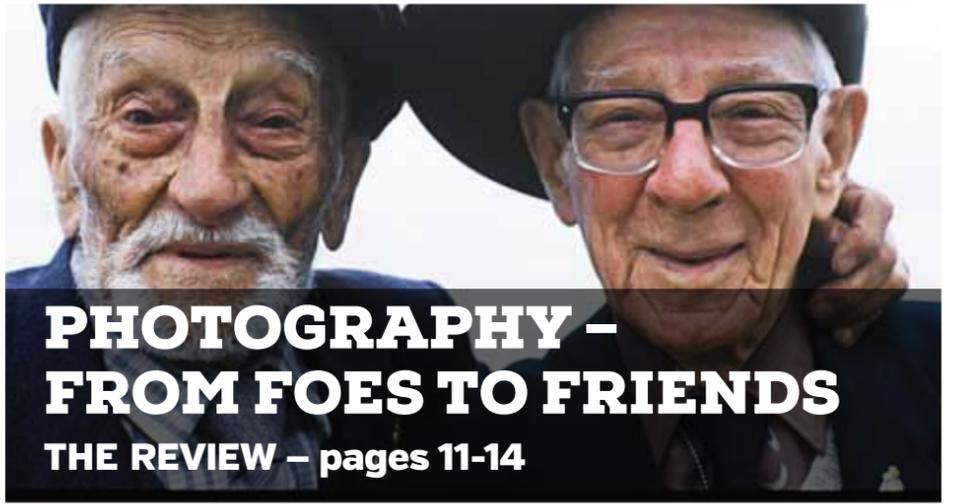


**INDIGENOUS-LED
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**PHOTOGRAPHY –
FROM FOES TO FRIENDS**
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the South Sydney Herald

NUMBER ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-NINE AUGUST '15 CIRCULATION 22,000 ALEXANDRIA BEACONSFIELD CHIPPENDALE DARLINGTON ERSKINEVILLE EVELEIGH GLEBE KINGS CROSS NEWTOWN PADDINGTON REDFERN SURRY HILLS WATERLOO WOOLLOOMOOLOO ZETLAND

STAUNCH TRIBUTES AT DARLINGTON LAUNCH



Norrie, Annie Street, Ivor Davies, Clover Moore, Andrew Collis, Dorothy McRae-McMahon and Susan Leith-Miller Photo: Lyn Turnbull

VANESSA CARTWRIGHT

DARLINGTON: On Saturday July 25, Charles Kernan Reserve was filled with a crowd of locals and a palpable sense of anticipation. Today was a day of celebration: not only of the completion of the Darlington village upgrade, but also of the legacy of a much-loved community member: Trevor Edward Davies (1956-2011).

The warm, sunny weather was a welcome backdrop for the occasion, as were the children dressed as life-sized cockatoos and parrots, the musicians and the free bike tune-ups. Aboriginal elder Uncle Ray Davison offered the Welcome to Country, and informed the crowd about the rich cultural heritage of the Darlington area. People admired the extra greenery, as well as the wide footpaths with new brick paving.

These improvements had been long advocated for by locals and the REDWatch community group, which wanted to “ensure the upgrade would

handle the large number of pedestrians and occur on both sides of the street to provide a village feel”.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore reminded the crowd that the Darlington upgrade has also provided underground power lines, extra lighting, and better stormwater drainage. It was apparently the drainage that caused some delay in the upgrade’s completion.

The highlight of the event for most people was the unveiling of a seat with a plaque dedicated to one of Darlington and Redfern’s local legends, Trevor Davies. Etched into the plaque is an inspiring poem written by one of Trevor’s oldest and dearest friends, the Rev. Dorothy McRae-McMahon. Here is an extract from the poem: “Such a mixture of determination/ and vulnerability he was./ A “one-off”, and yet a man of the people.”

Ms McRae-McMahon praised Trevor’s capacity to relate to people in the community – “Everybody knew him; he knew everybody,” she said. Trevor was the founder of what would become

this paper, the South Sydney Herald, a monthly outlet to continue his legacy of engagement with people in the local area – what former Mayor of South Sydney Tony Pooley called “Trevor’s stomping ground”.

As one of the founders of REDWatch and a member of the Labor party, Trevor was a huge champion of Aboriginal people, underdogs and the poor. “He would give you the shirt off his back,” remarked Susan, one of Trevor’s sisters. Trevor’s other sister Annie spoke of her brother’s love of newspapers since the age of three, and how he accepted everyone and had no fear or embarrassment about “stepping over the line”. Trevor’s brother Ivor shared a story of Trevor buying food for the homeless and reminisced about Trevor’s efforts to engage with people and get to know them. Many locals recalled Trevor’s marvellous sense of humour and his passion for social justice and activism. In all likelihood, Trevor was a resident who would have been relieved to see Darlington upgraded.

SSH

Club donation helps homeless service

SSH

WATERLOO: The Garden Shelter accommodation service for men experiencing homelessness has received a donation of \$1,000 from Club Redfern.

The Garden Shelter at 56a Raglan Street, Waterloo, is a partnership between Cana Communities and South Sydney Uniting Church. Each Wednesday night, up to 14 guests enjoy the hospitality offered by volunteers at the shelter. A light supper is shared, with everybody gathered at the community table, before the lights are dimmed and a mood set for a good night’s sleep.

Club President Cecil McQuillen visited the shelter in June, where

he too enjoyed the hospitality and lively conversation. Mr McQuillen was delighted to hear that donated funds would be used to purchase new mattresses, socks and underwear, as well as help toward an imminent upgrade of the kitchen facilities.

Regina Madden, Co-ordinator of the Garden Shelter, said: “We really appreciate the support of Club Redfern. It’s great that a local organisation can support a local service like ours – and show its support for the people of South Sydney. We appreciate the help enormously.”

SSH

If you’d like to volunteer at the Garden Shelter, Regina would be very happy to hear from you. Please phone 0413 067 700.

South Sydney Herald

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Sydney grannies protest child detention

GABY JUDD

THE members of the recently formed Sydney chapter of Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children (GADRC) put aside their usual activities during Refugee Week. The grandmothers held two vigils on the steps of Pitt Street Uniting Church in Sydney to protest against the detention of refugee and asylum seeker children. At the second vigil on Thursday June 18, the group was supported by inspirational, Sydney based a cappella gospel choir the Honeybees. The choir sang for the office workers passing by and helped to get the grandmothers' message across.

GADRC talked to the public about the predicament of these children, expressing their abhorrence at the inhumane practice by this government of detaining refugee children. Despite the knowledge that detention causes psychological damage to children, there are still 136 children in detention on mainland Australia, and 95 on Nauru. This group of grandmothers, with years of experience and wisdom in raising children, demand that this government show compassion and release these children into the Australian community whilst their refugee claims are processed.

The grandmothers are challenging government ministers and senators to consider what they would do if their children or grandchildren were in dangerous and threatening situations. Would they do nothing? Australian children live in freedom and safety and the Sydney grandmothers are asking, why is it that refugee and asylum seeker children do not deserve the same?

The details for our next vigil are: Tuesday August 18, gather from 11.30am at Pitt Street Uniting Church (264 Pitt Street), and march



Minister for Youth John Ajaka with Weave leaders Keenan Mundine (left) and Mischa Rado Photo: Andrew Collis

Clear pathways, brighter futures for young people

ANDREW COLLIS

WATERLOO: Minister for Multiculturalism, Ageing and Disability, John Ajaka, was recently handed responsibilities for the Youth portfolio, and paid a visit to Weave Youth & Community Services on July 21. Mr Ajaka took part in a positive and friendly discussion involving youth workers and clients, and announced a grant of \$1 million toward Weave's innovative sports, arts, counselling and leadership programs.

Youth worker Lucy Butler shared a statement prepared by Ashanti, a participant of the Kool Kids Club program. Having been involved with Kool Kids for five years, Shanti said she'd learnt the importance of "respecting one another and the community", and was keen to become a "Switch" leader like her brother before her, supporting young people in transition from primary to high school.

Speak Out leader Sam Johnson spoke about helping young people overcome

addiction and the stigma associated with drug use or mental illness. Casework, therapeutic and counseling activities, he explained, take place onsite at Weave as well as at various refuges and juvenile detention facilities throughout the state.

Mardi Diles, Partnerships and Marketing Manager, highlighted an ongoing campaign called Weave Survival Tips. "Every single person goes through tough times," Ms Diles said, "and everyone has unique survival tips to share". She invited the Minister to share a tip of his own, which he was very happy to do. "As a father of six and a person from an ethnic background, I have learned a few things along the way," he said. His tip? Never give up, and assist others - that way, you will always be a winner.

"I grew up in Redfern," said youth advocate Keenan Mundine. "As a young kid I got caught up in some not so positive activities and made some silly choices. But I'm reassessing where I want to be."

Mr Mundine said: "I work with Mardi, Sam and Kate, and Lucy at Weave, they've helped me build confidence,

to the Town Hall at 12pm. We will finish the vigil at 2pm at the Town Hall.

Any publicity that you are able to get for the group and the cause would be much appreciated.

GADRC Sydney is open to anyone concerned about the detention of refugee

children. We have grandmothers and non-grandmothers, we also have some men in our group. All are welcome. ssh

Purple GADRC t-shirts are available for sale at \$25 each. Part of the proceeds helps us with our costs. Just leave an order with

helped me make the right choices. Now I love working with younger people, helping to give them a clear pathway and a brighter future. Sometimes I volunteer, sometimes it's paid work. I can't wait to see the kids, smiling and running around. I'm studying youth work now, to inspire young people to stay at school and work hard. It's very meaningful to me and I love having the support of the team."

The funding is part of the government's Youth Opportunities program, which provides grants to organisations to deliver youth-led and youth-driven community projects with a positive development focus.

Mr Ajaka said that the government is encouraging organisations and community groups to submit projects aimed at empowering and increasing the confidence of young people to reach their full potential.

"This is our way of supporting grass-roots projects focused on making a positive difference to the lives of many young people including those from Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, disadvantaged youth and those with a disability.

Shane Brown, Chief Executive Officer of Weave, said that Youth Opportunities succeeds because it is flexible. It funds young people's good ideas when they are supported by good delivery and accountability mechanisms. "It's right that government and community services work in tandem," he said.

Since the Youth Opportunities program launched in 2012, almost \$6 million has been granted to more than 85 youth development projects. ssh

Information relating to the program guidelines, the application process and dates for the workshops are available at www.youth.nsw.gov.au. The online application process closes at 5pm on Monday August 31, 2015. To find out more about Weave visit www.weave.org.au.

your details via the following email address.

Gaby Judd is the founder of Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children Sydney, 0412 554 541, grandmothersrefsyd@gmail.com www.facebook.com/groups/NswGrandmothersAgainstDetention

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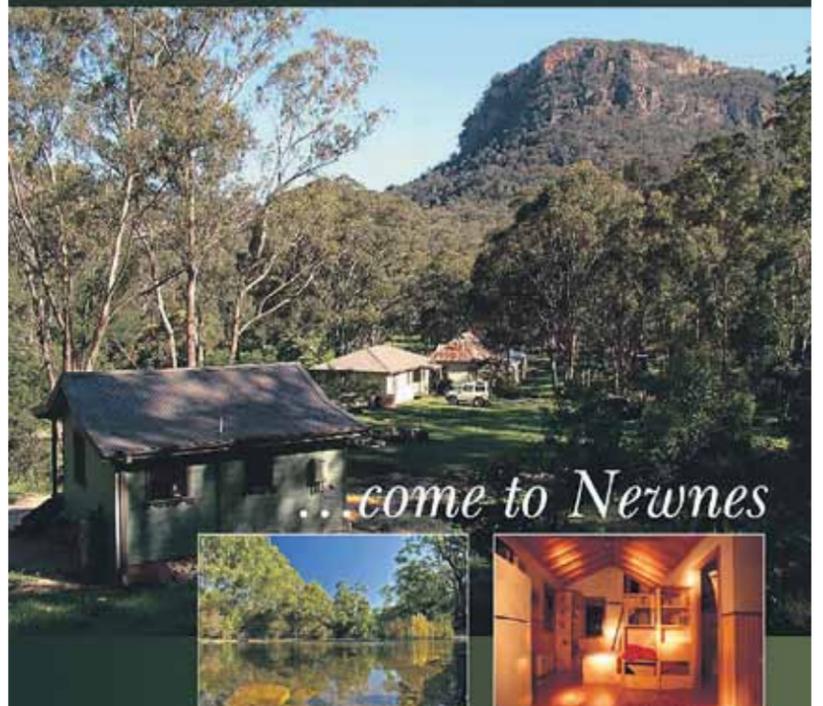


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THE YOUTH OF TODAY

High achiever's multiple skills

Shaquille Robinson (right) at Eora College Photo: Lyn Turnbull

LYN TURNBULL

AT just 20 years old, Shaquille Robinson may have been the youngest in her class when she graduated with a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment at Eora College Darlington, Sydney TAFE, but she is a multi-award winner.

At her graduation on June 3, Shaquille received the Student Achievement Award for Sydney TAFE's Yulang Aboriginal Education

Unit. The following week, on June 11, at TAFE's Bay 2 Bay regional awards, she received the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Trainee of the Year Award for the area stretching from Botany Bay to Broken Bay.

She will now progress to the NSW State Training Awards in September, which are in their 60th year. The awards aim to promote vocational education and training excellence in NSW and highlight the benefits of vocational qualifications for individuals,

communities and industry.

Shaquille's job involves educating Aboriginal women about their civil law rights and assisting with the production of information, newsletters and promotional material for her workplace. Her certificate in Training and Assessment will mean that she is able to implement what she has learnt for the benefit of her clients and use the skills she has refined during her course as she makes presentations and meetings for and on behalf of solicitors.

Shaquille was working full time in a job that involves travelling around NSW while she was studying. But the hard work hasn't put her off as she hopes to undertake further study and one day to become a solicitor, so that she can better represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly in the areas of mental health and the law.

She achieved a trifecta on June 19 at the Sydney TAFE Student Excellence Awards by receiving the Institute Achievement Award as Aboriginal

or Torres Strait Islander of the Year at a formal dinner for students who have exhibited outstanding academic achievement and performance. **SSR**

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The official event date is Monday, August 31, but events can be held anytime throughout August. Once you register a host kit will be sent to you with all the tools you need to run a successful event, including an information booklet, donation box, posters and lots more!



Go online to the Big Cake Bake and find lots of delicious recipes from Chris Bath, Kate Ritchie, Maggie Beer, Poh Ling Yeow, Pamela Clark, Alvin Quah, Adrian Richardson, Anna Gare, Rowie Dillon and Stefano Manfredi.

www.bigcakebake.org.au

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Every day children can be seen exploring their world through play, computer technologies, music, dance, gardening, art and craft, role playing, interacting with friends and celebrating special occasions, just to name a few.

Our fees range from \$17-30 per day (dependent on funding individual circumstances).

Please contact Raeleen or Angelique on 9699 3175 or come and visit us at: 55 Morehead St Redfern between 9-10am.



March against forced closure of Aboriginal communities in WA and in support of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Redfern, June 28 Photo: Claire Mahjoub

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

The phantom limb - living with grief and loss

ANNE CAMAC & LAURA BUZO

Have you ever lost someone close to you? Or something else that really mattered to you, a job perhaps. Grief is our reaction to loss. It is one of life's most painful experiences and it comes to nearly every one of us. It has many different manifestations and can be experienced in differing levels of acuity.

Some typical ways that a person may experience grief: feeling stunned, or "reeling" or disbelieving of what has happened. Feeling numb and/or removed from the immediate reality. Feeling acute sadness and crying a lot. Feeling anger about the loss and/or the circumstances of the loss. Feeling weak and unable to cope with the minutiae of life. Physical pain or other physical manifestations of the grief. Difficulty sleeping or sleeping excessively. It can be a very intense process, hard to go through yourself and hard to watch someone you love go through it.

Grief may well be something that never actually stops, but just changes. Thinking about loss as something that we will one day "get over" is not helpful. However, we can hope for the intensity of the feelings to lessen over time and the ability to live alongside it. It doesn't mean you have broken faith with the person you have lost, or have forgotten them.

Some things that can help: recognising that you are hurting, that your heart is aching, that you feel bereft. Don't soldier on trying

to ignore or deny your feelings. Some light activity to help break the tension, such as a walk, a soothing shower and hair-wash, a small meal accompanied by a small amount of alcohol. Allow yourself to talk or write about how you feel. If you are supporting someone who is grieving, remember that grief is a long process, so don't disappear after a month. Allow the person to talk if they wish, or just sit in silence.

Some things that definitely do not help: too much alcohol, keeping yourself alone for too long, pretending it's not happening. While much of the intensity of grief is considered "normal" and "natural", there are some signs that professional help may be needed. If a person has persistent thoughts of wanting to be with the deceased person, or has ongoing trouble with activities of daily living such as showering and eating, you have cause for concern. The same goes for persistent thoughts of guilt and/or worthlessness. While there is no "treatment" for grief, it has been known to trigger depression.. SSH

Head to these websites for more info:

- www.grief.org.au
- www.helpguide.org

Between them, Anne and Laura have over 30 years of experience as mental health professionals. That said, this column is not intended to replace professional advice when it is needed.

An integrated Metro transport-residential development plan

DANNY CARROLL

RECENT reporting of the NSW government's Sydney Metro Community Consultation Process has proposed the siting of one Metro station either near Sydney University (Option A, Western Arc) or in Redfern/Waterloo (Option B: Eastern Arc). This misses an historic opportunity to achieve an integrated transport management plan in this high-growth area.

The Sydney University option will be championed by the sectional interests of the University and nearby residents. The alternative Option proposes one station beneath the country platforms at Central station, with the line then presumably travelling through either Alexandria and St Peters OR possibly via Waterloo, Zetland, Beaconsfield and thence to Sydenham.

Building a Metro system is an absolutely historic opportunity. It's a signature moment, representing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to "get it right": decisions being made now will shape the inner city far into the future.

This article proposes building a large number of closely located Metro stations between Central and Sydenham to provide a holistic and integrated residential/transport development plan to service this densely populated corridor.

Suggesting four or five Metro stations is not fanciful: it is based on population growth projections that show this area has and will have comparable population densities to European cities, where functional mass transit systems site Metro stations from 700 metres to 1.5 kilometres apart. Inner London for example, with closely located Metro stations, services a smaller average population density (8,671 per square kilometre) than the current Redfern-Beaconsfield corridor. Barcelona's population density is less than the 2030 projections, yet has Metro stops every 700 metres!

The time to plan properly is now. The number of stations and the routes provided must work in tandem with the residential expansion drive of our state planning authorities. The transport plan has to move large numbers of people and provide a viable alternative to car ownership for the tens of thousands of new residents planned for the inner city.

From "outside the tent" it's hard to know whether the current one-station proposal over the five kilometres indicates lazy planning, misplaced budget frugality or is driven by other motives.

Inner-city population growth can't be ignored: the Green Square planning documentation projects a 2030 population of 53,000. The Ashmore Estate development in Alexandria (DA currently before Council), adds 6,000 new residents next to Sydney Park Village.

Multiple routes from Central must be evaluated. Metro station locations could include:

- Redfern, O'Dea Ave, Epsom Road, Gardeners Road, Sydenham;
- Redfern, O'Dea Ave, Epsom Road, Ashmore Estate, Sydenham;
- Redfern, Ashmore Estate, Sydenham;
- Sydney Uni, Redfern (and thence on to join routes above).

The key point is that the choice of routes be transparently chosen on an evidence-based evaluation that considers the greatest number of residents serviced, the likely economic and integrated transport benefits, and not just the additional project cost increase.

The current need does not require visionary planning: it simply requires professional planning. The one-station proposal is an epic "Fail". An evidence-based re-evaluation of the Metro Plan by the state government is required. SSH

Danny Carroll is a resident of Erskineville.

TABLE 1: METRO STATION DISTANCES AND POPULATION DENSITY COMPARED

CITY	METRO KMS	METRO STATIONS	AVG DISTANCE BTWN STATIONS	AVERAGE POPULATION DENSITY PER SQUARE KM
LONDON	402	270	1.48 Km	8,671 (INNER LONDON)
BARCELONA	102	141	0.72 Km	15,779
PARIS	214	300	0.71 Km	21,498
REDFERN - BEACONSFIELD	5	1?	5.00 Km	11,576 (2011*)
REDFERN - BEACONSFIELD	5	1?	5.00 Km	20,000 (APPROX) (2030-PROJECTED)

*Data above from Internet sites on European Metro systems, ABS 2011 data, Green Square Development population projections.

New college the dream of a lifetime



Norma Ingram at Eora TAFE in Darlington Photo: Lyn Turnbull

ANDREW COLLIS

A NEW college, the National Aboriginal College (NAC), is offering online courses in Business, Management, Training and Assessment, Work Health and Safety. Study by correspondence is also offered. The NAC website “welcomes people from all cultural backgrounds to pursue both nationally recognised qualifications as well as cultural awareness programs in an environment that fosters a better understanding of [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander] culture and traditions”.

Co-director Norma Ingram, a Wiradjuri woman who has lived most of her life in Redfern, brings over 35 years of direct industry experience in both training and serving the interests of Aboriginal communities.

Establishing an institution of

academic excellence upon traditional Aboriginal philosophies has been the dream of a lifetime. Setting up the NAC has been a lot of hard work, especially in the past six months, for both Aunty Norma and Aunty Grace Ferguson, a teacher and mentor with over 25 years of experience.

“I’ve been passionate about education for a long time,” Aunty Norma says. “We started the Murawina Preschool in Redfern [in the 1970s] and the Pemulwuy College in Newtown [in the early 1990s] because we want our people to succeed in mainstream society but not lose who they are culturally.

“Working in the TAFE system, I’d see a lot of Aboriginal people who’d say they did not know who they were. I’d say to them, ‘Tell me about your family, tell me about the festivals you enjoy, the community organisations you trust’. It can be a battle to maintain cultural values as an Aboriginal person. If you’re

‘one out’ it’s that much harder.”

Aboriginal cultural philosophies are relational and ecological. Aunty Norma refers to spiritual values (embedded in song and ceremony), kinship and community. “Aboriginal families are extended families – the sharing, it’s not just tangible but also knowing there’s somebody there [for you]. It’s about reciprocity. The words ‘please’ and ‘thank you’ don’t exist in Aboriginal languages. Reciprocity is something more automatic; a natural way to be. It’s being aware of needs, being in tune.”

Elaborating on the theme and its relevance to education, Aunty Norma speaks of everybody working toward the same goals, and of rewards shared. “And we never use the word ‘fail’ at the NAC,” she says. “Students are encouraged to engage in their own ways, at their own pace, with the support of online assessors. Until a student has met the subject requirements, she or he may be deemed ‘not yet competent’. We don’t shame our students – I’ve seen how demoralising that can be.”

Students of the NAC may include parents at home, people of all ages with various disabilities, or people isolated in small towns. “Everybody has the right to an education,” Aunty Norma says. “You just never know what skills you’ve got or what you can achieve until you give it a go.” **SSH**

The NAC offers nationally accredited courses in partnership with the Gold Coast Training College, RTO #40816. Information and enrolments at www.nac.edu.au or phone 1300 865 665.

Community rallies to save beloved pub

BEN AVELING

ALEXANDRIA: Residents were shocked to learn that a Development Application had been lodged to demolish the iconic Alexandria Hotel and replace it with a block of 28 apartments. Only residents within a 50-metre radius were directly informed by Council. Fortunately, residents were able to use social media to spread the word more widely. Among the first to do so was Alex Robinson, who set up the Facebook group “Save the Alex pub”.

Local couple Ben and Michelle Noblet also decided to take action. They created a tumblr website and they, together with neighbours, letterboxed the local streets. News spread fast and the “Save the Alex” campaign began to receive coverage in the mainstream media, notably the SMH and Channel 7.

Residents were stunned to discover that the hotel is not heritage listed, and that it has not been formally assessed for heritage status. “In the 16 years I’ve lived in the area I’d always assumed the hotel was heritage listed, it is such a historic pub,” said Ben Noblet.

Around 130 people risked missing the start of the State of Origin to attend the July meeting of the Alexandria Residents Action Group (ARAG), at which the future of the Alexandria Hotel was a major agenda item. As well as emphasising its heritage value, residents spoke of the long-term importance of the pub to the community, and its status as a family-friendly and dog-friendly hotel.

Mathew Hounsell from the pro-public transport group EcoTransit warned the ARAG meeting that the development, along with other nearby developments, would add to congestion and parking pressure in the area. Mr Hounsell also warned residents that on-street parking is likely to be lost if WestConnex proceeds and that the plans for Sydney Metro include



The Alexandria Hotel Photo: The Alexandria Hotel

a 50 per cent reduction in trains to Erskineville and St Peters stations, even though the closest proposed Metro stop is at Sydney University, and may be as far away as Waterloo.

The meeting passed a motion calling on Council to issue an Interim Heritage Order, the first step towards long-term protection for the hotel.

The meeting was attended by Jenny Leong, the Greens State Member for Newtown, and Irene Doughty, the Greens Councillor on the City of Sydney. Christine Forster, one of two Liberal councillors on the City of Sydney Council, and Ron Hoenig, Labor State Member for Heffron, were represented by their staff.

Ron Hoenig has since mailed local residents. His office has received over 180 objections to the DA, which will be handed to Council.

Christine Forster confirmed that her office has already seen 67 objections, “a large number, this will be only a

fraction of the objections that have been submitted. Unless people CC us, objections only go to the planning department; the councillors don’t get to see them”.

Council will consider the matter, probably sometime in the next two months.

STOP PRESS: The developer has (apparently) invoked “deemed refusal” and is taking Council to the Land and Environment Court. Council has issued an Interim Heritage Order, which means a six-month stay, pending heritage listing. **SSH**

For updates, visit www.savethealexpub.tumblr.com or www.arag.org.au. To be informed of development applications near you, you can register for notifications at www.planningalerts.org.au, or visit www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au subscribe/email-newsletters and subscribe to DA listings newsletter.



Save the Alexandria Hotel

Part of what I love about our community is the stories it tells through its mix of old and new spaces.

I remember sitting in the Alexandria Hotel for a film night in 2013 when three original members of The Sapphires performed an impromptu song for the crowd, a beautiful harmony under the lanterns in the marquee. Or last year when over a hundred Labor members and supporters met up on the Saturday after Gough Whitlam’s passing to share their memories of the great man and reflect on all he had done for our country and for our local community. Birthdays, wakes, unplanned late nights: we each have our own stories that the Alexandria Hotel holds.

But the Alexandria hotel is now facing being demolished in favour of more high-density housing. A number of community members have contacted me in recent weeks with their concerns about the proposal from both a heritage protection and accessibility concern.

I support urban consolidation because its better for the environment than limitless urban sprawl, and I support increasing the number of homes we build so young people can still have a hope of buying a home of their own one day. But I don’t support bulldozing everything that gives our beautiful city its character.

Every old pub that goes takes a part of our community’s history with it. We need places to meet our neighbours, listen to live music and get a counter meal. Without places like the Alex, what becomes of our quality of life?

Submissions have now closed but I will continue to keep an eye on the issue and support the fantastic community campaign as it develops.

You can follow that campaign at <http://savethealexpub.tumblr.com>

Tanya Plibersek

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USS Blue Ridge entertains for NAIDOC week

BRUCE WARDLEY

REDFERN: The traditional NAIDOC week community lunch at the Redfern Community Centre was given an extra lift this year with entertainment provided by a woodwind trio from the command ship of the US Navy's Seventh Fleet, the USS Blue Ridge.

Community Centre Manager Kristina Karasulas said the Tuesday lunch is now a weekly tradition in Redfern with catering provided by student chefs from the National Indigenous Culinary Institute (NICI) and their resident local cooks trained through Yaama Dhiyaan, Lisa Simon and Aunty Patty.

To help celebrate NAIDOC week, British India Trading Co. Head Chef, Matt Taylor, agreed to give the students a helping hand. A traditional beef brisket was enhanced with native herbs and spices from the Australian bush. More than 80 people attended the free lunch including family and friends from Redfern, Surry Hills and La Perouse. Ms Karasulas says it was a chance for local people and organisations to get together for NAIDOC week to share good company and great food.

The woodwind trio members are part of the 1,100 strong crew of USS Blue Ridge, the flagship of the US Seventh Fleet, which is normally based in Japan but recently docked in Sydney ahead of the forthcoming Talisman Sabre naval exercises in Northern Australia.

Musicians Scott Wilson of San Angelo, Texas, Aaron Schmidt of Dayton, Ohio, and Cassie De Moss of West Virginia performed



a number of classical pieces before joining local residents for lunch.

NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee.

NAIDOC week recognises the contribution of Indigenous Australians and celebrates Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander culture. The theme for 2015 was "We all Stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect and Celebrate".

The Redfern Community Centre is operated by Sydney City Council and the next major event is the Indigenous Science Competition Experience from August 19-22.

RLC funding update: three services saved, one to close

SSH

REDFERN: Redfern Legal Centre is grateful for support and donations received in response to its recent public appeal. The RLC's funding shortfall has been dramatically reduced.

In just two months RLC received over \$40,000 in private donations, plus some extra from private foundations. It has managed to save its Employment and Discrimination services. A donation of \$82,000 from UNSW Law in addition to public donations has helped save its

Policing Practice.

"This has been an amazing response," said Joanna Shulman, CEO. "Our services are vital for ensuring that vulnerable people have access to the help they need.

"Our Discrimination and Employment services are run by just one solicitor, who supervises many volunteers and a pro-bono partnership. This shows just how much we can accomplish with minimal financial support."

Unfortunately, the centre has not been able to preserve all of its services. RLC will not be able to continue its

award-winning International Students' service beyond September 2015. "We are currently applying for funding and are hopeful that we will be able to offer services to international students in the future," Ms Shulman said.

"RLC is extremely saddened by the loss of our valued International Students' solicitor and a statewide service that has provided much needed assistance to a vulnerable group, often overlooked."

Ms Shulman concluded: "We are proud to be able to continue our work creating access to justice."



Photo: iStock

Valuing LGBTIQ voices in the Catholic Church?

SSH

THIS question will be addressed in a forum at St Joseph's Catholic Church Newtown on September 3 at 7pm.

The forum will provide a space for a dialogue on shifting a common approach to LGBTIQ people, which names them as "clients" to be fixed, toward their being regarded equal voices in an inclusive society. While this will be discussed in the context of Catholic texts that exclude, it is relevant to the broader society.

The Interim Report at last year's Synod on the Family in Rome broke new ground when it said: "Homosexuals have gifts and qualities to offer to the Christian community. Are we capable of providing for these people, guaranteeing them a place of fellowship in our communities? Oftentimes, they want to encounter a Church which offers them a welcoming home. Are our communities capable of this, accepting and valuing their sexual orientation ...?"

Enough bishops (34 per cent) voted against this for it to be excluded from the final statement.

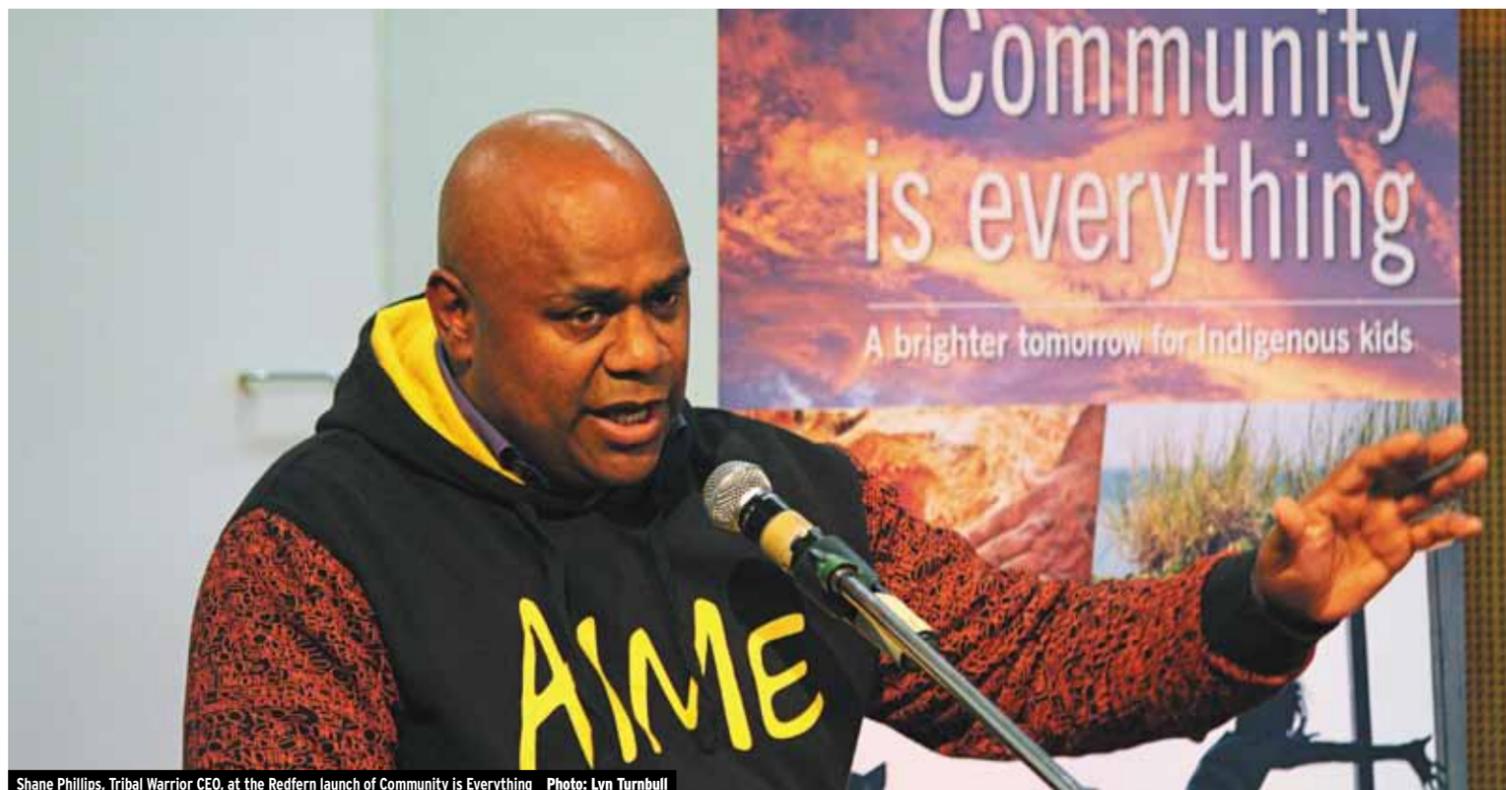
This confirms for LGBTIQ Catholics their status in the Church as "clients" – that is, those spoken about and offered assistance to "help them in their struggle". LGBTIQ Catholics legitimately ask why their relationship to the Church is defined by their sexual orientation and not their giftedness.

It's time to listen to LGBTIQ stories as fellowship gift and grace. It's time to embrace all Church members by virtue of baptismal dignity and equality, inviting all to a true human flourishing.

The panel will include Melody Gardiner (Community Organiser); Sue and Les Mico (PFLAG); Fr Roy O'Neill MSC (Parish Priest) and Ben Oh (Co-convenor of Rainbow Catholics). All are welcome and it is free.

SSH

newtownfaith.blogspot.com.au



Shane Phillips, Tribal Warrior CEO, at the Redfern launch of Community is Everything Photo: Lyn Turnbull

Amnesty supports Indigenous-led community solutions

HANNAH MOORE

CHILDREN play a vital role in any community. Under the Convention on Rights of the Child, all children have the right to "develop their personalities, abilities and talents to the fullest potential, to grow up in an environment of happiness, love and understanding". However, many Indigenous children do not have full opportunities to fulfill this right.

Indigenous young people are more likely to be incarcerated today than at any time since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody in 1991.

While Indigenous youth make up only 5 per cent of the youth population of Australia, they make up 50 per cent of the juvenile prison population.

These children are 26 times more likely to be detained than non-Indigenous children nationally, and 18 times more likely here in NSW. Indigenous incarceration rates are drastically higher than their non-Indigenous counterparts in every state.

The Northern Territory was recently revealed to contain the largest number of people in detention per capita, following only China and the US. In 2013, 86 per cent of inmates were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. One in five inmates were under the age of 25.

Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show ten years after release, four in five previously imprisoned Indigenous youths had returned to jail.

Amnesty International's latest campaign, Community is Everything, aims to reduce the incarceration rate by 25 per cent over the next

five years, by pressuring federal and state governments to divert funds that would be spent on incarceration into giving better support to Indigenous-led community solutions and complying with their international legal obligations.

These solutions come under the umbrella of "justice reinvestment", which was recommended by the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in 2010. Mick Gooda, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, describes justice reinvestment as a "criminal justice approach that diverts a portion of the money for imprisonment to local communities where there is a high concentration of offenders.

"The money that would have been spent on imprisonment is reinvested into services that address the underlying causes of crime in these communities."

The cost of detaining a young person for a year is estimated to be around \$440,000. Amnesty International Secretary General Salil Shetty said this money could put an Indigenous young person through an entire undergraduate medical degree at a prestigious university.

At the launch of the Amnesty report A Brighter Tomorrow, which focuses on Indigenous youth justice issues, Mr Salil explained that under a justice reinvestment system, existing funding would be redirected to community-led prevention programs, negating the need for additional funds.

"It's not about spending more money," he said. "It's about pulling that spending out of the bottomless pit of the criminal justice system and redirecting it into early intervention and prevention programs that work for all. It's a

win-win for all Australians."

Bourke, a town in regional NSW, has already taken steps to implement a justice reinvestment system led by the Bourke Aboriginal Community Working Party (BACWP).

From March 2014, the BACWP has worked to establish a watertight social and economic case for justice reinvestment to be implemented in the community. In 2016, the Bourke community, Just Reinvest NSW and their supporters will take their case to the NSW government for response and action.

The plan involves identifying savings under the existing arrangement and from there, outlining where re-investment could improve justice system outcomes for young people. At the same time, the program will work with local police to tackle some issues that are identified to contribute to young people's involvement with the justice system.

This includes establishing a driver's licence program, a program to support people not to breach bail conditions, and a warrant clinic to assist young people who have committed less serious offences to stay out of remand.

In Redfern, the community has rallied behind young men who have been in frequent contact with the police, working as a community to provide ways of rehabilitation in line with their cultural beliefs.

Mr Gooda reported community leaders taking young men on a five-day intensive bush camp with indigenous mentors. At the conclusion of the camp, there was a ceremony welcoming the young men back to community.

"Instead of being made invisible, they were embraced," Mr Gooda said.

The Tribal Warrior Mentoring

Program is aimed at decreasing recidivism rates among young people in the community. By creating a supportive family environment, promoting commitment to the program, discipline through physical training, and giving kids the opportunity to go on excursions to places of cultural significance with their mentors, where they learn the history of certain sites and their heritage, the program was able to report a decrease of crime in the area by 70 per cent.

The idea behind justice reinvestment and the Brighter Tomorrow report is that justice should not be removed or viewed separately to other social factors. For this reason, in order to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous life outcomes, we need to adopt justice targets and implement justice reinvestment.

There is no magic trick that will reverse the shocking rates of Indigenous youth incarceration in Australia, but with support from the public, and the participation of Indigenous communities in the push for justice reinvestment, we have an opportunity to begin that change for our young people.

Mr Shetty drew parallels in his delivery of the Amnesty report between the stolen generation and the generation who are increasingly spending time behind bars, away from their communities and away from their childhoods.

"Australia has a long and tragic history of removing Indigenous children from their families and communities," he said.

"We will see another generation lost to failed government policies, unless Australia shows the vision to support and fund Indigenous people to be the architects of the solution." SSH

This page sponsored by UnitingCare NSW.ACT, the Board of the NSW and ACT Synod of the Uniting Church responsible for the work of community services, chaplaincy and social justice advocacy.

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Why I am running

SAMUEL CLARK

I HAVE been writing the *Big Issue* Vendor Profile column for over two years now. From Scott's story back in October 2013 to Adla's in July's edition, I've struggled to adequately retell their stories, which have often left me lost for words.

Over this time I've tried to highlight their resilience and strength in the face of so much adversity. I have seen them selling in the city in conditions in which I would not leave the house, let alone stand outside selling magazines. I have seen hordes of people walk past them as if they were invisible, failing to flinch when simply asked, "Hello how are you?", yet they continue to ask.

When talking to David, who has been a *Big Issue* vendor since 1996, he mentioned that he was doing the City to Surf "to give something back to the *Big Issue* after all it has given me". He explained that "the *Big Issue* has got



Big Issue Vendor Peter Photo: Peter Holcroft

me out of that much trouble in the past. I'd rock up with nothing to my name, and the magazine saved me."

It is for these reasons that I will be proud to run alongside 13 *Big Issue* vendors in this year's City to Surf,

raising money for the *Big Issue*.

I want to show them that people do appreciate them and that they are respected for the determination they show every day to improve their lives. I want to show them that people are willing to help them, even if they are helping themselves. But most importantly I want to help those who are yet to come to the *Big Issue*.

By raising money for such an amazing organisation, I hope to help more who have fallen on hard times and need a hand to help them get back on their feet. This is why I am running the City to Surf 2015. SSH

Donations can be made before and after the event at www.city2surf2015.everydayhero.com/au/the-big-issue-walks-runs-and-rolls-1/members

If you would like to know more, or if anyone you know could benefit from working at the *Big Issue*, please contact the Sydney office for more information: 125-127 Little Eveleigh St, Redfern; phone 83327200; email sydney@bigissue.org.au.



Around the table in Surry Hills Photo: Supplied

A place at the table for everyone

SSH

THE Welcome Dinner project, an initiative of non-profit organisation *joiningthedots*, is helping new arrivals and established locals get to know each other over a good meal.

"This is not an idea we just came up with. We were asked for it. And it's worked," says Penny Elsley, founding director of *joiningthedots*, a grass-roots movement for social change committed to seeing "communities become fully alive to the interconnections which lead to a meaningful, sustainable life for the earth and its inhabitants".

The project evolved out of hearing from both newly arrived and established Australians that they were struggling to find ways to connect at a personal level. The aim of Welcome Dinners, then, is to create a platform for meaningful connection, sparking friendships between people of diverse cultures who are living in close proximity to one another but have not yet had a chance to meet.

Trained Welcome Dinner facilitators are present to lead the activities and offer support to the host. Each dinner has a mix of established Australians and newly arrived people from across the world – they could be migrants, refugees or people still seeking asylum here in Australia or international students currently studying in our universities and colleges.

"What better way to bring people together than over food?" says Ms Elsley. "Hospitality is something we all have in common. At these dinners, we connect people through their common humanity so we get beyond the usual, 'Where do you work?' and 'Where do you come from?' to things we have in common as human beings." Ms Elsley has noticed, for example, that "Where do you work?" can be an intimidating question to ask a person who is not established yet, or who, like some asylum

seekers living in the community, don't have the right to work.

At each dinner, open to all and at no cost to participants, there are what Ms Elsley describes as "a few rituals" to break the ice and put the group of strangers at ease. The dinners are pot-luck. Every guest brings a dish representing their country or culture.

At the start, the facilitator will ask each guest to introduce their dish and explain why it is significant to them. "It's an amazing process because from that, everyone has an insight into everyone else, and even the shy people have said something," says Ms Elsley. "It opens the space in a beautiful way. And those people who have never stepped inside someone's home in Australia before – never mind cooked for somebody else in this country before – get something from this that is really quite unique."

In Sydney people tend to live in pockets. Suburbs, generally speaking, are divided into where established Australians live, and where other people live. Ms Elsley says language can exacerbate this. But the biggest barrier, she believes, is "fear of the other and of what we don't know about the other".

The project is run entirely by volunteers and is currently funded by two crowd-funding campaigns and some local council grants. But what the organisation really needs, says Ms Elsley, is corporate sponsorship.

"We've had an international student say: 'For the first time I feel like I don't miss my family.' One refugee said, 'This is the first time I feel free in this country.' It's just a dinner, but it means a lot to people." SSH

Welcome Dinners are yet to take off in southern Sydney. If you are interested in participating or hosting a Welcome Dinner, donating or becoming a facilitator, visit joiningthedots.org. Interview with Penny Elsley first published in *Broadsheet*: "Guess who's coming to dinner" by Miriam Kauppi, July 23, 2014 (www.broadsheet.com.au).



Violence - it isolates us, from each other and from solutions Photo: Claire Mahjoub

Do we encourage violence?

KATIE GOMPERTZ

THE NRL, it's one of Australia's proudest achievements.

The excitement of a game; it's exhilarating, competitive and violent. Technical aptitude aside (I don't want to take away from the players the incredible skill involved), some would say it's pretty much an excuse for players to smash each other up.

The NRL recently came under scrutiny again when Sydney Roosters winger Shaun Kenny-Dowall was brought up on charges including six counts of assault, assault causing actual bodily harm, using a carriage service to menace and harass as well as stalking and intimidation, all towards his ex-girlfriend.

According to Roosters co-captain, Jake Friend: "We haven't stood him down, it's simply because he's not right to play. Once he is, I'm sure he'll be straight back in our team."

I just leave that with you for a moment to consider what it says about the seriousness of the alleged crimes.

What does it say? It says:

"We don't really care that he's up on these serious charges of Domestic Violence, he'll be playing again soon (after the case)."

Presumption of innocence aside, of course, it sounds to this writer that the alleged crimes aren't being taken seriously. At time of print the case has been adjourned until August 6.

So does the NRL play a role in our violent society, beyond being just a sport? Whether seated in the stands or the lounge room, it seems that violence, sport and entertainment go hand in hand.

Take SOO for example (that's State Of Origin for those who don't know), ABC journalist, Ned Manning, explains it as follows. "SOO is violent. There's no getting away from it. Players can do things to each other in SOO games they would never be allowed to do in club games, or anywhere else for that matter." He then goes on to acknowledge: "Most kicks in SOO are directed at the head of the opponent rather than the ball. The game itself is deliciously spiteful. Eyes and heads roll with riveting regularity." Deliciously spiteful. Violent.

Heads roll with riveting regularity.

Hmmm, I am seeing a common theme here; we're finding entertainment in violence, not in the sport, but in the violence of the players. This is a problem. These players, like it or not, are role models in our society for every man, woman and child who follows their success. So if violence is an accepted and celebrated part of the sport, is it possible or even plausible that many feel this behaviour extends into their home as a normal and accepted behaviour because we as society actively encourage it in our sports players for entertainment?

That violence occurs on-field is certainly cause for concern and when it happens off field, by a player, in their own home, it is somehow explained away: "He was under too much stress"; "She goaded him"; "He's very young and impressionable"... And that has a cultural impact on the greater society. More than we care to admit or readily identify.

Women Dead from Domestic Violence in July: 6 Year to Date: 53 SSH

DO YOU NEED SUPPORT?

- If you feel you need to find somewhere safe, Jan from the Moving Forward organization can be contacted on 9599 3217 or email at manager@movingforward.org.au.
- If you or somebody you know is in immediate danger, call 000 now.
- 1800 RESPECT - 24-hour hotline for any Australian who has experienced, or is at risk of, family and domestic violence. Call 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732) or visit their website.
- Safe Steps is a 24-hour family violence response centre. Call 1800 015 188 or visit their website.
- Lifeline provides all Australians with access to 24-hour crisis support and suicide prevention services. Call 13 11 14 or visit their website.
- Relationships Australia provides support services for individuals, families and communities. Call 1300 364 277 or visit their website.

Let's get real

EDITORIAL

SSH

RACISM can be shocking. It is insidious, hidden from view then suddenly all too apparent. The disrespect paid to Sydney Swans star Adam Goodes on the part of some AFL supporters and media professionals (for some time now) is, as Race Discrimination Commissioner Dr Tim Soutphommasane has said, blatantly racist. Goodes, it seems, is a target because he is an outspoken critic of colonialism and because he is a proud Aboriginal person.

We express our strong support of Goodes, who has shown extraordinary composure in shameful circumstances. There is opportunity here for truth-telling and ultimately for peace-making, which means the hard work of

constructing more respectful and equitable relationships.

Dr Matthew Klugman, a researcher at Victoria University's Institute of Sport, Exercise and Active Living (ISEAL), has offered expert advice to the mounting discussion over the booing of Goodes, labelling the display "an act of racial hatred".

"Booing passionately is a longstanding privilege at the heart of the game. Indigenous players are also central to the game and the stories the AFL tells and sells," Dr Klugman explained. "But both cannot go on when so many spectators have turned the art of booing into an act of racial hatred. The AFL has a cultural crisis on its hands."

The SSH supports all nonviolent measures of resistance to racial hatred, including the right of players to exit the playing field, and the suspension or cessation of play. Let's get real and let's grow up. SSH



cartoon: norrie maAy-welby

Fair go, Australia

FAITH

PETER MAHER

THE Australian quip "fair go, mate" is not used as a salute to Australian values but more as a plea for decency when someone steps over the line, irks us or is unacceptably indecent or cruel. When we search for what Australians value we sometimes refer to the "fair go" as enshrining the aspirations of a nation.

We sometimes assume it means that we are a nation that supports equality, egalitarianism, economic opportunity and a generous welfare safety net for those suffering bad times. However, it is mostly used self referentially or for our mates. "Everyone should get a fair go"

mostly means either "I should be getting a bigger slice of the pie" or "my mates should be getting more". It's about me and/or us when "us" refers to people like me over against "them" – people with more than me, people who are different from me, people I don't understand or people who threaten my privileged space – either in reality or perceived.

A fair go in Australia, it seems to me, is more about how I exclude the other – rather than include all. A fair go means leaving things as they are or changing them in my favour. A fair go means creating a climate of fear based on what I stand to lose or on our deepest phobias.

How can we say we are a country that believes in a fair go for all when Australia's First Peoples are locked out of the political process, leaving them without a voice as

"we" address "their" generational disadvantage and dispossession? How can we say we are a country that believes in a fair go for all while thousands of asylum seekers remain on the high seas off our coast or trapped permanently in detention camps without hope? How can we say we are a country that believes in a fair go for all and yet deny the need for action when climate change threatens future generations, our near neighbours' very lands and the welfare of many poorer countries?

How can we say we are a country that believes in a fair go for all when many are denied equal rights to marriage? How can we say we are a country that believes in a fair go for all when we legislate the threat of two years jail for health and legal professionals who report physical, mental and sexual abuse of adults and children in their care in government facilities? How can we say we are a country that believes in a fair go for all when we keep sending troops to unjust wars creating more problems than they solve? How can we say we are a country that believes in a fair go for all when poverty, racism and violence continue to make front page headlines?

How can we say we are a country that believes in a fair go for all when homophobia, sexual assault and bullying remain undiminished? How can we say we are a country that believes in a fair go for all when fear of terrorism and Islamophobia are pedalled as necessary to keep Australia safe?

It is a nice aspiration that all should get a fair go. However, when we look at how we act, rather than how we talk – fair go, mate. SSH

Peter Maher, is the parish priest of St Joseph's Newtown. He will present on this topic at Paddington Spirituality in the Pub on August 8.

Joint statement on housing affordability

OPINION

SSH

Housing and homelessness peaks in NSW have issued a joint statement outlining their position on the housing affordability crisis in NSW.

THERE is a growing public discourse on the housing system and in particular the availability of accessible and affordable housing. Clearly the system is failing many individuals and families. We have considerable experience and expertise in understanding the housing markets and call on all levels of government to work to ensure a fairer housing system.

A lack of affordable housing has both economic and social consequences. Without safe and secure housing women and children can't leave violent situations, recidivism increases, homelessness will not be solved and essential service workers will increasingly be unable to live in the communities they serve.

We reject claims that increasing supply will solve the affordability crisis. In recent years NSW has seen strong increases in supply, but affordability has only worsened. Increasing supply will only make a difference if it is specifically targeted to the lower end of both the home ownership and rental markets.

Changes in employment that have resulted in greater levels of casualisation, contracting and insecurity have had a serious impact on first homeowners' capacity to sign up to long term mortgages with confidence. Workers under the age of 30 are more likely to be casual than ever before. If the trend continues into the prime working age years it will come at the cost of income security. Almost a quarter of all employees in Australia (23.9 per cent, or 2.2 million people) in 2012 reported as casual employees. The proportion is even higher after adding more than a million contractors and the hundreds of thousands employed through agencies. In addition wages growth is almost flat.

In much of NSW attempting to assist people on low incomes into the private rental market is

an almost impossible task. This is clearly evidenced in the Anglicare Rental Affordability Snapshot. Additionally at the 2011 Census over 86,000 households in NSW were in rental housing stress, paying more than 30 per cent of their income in rent. This is unsustainable.

Tax reform is necessary. We would urge all parties to re-examine the findings of the Henry Tax Review. There is clear evidence that negative gearing and the capital gains tax discounts drive speculation, increasing house prices. There is scant evidence that making adjustments to negative gearing will cause rents to increase.

While the NSW government has made a start in establishing an incentive fund for social and affordable housing, more needs to be done. There is an enormous gap between government-sponsored housing and the private rental market. We would support direct investment by the state government to increase affordable housing supply. Private investors need encouragement to provide affordable housing.

The NSW laws need to change to allow increased security of tenure for tenants as well as fairer restrictions on rent increases. We believe that the Boarding House Act, while a step in the right direction, has failed to ensure an adequate standard of accommodation for many people who are marginally housed.

We would support moves by local councils to increase the supply of affordable housing and urge them to work with communities to encourage new development, by highlighting the significant social benefits of secure and affordable housing. SSH

For further information:

Churches Housing:
Magnus Linder - 0417 487 052

DVNSW:
Moo Baulch - 0400 936 192

Homelessness NSW:
Katherine McKernan - 0425 288 446

NCOSS:
Laura Maclean - 0412 867 658

Shelter NSW:
Mary Perkins - 0419 919 091

Tenants Union of NSW:
Ned Cutcher - 0405 433 996

YFoundations:
Michael Coffey - 0425 228 758

The Sydney Metro 'consultation'

COMMENT

DARREN JENKINS

HENRY Ford once remarked that customers buying his revolutionary Model T cars could have them in any colour they wished, as long as it was black. And so it has been with Sydney Metro's consultation for the future of train services.

Suggest anything you want, as long it fits with Transport for NSW's vision of single-deck metro-style trains that travel from Rouse Hill to the CBD via a second harbour tunnel crossing, bypass urban renewal sites in Erskineville and St Peters, and then go on to cannibalise the Bankstown line from Sydenham to Bankstown. Oh, and you can choose between a station at Sydney University or one at Waterloo, but beware of stoking UrbanGrowth's greedy appetite for a bigger public housing sell-off to fuel more senseless density.

It may never sit well to argue against spending money on trains, but when the government is about to tip the biggest bucket of public cash over Sydney's rail network in a generation, it is imperative that the money puts out as many fires as possible and not just slosh into the pockets of private rail operators.

That's why, no matter how you look at Transport for NSW's Sydney Metro plan, there will be far too many opportunities lost and far too many wrong steps to stay quiet and hope for the best.

In South Sydney, the proposed Metro will ignore the doubling of the population in Erskineville and St Peters and take all Bankstown line trains away from those stations. Keep in mind Erko and St Peters have some of the highest overcrowding in the network, reaching 167 per cent capacity in the morning peak.

Transport for NSW has pointedly said that, once those services are gone, there is no guarantee they will all be reinstated. With that kind of attitude, it seems like it was no mistake that the glossy brochures Sydney Metro handed out like candy at recent community information sessions excluded any mention of Erskineville and St Peters. Apparently, this area just doesn't figure in the state government's calculations for public transport into the future.

There will be other big losers from Sydney Metro. The thousands of commuters accessing the stations west of Sydenham to Bankstown will face a year of chaos when their otherwise perfectly serviceable stations will be put out of action so they can be "upgraded" to accommodate the new metro trains. Never mind the millions already spent in recent years on stations at Marrickville, Campsie and others to improve accessibility. And what's more, after all this money is spent, these stations will be handed over to a private operator, funded by taxpayers, to run this new not-so-public transport system.

Passenger comfort also takes a hit. Metros will have around 600 less seats than the dual-deck trains, and

standing passengers will be required to fit four to the square metre. To give you an idea of the squash to come, lay the South Sydney Herald on the ground and that's the space you will get to stand in and no more. And remember, that will be expected for the entirety of the 60kms of line from Bankstown to the CBD to Rouse Hill.

The government says everyone should get on board with the changes because of the improvements to rail capacity across the network. But as public transport advocates like EcoTransit, Action for Public Transport NSW and Sandy Thomas have shown, even greater improvements could have been made for a fraction of the costs through a series of smart stepwise solutions envisaged by the visionary John Bradfield one hundred years ago. This month, a public meeting at a full Erskineville Town Hall rejected Sydney Metro in its current form and called on the government to go back to the drawing board. But the government shows little sign of listening.

Instead, the blind ideology that created the turkey of the privatised metro-style North West Rail Link is coming to gobble up the rest of the public rail system. This extreme view within Transport for NSW, which insisted that new train tunnels be built too steep and too small for the existing dual-deck trains, holds sway in government and is now coming, if it can, for each and every one of us. Not for any other compelling reason than you can have any kind of rail future you want, as long as it's black. SSH

Identity struggle under the occupation in East Jerusalem

NAHED FRAITEKH ODEH

Nahed was one of a panel of Palestinians speaking at a meeting organised by the Inner West Jewish Community and Friends Alliance. She has summarised her presentation for the SSH.

IN this article I will present Palestinian daily life in Jerusalem, where freedoms, equality, and social justice are denied. Palestinians from Jerusalem, who are residents of Israel and hold Israeli identity cards, face many struggles.

For Palestinians, Jerusalem is the heart of Palestine and is always in their hearts. After occupying the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the Israeli occupation seized over 23 square kilometres of East Jerusalem and surrounding areas. The Israeli government built more than 35,000 housing units, and is still building, while the Palestinians do not have the right to build one unit. The Palestinians from East Jerusalem then became residents of Israel.

The Palestinians who hold an Israeli identity card have the right to live in Jerusalem and only Jerusalem. They are allowed to travel in Israel from one area to another but they cannot under any circumstances live outside the borders of Jerusalem.

The Israeli authorities created, and still are creating, many laws and regulations in order to make the city of Jerusalem Jewish, such as the Israeli Order No. 11, which states that any person who changes their place of residence loses the right to return to Jerusalem. This applies not only to moving out of Palestine (Israel), but also to moving outside the municipal limits. All this is in order to change the demographic balance in favour of the Israelis and make the Arabs a minority population in the city.

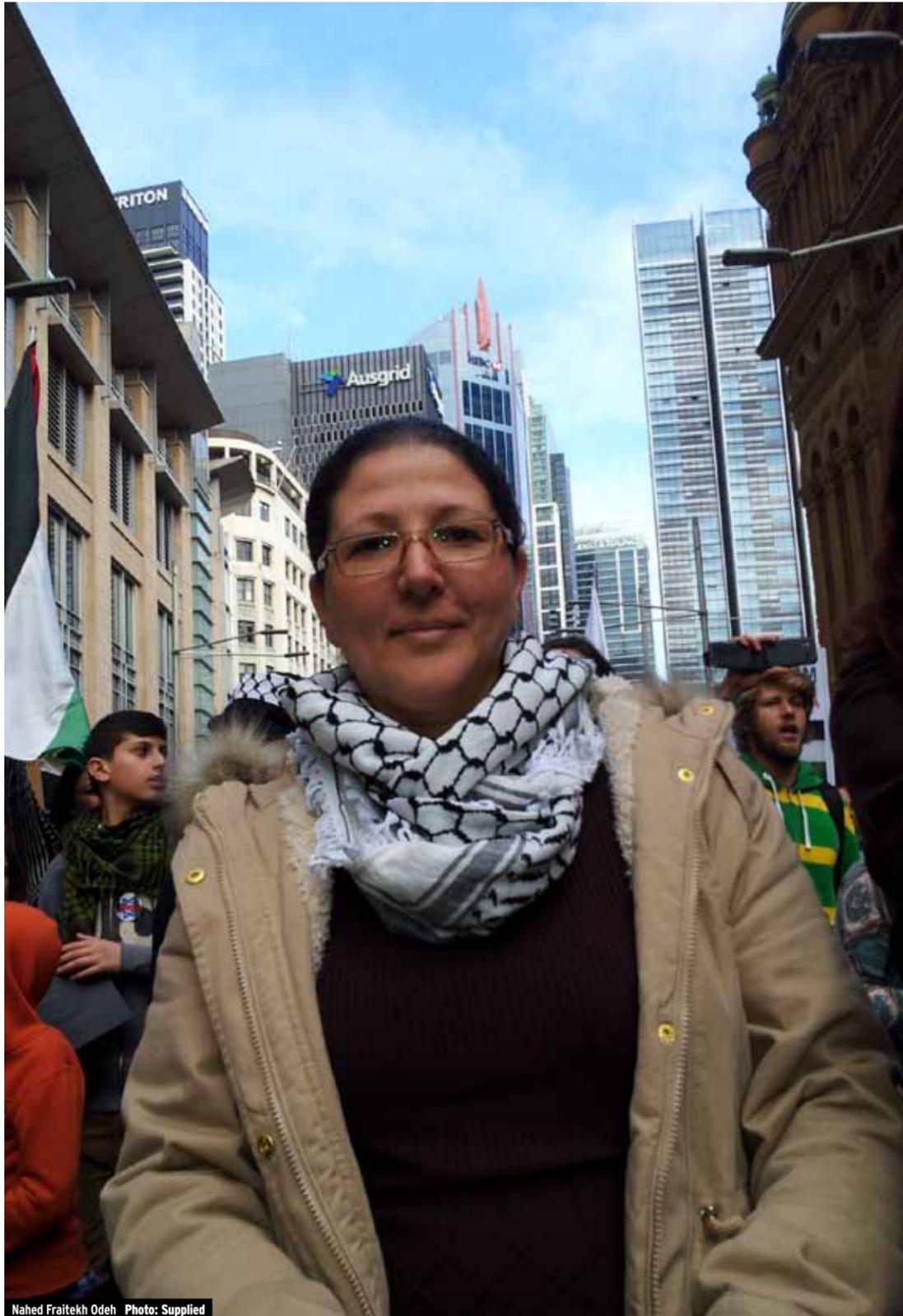
Having an Israeli identity card doesn't mean that the Palestinians have any rights like the Israeli citizens, as they don't have any political rights, such as the right to vote in parliamentary elections, and they don't have a passport to travel overseas. They have a travel document with a Jordanian or an unknown nationality.

This document has to be renewed every two years. Also, it has a visa that allows the holder to return to Israel, and if the holder has exceeded the time limit of the visa, the person loses the right to return.

Another struggle with the identity card is that, if a Jerusalemite marries someone from the West Bank, then this might lead to losing the Jerusalem ID and therefore the right to reside in Jerusalem, and might force the person to live outside the Wall which surrounds the city.

What does the Wall mean to the Palestinians?

I live in Qalandia, I hold a Jerusalem ID card, and my home is located on the south side of the Wall. I have two children; both of them have Jerusalem ID cards like me. However, my daughter didn't receive her ID number until



she was four years old. This is because, according to the records of the Ministry of Interior, I live in Ramallah and I cannot apply for an ID for my daughter unless I change my address and provide all the papers

because he is regarded a refugee. At the same time, I am required to live with my family in Jerusalem in order to keep my residency.

For most Palestinians access to East Jerusalem has been forbidden

leaving approximately 25 per cent of Palestinian Jerusalemites cut off from the city. In places such as Abu Dis, the Wall runs right through Palestinian communities, separating families and neighbours.

For most Palestinians access to East Jerusalem has been forbidden since 1993 ...

and documents to confirm that I am living in Jerusalem. But, I had to live outside the Wall, because my husband is a Palestinian from the West Bank. Although he was born in Jerusalem, he doesn't have the right to go to Jerusalem without permission

since 1993, unless they have an entry permit issued by the Israeli authorities, which is difficult to gain. Additionally, many Palestinian villages that are under the Jerusalem municipality are now separated from Jerusalem by the Wall,

Everything has changed since the Wall was built. It affects all aspects of our lives. I can hardly go anywhere, because of the checkpoints. We move around much less now than in the past and rarely go to Jerusalem or elsewhere. The whole family

can no longer really afford to go to Jerusalem. Sometimes I prefer to go to any doctor in Ramallah and to pay, rather than to cross the Qalandia checkpoint and go to my doctor, which is covered by the Israeli health insurance.

From the moment the Qalandia checkpoint and the separation wall were created, Palestinians beyond the Wall, including tens of thousands of holders of Israeli IDs, were cut off from the hub of their lives in Jerusalem, unable to cross the checkpoint to work, hospital, or schools without a special permit or their Israeli ID cards.

Palestinians can only enter Jerusalem through four of the 16 existing checkpoints, and only by foot, making it difficult to access anywhere including the holy areas. Also, permits become invalid whenever a general closure is declared, usually during Jewish holidays and times of security alerts.

Currently, I live in Sydney with my family for the purpose of my study. When we go back next year my son will be 15 years old, which means that he will need to go to Jerusalem schools to confirm his and our residency. In order to do so, he will need to cross the Qalandia checkpoint two times every day. At the Qalandia checkpoint for example, the waiting time can range from 20 minutes to 1.5 hours.

It is impossible to apply for a residency ID in Jerusalem for my husband, while it is forbidden for me to apply for a Palestinian identity because I am from Jerusalem. This is part of the Palestinian Authority's rules, as they believe that if they were to open the door for Palestinians from Jerusalem to apply for a passport then this might give the Israeli government the excuse to withdraw the Jerusalem identities from the people.

Also, the Palestinians have the right to apply for Israeli citizenship, which is not acceptable to the Palestinian Authority, which knows perfectly well that Palestinian Israelis will not be treated like Israeli Jews. This point is very important, as having Israeli citizenship might help the Israeli authority to maintain during any negotiations that most of the people in the city are Israelis.

If I decided to stay in Australia longer than my study required, or I wanted to work in Sydney for a couple of years or so, or I applied for any work or skill visa, I would lose my residency in Jerusalem and I might not be able to go back to Palestine, because I am stateless. Unlike any Jew in the world, I don't have the right of return.

In conclusion, the policies and actions of the Israeli government make life very difficult for Palestinian Jerusalemites. The illegal annexation of East Jerusalem has led to the withdrawal of Jerusalemites' ID cards and cancellation of permission to enter Jerusalem for those in the West Bank. The Wall results in internal migration and segregation. The residents of East Jerusalem are prevented from uniting with their families or spouses. And homes are at threat and are being destroyed. **SSH**



Nana "Miss Koori" performs at Club Redfern Photo: Mary-Elizabeth Cockcroft

The King and Queen Country Gala Show

JEFF SIMMS

THE King and Queen Country Gala Show came from a dream I have long held – to take a top-class variety show to the outback towns of Australia.

I was born in Narrabri and grew up in a little outback NSW country town called Burren Junction. Growing up way out there we always had to make our own fun. Many times that fun emanated from nights playing the guitar and singing with my mates and my sisters. It became a way of life for me and all of my family.

I wanted to be a singer but all those dreams got lost along the way when I embarked on a boxing career. Great success as a boxer saw my singing put on the back-burner till I came to Sydney to live in 1995. I met up with a cousin of mine and we started going

to Karaoke nights. Pretty soon the singing bug came back and so too the thoughts of having a show to take back to the country towns where I grew up.

I started off about five years ago and really loved what we were doing. Pretty soon I had a Tom Jones impersonator, an Elvis Presley impersonator and my cousin Graham Simms doing an Aboriginal drag queen known as Nana "Miss Koori". The show started to take off, especially in the outback towns.

Soon after I was introduced to a great young singer called Mike Tsama who came onto our show to replace the original Elvis. Mike also does a great Buddy Holly impersonation. Along with Broderick Jones as Tom Jones, Mike Tsama as Elvis and Buddy Holly, Graham Simms as the drag queen Nana "Miss Koori" and a fabulous Swedish singer Carina Barbro, *The King and Queen Country Gala Show* was born.

We have travelled to many venues in the country, taking our show to towns as far out as Bourke, Brewarrina, Walgett, Lightning Ridge, Coonamble, Gilgandra, Baan Baa, Burren Junction and Narrabri.

Because of my Indigenous heritage and the fact Nana "Miss Koori" was on our show, plus the fabulous talents of Broderick Jones, Mike Tsama and Carina Barbro, we played to big crowds. We especially attracted a large following among those remote area Aboriginal communities. In 2014 we were invited to open the Great Barrier Reef Spring Festival on Palm Island in Queensland. That was a tremendous experience for our show, and again we played to a large Indigenous audience.

In August we are taking off to tour all those country outback towns again. We are also hoping to go back to Palm Island and Thursday Island for their Spring festivals.

While this show was formed to take entertainment to remote outback and Indigenous people, we also perform every eight weeks at Club Redfern. However, we do struggle to survive and many times this great group of people in the show have performed for nothing. They share the dream with me and just showcase their fabulous talents to entertain the people of the remote communities we travel to.

- * BUDDY HOLLY and "THE KING" 1950s-style ELVIS with Mike Tsama direct from the 2015 Parkes Elvis Festival.
- * ABBA, DISCO and the 60s.
- * Anything from CHER, DUSTY SPRINGFIELD or WHITNEY HOUSTON plus more with our Swedish "Queen" Carina Barbro Hagg.
- * TOM JONES as performed by Broderick Lloyd Jones.

- * Special guest – Australia's favourite Aboriginal drag queen Nana "Miss Koori"
- * JEFF SIMMS singing country and your host for the evening.

Cover charge: \$10.

In May this year the team performed a fundraising concert for the Nepalese Community, raising money for victims of the earthquake in Nepal. This was a very successful event and was also held in Club Redfern.

Upcoming shows include Club Redfern, Friday August 14, the Shillo Festival being held at Brewarrina on Saturday August 29 and Cessnock Saturday September 12, and Lightning Ridge in December to name a few.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=0F2X8hKYqIM

The Bourbaki Ensemble – forthcoming

SSH

THE second Bourbaki Ensemble concert for 2015 is coming up soon! Please note that this concert will be on a Sunday afternoon: comments are welcome as to whether next year's concerts should be on Friday evenings, Sunday afternoons, or a mixture of both (sign-up for regular newsletters by contact conductor David Angell: david@bourbakiensemble.org).

Entitled *Many Moods for Strings*, the program will be given on Sunday August 16, starting at 2.30 pm. The ensemble is delighted to welcome back good friends Christine Draeger and Rachel Tolmie as soloists.

- * Peter Sculthorpe, "From Ubirr".
- * Arthur Honegger, "Concerto da Camera" for flute, cor anglais and strings (Christine Draeger, flute; Rachel Tolmie, cor anglais).
- * Anton Arensky, "Variations on a Theme of Tchaikovsky, Op.35a".
- * Giacomo Puccini, "Crisantemi".
- * Henry Cowell, "Hymns and Fuguing Tunes No.5 and No.10" (Rachel Tolmie, oboe).
- * Priaulx Rainier, "Movement for String Orchestra".

A program of diverse moods, ranging from the nonchalance of the Honegger "Concerto" (which does, however, centre upon a slow movement of a more lyrical atmosphere), through the romanticism of Arensky and the operatism (is that

a word?) of Puccini, to Sculthorpe's impassioned, sometimes even angry, plea for the environment. Cowell's "Hymns and Fuguing Tunes" (one for strings alone, one with oboe) inhabit a world of neoclassical serenity, while Priaulx Rainier's "Movement", in virtue of its journey from darkness to light, performs a transitional function in this program.

Many Moods for Strings
Sunday August 16, commencing at 2.30pm.
St Stephen's Anglican Church, 189 Church St, Newtown.
Christine Draeger, flute; Rachel Tolmie, cor anglais and oboe; the Bourbaki Ensemble; David Angell, conductor.
Music by Sculthorpe, Honnegger,

Arensky, Puccini, Cowell, Rainier.
Tickets: \$32, concessions \$22.
How to get there: by bus to King St Newtown (422, 423, 426, 428, 352, 370, M30); by train to Newtown station; if travelling by car please allow time to find on-street parking.

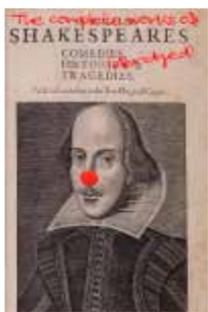
FOR YOUR DIARY: the third and final Bourbaki Ensemble concert for this year will take place on Friday December 4 at St Stephen's, commencing at 7.30pm, and will consist of music for brass and strings. Soloists Brian Evans and Greg van der Struik will give the world premiere performance of Greg's "Concertino" for trumpet, trombone and string orchestra.

- * Peter Sculthorpe, "Shining Island".
- * Greg van der Struik, "Concertino" for trumpet, trombone and strings (Brian Evans, trumpet; Greg van der Struik, trombone).
- * Dmitri Shostakovich, "Chamber Symphony, Op.118a".
- * Thea Musgrave, "Aurora".

Full details of Bourbaki activities can always be found on the website at www.bourbakiensemble.org. If you visit the site you can also listen to selected performances from 2012 (and earlier) seasons, available as mp3 downloads. In particular there is the wonderful "Tallis Fantasia" by Ralph Vaughan Williams, which some listeners have rated "as good as a professional performance", and Aaron Kenny's violin concerto "Chernobyl" from the ensemble's October 2012 concert.

The Reviews

Theatre Review by Catherine Skipper



The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)
Directed by Tom Massey
The Genesis Theatre,
420 Kent St, Sydney
July 17 – August 8

The *Complete Works* is the creation of The Reduced Shakespeare Company aka RSC, founded in 1981 by Daniel Singer, and two of the founding members, Adam Long and Jess Winfield.

When the RSC took their first production, a 25-minute version of *Hamlet*, to the Edinburgh Festival in 1987, the company expanded the play to 60 minutes with the inclusion of other Shakespearean plays. *The Complete Works* was a success and the RSC developed it into a 97-minute production that ran for nine years in London's West End. According to the present director, Tom Massey, who fell in love with the play after seeing it at the Seymour Centre in the 1990s, the "show is a joyful celebration of the magic of Shakespeare vigorously mixed with a splash of fun".

Fun there is. The energetic, engaging and indefatigable cast, Jessica Gray, Jamie Colette and Barry Nielson, enjoy the romp through Shakespeare's 37 plays. Tragedy, comedy (dark or romantic), history (even King John), all have their moment, ranging from minutes to a second. The very funny opening biography of Shakespeare "read" from an iPhone by a wonderfully guileless Nielson sets the tone of the play in which the minutes or moments are chaotic mash-ups of character, plot and recognisable lines. Added to the mixture are a bizarre collection of costumes and props, of which the silliest highlights are the addition of oranges to transform Romeo into the meddling nurse and the appearance of a spectral sock as the ghost of Hamlet's father.

It is probable that familiarity with Shakespeare deepens enjoyment of *The Complete Works*. They who have already sniggered quietly at "Do you bite your thumb at me, sir" from *R & J* will find the RSC's version extremely funny, and those admirers of the Scottish play will find it transformed into a ridiculous duel with golf clubs by an absurdly kilted pair with fruity accents. Perhaps the surprise of the performance is finding genuine but guilty hilarity in the appalling reinvention of the macabre *Titus Andronicus* as a cooking show. However, it is no surprise to find the audience laughing uncontrollably at the concluding presentation of *Hamlet*, at first abridged, then speeded up and finally performed backwards at a zippy pace.

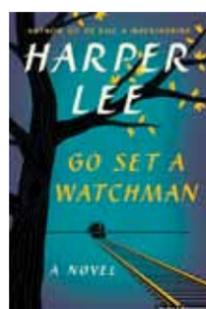
There was a moment of magic.

The laughing ceased and a hush fell as Nielson, withdrawing to the side of the stage, changes the mood completely with a simple but moving delivery of Hamlet's speech to the faithless Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. The point is made that while Shakespeare can be made fun of, he is still "awesome", to quote Tom Massey.

Overall, a lively and appealing trio of actors and a large and dedicated production team have brought this oft-performed Shakespearean spoof to vigorous life. More vigorous life, perhaps, if the element of audience participation following intermission was to be abandoned in favour of maintaining the high level of energy generated by skillful actors and a good crew.

» theatre@ssh.com.au

Book Review by Margaret Vazey



Go Set A Watchman
Harper Lee
Penguin Random House, 2015

The publication of Harper Lee's first book has caused a stir in the publishing world. People have rushed to buy it, read it and review it. Some people have refused to do this, too, claiming it will ruin their love for, and the reputation of, her second book, the best-selling novel *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

This important novel was published over 55 years ago, about three years before John F. Kennedy, the President of the United States of America, was assassinated. And why? Because he was determined to have integrated education of whites and blacks in American public schools and universities.

The hero of *Mockingbird* was Atticus Finch, a model citizen, father and lawyer. The heroine was his daughter, the young tomboy called Scout. Atticus stood up to the bigotry of his town by defending a black man. At that time, in that place, such a stand was near impossible. But Atticus was a fictional figure and so was able to do what a real man could not. Such a stand was well overdue in America and so people loved the book, for it described what they felt should be happening. As a result, Harper Lee's book moved the debate forward – but not enough, alas, for President Kennedy. *To Kill A Mockingbird* became a classic.

Go Set A Watchman is not quite as well written or edited. The first few chapters are a bit awkward and stilted, possibly because the story is of the grown-up Scout, and probably fairly autobiographical. In this book, the racism and classism of her hometown are shown in all their nastiness,

meanness and unfairness. Atticus, Scout's father and hero, is shown as a decent but bigoted man, a respected member of his bigoted society, defending and trying to hold on to the old order. Scout is shocked when she realises this.

Although Scout is not racist, she is in some respects classist, and cannot see it, which adds an interesting nuance to the story.

This book could not have been published 55 years ago in the USA, but it is great that it has been published now. Read it and ponder!

» books@ssh.com.au

Film Review by Lindsay Cohen



Jurassic World
Director: Colin Trevorrow
Starring: Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard, Ty Simpkins
Genre: Monster mash

Create a genetically modified dinosaur, let it loose, run. Repeat. Sound familiar? Yes, it's another Jurassic film. This fourth edition of the franchise is just like *Jurassic Park* only ... worldlier.

Twenty-two years after it was conclusively proven that the idea of a dinosaur park was a bad one, the same company that eventually built the thing by taming the dinosaurs decides that the dinosaurs are too, well, tame. Attendances are dropping and people are bored with the T-Rex. They want something bigger, scarier, more expensive (gee – just like summer blockbuster monster movies, how groan-worthy self-conscious). So they build one and, of course, it escapes and, well, you can pretty much guess the rest.

Actually, if you can avert your eyes from the obvious product placements, *Jurassic World* does look and sound the part, in as much as it's possible to imagine that if a dinosaur park was built this is what it would be like to be there.

Meanwhile Chris Pratt reinforces his ability to be a leading man while acting in front of a green screen (*Her*, *Guardians of the Galaxy*) and Bryce Dallas Howard proves that you can run away from dinosaurs in high heels, not that that's ever likely to be a selling point for shoes.

It would be great if reboots/sequels started delivering something new rather than self-reverential homages and more of the same only louder. But as long as there's a buck in it that's never going to happen. Winning formulas are a hard habit to break.

At worst, *Jurassic World* is impressively diverting. But ultimately it's an unexceptional couple of hours at the cinema. Whether that's a problem is just a question of perspective.

Rating: Three sequels (so far)

» film@ssh.com.au



Michelle Collocott Photo: Guy James Whitworth

Love, literally

SSH

ARTIST Michelle Collocott is signing off, painting her own journey through conversation and letters. This exhibition, Signature, marks her departure from Darlington to relocate to the country.

After 30 years in her Darlington studio, Collocott is pulling up stumps, building a bespoke home, studio and "window" gallery in Black Springs. This small village, just outside Oberon in the NSW Central Tablelands, has been her spiritual home for decades. She has mapped the topography of the mountains, its vegetation and human impact, in paintings which blend naïve drawing with the sophistication of colour and form. The *Three Ponds Series* has been Michelle's mark since the late 1990s.

But things have changed. Sydney for one. Constant building, traffic, human density, the passing of friends and family. Time to move on.

Signature is a personal reflection. Michelle has turned her attention to an inner terrain. Here, her simple mark making is not of trees, ponds, fences and dogs, but words. Scrawling words drawn from conversations and letters to those dear to her. Words trailing across the canvas, some coherent, some fractured.

Using techniques familiar to those who have followed Michelle's work – a collage of enlarged photographic

print, tissue, acrylic and other media – Michelle has created, within firm square boundaries, simple grids to contain or shape these words. Gone is the bright palette of her previous work. Here the hues are subdued, flesh-like, punctuated by flashes of ochre. The informality of the text counterpoints the formality of the composition. Layered with the utmost care, the final paintings are beautifully rendered, tender, and at times intense.

This is an important exhibition from an artist who grew up in the crucible of Australian contemporary art, studying at the National Art School in the '60s, exhibiting at legendary galleries such as Gallery A, Bonython, Macquarie Galleries to critical acclaim. An artist whose work has travelled overseas with the works of other major Australian painters. An artist who has had more than 30 solo shows, whose work is represented in major gallery collections. An artist who has experienced, like so many, the steeps and valleys of emotional turmoil. An artist who now lives simply with her dog, Fred, and looks forward to the peace and independence of her new home in the country.

Signature
Michelle Collocott
Until August 9
Janet Clayton Gallery
406 Oxford St, Paddington
Contact 8540 5066
www.janetclaytongallery.com.au



Just returned from their concert tour of New Zealand
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Miranda Bridge holds a picture of her grandfather Albert Kyle Photo: Vedat Acikalin

Gallipoli – from foes to friends

SSH

ALEC Campbell's youngest daughter, Felicity Tangney, is the youngest direct descendant of a Gallipoli veteran. In the photograph above she is shown holding a picture of her father. He was 72 years old when Felicity was born. She feels very proud of her father and his achievements.

Earlier this year a documentary was made on Felicity and Turkish descendant, Turgut Kacmaz. Turgut is now in his early 80s. His father, Huseyin Kacmaz, was the oldest surviving Turkish veteran, passing away in 1994 at the age of 110. A photograph of Turgut wearing his father's military clothes is part of an extensive exhibition at Customs House this month: *Gallipoli Then*

Now: Bonds Forged by War.

Turkish-born photographer Vedat Acikalin has been documenting this story of Turkish, Australian and New Zealand Gallipoli veterans and their families for just over 30 years now. He first exhibited a very small selection of work in Sydney in 2011, under the title *When Old Foes Meet*.

Acikalin always planned to exhibit this fully-fledged collection in 2015, the centenary year of the Gallipoli campaign. With the support of the Australian Turkish Cultural Platform and the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the exhibition will now tour five capital cities. It is also currently touring in Turkey; now in Istanbul (until September 2015) following successful exhibits in Izmir and Ankara.

The powerful images are a

moving testament to the deep bonds that were eventually forged between these brave men from once opposing forces; bonds of friendship and respect that continue between their descendants and families.

This is a poignant visual documentary essay, the photographs revealing both the melancholy and the healing salve of time.

Gallipoli Then & Now: Bonds Forged by War
 Photographs by Vedat Acikalin
 August 5 - September 30
 Customs House Library Lvl 1 & 2
 31 Alfred Street, Circular Quay
 Contact 9242 8551
 A Free public exhibition and open daily
www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/customshouse



Traditional French cuisine, French Festival in Sydney, July 10-12 Photo: Claire Mahjoub



Aunty Joyce Williams Photo: Asher Milgate

Faces tell stories of survival

SSH

SURVIVORS is an exhibition of audio (recorded oral histories) and portraits by photographer Asher Milgate.

The exhibition is showing this month in Wellington (country NSW), the next little town over from Dubbo where it was exhibited earlier this year and seen by over 18,000 people.

Asher Milgate lives in Coogee. He grew up in Wellington, where his mum is a school teacher at the local primary school.

The exhibition images can be accessed via social media, and there's a good chance this fine collection of stories and portraits will show in Sydney before too long.

Aunty Joyce Williams was born November 24, 1926. Here's some of her story:

"A lot of people. Aboriginal. Years ago, they lived on the rivers, on the Bell River where all the market gardens were. They used to come out to the mission in trucks and people would just hop on the trucks and come in.

"One good thing about that, was that it never cost nothing for vegetables. For years, you could take whatever you wanted. I always said that they were part of our survival. Especially the Chinese ... they were nice.

"If you needed money for something, you could get it off them and pay them back when you was working in their gardens and they were good. And I reckon they were a part of our survival!

"I enjoyed life all my life. We were living not on the mission, but off the mission out on the Common. My father and my mother, brothers, sisters, cousins, nephews, grandfathers, grandmothers ... everyone was happy!"

Joyce remembers living on Nanima with her mother and grandparents. She was born on the mission itself; her Granny May delivered her. Joyce was married in Sydney where the Bangarra Dance Company is situated (in Redfern). Joyce attributes the survival of Aboriginal people in Wellington largely to the opportunity of working for the Chinese Market Gardens on the Bell River.

www.survivors.net.au

NORTH SYDNEY UNITING CHURCH & COUNTERPOINT COMMUNITY SERVICES PRESENT
COMMUNITY ART
 ALL AGES MULTIMEDIA SHOW
 OPENING SATURDAY AUGUST 22 5-6.30PM (UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, 2015)
 CURATED BY JOHNNY BELL, DAMIEN PATTERSON & CATHERINE SKIPPER
THE Orchard GALLERY
 56a Raglan St Waterloo NSW 2017
 Contact: whandm@bigpond.com

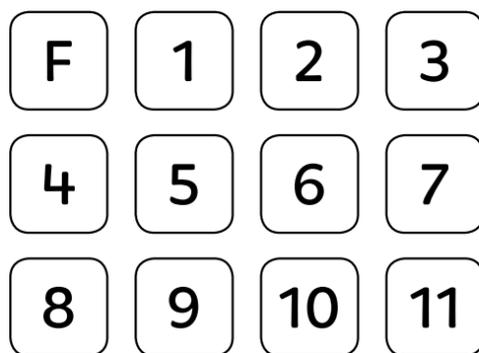
South Sydney Puzzle *by David Angell*

Problem

Just inside my front door, I have installed a control panel for all the lights in my house. There are 12 push-buttons, arranged as shown in the picture. Each button turns the corresponding light on if it is off, or off if it is on: so, pushing the same button twice has no effect.

At least, this is the idea. Unfortunately, owing to short circuits, each button affects not only its own light but also those next to it on the left and right, above and below. For example, pushing button 6 switches lights 2, 5, 6, 7 and 10, while button 11 switches lights 7, 10 and 11.

Button F operates the light outside my front door. When I arrive home one night, this light is on and all the others are off. Although the short circuits are confusing, they can be useful. If I arrive home after dark and only the front door light (button F) is on, I can turn all the lights in the house on (and leave the front door light on too) by pushing five buttons rather than 11. Which buttons should I push to do this?



FIRST CORRECT ENTRY WINS A PRIZE.
Send to South Sydney Puzzle,
PO Box 3288, REDFERN NSW 2016.

Last month's puzzle

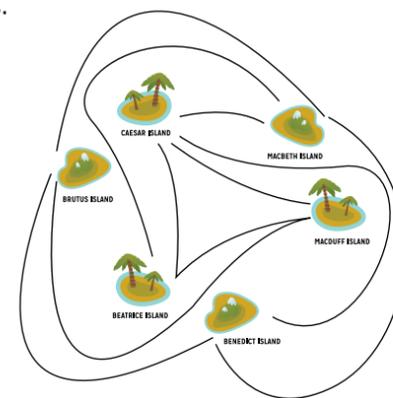
There are six islands in the ocean and it is necessary to plan shipping routes between them.

The people of Beatrice Island and Benedict Island are not on speaking terms, so no route is needed between these islands.

The same goes for Macbeth Island and Macduff Island; also for Caesar Island and Brutus Island.

Other than these, there is to be a route from every island and to every island.

To eliminate any possibility of a collision, the paths must not cross each other. Your task is to plan the shipping routes for these islands.



A good book and a good coffee

ANDREW COLLIS

REDFERN: Café owner-managers Georgia Woodyard and Anne Cooper are passionate about quality coffee and café-style dining. Their Scout's Honour café at 118 George Street, opposite the fire station, is a thriving business. In the month of the literary event that was the publication of Harper Lee's second novel (like the first and famous, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, the "follow-up" centres on the character – and café namesake – Scout Finch), Georgia took time to reflect on life and work in the neighbourhood.

Is this your first cafe business? Have you had similar or related work experience before coming to Redfern?

This is my first cafe although I've worked in the hospitality industry for years, on and off. After I moved to Redfern to live I knew I wanted to open my business here. I've lived all over Sydney, but never felt a sense of community like I do in Redfern.

What would you say are the most striking or important features of your cafe? What do you hope people notice when they come to eat in or purchase takeaway?

I think the first thing people notice is that my kids (staff/Scout family) are all super charming and lovely. They love Scouts and have a great time working with each other, and I think their good vibes and energy rub off on anyone who comes to Scouts.

The second thing I think is the food. We use a lot of fresh produce straight from the market that day, and try to make sure everything we put out is a little bit special, even if it's as simple as avocado on toast.

What do you enjoy most about the business? What do you enjoy most about working in Redfern?

I love how our customers come to Scouts every day, sometimes twice a day. I love that we know nearly all of our customers on a personal level whether they are working or living in Redfern.

In what ways is the business inspired by the character of Jean Louise "Scout" Finch? Can you say a little about the genesis of this inspiration?

I read *To Kill A Mockingbird* in primary school and completely fell in love with the character Scout. She was such a fierce tomboy and I could relate to that. When we were



Anne Cooper reads *Go Set A Watchman* at Scout's Honour café
Photo: Andrew Collis

talking about names for the cafe I knew I wanted a tomboy-inspired name and Scout was the obvious choice. That, paired with the fact I was in the Boy Scouts growing up, led to the name Scout's Honour.

Harper Lee's newly published novel *Go Set A Watchman* sees Scout as a woman in her 20s return to the small town where she grew up. In some respects this is a jarring experience for her. Are there social issues/attitudes of our day you imagine we might find jarring or offensive from a future perspective?

Ha. This is a loaded question. It's hard, you know, because living in Redfern I feel like I live in this bubble where there is a real acceptance of social diversity that you definitely don't get outside this suburb.

Of course, I think that the future selves will look back on and be embarrassed by some of our attitudes now. But this is a part of human evolution and while we have come a long way ... there is still a long way to go with many social issues/attitudes.

Your favourite hot beverage to enjoy while reading a good book?

A good coffee, of course! I'm a Soy Flat White girl.

Read Margaret Vazey's review of *Go Set A Watchman* on page 12.

SSH Instagram Gallery

SELECTED BY CLAIRE MAHJOUB

Tag your Instagram pics **#sshphotos** and we will include 5 of the best photos, from all suburbs in South Sydney, here each month. See all photos online: southsydneyherald.com.au



Redfern
[@andrewhcollis](https://www.instagram.com/andrewhcollis)



Redfern
[@featogrefi](https://www.instagram.com/featogrefi)



Alexandria
[@neeravbhatt](https://www.instagram.com/neeravbhatt)



Redfern
[@featogrefi](https://www.instagram.com/featogrefi)



CBD
[@cm_pics](https://www.instagram.com/cm_pics)

Uniting Churches



South Sydney Uniting Church
56a Raglan St, Waterloo
Worship (Eucharist) 10am Sunday
Rev. Andrew Collis 0438 719 470
www.southsydneyuniting.org.au

The Sacred Lounge

Cnr St Johns Rd & Colbourne Ave, Glebe
Worship 7pm Sunday
'Colbourne Ave' intimate candlelit concerts 8pm Thursday
Office 9518 9413
www.sacredlounge.org.au

Leichhardt Uniting Church

3 Wetherill St, Leichhardt (near Norton St, free parking behind church)
Worship 10am & 6.30pm Sunday
Rev. Dr John Hirt 0408 238 117
www.leichhardtuniting.org.au

Mustard Seed Uniting Church

Cnr Quarry St & Bulwara Rd, Ultimo
Worship 9.30am Sunday
Rev. David Gore 0449 875 065
mustardseed.unitingchurch.org.au

Newtown Mission

280 King St Newtown
Worship 9.30am & 6pm Sunday
Rev. Graeme Tutt 9519 9000
www.newtownmission.org.au

Paddington Uniting Church

395 Oxford St, Paddington
Worship 10.30am & 7.30pm Sunday
Rev. Ben Gilmour
Office 9331 2646
www.paddingtonuca.org.au

Pitt Street Uniting Church

264 Pitt St, Sydney
Worship 10am Sunday
Rev. Dr Margaret Mayman
Office 9267 3614
www.pittstreetuniting.org.au

Wayside Chapel

29 Hughes St, Potts Point
Worship 10am Sunday
Rev. Graham Long
Office 9581 9100
www.thewaysidechapel.com



UPSTYLED CLOTHING FOR OP SHOP WEEK

An impressive range of up-styled clothes from Red Cross Shops and one of Australia's major fashion schools has given recycled clothing a whole new look for Op Shop Week (August 23-30).

The Reimagine fashion project began earlier this year when a small group of students from the Whitehouse Institute of Design (Australia) hand-picked donated clothes from the racks of Red Cross Shops.

A larger team of 18 students, many of whom are now working in the fashion industry, then set about remodeling and refashioning the garments to raise money for Red Cross. The finished Reimagine collection captured both the spirit and energy of the young fashion designers, and the global humanitarian work of Red Cross.

For more information about your local Red Cross Shop go online to redcross.org.au/shop, look for Red Cross Shops on Facebook or call 1800 811 700.

SATURDAY ART CLASS
South Sydney Uniting Church (56a Raglan St, Waterloo)
12-4pm Sat August 8 & 22.

More information phone 0438 719 470.
All materials provided.
Previous & new participants welcome.
Gold coin donation.

Photo: Andrew Collis

VILLAGE 2 VILLAGE

FREE SHUTTLE BUS
Thursday and Friday ONLY

South East Sydney Community Transport operates 4 free shuttles within the City of Sydney.

Open to the public
Call or download the timetables...
Phone. 8241 8000
www.villagetovillage.com.au

PADDINGTON'S FAIR

We all share concern about the plight of refugees and the many challenges they face. This concern includes people of refugee background who have arrived in Australia and are trying to establish a new life for themselves.

Paddington Uniting Church will host an event called Paddington's Fair on Saturday, August 15, from 10am to 3.30pm.

The event will bring together about 15 individuals who will exhibit and sell their beautiful fine arts and crafts (painting, sculpture, leatherwork, glasswork, jewellery, garments) as well as offer entertainment in the form of music and dancing.

These people come from a range of cultural backgrounds: Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Sri Lanka, China, Pakistan, Palestine, Tibet, Syria and a number of African countries.

All welcome.

VOLUNTEERS' NEWS

PAT CLARKE

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

August 22-28. This year is the 70th anniversary of the Children's Book Week Council and the theme for this year is *Books Light Up Our World*.

LATE NIGHT LIBRARY - Sad Boys Mega Party

Thursday August 20 at Surry Hills Library, 405 Crown Street, Surry Hills.
Free Event - booking recommended..

AUSTRALIA PIANO QUARTET

At the Dr Chau Chak Wing Building, Auditorium, Level 2, Building 8, UTS 14-28 Ultimo Road, Ultimo.
Free concerts from this brilliant piano quartet at 7pm on August 6, September 3, November 5 and December 11, and an opportunity to view the Frank Gehry building.

BOWER REPAIR CAFÉ - Lentil as Anything

391 King Street, Newtown.
Free meeting place for residents of Redfern and neighbouring communities to promote the art of repairing and restoring items instead of throwing them away.
Thursday August 13 and Saturday November 28 from 11am-4pm.

NEWTOWN FESTIVAL - Sunday November 8

Newtown Neighbourhood Centre has opened applications for volunteers for this year's festival. Wanted are traffic marshals, dog show marshals, experienced photographers, stage managers and many more.
Contact: www.newtownfestival.org

And seen on a banner at a shopping centre near you:

"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken"
(Quote from Oscar Wilde).

Until next time.
.....
Pat Clarke & Ross Smith
distro@ssh.com.au



Women's Reconciliation Network

Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of the month.

10AM-12PM at the Redfern Community Centre.

Hugo Street Redfern.

10am cuppa followed by meeting till 12 noon.

BABANA ABORIGINAL MEN'S GROUP

Babana Shed open Mon-Fri
(Cnr St Johns Rd & Colbourne Ave, Glebe)
Contact: Mark Spinks 0411 282 917

Waterloo Recycling Workshop

Workshop and market open Fridays 9am-12pm.

Turungah Flats, 1 Phillip St, Waterloo (lower car park).

Affordable furniture and household goods.

Donations gladly received (no white goods or electrical apps).

Volunteers welcome - phone Naomi on 0407 576 098.

REDWatch

Meetings first Thursday of the month at The Factory Community Centre.
Phone Geoffrey Turnbull (02) 8004 1490.
Email redwatch.org.au

YOUR LOCAL MEMBERS



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F: 02 9379 0701
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Alex Greenwich MP
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Jenny Leong MP
State Member for Newtown
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F: 02 9230 3352
Newtown@parliament.nsw.gov.au

One-stop skate shop

ANDREW COLLIS

REDFERN: Basement Skate is a new specialist skate shop in Regent Street (downhill a short distance from the BP service station). Director Dave Robertson is assisted at Basement by chief collaborator and champion skater Maga McWhinnie, this month taking part in various competitions in Europe. Dave talks to the SSH about the thrills and simple pleasures of skateboarding.

You've relocated from St Leonards to Redfern this year. What led you to make that decision?

I've lived in and around Redfern for about 15 years and I've watched it evolve from a gritty street neighbourhood to a very vibrant and eclectic place. Explosive population growth in the area has made it a real living place and I guess the businesses are now coming in to satisfy this new community. There are a couple of really great skate parks right near the shop – at Redfern Park and Fernside in Waterloo. The continued lack of skate facilities in the city makes the Redfern-Waterloo area a focal point for skaters, and Redfern station close by makes it easy to draw people in.

Is the shop similar to the one you had in St Leonards? Are there differences?

The shop in St Leonards was a big warehouse space with a large destination-style shop. I built a big indoor half-pipe in the store, initially to satisfy my childhood dream of having my own private half-pipe, but, as you can imagine, word gets around quick, and before I knew it the shop became the local youth clubhouse. The skate-able environment and general vibe around the Redfern space just doesn't need its own



Maga McWhinnie at Basement Skate in Redfern Photo: Kat Hines

private skate ramp. In Redfern it's just a lot more accepted that young people and adults in general use the public space, so people just come by and have a chat and then venture out into the community to have a skate. The shop at Redfern becomes a sort of meeting place as much as a retail space.

Skateboarding is in many ways an emerging sport. Is that a fair comment?

I guess it's a sport that is emerging in the public mind. It's a sport that has come from one of the great counter-cultures and become relevant not just to your classic y-gens but it's become meaningful again to mums

and dads as a reminder of individual fun. In a busy world, it's a sport you can participate in for five minutes a day outside your house, it's a fun way to get to work, and for a lot of the OGs (old guys) out there it's the perfect mid-life crisis. We have a lot of parents that pick the sport up again as a way of both connecting with their youth, and, more importantly, a really fun way to spend time with their kids who are just taking up the sport.

What do you enjoy most about the sport?

Like most alternative sports it becomes as much a lifestyle as a sport. Skateboarding is both challenging and rewarding, and unlike jogging or bike riding, it never

feels like a chore. While it requires a bit of practice, you don't feel like you're training for something. In skateboarding you just do it. In the inner city there never seems to be a place you can't take a skateboard so it feels relevant, and when you're off travelling the skateboard just naturally comes with you.

How would you like to see skateboarding promoted in South Sydney? What opportunities do you see for the development of the sport?

Skateboarding in South Sydney and more generally should really be promoted as a healthy form of legitimate transport.

What advice do you have for somebody curious to try skateboarding?

Nobody needs to start off as an expert – there really is no pressure in skateboarding to do that. Just ride to a limit that feels comfortable. Visit a real skate shop and you're going to leave with the right skateboard for the sort of skating, the purpose, and the level that you are at. You'll get proper advice about where to start, and likely a hookup to an awesomely new and positive community that will help you along in your skateboard journey ... and as a side-effect your level of cool is gonna skyrocket!

Follow Maga's European adventures:
www.facebook.com/mcwhinniemaga

The goal – back-to-back premierships

MICHAEL PAGE

HAS there ever been a better player in the cardinal and myrtle than Greg Inglis? It's the question that comes to mind after Inglis' majestic performance in Souths 52-6 victory over Newcastle.

It's not that he has no competition for the mantle of Souths' greatest. Many will claim that it's the Little Master Clive Churchill or big Bobby McCarthy or Ronny Coote. (Others, like a slightly deluded mate of mine, insist that it was Charlie Frith – but that's another story).

Watching Inglis play in July it is hard to believe that any of them could surpass GI. The Origin season over, Inglis has thrown off his dinner suit and having ensured Queensland supremacy for another year, has turned his attention to his next big

goal – back-to-back premierships.

His display against the Knights bordered on arrogance as at times he wound back the clock to his youth and scratch games on the streets of Bowraville (that's in Queensland!) often inviting the hapless Knights' defence to come and tackle him only to find themselves grasping at thin air. His hat-trick of tries in the first half showed off his unique blend of grace and power as well as an Inspector Gadget capability as he sliced through the Knights' defence and extended his long arm to plant down his third try.

Inglis' form appears to have rubbed off on the team, particularly the right side duo, Dylan Walker and Alex Johnston. The pair know each other's games back to front, having played together at junior level since the age of 14, and coach

Maguire's decision to reunite the pair has reinvigorated both and given Souths a potent and enviable right-side attack. On the other side of the field, the Sutton, Inglis and Keary combination is also clicking with their skilful short passing game exploiting gaps and overlaps with relative ease.

Up the middle, Tim Grant has been increasingly committed and aggressive, the Burgess boys are making good yards and Chris McQueen is appearing to enjoy his more involved role at lock. Isaac Luke appears back to his best as well, after a quiet year by his standards, as he tormented the Knights with his explosive scoop and run surges from dummy half.

A slightly paler but nonetheless effective version of Souths was on display the week before with Reynolds outstanding as Souths nudged St



Young fans at Mt Carmel School meet Rabbitohs stars Photo: Lyn Turnbull

George-Illawarra out of the eight for the first time in the year (Souths 24 - St George-Illawarra 8). The previous week, Souths minus Inglis on Origin duties was humbled by the Panthers (20-6).

As the season enters its final rounds, August will have a huge sway on Souths'

season with their credentials tested by all the major contenders including North Queensland, Brisbane and Easts in the lead-up to the September finals. It might also have a big bearing on Inglis' career and put to test any claims he has to greatness among the Greats.

READY FOR THE CHALLENGE?

Sally Strengf holds a Bachelor of Exercise Science and is accredited by Exercise and Sports Science Australia. She combines her knowledge in exercise methodology and nutrition to give you the best approach to achieve your individual goals, whether fat loss, muscle gain or improving your fitness.

FIRST
SESSION
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Sally is passionate and highly motivating and will help you get results. You can train with Sally at Snap Fitness (Waterloo) or outdoors. Sally specialises in group fitness, buddy training, corporate and mothers group training.

Ready for the challenge? Contact Sally today.
0451 117 247 or sallystrengf@hotmail.com

SALLY STRENGF
EXERCISE SCIENTIST • TRAINER