Gleeson
Holly Haisman
Michelle Haywood
Siobhan Humphreys
Yvonne Hocothee
Sasha Imada
Orli Jacoby
Gloria Liang
norrie mAy-welby
Joel O'Connor
Andrew Pavli
Nigel Pennington
Gill Robson
Jessica Shepherd
Scarlett Thompson

DISTRIBUTORS

Eleanor Boustead
Gabrielle Brine
Rod Haslam
Jeremy Hynes
Noel Jeffs
John Lanzky
Gloria Liang
Yvonne Mayer
Mary Ellen McCue
Kevin McDonald
Matthew McLennan
Norrie
Stewart Ray
Colin Sharpe
Blair Silverlock
Ben Spies-Butcher
Adrian Spry
Lyn Turnbull
Geoff Turnbull
Naomi Ward
Hee Won Chang



Australian Press Council

The South Sydney Herald is bound by the Standards of Practice of the Australian Press Council. If you believe the Standards may have been breached, you may approach the South Sydney Herald or make a complaint to the Australian Press Council in writing at www.presscouncil.org.au. The Council may also be contacted on 1800 025 712.

What happens if you don't have a will?

LEGAL

ANDREW PAVLI

MANY people put off making a will, thinking they will "get around to it one day." But if you pass away without a valid will in New South Wales, the law decides who inherits your assets, not you. This is called dying intestate.

Under the intestacy rules, your estate is distributed in a set order. A spouse (including a de facto partner) is first in line. If you have children from another relationship, the estate is divided between your spouse and those children. If you don't have a partner or children, your parents inherit, then siblings, then more distant relatives. If no

relatives can be found, the estate is paid to the State.

This can cause real difficulties. For example, stepchildren are not recognised under intestacy law. Even small assets, like a bank account or car, can be delayed while the estate is sorted through the courts.

A will is the only way to make sure your wishes are clear. It allows you to choose who receives your property, appoint an executor you trust to manage your estate, and make specific gifts, such as sentimental items.

Making a simple will doesn't have to be expensive. Many community legal centres, such as Redfern Legal Centre and Marrickville Legal Centre, offer affordable will-making services, as well as NSW Trustee



Photo: Getty

and Guardian.

The peace of mind of knowing your affairs are in order is well worth the small effort. A will

is not just for the wealthy; it's for anyone who wants to make things easier for the people they leave behind.

SSH

Tenants in proposed Waterloo Park get relocation notices

URBAN DESIGN

GEOFF TURNBULL

EVELYN Morris is an 86-year-old Waterloo resident who has lived in Cooper Street for 27 years. She was an active tenant representative for many years until she lost mobility. On 26 March, she answered the door and received her six-month notice of relocation letter.

Her home is where Council's new park will be built, but only the 99 tenancies on the western side of the park received notices. Evelyn has lots of questions that are not answered in the relocation factsheet she was given or the general information provided about the redevelopment. She thinks others will have similar questions.

Evelyn wants to know why she is being relocated when construction has not yet started in stage one to deliver the promised new social housing units to move into. Without new units, those wanting to stay locally will have to wait for suitable vacancies in existing social housing and that will take a long time.

For council facilities like the park, the Voluntary Planning



Photo by house-proud Evelyn Morris of her Cooper Street home.

Agreement (VPA) between Council and Homes NSW requires two years' notice to Council before the development application so Council can prepare concept plans. The park development needs to

follow within two years, setting out a four-year timeframe.

Council has advised that under the VPA the park has to be delivered before 50% of the permitted floor space is available

for occupation. As no floor space has been built, Council does not believe the VPA puts pressure on the imminent relocation of residents within the proposed park.

Homes NSW and Stockland are responsible for staging and no rationale has been provided to SSH to explain the proposed relocations. This may be clearer after the Waterloo South Concept Plan exhibition expected within the next month.

Homes NSW has advised SSH that "Relocation of Phase 2 tenants has commenced to ensure Homes NSW has sufficient time to support tenants through this period of change and to identify suitable housing that meets each tenant's individual needs. As many residents as possible will be relocated into newly developed homes, including new housing within Waterloo, as well as surrounding areas such as Redfern and Glebe".

Details on relocations can be found at the bottom of the Homes NSW Waterloo South website. Geoff Turnbull is the spokesperson for REDWatch



St Patrick's Day Parade in the City

Our photographer Michelle Haywood captured the spirit of the St Patrick's Day parade in the city on Sunday 15 March.

Photo: Michelle Haywood



Sydney Mathematical Research Institute students. Photo: Stefanie Zingsheim.

\$55.1 million to position Australia as world leader in maths

SPONSORED

MARK SCOTT

A landmark \$55.1 million co-investment from two visionary donors partnering with the University of Sydney positions Australia to be at the global forefront of mathematics research.

Two philanthropic gifts totalling \$28.7 million from the Simon Marais Foundation and the Hooper Shaw Family Foundation to the Sydney Mathematical Research Institute will combine with a \$26.4 million commitment from the University to accelerate the impact of their philanthropy.

"Internet banking, search engines, Wi-Fi and magnetic resonance imaging all incorporate fundamental mathematical ideas; these technologies are leaps forward for society that are dependent on deeply complex, curiosity-driven research by leading thinkers in mathematics," Director of SMRI, Professor Geordie Williamson, said.

"The focus of SMRI is similarly on fundamental research, especially in applications of AI to some of the toughest problems in mathematics. Our aim is to become a place where the world's leading mathematicians come to collaborate, developing the mathematical culture in Australia and inspiring future generations of researchers.

"I'm deeply grateful to the donors who supported the Institute's establishment and vision from the very start.

"Their continuing generosity will enable our growth – including support from Hooper Shaw for early-career researchers' long-term engagement with

mathematics, the expansion of global collaboration and an artist-in-residence program. The Simon Marais gift will ensure we become a global centre for mathematicians, including through international recruitment, strategic investment and institutional expansion."

Donors Rhae Hooper and Chris Shaw commented:

"We believe Australia should aspire to be home to world-class mathematical research and that the Sydney Mathematical Research Institute is uniquely placed to do this. We want to help bring exceptional talent back home – people like Geordie – and to build a centre with the magnetic pull to draw the best minds from around the world," they said.

"Great research institutions are not built overnight. They are built over decades. Seeing the calibre of mathematicians it now attracts and its growth as a globally respected centre for research has strengthened our confidence in that long-term ambition."

Executive Director of SMRI, Professor Stephan Tillmann, said an immediate benefit of this "unprecedented funding for Australian mathematics will be a recruitment of a world-class co-director for SMRI to broaden our leadership."

"Human intuition will remain crucial to applying AI to pure mathematics, and alongside its deep commitment to pure mathematics, this funding also allows us to push the boundaries of what is possible in that area."

Professor Julie Cairney, Interim Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research said:

"The excellence of SMRI and of the School of Mathematics and Statistics is reflected in our performance in the QS World

University rankings. We've moved from 70th to 35th globally in the last four years and are currently number one in Australia. This success is underpinned by strong performance in citations, academic reputation, employer reputation and strong international research collaboration."

The Sydney Mathematical Research Institute, founded in 2018, is the first of its kind in Australia, drawing leading mathematicians from all over the world to undertake residencies and pursue groundbreaking research with Australian collaborators. It has given academics, University students and the general public, including school students, direct access to many of the leading mathematical thinkers in the world, granting invaluable insights into research, learning and teaching.

To date, SMRI has hosted more than 220 international visitors, including Fields Medallists June Huh and Caucher Birkar, Turing Award Winner Robert Tarjan, has run more than 85 events and collaborated on over 100 papers since 2022. It has established a lasting relationship with prestigious institutions such as the International Centre for Mathematical Sciences and the University of Bonn and Max Planck Institute for Mathematics.

It has 12 research staff and affiliates including eight postdoctoral research fellows.

.....



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

JENNY LEONG MP
MEMBER FOR NEWTOWN



We don't need another forever war

For those of us who can recall the rhetoric of the Howard Liberal Government during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, the current Albanese Labor Government's messaging may seem familiar. At the time, the United States cited weapons of mass destruction (a claim later disproven) as a justification to begin sending troops to the Middle East, and Australia complied – was this also "collective self-defence"?

I was living locally in Darlington at the time, and I can still remember listening to the Greens' leader Bob Brown speaking out against the war – and standing up for the humane treatment of asylum seekers and refugees.

It was at this time – and because of this – that I joined the Greens.

The Greens have always rejected the politics of militarism and war – peace and nonviolence is one of our founding principles.

It is a disgrace that Labor is backing in an illegal war initiated by Israel and Trump. Have they learnt nothing from Iraq and Afghanistan? Have they abandoned international law and human rights? How have the Prime Minister and Labor moved so far from the values of peace and respect for international law?

Our community's commitment to peace might not have changed over the past decades – but it is clear that those who represent us on the national and international stage have chosen to abandon their principles to side with Netanyahu and Trump. It is shameful that the Albanese Labor Government is sending military assets to the region.

That's why we need to make it clear that we in the inner city and inner west choose peace over war – and hope over hate.

You cannot bomb your way to peace.

This principle is more important now than ever before.

Let's make sure our collective voice for peace is heard. Use the QR code or email us at newtown@parliament.nsw.gov.au to order your free 'No War' sticker.



Jenny Leong

Jenny Leong MP
Greens Member for Newtown

Authorised by Jenny Leong MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.

Dear SSH readers

It's very hard to prove **historic child sexual abuse** in court. It is devastating when victims endure the court process and secure a guilty verdict only to have a perpetrator avoid penalty.

We've introduced legislation to prevent convicted child sexual abusers from hiding their assets in superannuation to avoid paying compensation to their victims.

The Survivors Law is intended to enable victims and survivors of child sexual abuse to apply for a court order to access additional personal or salary sacrifice superannuation contributions made by the offender where a related court order for compensation remains unpaid after 12 months.

Unfulfilled historical compensation orders, if still legally enforceable and related to a criminal conviction or finding of guilt, will be eligible. And offenders will not be able to dispense of their compensation debt obligations through bankruptcy.

We want to make sure these reforms operate as intended and deliver meaningful outcomes so we will be reviewing the legislation.

If you would like to have your say please visit our consultation hub here:



Submissions close 15 April 2026.

Did you know that the Albanese Government has invested more than \$4 billion — more than any Australian government ever to combat domestic and sexual violence?

National Redress Scheme

Applying for redress can be a daunting process and we want to ensure survivors have access to the practical and emotional support they need as well as legal advice on their options. We have boosted assistance for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse with \$27.2 million additional funding to extend legal advice and support for victim survivors.

Please be aware that the final day for submitting a compensation claim to the National Redress Scheme is 30 June, 2027.



Please visit the National Redress Scheme for more information:

Tanya



1a Great Buckingham St, Redfern NSW 2016 T: 9379 0700

E: Tanya.Plibersek.MP@aph.gov.au

Authorised by T. Plibersek, ALP, 1a Great Buckingham Street, Redfern 2016



Photo: Roger Robertson from Beercade.

Sydney's growing love affair with pinball

LOCALS

ANDREW CHUTER

THE classic game of pinball is growing in popularity in Sydney, in parallel with the hobby's resurgence internationally.

The 'cult of the silver ball' has had its ups and downs since the first pinballs were invented in the 1930s in the USA. The last 25 years have seen an increasing stream of new models released each year.

Today, there are over 220 pinballs in public venues across the Sydney Basin. They're in a variety of places, such as Koko Amusement in the city, Courthouse Hotel in Newtown, Beercade in Redfern, Willie's Wondercade in St Peters and the unique Flipper Fellowship in a

church hall in Arncliffe. A good way to find them is through the website: www.pinballmap.com.

Beercade is a combined bar and amusement arcade with 20 pinballs, video games, a pool table and darts. The clientele is a mixture of pinball wizards and locals popping in for a casual game and a beverage.

"We've been here for four years and now we're expanding next door so we'll have more space and more games," owner Roger Robertson said.

Some popular new pinballs include *Godzilla*, *John Wick*, *Dune*, *Jaws*, *Stranger Things*, *King Kong* and *Deadpool*.

Alongside the newer machines are classics like *The Addams Family*, *Medieval Madness*, *Attack from Mars* and *The Getaway*.

For those new to the game, it's easy to get into. Most pinballs

cost \$2 for three balls and have a swipe for credit cards. Plunge the ball and the fun begins.

Once you build up your skills, you might even want to enter competitions.

One friendly place where this is happening is at Flipper Fellowship, at Bayside Anglican Church in Arncliffe. The minister, Zac Veron, is a pinball fan and his collection of over 20 machines is open several times a week for competitions or casual play.

It is also confirmed that Escher Lefkoff, a pinball world champion, will be there on 25 April to hold a pinball masterclass. He has recently relocated to Australia from the USA, so with any luck, some of his skills may rub off and help a new generation of players to high scores.

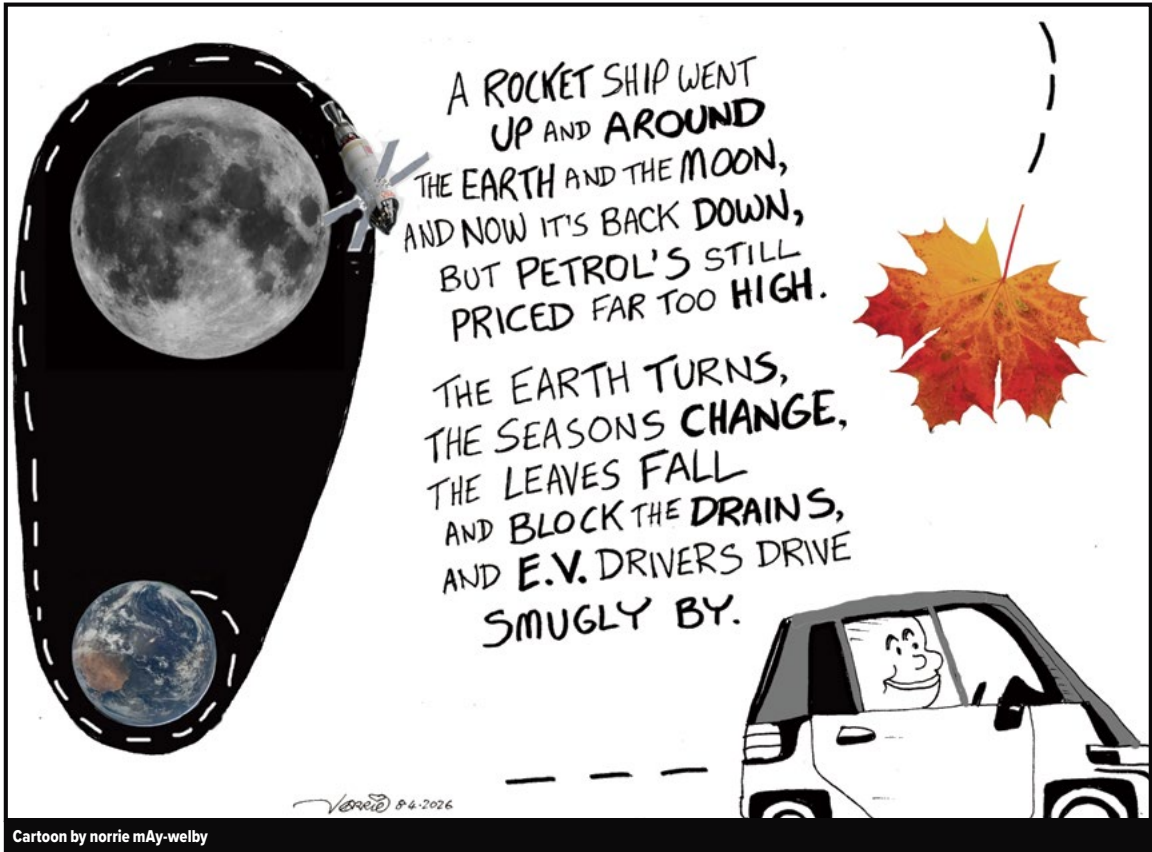
www.pinballmap.com



Big ideas and fresh energy for local journalism

SSH managing editor Anna Jahjah recently attended the LINA (Local & Independent News Association) Summit in Murray Bridge (SA), co-hosted by Murray Bridge News. The two-day gathering brought together independent publishers, editors and journalists from across Australia to explore the future of local news — from the role of print to the impact of AI and new ways to connect with communities. Anna returned to Redfern with fresh ideas, new connections and a renewed commitment to telling the stories that matter to our local community.

Photo: Jacob Jennings



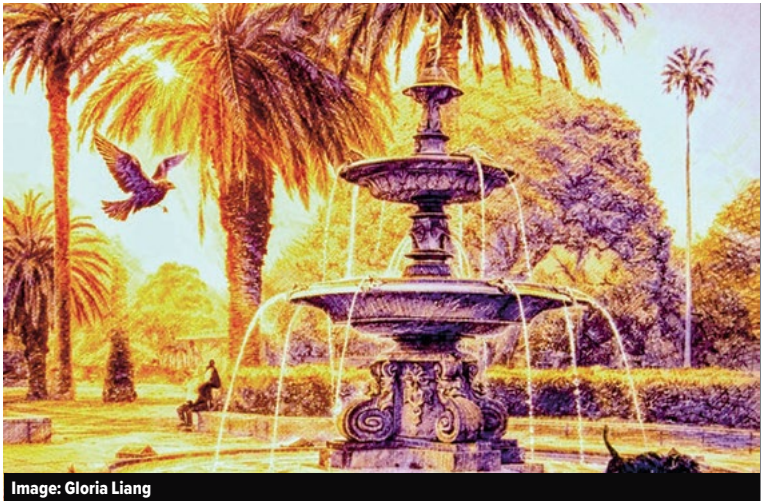
A conversation by the fountain: facing mental health in the everyday

OPINION

MURRAY GILLET

A few days ago, while paddling in Redfern Fountain, a man spoke to me. He had just finished work and clearly had a hard day. I asked, "Have you had a hard day?" He didn't answer immediately. Staring into my eyes, he finally said, "The world is full of doom. Everyone is killing each other." I replied calmly, "Dylan, my rescue dog, and I don't wish you any doom. We only have love."

At that moment, I realised this man was likely schizophrenic and obviously struggling with his own mental health, as many people do. I thought he was very unwell and hoped he was getting effective mental health help. Based on our conversation, I suspect he wasn't. Like many people, I suffer



from depression. Being a clear communicator and knowing where to get help has meant depression has never completely blackened my world, unlike this young man's. At the time, it struck me that I could have been speaking to Joel Cauchi, Bondi

Junction Westfield Killer. More mental health funding is needed now. If you're feeling overwhelmed, call 1800 MENTAL, Lifeline, Beyond Blue, Kids Helpline, or Aboriginal Health Service. You can also walk into Redfern Health Centre for support.

Watching the 'Sorry' speech from The Block

HISTORY

JOEL O'CONNOR

ON 13 February 2008, my work colleagues and I walked down to The Block together to experience a moment in history far bigger than anything our work could generate. It was a moment that cut through the static.

We went there as part of the open invitation from the Aboriginal Housing Company to watch Kevin Rudd's 'Sorry' speech on a big screen. In terms of flashpoints in urban Australia, steeped in significance, there are few places more telling than where we stood that day.

For more than a decade, we had heard from John Howard the refusal to apologise – the idea that if we weren't there committing the crimes, why should we say sorry. But in 2008, we moved past that misdirection and stood side by side on The Block, as a leader facilitated something, spoke of his own journey of listening, and showed the tears that came from that. I felt pride in that moment, not because I was freed of a burden I didn't like carrying and now didn't have to do anything more about it, but because I realised that the triumphs that feed into our national identity don't just have to be cherry-pickings of sporting success; they can also

include things such as collective pain and the drive to deal with that. In the reflections I took away from that experience, I came to better define my pride in contrast to the one dominated by the ugly nationalism of exclusion, something that continues to plague our politics and our national soul. Then and now, Kevin's speech wasn't just a speech for me; it was an example of completing one necessary stage in a journey that takes a lifetime. Before that day, he hadn't just been sitting around crafting evocative words; he had been travelling far and wide, seeking permission to sit, listen and talk with Aboriginal people.



Blessing of the Animals offers public witness of care and community

RELIGION & ETHICS

ANDREW COLLIS

PADDINGTON Uniting Church brought prayer, hospitality and care for creation into the public square on Saturday 28 February, holding its inaugural Blessing of the Animals service alongside the regular Paddington Markets.

The service drew both planned participants and curious market-goers, creating an occasion that was as much about encounter and conversation as it was about the blessing itself. Organiser Tazz Caldwell described the event as deeply shaped by the spirit of St Francis. "St Francis was a man who had the courage to appear the fool to the world," she said. "St Francis kissed lepers, ministered to birds and preached peace in war zones." For Ms Caldwell, holding such a service in the middle of a busy market in a largely secular part of inner Sydney was itself a small act of courage. "Our message is that we are here, and we have something to show Paddington about the way of life in Jesus Christ," she said. While some people joined in, others simply watched from a distance – and perhaps, she suggested, walked away wondering. The market setting shaped the day in unexpected ways. Some people had seen

advertisements and arrived ready to take part. Others were invited on the spot by church members who were themselves accompanied by dogs. Ms Caldwell observed that those who came specifically for the blessing often departed soon afterwards, while those drawn in from the market were more likely to stay for morning tea and conversation with members of the congregation. The experience reminded her of the parable of the great feast in Luke 14. "God is always moving where I least expect," she said. Reflecting on the meaning of blessing, Ms Caldwell said it involves praying for "good and life-giving things" for companion animals, while also recognising the responsibility of human carers. The service, she said, was a reminder of the spiritual call to care for animals in ways that allow them to live full lives. That call was also expanded beyond pets to the whole created world. During the service, Uncle Ray Minniecon reflected on Colossians 1:15-17, saying: "When we bless animals today, we are not performing a ritual of sentiment. We are renewing a covenant – to protect what is vulnerable, to honour what sustains us, and to remember that salvation itself is cosmic in scope." For information about services and activities at Paddington Uniting Church contact the Rev. Raymond Minniecon: raymin@me.com



The possibility I took was the revelation of how each of us can take that journey of love for our land, ourselves and others – a journey that involves, not least, the Indigenous people of this land, whose historical and present cultures non-Indigenous people like me have the privilege to seek out and learn from.

Manifesting memory

ART
ALKY AVRAMIDES

IF you had to make a collection of things that mattered to you, what would they be?

Imagine you had to fill a room with some of those images and objects. Maybe some are from distant times and places. Maybe some were found yesterday. They become an archive of memory. Into that precious collection, you flippantly insert curiosities that have come your way randomly or by chance, even while you were flipping through the discards of another's life. This place would be your place and every time you entered it, a few of those items would spark a memory or cause you to idly follow some quiet daydream. You would look again more closely. You might notice the

play of light tracing along an edge or even turn to enjoy the whispered fragrance from a hanging bouquet, spinning slowly in the morning air. This is the world that the artist Suzanne Archer has built around her. This is her studio, her cabinet of curiosities, as Nanda Hobbs, her dealer and friend, calls it. Her world, inhabited by the memory and presence of many, many wonderful and often eclectic things. Each can spark her creatively and speak its mysteries to her. The show, *Manifestations*, is her very personal and powerful response to this collection. Her epic paintings are large enough to engulf you. Deep and rich in colour and texture, the paint seems to have a life of its own, almost organically moving across the surface. It is carried along by a multitude of mysterious patterns interweaving and connecting her ideas



Photo: Supplied

and objects. Your eye is never still. You are drawn into her world before you can take a breath of rational thought. This is work to experience in the flesh, to see but not to dissect

or overtly analyse, but to be moved by. This is a show of masterful works by an artist at the top of her game and in the maturity of her eighty-plus years.

Suzanne Archer, *Manifestations*
Nanda Hobbs Gallery
12-14 Meagher St
Chippendale
12 March-2 April, 2026



Women walk for peace in Hyde Park

Women from across Sydney gathered on Sunday, 22 March for the Women Walk for Peace, beginning at 10am at the Archibald Memorial Fountain in Hyde Park. The multicultural, non-political event brought together participants from diverse backgrounds, united in a shared call for peace, social cohesion and solidarity with communities around the world.

Photo: Michelle Haywood



Illustration: Gloria Liang

Back to Larnaca

SHORT STORIES
ALKY AVRAMIDES

IT'S almost midnight here in Larnaca and I should be turning my brain off. I'm looking out across the black Mediterranean from the outrageous comfort of a massive bed in a top-floor suite. We arrived late last night from Rome and the hotel had to upgrade me as they had stuffed up the booking. This luxurious suite was the only one left. Twist my arm.

Despite sleep sneaking up on me, the day's sunny, brittle beauty comes flooding back. My sister Linda and I drove about 40 minutes up the coast and found ourselves floating in the warm, clear waters of a rocky cove. We chatted about everything and nothing and remembered our childhood swims before life took us on separate journeys. Yes, back in the homeland we never really had. Not fully, anyway. Cyprus represents a place

of beginnings which our parents always reminisced about. A place they left begrudgingly and, in the process, created a kind of time capsule. A memory of their youth in a home full of stories about people who did unforgettable things, some wonderful and grand, others disgusting and scandalous. It's been twenty years since my last visit and the place has really changed. Lots more hotels and tourism, but the infrastructure like roads, footpaths and public spaces is often still rough and third-world-ish. I shouldn't judge the place too harshly though, I'll always be an outsider. I remember village life half a century ago on my first visit as a nine-year-old; the midnight walks to church with a swinging kerosene lamp, the singing and dancing, the stone houses with dirt floors, the donkey rides down the mountain to swim in a dazzling blue sea, the warm love of family. I'd like to find some of those things again. For now, it's good to be reminded that I had actually known some of what was.

Much to enjoy at Pyrmont Festival

FESTIVALS

STEPHEN WEBB

MEMBERS of Australian South Sea Islanders – Port Jackson joined other community businesses and organisations at the media launch for the 2026 Pyrmont Food and Wine Festival at The Star Grand Hotel on 26 March.

Pyrmont Festival is a celebration of food, wine and art, with a series of events throughout May, including live music, trivia nights, dinners and cooking classes, and a two-day event at Pirrama Park.

The community-run weekend event (23-24 May) fosters a strong connection between the country and the city and draws thousands of people from Sydney and regional NSW.

Attendees can explore art exhibitions and a range of handcrafted goods from local makers, including artisan cheeses, salamis, olives, chocolates, honey and jams.

They can also participate in hands-on workshops and gym class showcases and experience live music across two stages.

Children will be entertained with face painting, giant outdoor games, a bouncing castle and mini golf.

Matt Penfold, Business in the Peninsula President, said the event was culturally important for the district, Pyrmont, Ultimo and Darling



Photo: Tim Pascoe, Pyrmont Food and Wine Festival

Harbour, bringing together businesses large and small.

Festival Director Alex Gibbs said the festival was all about promoting the local community and local talent, while championing bright, bold flavours from across the state.

He said it brought together over 25 local and regional wineries, breweries and distilleries plus “lip-smacking servings of fresh seafood, pasta, wagyu beef, dumplings, and The Famous Berry Donut Van”.

Australian South Sea Islanders – Port Jackson represents the descendants of the blackbirding trade

that saw some 62,500 Pacific Islanders trafficked from the 80 islands of Vanuatu and Solomons Islands to established sugar, maritime, pastoral, cotton and railways industries.

It seeks to promote ASSI culture, economic, social and educational interests, and ensure full and fair participation of ASSI people within the wider Australian community.

Where: Pirrama Park, Pyrmont

When: 23-24 May 2026

Tickets: Free entry – family-friendly, dog-friendly and open to all ages

www.pyrmontfestival.com.au



Photo: Joe Fenech

Pure dumplings rise to the occasion in Redfern

FOOD

ZUZU RABBIT

If you were craving a sugar hit from Redfern favourite Donut Papi, you'll know it has now been replaced by a new establishment, Pure Dumplings.

On my first visit, I found the dumplings alone a little doughy and heavy for my liking.

On my second visit, one cool, wet evening, I went for the ‘hot and sour’ soup dumplings, which were silky and much more enjoyable.

The menu offers a variety of fillings and the option of takeaway frozen trays to cater for your ‘dumplings & chill’ lazy weekends. It’s definitely worth a try.

Pure Dumplings
34A Redfern Street, Redfern

Film review by Lindsay Cohen



Project Hail Mary
Directors: Phil Lord, Christopher Miller
Starring: Ryan Gosling, Milana Vayntrub, Sandra Hüller
Genre: Not the Final Frontier

Project Hail Mary is a science-fiction film but that genre is incredibly broad because those films and TV series can be very scientific or very fictional. The best example of this is Star Trek (the former) and Star Wars (the latter), which have different target audiences and levels of complexity as a result.

Project Hail Mary is more fictional than scientific. While I’m a science nerd to some extent and prefer Star Trek to Star Wars, that doesn’t mean I wasn’t entertained or rated the film poorly. It was well directed, with excellent acting and some impressive special effects. However, the storyline was unbelievable right to its core, where the supposed science background, astronaut performance, alien nature and space travel were all ridiculous.

I’m deliberately not giving away any of the storyline here because some of it is surprising and amusing. It’s worth watching simply because of the relationship between the main human astronaut character and an alien. It’s completely

different from the original Alien films (not the majority of the more recent sequels), which were much better from a nerdy, practical and intense perspective.

Project Hail Mary is also completely different to 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968), which it references a number of times. 2001: A Space Odyssey is the most extraordinary and intense sci-fi film of all time, which still might be representing the future. In comparison, Project Hail Mary is a fun film that will never be referred to by future films, technologies or scientists.

Rating: Two-and-a-half light hours.

Theatre review by Yvonne Hocothee



Stage Kiss
Writer: Sarah Ruhl
Director: Alice Livingstone
New Theatre, Newtown
18 March – 11 April, 2026

Sarah Ruhl’s inspiration stems from her love for 1930s theatre, and the result is warm, charming, and hilarious. Constructed as a play-within-a-play, Ruhl cheerfully enjoys the confusion that arises for her characters; is the required kissing just part of the play, or is there something of the real thing? Director Alice Livingstone deftly manages to juggle this ambiguity, achieving a satisfactory conclusion for her audience.

Emma Delle-Vedove (simply known as ‘She’ throughout) does a tremendous job of playing a mid-career actor, with all the attendant anxieties of that status. After an uncertain audition and, against all her negative expectations, she wins the part. Elation over her success is somewhat tempered, however, when she finds the male lead (Jason Spindlow – just known as ‘He’) is someone with whom she had shared a passionate youthful relationship. Worse, the play requires a lot of stage kissing. The scene where the two meet and interact, while highly anxious and awkwardly funny, is not without a trace of poignancy.

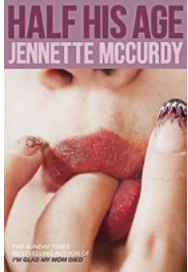
As rehearsals progress, the characters find themselves having to deal with rekindled feelings which they need to resolve. On the sidelines, watching this intrusion into familial solidarity, is the wonderfully understanding Husband (Lynden Jones) and a confused and slightly rebellious daughter, ably played by Nicola Denton.

The narrative of the rehearsed play is never entirely clear, but it allows marvellous scope for the supporting actors to play a variety of parts, with ensuing comedy: Victoria Fowler manages two parts, and Frank Shanahan, with commendable flexibility, plays six different characters. Holding it all together is the Director, played by Nicholas Papademetriou, who is clearly enjoying his role of providing warm, encouraging protection for his actors. He also garners a lot of the laughs.

Designer Merle Leuschner has given her sets a community-theatre aesthetic: a bare rehearsal room with just a few chairs, and the

couple’s home depicted as a smart city apartment, which contrasts with the grungy simplicity of the lover’s digs. Equally, Bianca De Nicola’s costumes have the impromptu, ill-fitting look of items cobbled together. Frank Shanahan’s Pimp costume is hilarious, and his ‘profession’ is instantly recognisable. Stage practitioners will recognise the familiar tropes and workplace quirks that make their profession such a joy to work in, even if at times it is a precarious choice as a livelihood. All in all, it is a lively, funny, and well-produced play, which audiences will find enormously entertaining.

Book review by Orli Jacoby



Half His Age
Jennette McCurdy
HarperCollins, 2026

Jennette McCurdy’s debut fiction novel, Half His Age, is bold and disturbing. However, I could not put it down. After reading McCurdy’s 2022 memoir, I’m Glad My Mom Died, I was fascinated by her brutally honest writing style that is veiled in a cynical tone, so I couldn’t wait to read her next work. While Half His Age is a remarkable book that explores the complexity of girlhood and parental relationships, readers should be

warned that it contains very explicit descriptions of grooming between a teacher and student. The story follows 17-year-old Waldo, who is initially unlikeable, as she is primarily self-centred and judgemental of the world around her. However, as the story progresses, I couldn’t help but feel for her. Waldo’s actions throughout the novel are frustratingly justifiable, as her world is rooted in neglect, abuse, loneliness, and misogyny. Waldo’s relationships with her dysfunctional mother, absent father, and 40-year-old teacher are clear examples of authorial intrusion, as these issues were also highly prevalent in her memoir. While the teacher-student relationship that centres the novel made me extremely uncomfortable, it was an important commentary on power imbalances that still pervade society today, particularly between men and women. Waldo’s overconsumption and constant focus on altering her appearance in order to please her teacher were an unfortunate but realistic depiction of the misogynistic standards that are embedded into our modern world. As the predatory relationship progressed and her teacher continued to manipulate her, I felt myself clenching my fists at the end of every chapter in the hopes that Waldo saw it for what it truly was. When this finally occurred, Waldo’s sense of freedom was magnetic, and it was empowering to see her start to become her own person. McCurdy writes with a crude, unflinching, and satirical style that explores deep-rooted societal issues that must be talked about. This novel captures female rage so powerfully that you feel it as the reader, a rarity in today’s fiction.

Kings win it all

SPORT

BIG T

AT the start of the season, this sports writer predicted the Sydney Kings would win the whole thing, and that call proved spot on. Sydney backed it up with a championship run, finishing as regular-season champions before clinching the NBL title in a dramatic overtime Game 5 win over the Adelaide 36ers on Sunday, 5 April.

Kings deliver on the promise

The Sydney Kings turned early belief into a season that ended with silverware, combining a strong regular season with a finals campaign built for the big stage. After finishing on top of the ladder, they carried that momentum into the championship series and completed the job in front of a huge home crowd at Qudos Bank Arena. The title felt like the payoff for months of steady improvement, with the Kings peaking when the stakes were highest.

What made the run more impressive was the way Sydney recovered from an uneven start. The Kings found their rhythm late in the regular season, then showed composure in the finals when the



Photo: Sydney Kings media

pressure peaked. That ability to reset and respond became one of the defining traits of the team’s championship push.

A decider for the ages

The Grand Final series against Adelaide was tight from the beginning and reached its peak in Game 5, where the Kings outlasted the 36ers 113-101 in overtime. The decider had all the ingredients of a classic: momentum swings, a loud crowd and two teams refusing to give an inch.

Kendric Davis was the standout for Sydney, scoring 35 points and handing out 14 assists in the title-clinching win, earning Grand Final MVP (most valued player) honours in the process. Bryce Cotton kept Adelaide in

the contest, but the Kings had too much depth and composure when it mattered most.

Season built on belief

Sydney’s regular season gave the team the platform for its title push. The Kings sealed the regular-season crown with a dominant finish, underlining their status as the league’s most consistent side by the time the playoffs arrived.

The championship also reinforced the culture around the club, with Xavier Cooks praising the environment the team built throughout the year. From the early-season prediction to the final buzzer, the Kings’ 2025/26 campaign became a full-circle story of confidence, resilience and reward.

SSH



Chang En-Man with his installation *The Future is the Past, the Path to the Ancestral Spirits* at the Art Gallery of New South Wales for the 25th Biennale of Sydney. Photo: Michelle Haywood

Out & About – April 2026

PAT CLARKE

Sydney Comedy Festival, until May 17
Now in its 21st year, this festival of humour and outrage will make you laugh at 13 Festival Hubs and 50 stages. A fabulous brochure is available at your local library, other venues and online. Highlights will include a comedy cruise and a family friendly Comedy Gala on the Green on April 18 at Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour.
sydneycomedyfest.com.au

Household Chemical Clean-Out, Saturday 18 April from 9am-3.30pm at Alexandria Canal Depot, 67c Bourke Road, Alexandria
A great opportunity to clear out your old paints, solvents, pesticides and cleaners, and dispose of them correctly. Not restricted to City of Sydney residents – all are welcome. For a list of chemicals permitted and instructions on arrival, go to cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/waste-recycling-services

Sydney Family Show, 12-27 April at the Entertainment Quarter
For full program got to www.entertainmentquarter.com.au

44th Greek Festival of Sydney, until 20 June
This is an annual event featuring a variety of entertainment including theatre, writers’ festival, music and food. For a full program go to greekfestival.com.au

Women’s’ Reconciliation Network – Redfern Yarning Circle, 30 April
Meets at Redfern Community Centre, 23-53 Hugo Street, Redfern on the

fourth Thursday of each month from 9am-1.30pm.
Formed in 1996, WRN is an informal network of First Nations and non-Indigenous women with spaces for dialogue, learning and shared action. Also on Zoom and Facebook. Go to: wrnredfern.org.au

The 25th Biennale of Sydney, until 14 June
www.biennaleofsydney.art

Anzac Day – Coloured Diggers March Redfern – All Welcome
From 11.30am – Saving Country photography exhibition by Belinda Mason
12pm – Flag Raising Ceremony
1pm – Welcome & Speeches
1.45pm – March from Redfern Community Centre to Redfern Park.

Dates for your diary
NSW schools return: Monday 20 April
Anzac Day: Friday 25 April
Malaria Awareness Day: Thursday 30 April (Australia)

Welcome to our new volunteer contributors:
Sasha Imada – trainee, Zuzu Rabbit, food reviews, Chloe Fragus, Scarlet Thompson and Silvia Casolari – photography. Welcome back to Andrew Chuter – human affairs etc, and Gloria Liang – illustrator. We look forward to your varied and interesting contributions.

Pat Clarke
.....
volunteers@ssh.com.au

SSH



Photo: Getty

Sunnyday Carers is NOT Sunny Days Care

10+	35+	200+	350+
Years Registered NDIS Provider	Group Homes Across NSW	Participants Supported	Staff & Support Workers

SPONSORED

SUNNYDAY CARERS

RECENT media coverage of an unrelated organisation — Sunny Days Care — has caused serious and understandable confusion in our community. We want to be absolutely clear: Sunnyday Carers has no affiliation, connection, or relationship whatsoever with that organisation.

Who We Are

Sunnyday Carers has proudly served people with disability across Greater Sydney, the Hunter Valley, Bega, and regional NSW for over a decade. We support some of the most complex and vulnerable members of our community across our 35+ Supported Independent

Living homes — and we are growing. Every one of our 200+ staff and support workers are committed to the people we serve.

Our Compliance

We are a fully registered, compliant NDIS provider. We operate robust internal systems aligned to the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission Practice Standards. We have formally notified the NDIS Commission of this naming issue and the reputational harm it poses to our organisation and the people we serve.

Our Commitment

To our participants, families, staff, and stakeholders — we hear your concerns and we take them seriously. Sunnyday Carers remains

unwavering in its commitment to providing quality, person-centred support to people with disability. Our purpose has not changed. Our standards have not changed.

“We have been here for over ten years, supporting hundreds of Australians with a disability. We are Sunnyday Carers — our record speaks for itself.”

Sunnyday Carers is a registered NDIS provider delivering Supported Independent Living, Community Access, In-Home Personal Care, and Behaviour Support across NSW. For enquiries contact Sunnyday Carers directly. sunnydaycarers.com.au



Spotted in... Redfern

Silvia Casolari shares her first of monthly local jungle photos for SSH. Nature is never far if you look closely.

Photo: Silvia Casolari / Olympus OM-1M3