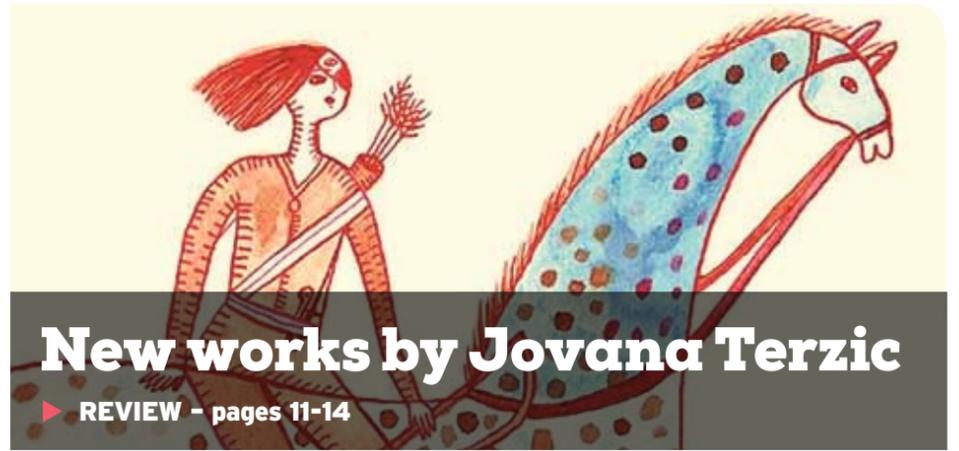


From Marrickville to Lahore

▶ FEATURE - page 10



New works by Jovana Terzic

▶ REVIEW - pages 11-14

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Disability homes for young people

LIBBY HOGAN

JOCK WATSON is one of 7,500 young Australians with a disability who has been stuck in a nursing home. A nursing home was the only place Jock could go to receive full-time care. Living with the elderly who were closer to the end of their lives than the beginning, Jock missed out on interacting with other young people. This changed recently when he moved to Sylvanvale's Caringbah accommodation facility for people with a disability.

The home is not a perfect fit for his Acquired Brain Injury, as it is not specific for those progressing with rehabilitation but caters for a range of disabilities. With the National Disability Insurance Scheme confirmed, the question remains: Will there be a capital strategy to build more disability specific homes?

Disability Minister, Andrew Constance, said: "A lot of the design work is still being undertaken. David Bowen from transitional agencies is still working through that capital strategy so I don't have all the answers in that regard, but there is no reason given the enormous demand across our community that we will not see the advent of more facilities like these [disability accommodation models]."

Jock's family has spent 10 years since his car accident in 2003 trying to find accommodation as well as rehabilitation services. "We have been left on our own - assistance from the government has been minimal. We have had to become experts in the field as there was just no system in place," Jock's mother said.

"The most frustrating part of the problem is that apparently there is funding and support available but to find it is extraordinarily difficult. When moving from aged care to a private facility, I was advised by Jock's case manager within the department of funding the government had made available to help get him out of aged care. So I pursued two different packages to find that they were totally wrong for Jock's particular needs. It's emotionally exhausting."

To help families with this process of getting a loved one into accommodation, Minister Constance said that the government is introducing local area Ability Links Co-ordinators to help families with the transition process.

The Caringbah facility is a group home that caters for 20 young people. More are urgently needed for those still stuck in nursing homes. "Not only are more homes needed but there need to be different models catering for the range of disabilities in our society," Mr Constance said.

Jock's family hopes the Minister can act on his word promptly, taking advice from advocacy disability groups such as Young Care, the Young People in Nursing Homes Alliance as well as health experts. **SSN**



Jock Watson with housemate Emma in their new home at Sylvanvale Photo: Jane Watson

Faces behind the fashion tags

ADA LEE

WITH OVER 1,100 lives lost, the Bangladesh factory tragedy has placed a magnifying glass over the issue of labour exploitation. From beneath the rubble, stories of survival and loss emerge - the faces behind the fashion tags.

The discovery of Western brands within the ruins of the Rana Plaza Factory has raised questions over the nature of global trade.

With China's booming economy and increasing wages, the search for cheap labour has shifted to poorer countries like Bangladesh. The 3,200 workers at Rana Plaza were amongst almost 4 million others in Bangladesh's huge \$US20 billion garment industry - an industry that accounts for 75 per cent of Bangladesh's total export earnings.

Oxfam Australia's labour coordinator, Daisy Gardener, describes a common "race to the bottom" phenomenon where companies aim to get the cheapest possible price from factories. According to Ms Gardener,

less factory funding means poorer working conditions, more pressure on employees to work faster and less flexibility to negotiate higher wages.

Another issue is when long-supply chains lack transparency. Ethical Clothing Australia's website states: "It does not take long before a brand can lose track of the various participants in its own supply chain and its garments can end up being made in illegal sweatshops or backyard workshops."

Imagine you are one of the many young women who work in garment factories across Asia. During peak season, you often stay back until 3am just to meet the high production targets. Sometimes, you cannot even take toilet breaks. You also run the risk of getting repetitive strain injury from your long shifts at the sewing machine. Being unaware of your work rights and the company's code of conduct (if there is one) makes you vulnerable to exploitation. These are the conditions many garment workers face, according to Oxfam. In Bangladesh alone, more than 460 workers died in fires from 2006 to

2010.

In response to the Bangladesh tragedy, Oxfam Australia has now directed its attention to Australian retailers known to have factories in Bangladesh such as Target, Cotton On, Kmart, Big W, the Just Group and Pacific Brands. According to Ms Gardener, these brands are currently "secretive" about the location of their factories; this makes it difficult for independent groups to verify ethical working conditions.

A common response from these retailers has been to point to their auditing programs and codes of conduct. Ms Gardener says these measures are a good first step but are not enough. She gives the example of Britain's clothing brand, Primark, which was found in the collapsed Rana Plaza factory. "Primark does also have codes of conduct for their factories and they also conduct auditing but they were nonetheless found in this very unsafe condition," she said.

Thus, Oxfam is asking Australian retailers to publicly release their

factory locations so that independent groups such as NGOs and unions can "double check" that codes of conduct are actually upheld. Oxfam further advocates that retailers sign the 2012 Fire and Building Safety Agreement, which is legally binding. The agreement calls for independent inspections, compulsory repairs and worker rights training. It also mandates that retailers pay supplier factories enough money to make safe working conditions feasible.

A Cotton On spokesperson believes its factories are paid a fair price. Cotton On revealed that it has 10 vendors in Bangladesh. The reasons it gave for not publicly releasing factory locations were "due to commercial sensitivities and IP [Intellectual Property] protection". As of mid-May, Cotton On said it was still reviewing the Fire and Building Safety Agreement in detail.

On May 16, the Sydney Morning Herald reported that Target, Woolworths, Big W and Kmart had refused to sign the Fire and Building Safety Agreement. *Continued on page 2*

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Sandra Beeston at Erskineville Bowling Club Photo: Lyn Turnbull

Volunteers make a difference

SSH

VOLUNTEERS COMMUNITY Participation Awards were held at Erskineville Bowling Club on May 15, with 165 people in attendance. The awards recognise volunteers whose efforts have contributed to the public housing communities in the inner city.

The awards are a community-funded event auspiced by The Factory Community Centre. The Waterloo and Redfern Neighbourhood Advisory Board Events Group which runs the awards received over 200 individual nominations this year, including the SSH's own Sandra Beeston..

Executive Officer of The Factory, Mike Shreenan, who initiated the Volunteers Awards seven years ago, had to miss the day to keep The Factory doors open, and it didn't seem quite right listening to someone without a Glaswegian accent reading Mike's speech. Still, the message of pride in his adopted community shone through.

"[I] find it interesting that people always assume when you say, 'I work in Redfern-Waterloo' that you therefore work in a 'poor community'... but the

fact of the matter is I am working in a rich community, a community that I am proud to work for, one that is rich in culture, diversity, commitment, passion, tenacity and neighbourliness, something you will see a lot of other communities struggle to develop.

"The level of volunteering and the difference it makes is massive. Volunteering not only demonstrates this country's commitment to mateship; volunteering leads to tangible changes in policies, service delivery, in people's day to day lives and even saves lives. Volunteers achieve more than any NGO or government could ever claim to achieve. That is why it's important that we recognise it, celebrate it and continue to invest in it. With over 200 nominations this year - representing hundreds more individuals behind them - it equates to millions of dollars of in-kind labour and it speaks volumes, or should, to those who complain about apathetic communities ... it demonstrates that they are talking shit. On behalf of The Factory Community Centre board and staff team, along with our partners, I say thanks a million, you are all pure dead brilliant (as they say in Glasgow)." SSH

Faces behind the fashion tags

Continued from page 1 Though their factory locations are kept secret, both Target and Cotton On have claimed to engage independent external auditors. However, the regularity of these independent audits is unclear. Cotton On's own team conducted 156 audits in the past 12 months. Cotton On further said: "We will also continue to engage independent external auditors, over and above our current internal Cotton On Group Ethical Auditing team."

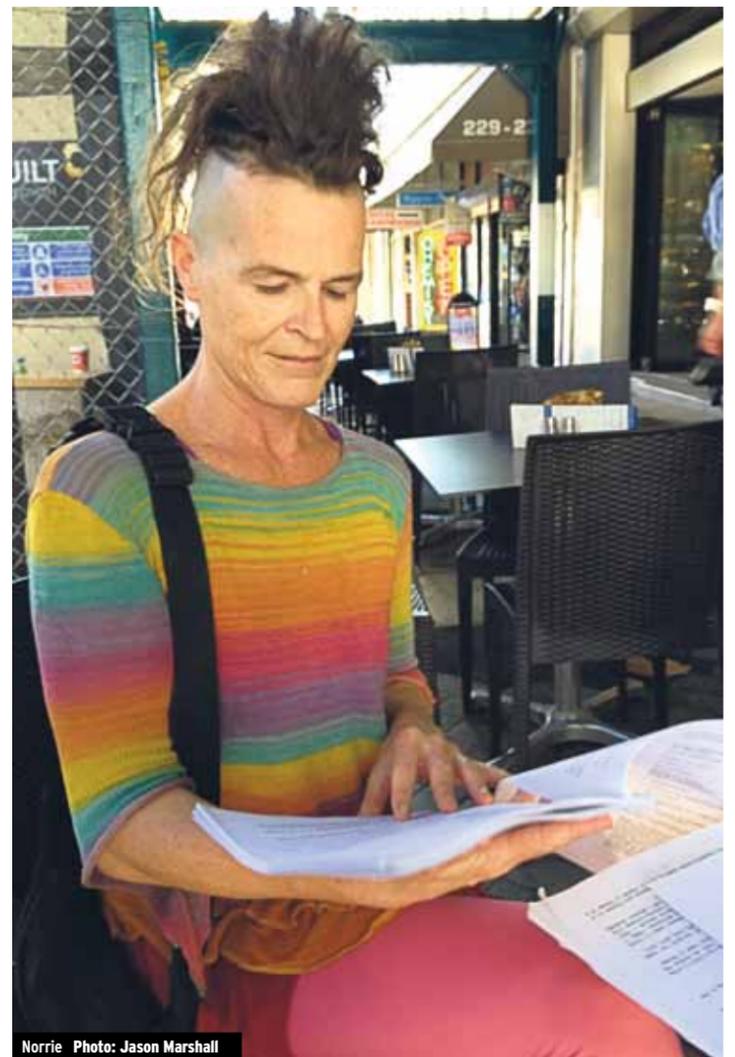
Target said it works with independent third parties to conduct factory audits. Last year, there were 895 audits. According to the Target spokesperson: "All auditing occurs independently of our buying and sourcing teams to ensure neutrality."

If Target detects breaches, factories are deregistered as suppliers immediately, according to the Target spokesperson. However, with almost four million garment workers in

Bangladesh, Ms Gardener says, "the last thing we want is to see more workers lose their jobs". Rather than pulling orders out, companies should stay with factories and help improve conditions, Ms Gardener said.

For concerned customers, here is Oxfam's advice: the next time you go shopping, check the label and see where the item is made. Write a message to the company - via Facebook or website - saying you expect them to be more transparent, to pay a fair price to suppliers and to work harder in ensuring decent working conditions. "No brand is too big to listen to its customers," Ms Gardener said. "We know this works. We've seen companies like Nike, Adidas and Puma respond to major consumer pressure by releasing the locations of their supplier factories."

Like us, Bangladeshi people need jobs. And like us, they have the right to safe and decent working conditions. SSH



Norrie Photo: Jason Marshall

Legal victory beyond the gender binary

JASON MARSHALL

ON MAY 31 the NSW Court of Appeal ruled in recognition of a legal third sex. The landmark decision changes the way the law deals with people who are neither male nor female.

The case was brought after Redfern resident Norrie changed hir status to "sex not specified" on hir birth certificate in 2010, becoming the first person in the world officially declared to be neither a man nor a woman.

But the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, acting "on new legal advice", quickly revoked this status. Since then the case has been slowly

making its way through the courts. Between 1 and 2 per cent of the population are sex and gender diverse, and the ruling means they are now recognised in law.

Norrie said zie was delighted with the decision. "This destroys the legal reification that the gender binary has enjoyed," zie said. "I want to thank my solicitor and all my friends who supported me; I've been working on this since 2009 and there have been many ups and downs."

Though the case was brought in NSW, Norrie's council, David Bennett QC AC, said the judgement would likely be very persuasive in other jurisdictions.

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THE YOUTH OF TODAY

A parliament of youth

Pip Clark Photo: Andrew Collis

ANDREW COLLIS

PHILIPPA (PIP) Clark is the 17 year-old Minister for Mental Health in this year's YMCA NSW Youth Parliament, sitting the first week of July. A first-time participant in the established education, advocacy and leadership program, Pip will chair the Mental Health Committee of the lower house and oversee the writing of a Standing Report on the importance of access to mental health services for youth.

Pip said: "Our report will recommend more councillors in rural and regional

areas, better access across the board, in conjunction with greater social media presence for mental health services."

Youth Parliament is a realistic simulation of NSW Parliament. Youth parliamentarians follow the same processes and procedures as their adult counterparts, and also participate in Question Time, Matters of Public Importance and Private Members Business.

"A lot of my friends were doing it, and a cancellation gave me the opportunity to get involved," Pip said. "I went along to a training camp in April. It was a weekend camp at Yarramundi, near Richmond. The YMCA Task Force led

workshops in parliamentary etiquette, and we were assigned to various committees – transport, education, parliamentary and legal reform and industrial relations, as well as mental health."

The Youth Parliament is apolitical. While there are no party affiliations, the program offers practical experience. The week-long residential camp is held at NSW Parliament House. Participants are encouraged to think about issues, to discuss and debate policies, to negotiate and pass Bills. Afterwards, the young people will present their Bills to relevant ministers in the NSW Parliament as an indication of youth opinion.

"I'd like to be a voice of the people," Pip said. "Discrimination is still a real impediment to democracy. Some groups, some people have more say than others."

Perhaps not surprisingly, Pip aspires to be a politician. "I remember Kevin Rudd's victory in 2007," she said. "I remember thinking, Why did that happen? I was really interested in the whole process. We're the future," she added. "We have a voice, even if we don't have a vote."

Youth parliamentarians are advocates for young people across NSW on a range of issues – they also have specific responsibility for their electorates. Jarah

Crook is the Member for Sydney. Jessica Askew is the Member for Heffron. Newtown resident Theodora von Arnim is Youth Premier.

Our August issue will report on the Youth Parliament, the issues raised and the Bills passed.

www.ymcansw.org.au

YOUTH OF TODAY, A REGULAR ARTICLE ON LOCAL YOUTH AND RELATED ISSUES, IS KINDLY SPONSORED BY APPETITE CAFE

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Higher education and education more generally can transform people's lives and gives them the opportunity to maximize their capabilities. We believe in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation at every level of our study, work and research.

It is a core part of our purpose as a university.

For this reason we have much pride in our work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to produce future generations of leaders and help inspire self-determination and achievement.

Last month the University of Sydney joined with Rugby League's South Sydney Rabbitohs to welcome Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students onto our campus. Working alongside post-graduate students on a health promotion campaign, the aim of the experience was to demystify university and ensure these students knew it was a place where they could belong.

Last year the University of Sydney also unveiled a major strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander higher education, research and engagement to take the next steps in our engagement with Australia's first peoples.

The Wingara Mura - Bunga Barrabugu' strategy (meaning "thinking path to make tomorrow") aims to double the University's number of Aboriginal students and increase the number of staff of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background. It also aims to increase research in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander areas. All staff will undertake cross-cultural training and there will also be initiatives to ensure Aboriginal people heavily engaged in work or sport are supported to enable them to engage in university study.

As Reconciliation Week draws to a close many of you will have seen the University's front lawns brightened with the colours of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags in the name of reconciliation. In addition to our sea of flags I hope many of you attended other events the University hosted including an interactive forum on racism, a discussion on the challenge and necessity of changing our constitution, and the 'People like us' video projection exhibition which let people into the inspirational University experiences of 16 of our Aboriginal staff, student and alumni.

Michael Spence
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

COMMUNITY CONTACT DETAILS

Security and after hours: 1800 063 487 (free call) 24hrs a day, 7 days a week
Enquiries: 9114 0523 Email: local.community@sydney.edu.au

Free 12-week Self-Help Groups for Anxiety

The Mental Health Association NSW will host Self-Help groups in June for people recovering from anxiety disorders. The groups are based on a 12-week program, designed around behaviour therapy.

Thanks to funding from NSW Health the groups are Free. We have new Anxiety Self-Help groups starting in the following areas:

Glebe - Thursdays from June 13, 6-7.30pm

East Sydney - Wednesdays from June 19, 10.30am-12pm

There will be another group in Padstow starting in July 2013, on Thursdays, 5-6.30pm, with the date yet to be confirmed.

Please call 9339 6093 to discuss your interest or email selfhelp@mentalhealth.asn.au

All enquiries are treated confidentially.
Mental Health Information Service 1300 794 991.

Catch-up and a cuppa refuels community

ANDREW COLLIS

REDFERN: DINA and Borris are neighbours in Morehead Street and clients of South East Sydney Community Transport. On Monday May 20 the two friends gathered with 30 fellow clients of SESCT at the Our Place Centre on Poets Corner. This was the second monthly Catch-Up for locals since SESCT moved from Redfern to its new premises in Ultimo.

Staff members Frances Lim, Blake Kegg and Jasmine Enright, assisted by volunteer Julie Zhang, hosted the two-hour event, an informal and friendly gathering. "It's good to see you!" Blake exclaimed. The response was warm and enthusiastic. Queenie, Olive, Barbara and Dorothy were unanimous in their praise of a community organisation whose services they regard as "reliable" and "essential". There were hot cups of tea and coffee, and hot topics for table conversations – in English, Cantonese, Mandarin and Russian.

New SESCT business cards and brochures were handed out, emblazoned with a new phone number: 8241 8000.

A May newsletter was distributed with up-to-date information about services such as the Blink Service "for clients who need only a quick one-hour shop at Eastlakes". Members were invited to suggest new routes and services, including door-to-door services to shopping centres and individual transport to and from the local doctor and hospital, social outings to the library, hairdresser and movies.

The Village2Village free shuttle bus operates on Thursdays and Fridays from Woolloomooloo to Redfern (the



Borris and Dina Photo: Frances Lim

"purple" service), and Redfern to Broadway (the "green" service). Having received additional funding from the City of Sydney, SESCT will launch two new V2V services in July/August. This

is an initiative to comprehensively cover the City of Sydney Council area and aims to "connect the missing dots between public transport links". Residents who use the green or purple

service will be able to transfer to the new V2V services at a certain meeting point along the route.

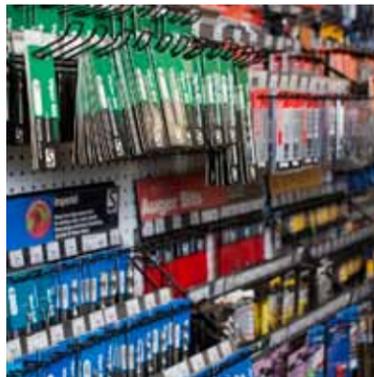
A draft timetable was handed out for the new orange service that will

run on the same days as the green and purple. The service, for residents living in Redfern, Green Square, Alexandria, Erskineville and Newtown, will start from Redfern and end up at Broadway. It will differ from the green V2V by going via Alexandria and Erskineville. Some important stops will include: Aldi on Dank Street; Green Square Station; Erskineville Station; and Dendy Cinemas, King Street. Frances explained: "As we are still in the drafting process, we thought it would be a good idea to hand it out to some of the residents and gather some feedback on the route and timetable."

One long-term participant said: "I'm so grateful for [SESCT]. The staff really listen, whether it's about a new route via Bunnings or Green Square Station, or help with things like safe removal of needles in the hallway or laundry. I only have high praise for [the staff]. If they can't make a booking for you they can usually offer a taxi voucher."

Dina and Borris look forward to Russian community excursions each month. "Jasmine organises something different every time," Dina said. "We're going to the Nan Tien Temple in Wollongong next month." Previous excursions have been to Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and to mandarin and apple farms. "They are very decent excursions, from early morning to 3.30 in the afternoon," Borris said. "We have a Russian dinner once a month, too." SSH

SESCT Monthly Catch-Ups will be held in June: Ultimo (Tue. 25th 10.30am-12pm); Northcott Estate (Thu. 27th 10.45am-12.15pm); and Our Place (Mon. 17th 2-4pm). South East Sydney Community Transport Level 1, Suite 2, 579 Harris St Ultimo www.sesct.org.au



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Robert James (Guardian Funerals Bondi Junction), Bruce Shillingsworth (support worker) and Leah Purcell (actor/director) Photo: Helen Wilkinson

Guardian regifts to after-school carers

SSH

SEASON 2 of Redfern Now is currently in production and no doubt many people will be waiting to see it when it goes to air. When one of the new episodes, "Consequences" – written and directed by Indigenous actor and director, Leah Purcell – required expertise and props for a funeral scene, the Redfern Now production team called on Guardian Funerals. Staff from Guardian Funerals were warmly welcomed by the entire crew on both days of the shoot and enjoyed being introduced to life on set. They provided a hearse, a coffin and other equipment.

Robert James, Location Manager Guardian Funerals Bondi Junction,

and Angela Sneddon, from Guardian Funerals Rockdale, provided technical advice and support to the crew throughout the shooting of the scene, which took place at the South Sydney Uniting Church, Waterloo.

For their contribution, Guardian Funerals earned a fee, and the company said it would be honoured to donate these funds to the Yurungai Learning Centre at The Factory in Raglan Street.

Previously, Mr James had made a donation to the Yurungai Learning Centre for its 2012 Christmas play; so when Guardian Funerals received the fee for assisting on Redfern Now Season 2, he immediately thought to donate the entire \$1,000 to the Centre for its immediate needs.

The Yurungai Learning Centre is

supported by Barnardo's Australia and is staffed by teacher and coordinator, Helen Wilkinson, and support worker, Bruce Shillingsworth. Yurungai provides after-school supervision for around 40 children in total, with about 25 attending on any given day.

Operating from 3pm to 5.30pm at no cost to the parents and carers, Yurungai provides a valuable service to the community. Children who attend are able to read under their own direction or have a story read to them to engage them in literature. Those with homework are able to obtain assistance from Ms Wilkinson.

Yurungai also provides an afternoon tea. Taken together with the reading class, the afternoon tea assists the children to develop their manners and their social interaction skills. SSH

In the driving seat

SSH

DRIVING CHANGE is an initiative based on collaborative research with Aboriginal communities to address low rates of driver licensing which have sustained negative community impacts. At the launch last month at Redfern Community Centre, Professor Rebecca Ivers, Program Lead, the George Institute and the University of Sydney, said: "If you have limited means to get to work, uni or TAFE or other health and support services, it's much harder to make the most of opportunities available."

"Driving Change is a community-led program that helps break through the barriers that some young Aboriginal people have to getting a licence, such as access to identification documents, limited availability to supervising drivers or cars, and prohibitive lessons costs."

At the launch Kevin Humphries, the

Member for Barwon, whose electorate is geographically the second largest in the state, spoke of the isolation and difficulties for communities without licenced drivers.

Mr Humphries recounted the story of the community at Weilmoringle on the Calgoa River during the serious floods two years ago. There was an evacuation order, but as none of the 120 people living there had ever evacuated in earlier floods, just retreated to the sand hills, the SES flew a couple of the elders of the community up river in a helicopter to show them the extent of the problem. On their return the elders convinced everyone to leave. The police came out from Brewarrina to help with the evacuation.

After about half an hour, no one had moved and the police couldn't work it out, so one of the police officers went up to one of the younger lads and asked, "What's the problem?"

"Well sir, see those cars. None of them are registered and none of us

have licences." So the police officer said, "Well what do you think we should do?" "Well sir, if you just drive up there for 10 minutes, by the time you're back we'll all be gone."

Project Officer Jake Byrne explained how the program will fund positions for local Driver Licensing Champions in three pilot sites at Griffith, Shellharbour and Redfern, located at local community services that people will be comfortable to access.

Molisa Carney has been the first local Driver Licensing Champion appointed in Redfern, at Redfern Community Centre, to create mentoring opportunities and provide links to existing services and information.

Ms Carney said: "As a youth worker and a mother, I can see that this will not only help open doors and improve independence for our young people, it will also help them get a better understanding of how important road safety is." SSH



Tanya Plibersek
Federal Member for Sydney

Budget 2013

Stronger, Smarter and Fairer

The 2013 Budget keeps Australia's economy strong, makes the smart investments for the future and ensures everyone in Sydney gets a fair go.

Even though some are still doing it tough, Australians can be proud of our government's record of strong economic management with solid growth, low unemployment, low interest rates and low inflation.

The Budget makes smart investments by building a fairer school funding system, and delivering an average of \$1.6 million extra for every school in New South Wales.

The Gillard Government is also fully funding and delivering DisabilityCare (the National Disability Insurance Scheme) so our nation makes sure the most vulnerable Australians are left behind no more.

Around 1800 local Sydneysiders with disability may be eligible for Labor's DisabilityCare scheme, which gives people with disability and their carers the lifetime support and care they need.

In Tony Abbott's response to the 2013 Budget, he committed to slashing school funding, wrecking the most significant education funding overhaul in this country for four decades and cutting an average of \$0.5 million from every school.

Mr Abbott also said he would delay the superannuation increase to 12 per cent, leaving a 30 year old on an average wage \$19,000 worse off on retirement.

I am keen to hear your thoughts on the 2013 Budget – you can reach me by email at Tanya.Plibersek.MP@aph.gov.au or send me a letter at 150 Broadway, Chippendale NSW 2008.

Authorised by Tanya Plibersek MP
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Uniting workers of sex and gender diversity

SSH

UnitingCare Ageing was recognised for achievement in LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex) workplace inclusion at the "Pride in Diversity" Luncheon and Awards on Friday May 17. As a new category in 2013, it is the first to receive the Not-For-Profit LGBTI Workplace Inclusion Award.

The awards were determined using Pride in Diversity's Australian

Workplace Equality Index (AWEI), a free service provided annually by Pride in Diversity that evaluates and benchmarks LGBTI inclusiveness in Australian workplaces.

"We are very proud to receive this award," said the Director of UnitingCare Ageing Steve Teulan.

"UnitingCare has a deep commitment to social equality and last year we appointed a LGBTI Project Officer to reach out to older people from the LGBTI communities to help the organisation better meet their needs

and to also promote cultural awareness among our staff.

"We are now recruiting LGBTI Champions throughout the organisation and we have already had enthusiastic staff register their interest," Mr Teulan said.

"Partnerships with LGBTI health and community service organisations have been vital in beginning to break the barriers of concern for the LGBTI community in dealing with faith-based organisations and accessing community and health care services,

and we look forward to building on this.

"We have a real opportunity to give a voice to the needs of this community as well as creating opportunities for improvements in our own service delivery and employment practises," Mr Teulan added. SSH

UnitingCare NSW.ACT is a social justice and community services arm of the Uniting Church, motivated by a commitment to build a more just, compassionate and fair society. It respects and values all people.

Go Fossil Free comes to town

ENVIRONMENT

MIRIAM PEPPER

AFTER YEARS of trying to influence government policies on carbon emissions, coal and coal seam gas projects and renewable energy, climate change campaigners are increasingly targeting the money behind the fossil fuel industry.

Pressure on banks to pull their investments out of new fossil fuel infrastructure is now being joined by a direct divestment strategy. Growing numbers of mainstream institutions, such as universities, religious organisations and councils, are signing up to the global "Go Fossil Free" campaign by pledging to withdraw from stocks and shares in coal, oil and coal seam gas companies. The Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT is one of the first Australian institutions to commit to divest.

To have a reasonable chance of avoiding the two-degree "tipping point" of catastrophic global warming, the vast majority of fossil fuels will need to remain in the ground or under the sea. But Australia's fossil fuel reserves alone are enough to tip the balance.

What difference does it make if a few institutions pull out their money, in the face of Australia's massive coal and gas boom?

Divestment has a proven record of helping to bring about political change. A divestment campaign targeting South African companies in the 1980s is one example - it is credited with having played a role in the downfall of apartheid.

Divestment places moral and economic discussions about climate change squarely into the mainstream of our society.

Globally, fossil fuel assets are worth trillions of dollars on corporations' balance sheets, assets which they fully intend to exploit. But are our institutions prepared to likewise profit from climate change? For the Uniting Church, divestment is a matter of integrity. "Our church's commitment to ecological sustainability must be expressed not only in words but also in the life and actions of the church," said the proponents of the divestment proposal, which was unanimously passed by the Synod in April.

As governments move to control carbon emissions, fossil fuel "assets" will have to be written off. As it stands, the current valuation of fossil fuel reserves poses huge market risks, like the dot.com boom and the credit crunch of years past. Even global financial institutions such as the World Bank, Citibank and HSBC are warning of a "carbon bubble".

Every extra organisation that joins the Go Fossil Free campaign plays a role not only in pressuring fossil fuel companies, but also in bringing these issues to the fore in public discussion. Judging from the widespread media interest in the Uniting Church's decision, divestment is a tactic that is working.

American campaigner Bill McKibben of 350.org, the organisation behind Go Fossil Free, is touring Australia this month. He will speak at the Seymour Centre on June 4. SSH

Miriam Pepper is from Uniting Earthweb, a Uniting Church faith and environment network. www.unitingearthweb.org.au

Planning - a new approach?

GEOFF TURNBULL

PLANNING AND Development Application (DA) processes in NSW are changing with major implications for the inner city. The SSH asked REDWatch spokesperson Geoff Turnbull to explain some of the issues.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI) has put on exhibition until June 28 both a 200 page A New Planning System for NSW White Paper and associated Draft Legislation. The White Paper has been the focus of the DoPI's road show but it is the Act that will determine how the system operates. The two documents, however, currently contain significant differences.

Not available are either the transition arrangements from the existing to the new system, nor the details of the new codes and policies that are to replace the existing State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) that govern the minutiae of the current system. "Trust us to deliver what is in the White Paper" is the subtext of the DoPI road show. This is difficult when developer groups say they have almost everything they asked for.

It is difficult even for professional groups to get clear answers. At a Heritage Council forum DoPI told heritage practitioners there would be no change as far as heritage was concerned, while later in the session DoPI invited input on how the codes would deal with heritage no longer subject to merit assessment. The Heritage Council publicly lamented that DoPI had not listened to them and their three submissions.

One major change is the removal of the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) which is one of the Objects of the current Act. ESD is recognised federally and in 60 other NSW Acts with established case law. In its place DoPI propose an object of "economic growth and environmental and social well-being through sustainable development". Growth is the focus. Gone are the fundamental importance of the precautionary principle, the polluter pays principle and other pricing and incentive mechanisms, and biodiversity and ecological integrity. The DoPI road show treats it as a name change rather than a fundamental change in the focus of the system, and does not even acknowledge that key principles are being lost.

Building on the Coalition's pre-election promise to return planning power to the people Minister Hazzard argues the main change in the new system is to get people involved in deciding the key elements upfront like strategic plans and development codes, so they will no longer need to

comment on up to 80 per cent of DAs. The difficulties of shifting people's focus from the local to the regional are universally acknowledged and new online mechanisms are proposed.

Sitting alongside the Minister's upfront promise is the concurrent Metropolitan Strategy exhibition (see separate item). Community consultation has been poor and not in line with the new system and yet this strategy sets the planning parameters for Sydney's future. So when people turn up to work on their sub-regional and local plans they will find the broad outline locked in. The Minister has extended the exhibition by a month to try to get more participation, rather than re-exhibit under the new system as requested by the Better Planning Network.

The community participation aspirations are not reflected in the draft Act. The Minister can override the plans and no plan or decision can be appealed against on the grounds that community engagement was not undertaken. The ICAC raised corruption risk concerns in their Green Paper submission but the Minister's wide powers remain unaddressed in the draft Act.

With 80 per cent of DAs being under \$290,000 DoPI wants to remove most of these from being exhibited. They want them dealt with by Council under new codes that should meet most contingencies. While neighbours will still be informed work will start near them, they will have no right to object to the development. Proposed in code development by DoPI is the ability to build up to 10-storey developments and rows of up to 20 town houses in appropriately zoned areas. So it's not just about a home renovation next door. If zoned correctly much of the existing Redfern Waterloo Built Environment Plan 2 public housing redevelopment could be done under codes. Only those bits that exceed the code, say the 11th & 12th storey of some buildings would need to be exhibited and merit assessed.

One of the benefits of the new system is supposed to be that state infrastructure will now be delivered in tandem with new development or within three years. The aspiration is admirable, like much in the White Paper, but there is no way of forcing treasury or government to ensure it is delivered nor any way of stopping further development if the infrastructure is not delivered as promised. Again, it is a matter of stated intent and trust of government, planners and developers to do better than they have in the past without some of the checks and balances. SSH

These are some of the issues. You can find more information and links to some of the issues guides under the "NSW Planning System" tab on www.redwatch.org.au

Growth targets inner city

GEOFF TURNBULL

IF YOU live on a major transport corridor and are close to the city your area will likely be targeted to absorb the extra homes and jobs for Sydney's growth under the Draft Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney to 2031. The Metro Strategy is to be Sydney's regional plan. All sub-regional and local plans in the New Planning System for NSW have to be consistent with it.

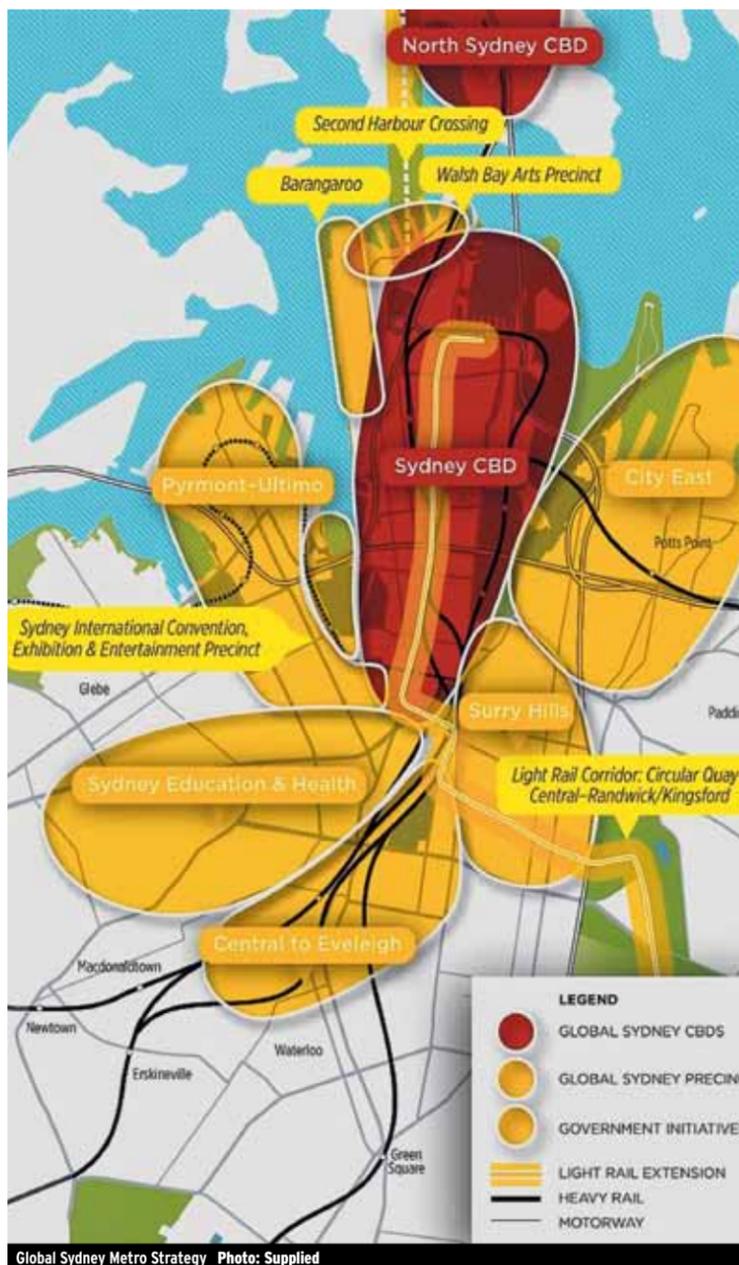
The Strategy defines nine City Shapers - some directly impact the inner city. Global Sydney (see diagram) is one shaper - it sets priorities for different parts of the city to keep it Australia's number-one city. Part of this shaper is to "investigate the regeneration potential of areas such as Town Hall to Central, Central to City

Road and Central to Eveleigh".

Another shaper is the Global Economic Corridor that sweeps its arc and priorities from Macquarie Park to Botany going through the city. Other shapers include the Parramatta Road and Anzac Parade corridors which set priorities for development along these key arterials impacting on suburbs such as Surry Hills. [See the SSH website for an article on compensation and compulsory land acquisition relevant to the new tram line.]

The Draft Metro Strategy gives an idea of what change is planned citywide. It is on exhibition until June 28, pre-empting the New Planning System and its community participation in strategic planning. SSH

If that worries you, sign the petition: <https://www.change.org/en-AU/organisations/redwatch>



Sydney Harbour bliss

BRITTNEY MANNING

ON SATURDAY May 18 the *South Sydney Herald* held its annual fundraiser aboard the Tribal Warrior's *Mari Nawi (Big Canoe)*. The four-hour cruise, from Darling Harbour to Clark Island (Be-lang-le-woo) and back, commenced in high spirits.

The 75 excited passengers represented all aspects of the SSH news service, from production to distribution and readership. Aboriginal cultural commentary – in story, song and dance – was provided by Terry Olsen, who led an informative and entertaining tour of Clark Island. The sunny weather and idyllic setting made for a glorious picnic lunch. A soulful set by Torres Strait Islander singer-songwriter Marcus Corowa put a perfect end to a majestic day.

Terry Olsen was a consummate guide. Participants learned how Indigenous people sustained nutrition and maintained hygiene. Terry made particular mention of the grass plant called Lomandra, mainly found along the east coast of Australia. He praised this “handy plant that Aboriginal people utilised”. The seeds would be crushed up, then mixed with water to make a dough. It was shaped then placed in the embers of a fire to make damper – a significant staple. He then explained how the leaves of the plant could be separated and the white bulb in the centre used for extracting water.

The Blackwood plant can be used for washing. It lathers up like soap. One of the dances performed by Terry celebrated the Willy Wagtail, a little black bird with a white chest and a fantail. For Aboriginal people, it is a special bird since it is a messenger. “The Willy Wagtail is never to be harmed,” Terry said.

Lesley, a loyal reader of the SSH, said that she had been to Clark Island a number of times for parties and events. “It’s a great place,” she said. “But for Terry to take us around the island and explain those really interesting and cultural things like the natural fishing trap and the plants, I think that was fantastic.”

Father and son, Paul, 40, and Glynn, 10, came to gather more information on Indigenous culture and to support the SSH. “Terry is a nice guy and full of information,” Paul said.

Vicki Gordon, one of the event organisers, made sure that everyone was well catered for. “You have got to make sure you have everything and everybody’s comfortable, because these days when you are feeding people you’ve got to make sure all the nutritional needs are covered,” she said.

Along with offering a healthy sausage sizzle and fresh fruit, with thanks to local businesses Hudson Meats and Tapeo Bakery, Vicki was instrumental in making sure the end of our day was



Marcus Corowa aboard the *Mari Nawi* Photo: Esther Butcher

flawless. “Marcus is an extraordinary musician,” she said. “I’m so glad he agreed to perform. Just seeing everybody enjoying themselves, that’s the thing really. It was a perfect day. We couldn’t have asked for more.”

We are very grateful to Shane Phillips

and the Tribal Warrior Association for hosting our fundraiser. Thanks to Terry Olsen and the crew of the *Mari Nawi*. Thanks to Marcus Corowa, Laurence Williams, Vicki Gordon Music Productions, Robert Young Design, Skyline Print & Design, Hudson

Meats and Tapeo Bakery, as well as sponsors who donated gifts and prizes – Rabbitohs Merchandise, Tripod Café, Oscar Wylee and Sydney Story Factory. Together, we raised more than \$3,500. Thanks to everyone who came along. [We couldn’t do it without you. – Eds] SSH

Helping people help themselves

THE BIG ISSUE

VENDOR PROFILE



ANDREW

Andrew was born in England and grew up in Sydney. He has been selling *The Big Issue* on and off for five years and his pitch is on Macleay Street in Potts Point outside Woolworths.

“I would like to thank all of my customers and everybody that shows an interest in all of the vendors, not just me. It makes such a difference in our lives. I’m sure people don’t realise what a difference it makes,” he said. Andrew especially wants to thank Tiago from Monkey and Leo Coffee shop on Ward Avenue – “for looking after me with the best coffees in the world”.

When Andrew isn’t selling *The Big Issue*, he enjoys bushwalking and looking after his car. “My car is a Mazda 121, I bought it with the money I got from my brother’s estate. I also like bushwalking too, not that I’ve done any for a while, living in the city.”

Prior to becoming a vendor, Andrew had been on the pension for 22 years. “*The Big Issue* has enabled me to maintain a tenancy and to eat regularly. I don’t have anyone to borrow money off so *The Big Issue* is good, in that I don’t need to borrow money, because I can go out and earn it,” he said.

Andrew heard about *The Big Issue* through Matthew Talbot Homeless Services. “I saw a pamphlet, so went into the office, which was in King Street at the time and I spoke to staff and here I am.”

If you or anyone you know could benefit from becoming a vendor for *The Big Issue*, please contact the Sydney office for more information: 125-127 Little Eveleigh St. Redfern; phone 8332 7200; email sydney@bigissue.org.au

PHOTO BY PETER HOLCROFT

The Big Issue is Australia’s leading social enterprise. It is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that develops solutions to help homeless, disadvantaged and marginalised people positively change their lives. *The Big Issue* magazine is published fortnightly and sold on the streets by vendors who purchase copies for \$3 and sell them for \$6, keeping the difference.

to find out more visit:
thebigissue.org.au

Changes to Succession of Tenancy policy

SOPHIE FARRELL

DO YOU live in a Housing NSW property? Housing NSW only allows for one person to be named on a lease, even if you live with other people. Even in the case of a couple, only one member of the couple will normally be named on the lease. The spouse of the tenant on the lease is categorised as an “authorised occupant”.

Previously, under Housing NSW’s Succession of Tenancy policy, some household members were eligible to take over the tenancy if the tenant on the lease died or left the property due to circumstances beyond their control. Spouses, de-facto partners, adult household members over 18 years of age, legal guardians/custodians of children in the household, young persons (16-18 years old) and carers were all eligible to apply to take over

the tenancy.

As of March 25, 2013, Housing NSW’s Succession of Tenancy policy changed significantly. Most importantly, people who wish to take over a tenancy must now apply under a new Recognition as a Tenant policy. People who are now eligible to apply to take over the tenancy include: spouses or partners aged 55 years or older, guardians of children of the household whose parents are unable to care for them, and Aboriginal

household members.

The new policy means that far fewer people are eligible to apply to take over a tenancy when the named tenant dies or leaves. Spouses and partners under the age of 55 will no longer be able to apply. SSH

For free, confidential tenancy advice, call Redfern Legal Centre’s Tenancy Service on 9698 5975. Sophie Farrell is Communications & Volunteer Manager at Redfern Legal Centre.



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Generous volunteer, host and friend

Tony Thomas "Mary" Cooper (July 22, 1959 – April 27, 2013)

MURRAY GILLET

TONY WAS born in Cairns to parents Val and Ronald, with brothers Ron and Chris. The boys attended Our Lady Help of Christians Primary, and St Augustine's College High School. He attended Mass on Sundays with his family and helped his mother with fundraising at school and the Catholic Women's Association.

Tony started his first catering job at the Cairns RSL before moving to Sydney at the age of 18. One of his first Sydney jobs was at Pulcinella on Bayswater Road, then Buon Ricordo for world-famous chef Armando Percuoco. Armando recalled his first interview with Tony when Tony announced he worked at "the best restaurant in Cairns". Armando laughed and yelled in his thick Italian accent, "The bloody RSL!"

Tony worked with Armando and Jemma for some 15 years. Armando said he did "a fantastic job". Tony worked with many world-renowned chefs as maître d' of Mezzaluna, and with Marco Polese and Neil Perry at Rockpool.

During nearly 40 years in Sydney Tony lived in many share households, becoming great life-long friends with all his flat-mates. Damian Furlong remembers him as "Den Mother" of their Pitt Street house. "There was always a seat for you at



Tony Cooper Photo: Supplied

Tony's table." Damian remembers a wonderful cook and generous host. No one ever saw a bigger Christmas tree than the one at Pitt St which could easily have buckled the floor.

Tony also lived for seven years on Raglan Street in Waterloo. He maintained one of the nine award-winning "streetscape gardens" (37-53 Raglan St), entered annually in the City of Sydney Gardening Competition.

He was a skilled events manager and handyman. David Wilkins, Events Manager of the AIDS Council of NSW, and Tony's best friend, said: "There was nothing he couldn't do", and remembers many great times Tony built complete sets for the Boomerang Social Club. The two friends were key members of the club during the '60s and '70s.

Tony made enormous contributions to Mardi Gras. He built one of the first-ever floats – for the Boomerang Social Club. In 1992 Tony received The Outstanding Contribution Award from the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, in recognition of many years of outstanding service. During the Sydney Gay Games in 2002 he ran the Gay Games Bar in Hyde Park. He also competed in swimming at the first Gay Games in San Francisco.

Tony was an incredibly generous volunteer. He volunteered with Bingay, was a board member of Mardi Gras 1985/6, the founding director and trustee of the Aurora Foundation, and a long-term volunteer with ACON. He was a valued staff member at The Star, helping save the gay paper from near financial ruin. He was also a volunteer with the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation, Diva, Food and Wine Fair, Mardi Gras and New Mardi Gras. Stevie Clayton said: "He was always doing the shitty jobs, without complaining."

Tony worked in many fields throughout his working career, opening his own restaurant and cabaret room, TC's, on Crown Street. Most recently, he worked as a handyman for Moran Health's nursing homes in Sydney.

A son, brother, uncle, lover, activist, volunteer, worker and friend, Tony will be sadly missed by his loving family and his loving friends.

Miss ya Mary.

SSH

Remembering Cecile

Cecilia Elaine Pauly (February 15, 1951 – May 2, 2013)

ANDREW COLLIS

A FUNERAL service was held for Cecile on Wednesday May 15 at the Joseph Medcalf Chapel in Redfern. Cecile's brother Phillip and his wife Thresia, and Cecile's nieces and a grandniece, traveled from Queensland to attend the service. The following tribute by Andrew Collis was written in collaboration with Catherine Wood, Heather Robinson, Naomi Ward, Yvonne Mayer, Adrian Spry and Margaret Vazey.

It's with deep sadness that we recall good times with our friend Cecile Pauly. It's also with deep gratitude – gratitude for a friend so dependable, gentle and gracious – and with a love that delights in attending to the details of good memories. Cecile's loving attention to detail was a mark of her personality and her creativity. The quality of her character and work has inspired us.

Cecile saw beauty everywhere, evident or latent – in the world around her, in human faces and stories, in literature and cinema, in pop songs and on television. There was something to be valued in all human activities and interactions. We remember someone who kept her things in beautiful condition; someone who was taught from an early age to value artifacts and resources. An archivist. A conservationist.

Cecile brought gifts to the church and to the Saturday art classes. She made donations to the Waterloo Recycling Workshop – gift-wrapped picture frames, gift-wrapped household items, clothes, books,



Cecile Pauly Photo: Andrew Collis

magazines. She took great care with preparation of food – keen to provide just what was needed: the right dish, the right quantity, the right presentation. It was right because it was offered so freely, so thoughtfully.

Our poetry group was so much the better for Cecile's involvement. We recognised right away her love of language – a love for the wellsprings of expression and communication. We knew that she was a poet. The unveiling of a new poem by Cecile Pauly – and the careful way it was read aloud – was an event. A sharing. A trust. An offering. An invitation to cherish the world, to love it towards wholeness and wellness. Cecile raised our expectations of language, of ourselves as poets and as people. What more can be asked of anyone?

We knew that Cecile was unwell, but she was so often radiant. She didn't often complain, hardly at all. Our recollections imagine

her elegant, tall like an orchid; a smart dresser with sparkly eyes and beautiful skin. We see her quietly at work on a drawing or painting, enjoying Tai Chi in the Park, Sculptures by the Sea; a road-trip to the Chapel by the Sea; at Circular Quay for a night-time movie, the Darlinghurst Theatre, the Art Gallery of NSW, the Orchard Gallery; involved with origami ribbon weaving in honour of survivors of child abuse, karaoke at Souths on Chalmers, dancing, smiling.

We hope she knows how much we cherish these visions; that we were never offended by her or disappointed in her (though sometimes she worried we might be); that we measure our courage and graciousness by way of her example; that we wish her no more pain, no shame at all, and nothing but joy.

We imagine her presence, even now. We rejoice in her good humour and fun-loving spirit. Some time ago Cecile composed a poem entitled, "I Celebrate My Passing – I Never Liked Being Left Out". In it she imagines us gathered here – family and friends with whom she has shared life and connection. She imagines, "Ditties read out I'd hope / Who will that be? – / I must think about it ... / as I so hate to think of my eulogy out of control!"

We're so proud to be Cecile's friends. We're so glad she made her home, these past years, in the inner city, in Redfern.

Thank you, Cecile, for your friendship – for the quality of the friendship you offered us – for the consistency of your love – the hard-won maturity of your love. May God bless you.

SSH

Black hole for correspondence – Housing NSW

GUEST EDITORIAL

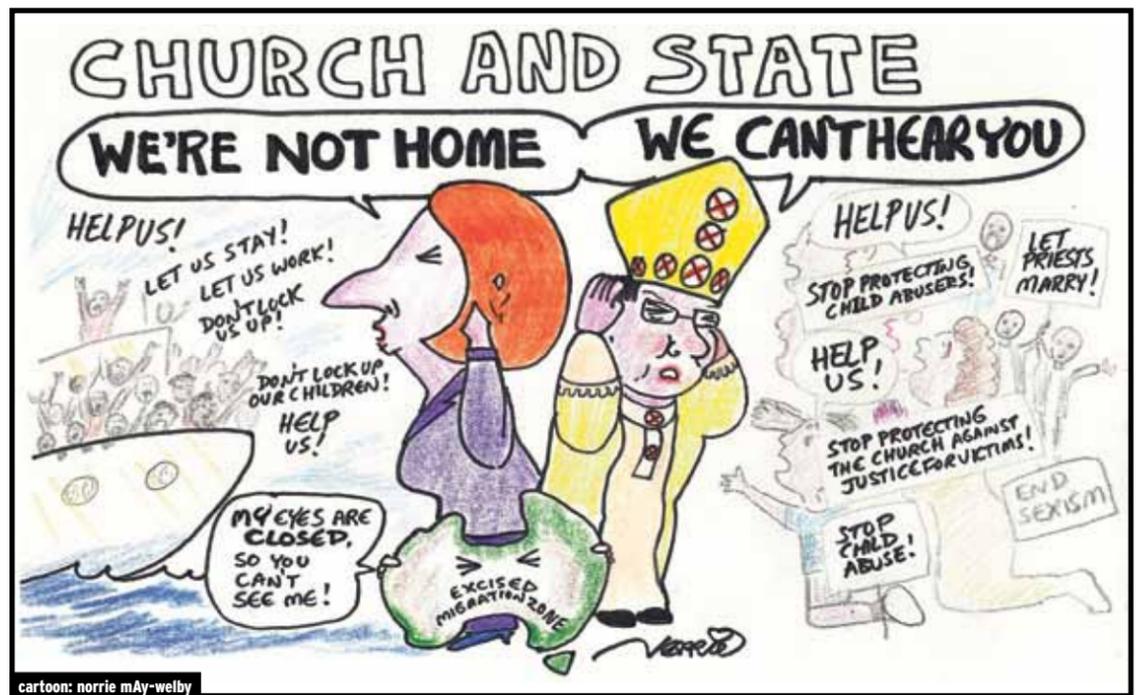
ROSS SMITH

AT EVERY tenant gathering across NSW the subject of Housing NSW's failure to provide definitive and specific replies to correspondence arises. The records of NSW tenant groups and tenant councils stretching back to the 1970s show the same pattern of failure to respond. The question of lack of response, whenever put to the Housing Minister of the day, received the same outcome – no definitive and specific response. This situation is still happening on a daily basis despite of given undertakings by Housing NSW to reform.

The tenant group and tenant council records archivists decided

to check if the same pattern existed in other states. To this end there were a series of letters and emails on a variety of subjects sent to the various housing bureaucracies and ministers. This mapping exercise revealed that the other states were far more responsive in the manner in which they treated correspondence. The responses generally were specific, definitive and delivered within an appropriate timeframe, rendering the response useful to those seeking information.

On June 15, 2009, the TRIM system for recording and managing correspondence was implemented by Housing NSW. TRIM did not improve the quality of the responses to correspondence, when given, nor did it shorten the timeframe for response delivery. The policies on Housing NSW's website setting out timeframes for the supply of responses, and



cartoon: norrie mAy-welby

the nature of the content of such responses, disappeared off its website some years ago. Housing NSW has failed to provide replacements to date.

The following questions arise in the case of NSW's Public Housing bureaucracy, and its handling of correspondence:

1. Is the ongoing failure to respond to correspondence a systemic problem?
2. Is the failure to respond to correspondence the result of a dysfunctional bureaucracy?
3. Is the failure to respond to correspondence an attempt to deny accountability?
4. Is the failure to respond to correspondence an attempt to suppress information?
5. Is the failure to respond to correspondence condoned, knowingly or otherwise, by the Minister of the day?

SSH

READERS' LETTERS

Rights of motor vehicle accident victims at risk

Legislation to change the state's Compulsory Third Party motor vehicle accident insurance scheme is set to be debated in NSW parliament. The Bill significantly alters the rights of people who are injured on NSW roads by cutting what is available for innocent victims of road accidents and extending benefits to include at-fault

drivers. In the vast majority of cases, compensation for loss of earnings and future medical bills will be cut off after five years, even if victims cannot work as they did before the accident or they need further surgery. It is hard to believe that the Government intended anything this harsh when it started a reform process and it is also hard to believe that children who suffer an incapacity for work for life as a result of an accident could be the biggest losers. I have seen the very real pain and suffering road accidents can have

on people's lives and the difference adequate compensation can make to the health and wellbeing of families and individuals recovering from road trauma. Whatever your view, this legislation should not be rushed and the community should be fully informed before our State Parliament votes to take away the longstanding rights of innocent motor vehicle accident victims, and in particular the rights of injured children.

Genevieve Henderson
Slater & Gordon Lawyers

What's the future for our City of Villages?

OPINION

IRENE DOUTNEY

ON THURSDAY May 9, many members of the community attended the local police community meeting in the hope of getting more information about the aims and workings of the new Integrated Human Services Group, which may or may not be now known by another name.

Unfortunately for those community members, who have been lobbying for a combined Human Services Group that would fill the gap left by the ending of the Redfern-Waterloo Authority (RWA) Human Services Group, there was no new information as to what the new group, which has met four times already, has been doing.

Instead of a report on the group's work in Redfern-Waterloo, the meeting was given presentations on what the different services do across the city and state. However, a few pieces of information were given by the police which highlighted that the focus of the group will be on drug-related issues such as drug use, drug dealing and drug health.

The issues of mental health, where it related to drug use, will be considered, as will the placement of recently released prisoners with drug-related histories into Redfern and Waterloo public housing properties. However, other human services such as disability and aged care are not included.

One of the other points the police addressed was the issue of community involvement in the group, which had been highly contested since the group was formed. The decision has now been taken to allow some community input by allowing six to eight hand-picked community members to attend bi-monthly meetings. The group meets monthly and allowing some participation in the second round of meetings will at least give some members of the community a chance to report any problems they know of within the community.

It is not known at this stage whether the chosen community members will be sworn to confidentiality as was the case with the RWA.

One concern raised by members of the community was the concentration on public housing rather than considering the same problems that exist in the private market and looking at the community as a whole. A number of attendees felt that such a concentration would only add to the demonisation of public housing tenants in the area.

This is an important point as there is so much work being done to highlight the positive elements of the area, from the Volunteer Awards to plans to create a new Redfern Festival and beautify Redfern station. For many members of the community it is important to pursue and promote the positives of Redfern and Waterloo rather than continuing with negative connotations.

Another issue that emerged is the ongoing merger of services such as the merger proposed for the Redfern Local Area Command with Surry Hills and merges within the Corrective Services. One has to wonder how relevant the Integrated Human Services Group will be once these mergers have taken place. Similarly, the loss of a government minister for housing and the split of the department between two different departments (assets to the Department of Finance and Infrastructure, and tenants services to the Department of Human Services) add to the problems facing the Human Services Group and tenants in general.

No one denies that there are drug-related problems in the area but it is important to realise that these problems are caused by a very small minority of public housing tenants, and that they are not solely related to public housing properties. There are just as many problems in the private market as there are in public housing but these never get the publicity or attention that is given to the public housing estates.

Finally, the question was raised as to how the community-driven Community Drug Action Team, which also deals with drug- and alcohol-related issues, can relate to the new body and how what was a community-driven request for a wide-ranging Human Services body can lead to true community participation and engagement rather than being excluded and made peripheral to this important project.

SSH

Following the path of St Vincent de Paul

FAITH

DOROTHY MCRAE-MCMAHON

IN 1833, Frederic Ozanam, at the age of 20, and some French student friends, established the Society of St Vincent de Paul. The Sisters of Charity were also involved later. St Vincent de Paul lived in the 17th century and had been venerated by both the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches. He was known as "the great Apostle of charity".

Frederic Ozanam once said: "Yours must be a work of love, of kindness. You must give your times, your talents, yourselves. The poor person is a unique person of God's fashioning, with an unalienable right to respect. You must not be content with tiding the poor over the poverty crisis; you must study their condition and the injustices which brought about such poverty, with the aim of a long term improvement." He died at the age of 40 and was later acclaimed by the Catholic Church as "Blessed".

When you think of all the achievements of the Society of St Vincent de Paul (now "Vinnies" in Australia) this young life could well inspire us all. Ozanam's profound perception of the way we are called to relate to the poor could take many charities much deeper into the nature of their work. To simply hand over charity to those who are struggling to survive in ongoing poverty is a simplistic understanding of what it might mean to truly love your neighbour.

True love for the poor invites us to reflect on what supports them on a journey towards independent life, one where they gain self-respect and our respect. It also looks widely at what aspects of our life as a community cause systems of injustice which lead to the poverty of many people. Poverty is almost always systemic, including being based on inadequate care

resources for people who are mentally or physically disabled.

As I shared in the Festival Mass for the Regional Council of the St Vincent de Paul Society, recently held at St Joseph's Church in Newtown, I observed with respect the number of young people at the mass who were volunteers with Vinnies. They were all celebrated and many appointed into responsible roles in the organisation.

I also remembered Vinnies with gratitude as I recalled my experiences in relating to homeless and needy people during my ministry with the Pitt Street Uniting Church in the centre of the city. Our church obviously assumed responsibility for various forms of caring, but we didn't have much money and I often needed to refer people to specialised agencies for support. When I asked the people concerned where they would like to be referred, they almost always said "St Vinnies". When I asked why, they would tell me about an agency which would be generous and understanding, without demanding that they attend church before they could receive help. They felt respected by those who related to them there and often said that the help went beyond giving them a bed for the night.

There is much more work to be done by us all in exploring the many reasons for poverty. We, who are people of any faith, must give a lead in today's world, where politicians so often tweak the meanness in us in order to gain votes. The reality is that, to get people off the streets and into proper supported accommodation would actually save us money and add to the life of our community in many ways. We need religious and non-religious leaders who will invite in us all a grander dream for justice and compassion – for its own sake and to enhance who we might become. So, go Vinnies! We need you.

SSH

Pakistan – a wild ride

AS OUR jet banked left to land at Lahore airport, I was feeling a little like Tin Tin on one of his exotic travel adventures about to turn into a mystery thriller. Watching Zero Dark Thirty on the flight from Sydney was, in hindsight, not a wise choice to inspire confidence. I was beginning to wonder whether I should have listened to those advising against accepting the invitation to visit a school in Hafizabad that the Barkat Foundation, of which I am a board member, has been supporting for five years.

PETER MAHER

WE STAYED in a Lahore parish where Jacob Barkat, son of the person after whom the foundation is named, is parish priest. We also visited the Lahore Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary, a Belgian order. While most wear traditional habits, sisters in this order have the option of a Pakistani style dress.

The cultural visits included the Lahore Museum with a contemporary art exhibition by women artists called "Women Changing Cultures", the Badshahi Mosque (up till 1987 the biggest in the world), Lahore Fort, palace of the Mughal kings and various gardens and tombs of the Mughal period.

The Wahga border crossing is the only working crossing between India and Pakistan. There, each afternoon, thousands of people assemble on each side of the border in Stadia to watch the lowering of the flags, which becomes a ritualised expression of enmity between the two countries resembling something of an AFL grand final. The drums grow to a crescendo of Pakistani nationalism. Impressive goose-stepping of warriors, sporting majestic black and silver high fan-shaped Mughal turbans, faced off against the somewhat more "pretty" bright orange turbans of the Indian side. Whilst at times it seemed almost a parody, I am hoping it was also a celebration of a dreamed-for restored unity of a sub-continental empire and that one day this symbol of colonial interference could be dismissed and thus reunite Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh.

The purpose of the Pakistan adventure was to visit Hafizabad. The program began with us being taken in a horse drawn buggy with full ceremonial turban, floral garlands and a gold umbrella. This grand entry to Hafizabad turned out to be the curtain-raiser for a school spectacular by the children at St Mary's school. We presented the children with books and satchels and school uniforms and provided a nice lunch for them. The brand new



Haroon Photo: Peter Maher

ambulance, driven up from Lahore that morning, was presented to the sisters. This was a most unforgettable experience of hope, although the pain this country is in and the plight of the Christian minority is never far from the surface, no matter how hard the locals tried to shield me from that reality.

I will not forget Haroon's passionate speech about peace in a world of terrorism (see picture). This 10 year-old boy was speaking from the bitter reality of his own short life in his country as he pleaded for wider access to education to break the cycle of poverty and free his homeland from terrorism, injustice, discrimination, senseless violence and untold heartache. A moving moment indeed, and barely comforting to this "do-gooder" being treated like a king for a day, as I realised the modesty of our efforts for these gracious and grateful people.

As if Hafizabad was not enough of a wake-up call for this travelling

westerner, nothing could prepare me for the next astounding experience. Driving through guttered dirt alleyways we arrived at the newly renovated and brightly painted gates of Joseph Colony, a solely Christian community. Crowded into small dwellings, going up to make space for growing extended families, poor Christians make best use of the little land they share. You may recall this was the community where 114 houses were burned to the ground as police looked on, purposefully helpless, as Muslim mobs rampaged over an accusation of blasphemy. The complicity of the police was clear, in that they actually warned everyone to leave hours before the attack. At least no one was killed, as they heeded the warning. Their abandoned homes were filled with flammable chemical and set alight. These poor people lost everything they had, including dowries that had taken years to collect for the

marriages of their young women.

The global publicity that ensured their homes were being quickly rebuilt by the local Chief Minister, the smiles of young ones so eager to shake hands with this strange white man with the simple greeting "salem", and the sincere welcome of the community leaders could not cover the despair and hopelessness in their eyes as they graciously and proudly welcomed this foreigner into their modest dwellings. I can only imagine they took it as an honour that someone from the outside tackled the dusty alleyways containing their broken homes and broken dreams.

Next we visited the Imam Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad who showed us pictures of a significant meeting of leaders of various faiths which he hosted in response to the Joseph Colony troubles. He was very interested in the efforts of the Marrickville Multifaith Roundtable, which recently hosted a Muslim speaker to

assist us to understand Islam better.

I had been carefully protected from physical danger by my hosts. But I could not be protected from questioning my complicity in their poverty and the violent world they live with every day; the meaning of religious freedom and the enormous task ahead to overcome prejudice, injustice and discrimination. However, Pakistanis share the same aspirations for a peaceful life, a job, justice, family and love as we do. It has left me wondering about Australia's border security, pathetic foreign aid policy and cruel immigration laws, let alone Australia's treatment of asylum seekers.

.....
Peter Maher, Newtown priest and secretary of the Barkat Foundation which supports a small school for poor children in Hafizabad, Pakistan, describes a journey of faith and challenge in that troubled land. Front page photo of Lahore by Alissa Everett.



The three core members of The Bridge Project: Andy Busuttill, Umit Ceyham and Ittai Shaked. Photo: Supplied

Across religious and political divides

Artist Profile: The Bridge Project

In February 2002 a young Jewish-American journalist working for the *Wall Street Journal* was abducted by extremists in Pakistan and murdered in a brutal and vicious way. His name was Daniel Pearl. In response to their son's very public killing, Daniel's mother and father, Ruth and Judea Pearl, established a Foundation with the principal aim of unifying the world's religions through music. Their belief was that the best response to the murder of their son was to undermine the evil that caused his death in the first place.

ANDY BUSUTTIL

IN JANUARY 2009, Bessan, Mayar and Aya Abuelaish, together with their cousin Noor, were in the bedroom of their apartment in Gaza when an Israeli tank targeted and shelled it. Three of the girls were killed instantly, and the fourth, Bessan, killed by a subsequent shell. Their father, Dr Izzeldin Abuelaish, in a desperate phone call to his friend Shlomi Eldar, a front man for an Israeli news program, screamed that his girls had just been slaughtered and begged for help. This call was broadcast live to air in Israel and is chilling to hear.

Dr Abuelaish had made his reputation as a specialist in fertility medicine in various universities in Israel where he had helped many Jewish couples to realise their wish of becoming parents. He was a resident of Gaza and a willing and generous donor of time and finances to Gazans who needed medical help both in Gaza and in Israel. His response to the murder of his daughters and niece is encapsulated in his text, *I Shall Not Hate*.

He lectures on the need for understanding and the futility of revenge and violence and his fundamental proposition is that these actions never bring about peace.

The common bond here is that both the Pearls and Dr Abuelaish made the same commitment following the deaths of those most precious to them. None of them would hate. They would work as hard as they could to bring together those often seen to be antagonists. This was an extraordinary response to loss and grief and one that I hesitate to believe I would have either the good grace or the capacity to follow. I would, however, like to believe that I would.

The opportunity arose in 2009 to form a musical group comprising a Turk who is Muslim by birth and who is living in France as a refugee, an Israeli Jew living in Tel Aviv and myself, a Roman Catholic by birth living in Australia. We formed the band over the internet and recorded an album in the same way. Since we all worked for the beta section of the audio software company Waves Audio, we called the album *Three Waves Under the Bridge*. The band, and the subsequent project, was called The Bridge Project.

We were accepted to play at this year's National Folk Festival. Unfortunately, Umit was denied a visa, since he was a Turkish refugee living in France. Replacing him was a challenge. I asked John Robinson, an extremely flexible Arabic and Turkish lute player if he could take over the parts composed for the Turkish baglama (long-necked lute). Given that Ittai was only going to be here for the National Festival and there were still seven concerts that needed to be played in his absence, I also had to come up with an alternative to his bowed strings. Enter John Napier, cellist extraordinaire and a very fine Australian transcultural musician. I also thought that it would be great to have someone of Muslim background playing with us and invited Nawres al-Freh to play and Bilge Ozgun to sing Umit's Turkish songs. Nawres is an absolutely glorious bowed string player and he plays the joza-tarhu (an upright fiddle designed and made here in Australia by Peter Biffin) and the violin.

The friendship that formed between the members of the band – Bertie McMahon, John Robinson, John Napier, Tunji Beier, Nawres al-Freh, Bilge Ozgun, Peter

Kennard, Ittai Shaked and myself – was wonderful to experience. What especially warmed my heart was the relationship that was forged between Ittai and Nawres, an Israeli and an Iraqi – a Jew and a Muslim. They shared our house with us for a week and it was fascinating to watch the potential for conflict between them, in the strong opinions they held, totally disappear into an embrace of friendship that has persevered even though they now live half-a-world apart. By way of the internet, they stay in regular contact with each other.

The experience of these two men certainly confirmed that religious, political and geographical differences mean so much less than humanity. Contact, in fact, brought about friendship and warmth. Relationship forges bonds and these bonds were apparent between all the musicians in this wonderful company. Bridges were formed between the musical styles of the players, their backgrounds, their religious and spiritual experiences, their politics, nationalities and, importantly, between them and the audiences. All were unified in the concerts we played.

The Bridge Project was brought to life in many wonderful ways. The improvisational skills of both the core musicians and the friends who joined us proved stellar, and beautifully enhanced the music of the band. A further wonderful embellishment was provided by Tamara Taylor who danced to the band's music in a number of concerts. She was beautiful to watch and beautiful in spirit.

The period of time with this extended Bridge Project further emphasised to me that music is such an important political medium. It can be a great unifier. It can teach us so much about ourselves as players as well as in our participation as members of an audience. In this case, my experience with The Bridge Project also enhances the demand I deeply feel to live as well as I can and in a way that reduces the burden of conflict that often arises in my day-to-day life. In other words, it's changed my life.

More info on
www.bridgeprojecttrio.com
 Or listen and see on
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cxxf505jBr4

The Reviews

Theatre Reviews by Catherine Wood



Comin' Home Soon
Written by Alana Valentine
Directed by Chrisjohn Hancock
The Lieder Theatre
Goldsmith Street, Goulburn
April 26 to May 11

Alana Valentine's confronting verbatim-based play explores the effects of punitive justice from several perspectives. No excuses are offered for the crimes of the four Aboriginal inmates but rather we are invited to think, perhaps for the first time, about the effects of incarceration upon the men, their families and community workers. At the heart of the play lies the struggle of the men to maintain a relationship with their children given the constraints of prison contact and the struggle of their children to find strategies to manage their loss and confusion.

Both ideas are effectively represented by the stage design (Chrisjohn Hancock). Separation and constriction are conveyed through the five blank windows opened when inmates directly address their conditions. "They have no idea what my day is like", interjects Inmate 3 (Alfie Walker) as the children offer television-inspired scenarios of gaol life to each other. A clock projected onto a sidewall becomes a reminder of the appalling tedium of the prisoner's day entailing between 16 to 18 hours of "lock-in". The drab colours of the set underline the deliberate sense of deprivation implicit in poor quality food and clothing, difficulty of accessing a single telephone, and the censoring of even small pleasures. Child 5 (Emily Lewis) confides that on her visit she was "in an environment ... where even breathing might be wrong". The often plaintive musical score (Wanda Kower) evokes both loss and tension.

A battered playground slide, conveniently doubling as a frame for the dream story, suggests the ways in which fantasy scenarios mediate uncomfortable reality for the inmates' children. The growly Griz bridges the gap between Mina (Kiralee Lewis) and her father, Inmate 1 (Matt Kay), and the dream story figures of Lillianspook (Patricia J. Mullen), Frilly (Muffy Hedges) and Blue and White Mist (Cara Jeffrey) help his son deal with his fears, and his guilt, at entering the gaol environment. The carnivore fantasies of Lady Gaga find a response in Child 7 (Emmi Robinson) although her efforts to recount her pop concert experience bewilder her ill-at-ease father (Peter Swain) illustrating that separation and consequent loss is increased as the child develops and society changes.

Hope is offered in the play through the compassionate efforts of Shine for Kids workers (Mullen, Jeffrey, Hedges and Erin Williams). While society appears to accept that relatives should be punished as well as the offender, Shine attempt

amelioration of "the awful trust issues" of children, and highlights problems of spouses. The children express gratitude particularly for workers' efforts to create a positive environment in which contact with other children in their situation is fostered, and to offer protection in situations in which they feel particularly powerless. In a moving address to the audience, a transport worker conveys the painful ways in which she is emotionally and psychologically effected not only by the misfortune of her adult clients but also by their manipulativeness.

Another aspect giving hope is that the inmates, while in prison, are restored to their culture. Inmate 2 (Luke Burgess) expresses the desires to be initiated, to learn his own language and to be able to impart the tribal way to his son awoken in him by attending the Aboriginal Art workshop. Restored pride in connection with Aboriginality while underlining difference, at the same time, activates "a way to survive in a white man's world". This awakening gives another meaning to the title of the game, "Comin' Home Soon, Ready or Not" that closes the play. Return to culture, to home, is a return also to the importance of maintaining relationships, of passing on tradition, and, above all, of having a safe and certain place for the coming generation.



You Are Here
Created, written and performed
by Milk Crate Theatre Ensemble
and Associate Artists
Newtown Neighbourhood Centre
May 7

We are all familiar with, and hopefully concerned about, the tendency of modern people to block out the world around them. During an open writing workshop with the Milk Crate Theatre, participants were asked to reflect on situations they had witnessed when a wrong took place but others present didn't seem to be able, or willing, to take action.

The outcome, the very moving *You are Here* has several stories that intersect at a crisis moment. Run (Deborah Williams) and May (Sarah Woods) have been evicted and May gambles away their money. Shop (Adrian Johnson), the owner of a small store inherited from his parents, is keen to make a success of it, difficult these days with competition from supermarkets. He must manage the shop by himself and is under pressure. Red (Sean Barker) is a business man beset by stress and a disintegrating marriage, shut out of his own home by his angry wife.

The characters are brought together by Hood (Leanda), a 14 year-old homeless boy, who enters Shop's store and hovers shoeless in the doorway. Shop questions him brusquely but when he is distracted by a phone call Hood steals \$100 from the till and runs away. When Hood appears next he is wearing new shoes and has a new backpack. His possessions draw the attention of Mike (also Sean

Barker), a young tough, wanting to show off before a frustrated Run, whose uppermost concern is to get hold of a cigarette. Mike snatches the backpack, impervious to the young boy's pleading, and a frightened Hood darts away. He collapses on the ground in despair, where he lies unnoticed by a drunken Red on his way home, apparently having forgotten that he was locked out.

At this point, the play stops, and the audience is invited to consider how this negative situation could have been ameliorated or even prevented. There is loud vibrant buzz as the audience considers, and, as audience members obviously have plenty to offer, the MC invites them to speak up. An uncomfortable silence prevails, and then one or two brave people offer possible solutions. Ice broken, others follow.

It is suggested that Run might have been less concerned with what had happened to her that morning and tried to dissuade Mike, or she might have distracted him and warned Hood, giving him time to run away. Another suggestion, which garnered a strong audience response, was that Run could have asked Hood his name and taken him under her wing, making it difficult for Mike to pursue an aggressive course of action. Someone suggests the problem could have been solved earlier before Hood had stolen the money. Shop might have asked about his welfare with kindness and offered him food, even some money, or suggested places where Hood might obtain help.

No one suggests calling in the police. Rather, the solutions lay in looking objectively at the situation, in seeing the potential for turning the situation around, and in having sufficient faith in one's own power to change the outcome.

Following this intervention, we are returned to the despairing Hood who is helped to his feet by a now chastened Red. "I'm lost", Hoods says when Red asks what is wrong, and the audience finds a certainty and strength in Red's reply. "You are here", he says, affirming Hood's self-worth and "I am here" affirming the need for supportive and compassionate acknowledgement of another's despair.

So, instead of watching television's highly edited "reality" shows in which people are placed in competitive situations and subjected to extreme discomfort, create your own challenge. Go to the next performance of the Milk Crate Theatre (Maree Freeman, Director/Playwright) and become involved in some real action.

» theatre@ssh.com.au

Film Review by Lindsay Cohen



Star Trek Into Darkness
Director: J.J. Abrams
Starring: Kirk, Spock,
etc., and a bad guy
Genre: Star Trek

Nostalgia is very contemporary these days! Whether it's cars, furniture,

television or fashion, anything that was once common, cheaply available and created for functional reasons is today much sought after, often expensive and niche. And flying into that headspace like a large out-of-control spaceship plunging to Earth comes the *Star Trek* re-boot franchise.

Star Trek is a genre unto itself. At its core are self-deprecation, self-mockery and a familiarity born from generations of repeated catch phrases ("Beam me up Scotty", "Ye canna be serious Jim", etc.) and clichés (Kirk is a womaniser, McCoy is incredulous, Spock is, well, Spock).

Star Trek Into Darkness treads the tried and true formula with aplomb. The only exception is that, this time, the bad guy doesn't have an oversized or appendage affixed head. Indeed, Benedict Cumberbatch plays a human villain (Khan), albeit a supercharged and virtually indestructible one.

It takes the near-destruction of the

Enterprise to overcome Khan, but in the process, J.J. Abrams revisits some classic *Star Trek* moments from the earlier TV shows and earlier *Star Trek* films. He also pays homage to some classic disaster films of the original *Star Trek* period, such as *The Poseidon Adventure*, *Towering Inferno* and various submarine- and train-based films. However, dragging Leonard Nimoy, the original Spock, out for yet another pointless cameo maybe took the reverence a step too far.

That *Star Trek Into Darkness* is seamlessly retro and modern at the same time is a tribute to the magic of computer graphics and the imagination of the cast, crew and brains that delivered the film to our screens, and will no doubt deliver it and deliver it and deliver it.

Rating: Three and a half photon torpedoes.

» film@ssh.com.au



Sabrina Soares Photo: Supplied

Soaring to new heights Artist Profile: Sabrina Soares

BRITTANY JOHNSON

THE CAREER of 16 year-old country music singer-songwriter Sabrina Soares is going from strength to strength. Soares is currently recording an EP while also hoping to make it as a finalist in the prestigious Talent Development Project.

After recently performing in the City of Sydney's Youth Week Concert at Martin Place, in early May, it's hard to believe the Year 11 student of Dulwich High has not been performing her whole life. In fact, it has only been three years since she discovered she could even sing. "When I was in Year 8 we had an overnight music task where we had to write and perform a song by the next day. However, I had also told my friends I could play the guitar - but I couldn't! So in one night, I had to learn how to play the guitar, song write and sing for the first time and after that I just really liked it and eventually decided I wanted to do that for a career."

Influenced by artists such as Taylor Swift, Keith Urban and Slim Dusty, Soares realised her passion for country music. She soon took to the streets of Newtown and Summer Hill and started busking as a way to "get used to performing and to get myself out there a bit".

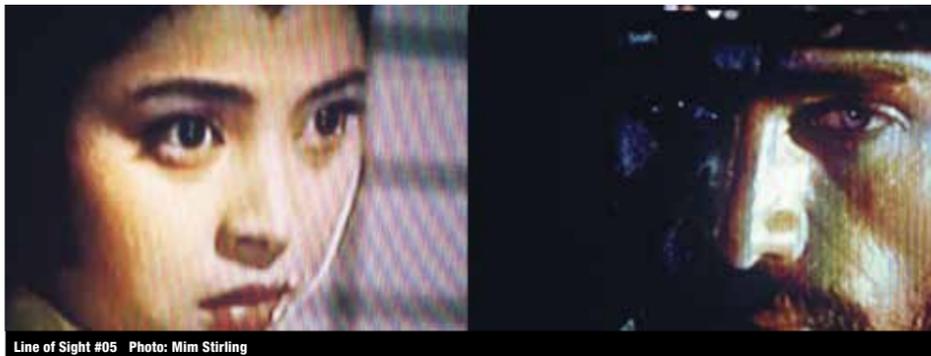
And that is exactly what the young musician has done. Soares has gone on to become a graduate of the Australian Academy of Country Music in Tamworth. While there she had the privilege of opening for Catherine Britt's show. Soares has also won first

prize in the female junior category of the Canberra Country Music Festival, and was a finalist in the Songsalve! Australia Song Competition.

The organisers of Youth Week were so impressed with Sabrina's song writing that they have chosen her song to promote the event. The song will also feature on the soundtrack for an upcoming short film to raise awareness of homophobia. Asked what inspires her song writing, Sabrina says that it can be anything, from her personal experiences, to something happening, to someone she knows. "I'm not one of those outspoken people," she says. "I'm very shy, so I guess writing lyrics helps me to express what I really want to say. Song writing is a therapy for me."

While juggling her Year 11 studies, Soares is currently in the process of recording her first EP at the Redfern Community Centre. She has also recently been notified that she has made it into the Top 30 contestants for the Talent Development Project. In partnership with NSW Education, the TDP is an initiative where eventually 12 students are selected to be mentored by performers such as Keith Urban, John Williamson and Melinda Schneider.

Ultimately, Soares says that all she wants for her career is to end up being able to make a living from what she loves doing most. "I want to be happy and, of course, music will be a big part of that, so that's my goal." And as for other up-and-coming young artists, Soares's advice is to "always work on your craft. Every artist can always improve on their talents. However, it is important that it is what you love doing and that you enjoy it."



Line of Sight #05 Photo: Mim Stirling

Re-turning Japanese

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PHOTOGRAPHERS AND friends, Caroline McLean-Foldes and Mim Stirling, share an enchantment and love affair with Japan. This led them to explore Japanese culture from an outsider's perspective. Sharing a common history in cinema studies, the artists synthesise contemporary digital perspectives into a duo-show that explores nostalgia, veneer and the appearance of the past.

Caroline and Mim also share a lifelong passion for photography. Their nostalgic fantasies about Japanese culture were explored through their separate travels to Japan and separate photographic practices.

Mim Stirling's work is informed by structuralist cinematic conventions; her images take the coded language of cinema, and fracture it in stills. In her series, "Shot Reverse Shot", she recombines small portions of different films, and introduces characters to create a conversation, a false narrative between two worlds. Sourced from Japanese Samurai genre films and their Western remakes, the images question ideas of originality and the apparent cryptomnesia – the phenomenon of the reappearance of a long-forgotten memory as if it were a new experience – of contemporary cinema.

The images, originally on film, then digitised to

DVD, are transmitted through an analogue TV, and then finally captured digitally. This generation-loss echoes the loss of the grand world of the cinema, now reduced and imprisoned inside televisions.

Caroline McLean-Foldes' work is informed by metaphysics and imaginal psychology. In her series "Wonderland – Through the Looking Glass" she uses Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland as a metaphor for her visit to Japan, and her images explore a Japanese wonderland. For her, Japan is a sacred realm of magical landscapes and spirits.

Caroline says: "My digital camera allowed me to explore parallel, elusive worlds in a way that I found less available within the constraints of analogue film. I had unlimited freedom to capture the mysterious, metaphysical and intangible ... I sought ancient traces and modern insights ... Darkness and light in a smoky patchwork, revealed to me omnipresent unconventional dream-worlds."

Caroline and Mim are both founding members of The Photo Group, a photographic artists' collective.

An Ideal Destination

Caroline McLean-Foldes / Mim Stirling

June 8-20

OPENING Sat 08 June 8, 3-5pm

ARTIST TALKS Sat June 15 @ 3pm

Arthere Exhibition Space

126 Regent Street, Redfern

www.arthere.com.au



"Vision Quest" by Jovana Terzic, 2013 Photo: Supplied

Looking out for others

the art of Jovana Terzic

Serbian-born Jovana Yoka Terzic has been artist in residence for the past year with the South Sydney Uniting Church. She currently has an exhibition in the church's Orchard Gallery. The title of her exhibition is *Vision Quest*.

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THE OPENING on June 1 was a magical event, with mood music (water tones and forest sounds), candle-lit artworks and a warm gathering of friends and neighbours.

One keen observer said: "On entering the gallery space I was immediately taken by Jovana's striking use of colour and her mastery of different media. Her talents are clearly displayed by a striking variety of works ranging from delicate ink drawings, to larger paintings and mixed media. [Terzic] has a light touch and a deftness of hand that draws us into her world."

Parish minister, Andrew Collis, thanked Jovana for her many contributions to the life of the parish, in particular her involvement in the arts program and her teaching Saturday art classes in the church. He went on to say: "These themes are present in the art of Jovana Terzic: work and play, compassion, the possibility of mutual response, joy, curiosity, respect, companionship, humankind's dependence on creatures great and small. They are powerful and confronting themes, rendered colourfully, lyrically, by way of

myth and mysticism, Indigenous wisdom, radical Christian literature and pagan poetry. The artist rarely depicts a human figure without some figure or hint of another species. To be one is always to become with many."

Engaging with the spiritual motifs in the work, he added: "The kingdom of heaven makes a mess of categories of kin and kind. Whatever heaven we might imagine for ourselves entails the healing of the earth and the inclusion of myriad companion species. The Latin *specere* refers to looking, to mental impressions or ideas. Looking again, seeing again – *respecere* – means showing respect, holding in regard, paying attention ..."

Another appreciative critic said: "For me, what shines through Jovana's work most powerfully is how our environment shapes us – the influence of her family's roots in the rugged Montenegrin mountains on the Adriatic coast now further shaped by her journey to the other side of the world and the Australian landscape."

Vision Quest

New works by Jovana Terzic

The Orchard Gallery

56a Raglan St, Waterloo

Till August 2

Phone 0422 175 922

An Indian education

SSH

SYDNEY-BASED PHOTOGRAPHER Katy Fitzgerald recently spent five months working and travelling in India. Having travelled to India previously and fallen in love with the country and its people, this time she wanted to experience life in India, rather than simply travelling through. She had the wonderful opportunity of spending time at Tender Heart School, volunteering and helping.

Tender Heart School is situated in the small and very traditional village of Bhatola on the outskirts of Delhi. The school was born from the vision of local Faridabad woman, Renu Bali, grateful for her own education and wishing to bring educational opportunities to those less fortunate than herself.

In this part of India, education, especially for women, was not considered necessary and people lived a very traditional and simple life with little expectation of education or progress.

Against considerable odds, the school was built and has flourished. Today, Tender Heart School consists of a regular school for local children, including street children; a unit for children with disabilities; a volunteer program to teach children of poor families whose only chance at education is with Tender Heart; and a program teaching handicrafts to local women.

This year, Renu Bali is undertaking to bring seven of the Tender Heart School children with disabilities to Australia to participate in the Special Olympic Games to be held in Newcastle in November. As these children come from poor families, none are in a financial position to provide funds for such a venture. Renu Bali and Katy Fitzgerald have committed themselves to raising the required funds to make this once in a lifetime opportunity a reality for these children and their



Image from A Tender Heart Photo: Katy Fitzgerald

families – none of whom would ever have dreamt it possible to travel overseas to attend such a spectacular event.

This exhibition aims to raise awareness and much needed funds. The exhibition features many images of Tender Heart School, as well as images from Tibetan Dharamsala, Mumbai and Rajistan.

A Tender Heart

Photographs by Katy Fitzgerald

A fundraising event for Tender Heart School, Bhatola, India

June 22-July 4

OPENING Sat June 22, 2-5pm

Arthere Exhibition Space

126 Regent Street, Redfern

www.arthere.com.au

www.tenderheartngo.org

Poetry

Sisterhood

Hard to recall where/when
I first met Cecile
as it seems
I have always known her.

Know her now as across
the hospital bench,
reluctant to meet
her ravaged eyes, we speak
of obstacles: to becoming
as we need to be.

Known her on that
blue grey isle
where the salt air
scoured the sky and words flew
like white birds about us.

The struggle
and passionate defeat.
— Catherine Wood, April 2013

Known her when
seated on a grey,
her red hat firm on
resistant hair,
she looked at me down
a quizzical nose
and said: 'There's
been obstacles...'

We love you poet,
and we all miss you.
Though I see your face
our world is now a darker place,
but you are on a higher plane
in company with
saints and angels
and celestial beings.

— Adrian Spry

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Judge a book, buy its cover



Young readers cast their votes at the Sydney Story Factory: Matthew Rivera, Kyla Rivera (top), Caoimhe Deerinig (bottom), Naimh Deering, Shajarra Hughes-Hill, Jade Dharma Photo: Andrew Collis

sydneystoryfactory.org.au) on Monday, June 17.

Voting opens Saturday May 25 and runs till Sunday June 9. Vote at the Sydney Story Factory, 176 Redfern Street, Redfern (look for The Martian Embassy), or by emailing myfavouritebook@sydneystoryfactory.org.au. All voters go in the draw to win a selection of classic children's books donated by Random House Australia. Or vote at these bookshops: Berkelouw Books, 19 Oxford Street, Paddington, or 6-8 O'Connell Street, Newtown, or 70 Norton Street, Leichhardt (Prize: 5 x \$30 vouchers); Better Read than Dead, 265 King Street, Newtown (Prize: Signed Oliver Jeffers print and a copy of his book, Neither Here nor There); Oscar & Friends, 35/277 Crown Street, Surry Hills or 19-27 Cross Street, Double Bay (Prize: \$200 gift voucher).

SSH

ARE YOU a Roald Dahl fan? Or do you prefer Dr Seuss or Harry Potter? The Sydney Story Factory in Redfern is compiling a list of our city's favourite children's books, and invites you to vote.

Your votes will be used to create a list of Sydney's top 50 children's books. The list will be given to leading artists, who will choose a book and create either a new cover for it, or an artwork inspired by it. The works will offer new perspectives on our best-loved children's stories, and will be

exhibited in Judge A Book, Buy its Cover at Depot II Gallery, Danks Street, Waterloo, from October 15 to 19. The artworks will be sold by silent auction, with all proceeds going to the Sydney Story Factory.

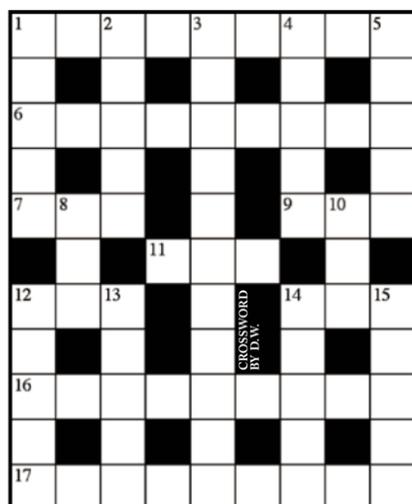
"This is a wonderful chance to have a great artist reimagine an important story from your childhood," says executive director of the Sydney Story Factory, Catherine Keenan. "These are the stories that stay with us as we grow, and it's wonderful to give them life in new ways."

The list of the top 50 children's books will be published on the Sydney Story Factory website (www.

The Sydney Story Factory nurtures children's creativity and well-being by using volunteer tutors to give students one-on-one help to write stories of all kinds, which are published in as many ways as possible. Programs target marginalised young people, and those from Indigenous or non-English-speaking backgrounds, but are open to everyone. All classes are free.

For more information contact Cath Keenan: cath@sydneystoryfactory.org.au, 0402 345 309 or see www.sydneystoryfactory.org.au/judge-a-book-buy-its-cover-returns/

South Sydney Crossword



Across

- Some pizzas
- Set in layers
- Study
- Ready to be paid
- RNA virus upshot
- Rafter or Postman
- Obtain
- Take out of the race
- One in the box

Down

- Handed out
- Dodgy car dealer's product
- Airy
- Suffix with M or R
- Viper variety
- Epoch
- Tradie's truck
- Beseech
- Pilferer
- Tropical fruit
- Shout
- Make something passe the present
- Reduced clutter
- Adam's claim



LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION

First correct entry receives a prize. Send to: South Sydney Crossword PO Box 3288, Redfern NSW 2016

Two new shows at MOP

SSH

JD Reforma is a Sydney-based artist, with peripheral practices in writing, curation and administration. In 2009, he attained a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) from the College of Fine Arts, University of NSW, specialising in the fields of Sculpture, Performance and Installation. In 2012, he commenced a Master of Fine Arts by Research, also at COFA, specialising in the same fields. He has exhibited widely in solo and group exhibitions in Sydney, including: Firstdraft Gallery, Gaffa, The Paper Mill, Alaska Projects and 55 Sydenham Road. 2013 will see his work included in exhibitions at MOP Projects, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Kudos Art Gallery and Mosman Art Gallery. He is currently a Co-Director of Firstdraft Gallery, Sydney.

The works in this exhibition were conceived poolside.

ALASKA Projects is a Sydney-based project space with a diverse exhibition program focusing on emerging artists and multi-disciplinary events. Since opening in October 2011 in an abandoned mechanics workshop in the basement of the Kings Cross Car Park, ALASKA Projects has staged over 30 exhibitions and shown over 130 artists. In 2013 ALASKA projects launches a yearlong performance program Restaging Restaging Histories. This program will operate alongside ALASKA's existing musical and film-based programs.

In December 2012, ALASKA Projects travelled to New Orleans Louisiana to present an exhibition of 16 emerging Australian artists called As Above | So Below at Good Children Gallery. This exhibition represented the



"Study for Body for Days", 2013 Photo: JD Reforma

first exhibition of Australian art in the city's history and formed the basis of a cultural exchange with Good Children Gallery.

ALASKA's group show takes this exhibition's title and includes artists that participated in the original tour.

Infinity Pool
JD Reforma
MOP Projects, Gallery 1



For translation visit www.dharug.dalang.com.au

SSH advertising works:

"Since our ad has been in the SSH, it's been phenomenal. It has really raised our profile in the community. Interest has increased ten-fold from the old way of letterbox dropping." Wayne Lindeman, Food Distribution Network, Waterloo

BABANA

Aboriginal Men's Group

Next meeting Friday, June 28

Souths on Chalmers 12-2pm

Babana Shed open Mon-Fri

(72 Renwick St, Redfern)

Contact: Mark Spinks 0411 282 917



Saturday Art Class

12-4pm Sat. June 8 & 22
 South Sydney Uniting Church
 56a Raglan St, Waterloo

ALL WELCOME!
 All materials provided
 Gold coin donation Ph. 0438 719 470

Print by Naomi Ward (2012)

VOLUNTEERS' NEWS BY PAT CLARKE

What a great day out we had on the SSH Harbour Cruise and Picnic. Perfect weather, comfortable boat, entertaining information from Uncle Terry, and marvellous music from Marcus Corowa, who sang from Clark Island back to King Street Wharf.

Organisation was fantastic and thoroughly enjoyed by the 75 supporters who attended. Thanks so much to Andrew, Vicki, Esther, Louisa, Jemima and all those who had a hand in making the day so enjoyable. A big thank you to the Captain and crew of the Mari Nawi. Really looking forward to next year's event.

I've found a few things we can do to keep entertained for this month as winter creeps upon us.

Sydney Film Festival June 5-16

The 60th Sydney Film Festival has a few free events including talks and workshops at the Festival Hub, Lower Town Hall, Sydney from June 6-14. Also the National Film and Sound Archive will be showing film from the national collection on a big screen in Martin Place from 8am-10pm every day of the Festival. You may even see yourself somewhere in the mix.

Update your Computer Skills

The City of Sydney is conducting free workshops:

- Word Basics on Tuesday June 11 from 3pm-5pm
 - Excel Basics on Tuesday June 18 from 3pm-5pm
- These are at the Surry Hills Library, Crown Street*
- Email Basics Friday June 14, 10am-12 noon
- Customs House Library, Circular Quay*

Belvoir Theatre Unwaged Performances

If you love theatre, but can't always afford it, Belvoir has unwaged performances for most productions, always on a Thursday at 2pm. The next one will be Part One of Angels in America on July 11. To collect your ticket, queue up at the Box Office from 12 noon on the day, with a Pensioner, Health Care or Veterans' Affairs Card.

Contact belvoir.com.au for unwaged performances for the rest of the year.

Pat Clarke & Ross Smith
distro@ssh.com.au

Uniting Churches



South Sydney Uniting Church

56a Raglan St Waterloo
 Worship (Eucharist): 10am Sunday
 Rev Andrew Collis 8399 3410
 Welcoming people of all ages, cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations and identities.
 Peace with justice, integrity of creation.

Glebe Cafe Church

Cnr St Johns Rd & Colbourne Ave Glebe
 Worship Sun 7pm
 'Colbourne Ave' intimate candlelit concerts Thu 8pm
 Allison Forrest 9518 9413

Leichhardt University Church

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

Newtown Mission

280 King St Newtown
 Worship 9.30am & 6pm Sunday
 Rev Ps Doug Clements 9519 9000

Paddington Uniting Church

395 Oxford St Paddington
 Church Open 10am-2pm
 1st and 3rd Saturdays
 Worship Sunday 7.30pm
 Office 9331 2646

Pitt Street Uniting Church

264 Pitt St, Sydney
 Worship 10 am Sunday & 6 pm (2nd and 4th Sundays)
 Rev Ian Pearson 9267 3614

Wayside Chapel

29 Hughes St Potts Point
 Worship 10am
 Rev Graham Long 9358 6996



Vinnies Winter Appeal

The St Vincent de Paul Society has launched its 2013 Winter Appeal and challenges Australians to take a positive stand against poverty by doing something about it this winter.

With energy prices and the cost of living continuing to put pressure on household budgets, more Australian families are struggling to make ends meet.

Across NSW, the Society has over 16,000 members and volunteers who continue the crucial work of visiting people in their homes, providing assistance and friendship. During the long winter months last year, more than 38,000 visits were made to homes, nursing homes, hospitals and prisons.

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW President, Ray Reynolds explains that people already struggling, face an even bleaker time during winter: "Sadly, too many Australians will experience a long, cold and lonely winter. Our members see the struggles they face each and every day. By donating to the Vinnies Winter Appeal, you can help us continue this crucial work and make a real difference to people's lives."

To make a generous donation visit vinnies.org.au or call 13 18 12

Judaism – faith and practices

Rabbi Zalman Kastel is National Director of the Together for Humanity Foundation. He was raised in the "ultra orthodox" Chasidic tradition in the racially divided Crown Heights area of Brooklyn New York.

This changed in 2001, when encounters with Christians and Muslims transformed him. He will speak on Thursday, June 13, 2-3pm at Herb Greedy Hall, 79 Petersham Road, Marrickville. FREE.

Bring your friends. Afternoon tea will be served.

Please stay for the Marrickville Multifaith Roundtable Meeting.

Details: 9557 3197 or <http://marrickvillemultifaith.com>.

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These FREE buses operate every **Thursday and Friday**.

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Rabbitohs hop to the top

MICHAEL PAGE

STANDING UP on Brookvale Hill watching Souths take on arch enemies Manly in April, spectators could be forgiven for thinking they had somehow been transported back in time to the 1970s. A tight, venomous game, tough Northern Englishmen dominating the ruck, stiff arms and spear tackles (all by Manly, of course) and, of course, a customary all-in brawl. But this time the Englishmen are not called Malcolm Reilly or Phil Lowe; this time they are dressed in red and green and they are both called Burgess.

Just as they were in the 1960s and '70s, Souths are firmly entrenched at the top of the league table. Just like the '60s and '70s, Souths are now a team to be respected and feared. Apart from the recent stumble on a wet, drizzly

Monday night at Shark Park, Souths have dominated for the past six weeks as the form team in the competition.

The Burgess Brothers have been dominant with virtually no one expecting the bonus of "Baby" George emerging as one of the most scary and effective front rowers in the competition. And they've found some very willing brothers in arms, particularly in the shape of the once enigmatic Johnny Sutton who has become the epitome of consistency, commitment and courage in 2013.

Greg Inglis has established himself as the best player in the competition this year and teams have struggled to handle his kick returns and his left-side raids on the back of Sutton's deft passing game.

Along with George Burgess, Bryson Goodwin has been the big surprise for the Rabbitohs. Goodwin's handling of the much-vaunted Manly right-side attack was the catalyst to

Manly's petulant on-field response as he continually frustrated Lyons and company, cutting them down in copybook tackles.

But it's been a team effort that Coach Maguire must take most of the credit for. Chris McQueen, Ben Te'O, Dave Tyrell and Jason Clarke have barely made a break all year, but they have made enormous contributions to the team's defensive structure as well as showing a willingness to hurl themselves up-field for the not-so easy yards.

In the last month, the two away wins, at Brookvale, and at the even more northern fortress, Lang Park against the Broncos, have been the standouts. Supporters and commentators have been most impressed with the toughness and disciplined approach of the team and its willingness to "slog it out" for hard-fought victories.

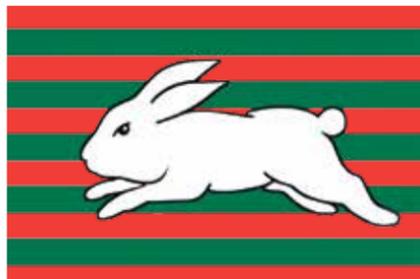
Against the West Tigers, even though they were able to easily prise open the

floodgates, Souths resisted a frenzy of extravagant plays, with John Sutton showing leadership to ensure the team remained structured and focussed as they demolished the hapless Tigers.

So, as we move into the State of Origin zone and the cold middle months of the competition, the team looks poised to continue on its winning way. With Merritt and Reynolds overlooked for NSW honours, the Englishmen,

New Zealanders and an able crew of emerging locals are ready to fill the small void left by the Queensland representatives, Inglis, McQueen and Te'O.

So the not-so bold SSH prediction is that by the time our July edition comes out, Souths will still be competition leaders, winning the next four scheduled games against the Knights, Titans, Eels and Raiders.



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Lord Mayor Clover Moore, architect Rachel Neeson and students from Redfern Jarjum College at Prince Alfred Park Pool Photo: City of Sydney

Pool upgrade an 'architectural masterpiece'

SSH

PRINCE ALFRED Park Pool, the City of Sydney's new all-year round heated outdoor 50-metre pool, has opened for swimming – with free entry for six months.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore said the entire community could be proud of the beautiful new pool. "Residents, visitors and workers have been incredibly patient as issues including unusually high rainfall and soil contamination, delayed the new pool," the Lord Mayor said.

"The pool will be open all-year round, providing fantastic views of the city skyline while swimmers do their laps in well-heated water. It's quite simply an architectural masterpiece."

The pool upgrade is the first major public building designed by Potts Point-based practice Neeson Murcutt Architects. Established by Rachel Neeson and her late partner Nicholas Murcutt in 2004, the practice has since exhibited their work at the Venice Biennale (in 2006 and 2008) and received numerous awards from the Australian Institute of Architects.

Nicholas tragically died in 2011 as the project was gearing up for construction and a small tribute to him has been installed within the pool surroundings. "It is an irreconcilable disappointment that Nick will never see the project complete – although he knew exactly how it would be, how it would delight," Ms Neeson said.

The pool has a new café with direct access to the park, sky-lit change rooms and tiles that gently reflect water and natural light, tiered seating built into a mound within the park and bright yellow shade umbrellas that dot

the landscape like wildflowers.

The building has the biggest green roof of its kind in Sydney, topped with native flowers and meadow grasses that fold over the café and change rooms. It uses best practice filtration and monitoring, storm-water harvesting, water-saving fixtures, energy-efficient lighting and heating.

With construction, design and staff costs to finish the project, and liquidated damages due to late completion, the expected final total is \$20.5 million – a six per cent variation on the estimated \$19.3 million original tender in 2010.

Local artist Sonia van de Haar from art and architecture company, Lymesmith, worked closely with Neeson Murcutt Architects, the City and engineers to design a public art project on the site. Shades of Green features a collection of chimneys dipped in colour to blend into the sky and surrounding park.

The Lord Mayor will officially open the Prince Alfred Park Pool at a celebration event later this year.

For more information, visit cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/explore/facilities/swimming-pools/prince-alfred-park-pool