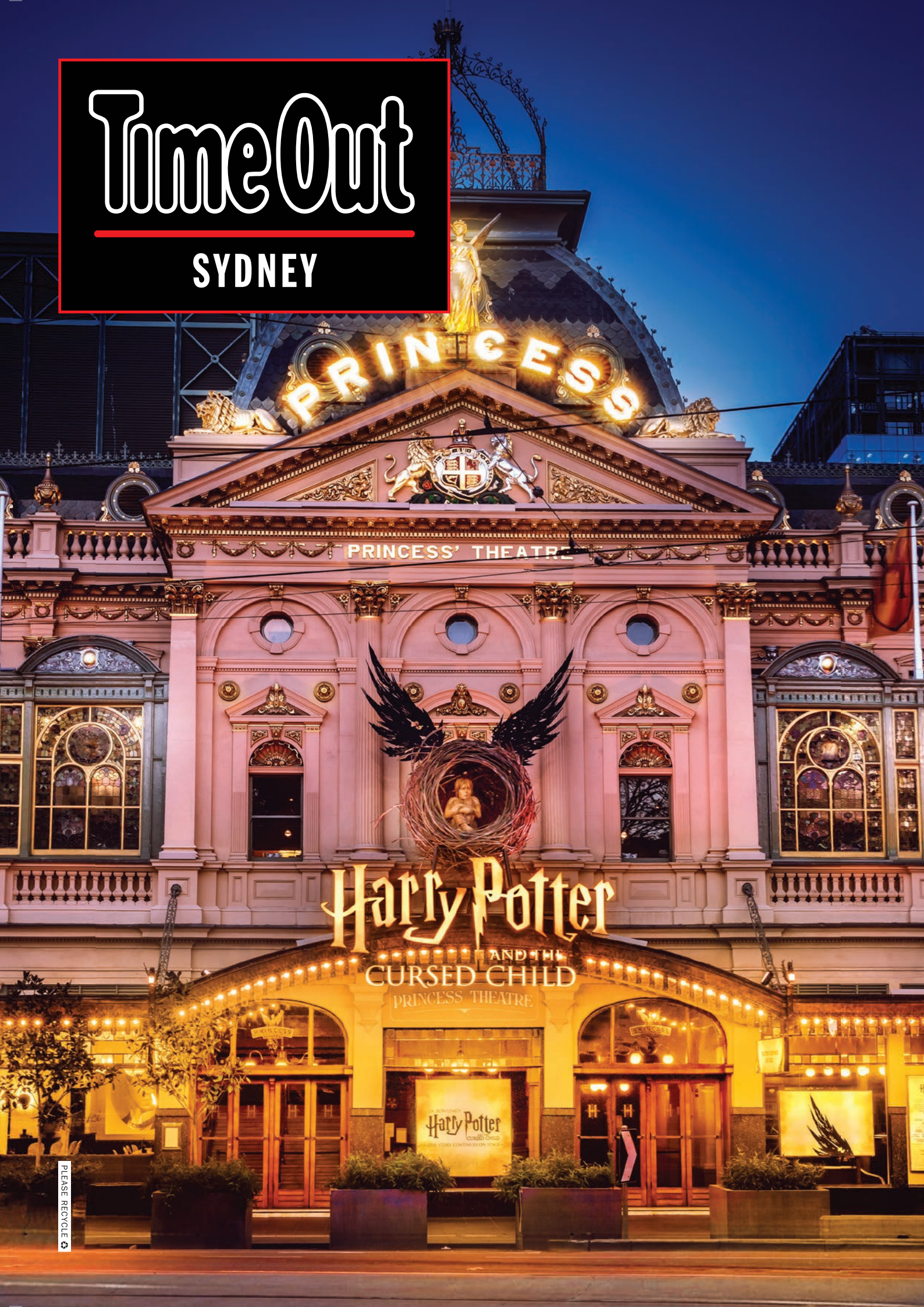


TimeOut

SYDNEY





Melbourne for witches and wizards

It's year two for *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*. To celebrate, travel to Melbourne and go on a full-day adventure based on your Hogwarts house: Gryffindor, Slytherin, Hufflepuff or Ravenclaw

Slytherin

The Slytherin common room has a view into the Black Lake and the magical creatures therein, so you'll be right at home at **Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium**, which includes a giant shark tunnel. **National Gallery of Victoria** has a killer fashion collection, sure to appeal to Slytherin sensibilities. Classy but never gaudy, with Champagne by the glass, **French Saloon** is your perfect lunch spot. Cunning and problem-solving are some of Slytherins' strongest traits, which is why you should head to **Woodbury Escape Rooms**. All witches and wizards should see *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, and because the show could be called *Harry Potter and the Redemption of Slytherin*, it's perfect for the descendants of Salazar. Underground, secret, filled with French Champagne – are we describing the Slytherin common room or **Bar Margaux**? The **Hotel Windsor** has elegance, class and a noble lineage – just like the members of the most misunderstood of Hogwarts houses.

Hufflepuff

Hufflepuffs love to eat, so kick off your Melbourne adventure at **Queen Victoria Market**, a wondrous labyrinth filled with fresh produce, knick knacks and food – oh-so-much food. Make Professor Sprout happy and head out on the Aboriginal Heritage Walk of the **Royal Botanic Gardens**. Time for lunch! And you can bet your bottom galleon that Hufflepuffs would enjoy the hummus-laden Israeli street food at **Miznon**. Be like famous Hufflepuff Newt Scamander and seek fantastic beasts at inner-city **Collingwood Children's Farm**. Comfort food is what all Hufflepuffs crave, and there's no better comfort food than pasta at **Tipo 00**. Hufflepuffs might not play a huge role in *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, but in true Badger style, they're supporting their friends. Retire after the show to the **DoubleTree by Hilton** hotel on Flinders Street: your stay starts, as so many fantastic things do, with a cookie.



Tipo 00

J.K. ROWLING'S
Harry Potter
AND THE
CURSED CHILD

Welcome back to Hogwarts! Are you ready for year 2?
Get your tickets at: www.harrypottertheplay.com/au/

TimeOut

SYDNEY

Surely
we've had
enough
SIGNS

SYSTEM
CHANGE

It's
time...
...to take action
on climate change

Enough is enough. Find out what you can do, right now, to aid bushfire-ravaged communities, to make the most of Sydney sustainably, and fight to avert climate disaster **p12**



From the editor

Maxim Boon
Sydney editor
@maximhboon



EFFORTS TO CONTAIN the blazes, with a little help from some very welcome downpours, have now brought the fires that raged continuously for 210 days across New South Wales under control. But incinerated bushland is not all that's been left behind. This fire season has changed us. It's changed the way we engage with our city and our state, changed our habits and our understanding of what summer is in Sydney. Australia has found itself on the frontline of the climate crisis. The world will now look to us as we figure out what living, day to day, in an altered climate looks like. It is our mission at Time Out to help Sydneysiders get the very best out of their city, but that is now dependent on more than just fun events and beautiful scenery. It's time to act.

In this issue, we've explored the ways that Sydneysiders are confronting this global crisis on a local level. We meet the men and women (and toddler) who are doing their part to deal with climate change (p12), and highlight the small changes you can make to be more eco-conscious in your everyday life (p20). We take a look at the classes and workshops that can teach you the skills to up-cycle, mend (p24), and generally make your life less wasteful (p31), and seek out the design pioneers who are making high fashion low impact (p30). And to prove we intend to live up to the principles we preach, this issue has been printed on sustainably sourced paper, and we'll be making the switch to 100 per cent recycled from next edition. We hope our Climate Crisis Issue inspires you to lower your impact on the environment, fight for a better future, and to enjoy everything this city has to offer in a way that supports a healthier Earth.

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TimeOut
SYDNEY

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Time Out Sydney would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, and pay respects to the 29 clans of the Eora Nation. We pay respects to the Elders of the community and extend our recognition to their descendants.

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Time Out Sydney Mar–May 2020

A photograph of three models (two men and one woman) standing in front of a bar. They are wearing modern, casual uniforms. The man on the left is wearing a black t-shirt, dark jeans, and a green apron. The man in the middle is wearing a black polo shirt, dark jeans, and a brown apron. The woman on the right is wearing a black t-shirt, dark jeans, and a black apron. They are all looking towards the camera. The background is a bar with various bottles of alcohol on shelves.

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City life

IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING...

... celebrate the beginning of a new decade with White Rabbit Gallery

BILLIONAIRE ART COLLECTOR Judith Neilson's Chippendale haven for Chinese art is continuing its tenth anniversary celebrations this year with a new exhibition of works collected over the course of the last decade, *And Now*. You'll be able to walk through Zhu Jinshi's 'The Ship of Time', a huge tunnel crafted from 14,000 sheets of xuan rice paper and 1,800 pieces of bamboo, and see 'Constellations', a confronting seven-panel silk embroidery, by Ai Weiwei's former studio assistant Zhao Zhao. For film fans, there's an acclaimed three-channel video installation by Liu Chuang, which brings found and filmed footage smashing together with recognisable cinematic references to explore what it means to be displaced and alienated. ■ *Benjamin Neutze*
→ *And Now*, White Rabbit Gallery, 30 Balfour St, Chippendale 2008. 02 8399 2867. jnprojects.net/white-rabbit-gallery. Wed-Sun 10am-5pm. Free. Mar 11-Aug 2.



Zhu Jinshi, 'The Ship of Time', 2018

ZHU JINSHI

BOOK NOW

Get on group chat and get tickets now



Frozen

DEEN VAN MEER

Disney's blockbuster musical is having its Australian premiere at the Capitol Theatre. It features all the characters and songs from the movie – plus a few new tunes. *Jul 7-Nov 15*.



Hella Mega Tour

Nineties pop-punk stars Green Day will bring their classic hits and new tracks to Parramatta's Bankwest Stadium, supported by Fall Out Boy and Weezer. *Sat Nov 14*.



Come from Away

MATTHEW MURPHY

Set in a small Canadian town in the days following the 9/11 attacks, this musical was a hit on Broadway and enjoyed a successful Melbourne season. *Aug 1-Sep 13*.

PERONI

ITALIA



PLEASE DRINK
RESPONSIBLY

VITA CON STILE



CASSANDRA HANNAGAN

THINGS YOU ONLY KNOW IF YOU'RE A...

Volunteer firefighter

Lynette Collett

RFS volunteer at
Blaxland Rural Fire Brigade

A crisis can quickly become routine

"After many weeks of [the bushfire crisis] it became the new normal. Everything stank of smoke. It got into everything, and you constantly carried the smell with you. You were constantly checking websites for information and weather updates. In our community, RFS members also became 'special'. Community members were amazingly generous, and their support, appreciation and acknowledgement were very humbling."

Balance goes out the window

"As I work full time [as a head PDHPE teacher in a large comprehensive public high school], I started to go out with crews either after work or on the weekends. As the campaign continued I started to be deployed several days during the week as well as weekends. Luckily, my school supported me in doing this. My husband Lindsay [also an RFS volunteer] usually went out on alternate days to me. We missed most of the usual Christmas festivities. On bad days we avoided travelling too far from home. Listening



and knowing that your husband and people you know are out there when it all turns 'bad' can be very scary and stressful. But I guess that is part of the job and what we train for."

A sandwich can mean the world

"During the bushfire crisis, we had a new family that met together most mornings to collect our 'Blue RFS Esky' with the day's supply of snacks and lunches. Firefighting can be very hungry and thirsty work. Who knew a sandwich could be so enjoyable? Checking on each other and having a chat became important and looked forward to. When the fires slowed down and we went back to our everyday lives, many people felt at a loss. You missed each other."

Eventually, people's ignorance about fire safety stops surprising you

"Things like going bushwalking on a 'catastrophic'-rated day in the bush near an active fire, or having a campfire on the same day, are probably not just surprising but idiotic. We want people to listen to the advice given and act accordingly."

There is a difference between a 'backburn' and a 'hazard reduction'

"A backburn is done with the aim of consuming the fuel in the path of a bushfire to put in a containment line. A hazard reduction is the removal of fuels either by clearing or prescribed burning before a fire occurs." ■
Alannah Maher → If you would like to find out more about volunteering or fire safety, go to rfs.nsw.gov.au.



THE VIEW FROM YOU

Here are some of our
favourite protest placards
from Instagram



@lucymcelvogue



@edster74



@olga_lalazaryan



@nikniknikkk

THIS EARTH HOUR

#SWITCHOFF



RAISE YOUR VOICE FOR NATURE
SATURDAY 28 MARCH
8:30PM

earthhour.org.au



I WOKE UP IN...

Dulwich Hill

An underrated gem at the end of Marrickville Road, 'Dully' is a quiet village that has everything you could ever need. By *Alannah Maher*



Alevri's moussaka pie

KATIE FORD

Eat this

There is no shortage of cafés in Dully. Tucked away from the main drag, the bustling **Sideways Deli Café** (37 Constitution Rd) has a full menu of good, classic café brekkies and lunches along with fresh cakes and baked goods (you won't regret the just-sweet-enough Greek coconut cake) and from there you can potter across the road to Johnson Park to walk off your meal. If you woke up a little dusty, look no further than the **Shoe Chef** (426 New Canterbury Rd). This quirky, no-frills café with a sarcastic notice board turns out exemplary comfort food, from loaded tater tots or a schnitzel eggs benny for breakfast, to a 'supercheese' burger, where in place of buns a juicy patty is sandwiched between two toasted cheese sandwiches. If the quality of coffee is of utmost importance, the **Bunker Café** (538 Marrickville Rd) will have you covered for well brewed Campos blends.

At dinner time, there's nothing quite as novel as taking a seat at the **Sausage Factory** (380 New Canterbury Rd) among dangling knitted woollen sausage art and trying the seasonal range of gourmet snags (think camel pastourama or beef with roasted wattleseed and Tasmanian mountain pepper) paired with house-brewed craft beer by **Sausage Queen Brewing** (fancy a Hang Gliding Nun Kiwi Pale?). Other cravings can be met locally. Get a freshly made bento box from **Moon's Sushi** (515 Marrickville Rd); authentic Mexican from **Rosa Cienfuegos Tameria & Mexican Deli** (463 Marrickville Rd); or a fresh, cheap

Vietnamese weeknight dinner from **Miss Hu** (465 New Canterbury Rd), where you can drizzle soy sauce over tender stir-fried eggplant and tofu. Sink your teeth into juicy chargrilled chicken from **Oricco** (409 New Canterbury Rd) and swipe pita bread through the most garlicky of sauce and chase it down with crunchy stems of pickle. In a dessert mood? The flagship **Tella Balls Dessert Bar** (5/370 New Canterbury Rd) dishes out brioche donut balls bulging with Nutella, **Strawberry Fields Patisserie** (2/420 New Canterbury Rd) turns out cakes that are near works of art, and Greek bakery **Alevri** (260 Wardell Rd) is winning fans from all over the city with its moussaka pie.

Do this

Take a stroll down the Dully end of Marrickville Road and you'll find a small **Vinnies** (528 Marrickville Rd) and a treasure trove of pre-loved homewares and old records at **Sydney Used Furniture** (500 Marrickville Rd). The Dully outpost of indie bookstore **Gleebooks** is rich for browsing (536 Marrickville Rd). You can also browse shelves of housemade condiments and locally sourced goods at the **General Eatery & Supplies** (514 Marrickville Rd) or assemble a gourmet cheese platter at the **Larder Epicerie Fine & Wine Bar** (489 Marrickville Rd). Pop down to **Denison Road Community Garden** (194 Denison Rd) to connect with earth and community while scoring some organic veggies. If you're after a drink and some live music, **Butcher's Brew** (499 Marrickville Rd) is a funky little bar that brings in blues-centric bands to a former butcher's shop. Across the road, the **Gladstone Hotel** (572 Marrickville Rd) is a stalwart where the longtime locals congregate over schooners. ■

Taronga Zoo

For more than a century, this hillside animal park has been one of the city's most popular tourist hotspots. Just getting to Taronga is a beautiful experience, as you cruise over the harbour waters to the park's wharf before taking a cable car above the trees, with stunning views of the Sydney skyline in the distance. → 1 Bradleys Head Rd, Mosman 2088. 02 9969 2777. taronga.org.au/sydney-zoo.

Sydney Zoo

Sydney's newest zoo may be a 35km journey from the CBD, out by Bungarribee, but the state-of-the-art enclosures, carefully considered park design and sheer range of wildlife make it well worth the trip. See p28. → 700 Great Western Hwy, Bungarribee 2767. 1800 843 966. sydneyzoo.com.

Visit Sydney's best animal attractions



Sydney Zoo

Get up close and zoological with a wild array of native fauna and exotic beasts

Sea Life Sydney Aquarium

At Sydney's largest aquarium you'll encounter fish, hypnotic plumes of jellyfish, a cute colony of tiny penguins, vivid corals dotted with curious crustaceans, and don't forget one of Sea Life Sydney's standout stars, Pig the dugong, who celebrated his 21st birthday last year. → 1-5 Wheat Rd, Sydney 2000. 1800 199 657. sydneyaquarium.com.au.

Wild Life Sydney Zoo

Australia's big five may not be quite as fearsome as their African counterparts, but you can meet them all – kangaroos, crocodiles, koalas, wombats and platypuses – at this harbourside habitat. You'll also see Tasmanian devils, cassowaries, lorikeets and more. → 1-5 Wheat Rd, Sydney 2000. 1800 199 657. wildlifesydney.com.au.

A DUMMIES' GUIDE TO...

Recycling

Are you doing it right? Find out here



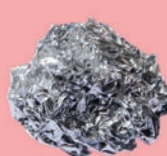
Coffee cup

Lid in recycling, cup in the rubbish
Wash the lid and put it in your recycling bin, but the cup itself has to go in the rubbish. Better yet, bring a reusable cup with you, or have your coffee at the café. What's five minutes?



Plastic bag

Recycle at a REDcycle centre
You can't put it in a normal recycling bin (bubow, don't put your recycling out in a plastic bag!), but you can bring soft plastics to a REDcycle centre. Coles and Woolworths offer this service too.



Aluminium foil

Your recycling bin
Scrunch that baby up and pop it in normal recycling. Balls of aluminium foil are easiest to recycle if they are bigger than a golf ball, so save 'em up until you have critical mass.



Pet food wrappers from sachets or logs

Recycle at a REDcycle centre



Battery

Recycle at a participating Aldi or Batteryworld



Pens

Rubbish
Soz.



Pyrex

Rubbish
We're assuming it's broken.



Polystyrene

Recycle
Find your nearest centre at recyclingnearyou.com.au/polystyrene.



Deodorant can

Your recycling bin
Ah! The sweet smell of sustainability.



Takeaway food container

Your recycling bin
Wash and put it in the recycling. Better still, use Returnr (returnr.org) or Trashless Takeaway (trashless.takeaway.com.au) to find where you can bring your own containers.



Broken appliance

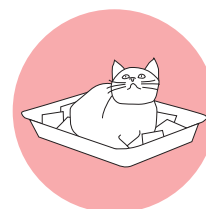
Recycle
Find your nearest centre here: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/questions/dispose-or-recycle-e-waste.

For more info on what goes where, visit cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

What to do with this magazine when you're finished

You could recycle it, of course. But reusing is actually better for the environment

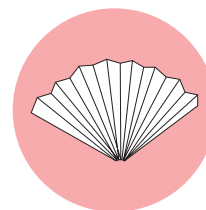
1. Give it to a friend so they can also read about all the cool stuff to do in Sydney.



2. Use it to line a birdcage or litterbox.

3. Wrap gifts in it.

4. Use it as a hat in case of inclement weather.

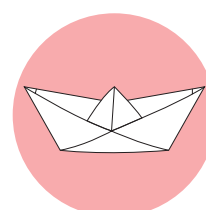


5. Use it as a fan in case of another kind of inclement weather.

6. Make a collage out of the pictures in a craft afternoon.

7. Keep it and reread it when you think, 'What was the name of that restaurant again?'

8. Cut out the letters and make a ransom note.



9. Make a paper boat like George in It (avoid drains).

A young woman with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a white short-sleeved button-down shirt and dark blue trousers, stands outdoors. She has a black backpack strap over her shoulder and a red pin on her shirt that says 'STOP AGW'. She is looking upwards and to the right. The background is a blurred city street with greenery and buildings.

The faces of climate action

In the wake of this summer's devastating fire season, Australians have found themselves on the frontline of the climate emergency. As a result, more people than ever are taking action on global warming. Time Out meets the Sydney folk joining the fight for our future.
By Maxim Boon & Nick Dent.
Photography by Daniel Boud

“We see our leaders doing nothing, year after year, so we’re driven into action because that is an utterly terrifying position to be in”

Jean Hinchliffe

Sixteen-year-old climate activist and lead organiser of School Strike 4 Climate

“SO MANY TEENAGERS have been actively campaigning for climate action because we’ve grown up with climate change being an indisputable fact. We see it as this catastrophic issue but we also see our leaders doing nothing, year after year, so we’re driven into action because that is an utterly terrifying position to be in. And I think on top of that, the younger a person is, the more they’ll be impacted by the changing climate in the long term and the less of a voice they have right now, today. We’re consistently seeing young people’s voices being ignored or downplayed, so protesting and demonstrating is really our only outlet to be heard and taken seriously.

“It’s never been more important for young people to be informed about how our power structures are dealing with climate change. When someone in Australia turns 18, it’s an obligation for them to vote, they are automatically given this democratic power. But it’s not as if on your 18th birthday you wake up and suddenly all this political knowledge is in your brain. So understanding and pursuing your political ideals before you reach voting age is so important, and it’s actually something that comes naturally to many young people.

“At the Strike 4 Climate Action rally in the Domain last September [where 80,000 people attended], seeing so many people come out to support students and this movement was a surreal experience. But knowing the diversity of people showing up, it’s shown that those willing to come to the street to fight for this cause aren’t just young people anymore. We’re seeing a lot of adults, a lot of business people, a lot of elderly people as well as really young kids and families. It isn’t just a single demographic of people who are showing up, it’s everyone.

“The events of this summer have made it hard to feel anything but pessimistic. The one silver lining to these bushfires, which have been awful and tragic and such a terrible thing to happen, is that it’s woken a lot of people up. It’s not too late at this stage to change our climate policy and do something about this crisis. If this was happening in ten years time, we couldn’t do anything about it, it would be far too late. Right now, there’s still hope.”



“Having kids really changes your mindset. One day we will have to answer to them, and hopefully most of us will be able to say that we did something”

Kailly Hill Charity worker

Rich Hill Digital media strategist

Didi Hill Toddler

“WE’VE BEEN TO several rallies as a family. The Sack ScoMo one [on Jan 10] had a real carnival-like atmosphere – I’m not sure that the media portrayed that. We had Didi in her pram with a little sign, and everyone got out of our way and was very accommodating. At our first rally we worried it could be aggressive. There was a huge police presence, but as far as we saw it wasn’t a worry at all, because everyone was very careful, very polite.

“We’ve gone vegetarian. We try to be dairy-free. All the research we’ve seen has said: stop eating beef and stop flying. So we try to do that as much as we can. We’ve got a compost bin. I think the direct action you do yourself has a bit more of an effect than say, the

protests, which are great for awareness, but those seem to spike and then go away within a week, and then we’re back to square one.

“We run a social enterprise in our spare time, Good Bubs [goodbubs.mysshopify.com], and we donate 50 per cent of our profits to early childhood charities. We sell baby blankets and birth cloths, rompers and baby clothes, ethically made out of bamboo, not cotton. We crowdfunded to set it up and we dressed as giant babies for a month with signs saying ‘get involved, go to our crowdfunding page and donate’. All this is mainly because of Didi. She’s going to get to a certain age and there’s going to be a lot of hard questions for us: what did you do and what didn’t you do when you still had a chance?” →

“In the long term, we’re going to have to start massively reducing the impact that food production is having on the climate”

Skye Blackburn

Food scientist, entomologist and founder of the Edible Bug Shop

“I FIRST BECAME interested in edible insects after my husband and I tried some on a trip to Thailand in 2006. Being a food scientist, I figured if I wanted to sell them as a food item they should have a proper nutritional label, so I sent some crickets and mealworms for nutritional testing in the laboratory. When I got the results back, I was actually really, really shocked that more people weren’t using them as a source of food. They just have so much good stuff packed into such a small package.

“I was already very aware that food production is one of the biggest wastes of natural resources, so we established our business with a conscious decision to farm insects as sustainably as we possibly could. We actually take fruit and vegetable waste from food production processing and we use that to feed our insects, so we don’t use any commercial feed for them. That also means that we don’t have to give them any additional water outside of their feed either. The knock-on effect of that is really unbelievable. If you replace just one meat-based meal a week with a meal that uses insects as your source of protein, you’re saving over 100,000 litres of drinking water a year – that’s a swimming pool’s worth. And that’s just one small change that you can do that’s making a huge amount of difference.

“Fun fact: insects don’t fart, so they create one one-hundredth of the amount of greenhouse gases that cattle do, and because we farm them vertically in a warehouse space, we don’t use any arable farmland. In the long term, we’re going to have to start massively reducing the impact that food production is having on the climate. The good news is that we have a solution to that problem right now: insects are higher in protein, lower in fat, full of essential vitamins and minerals, and far, far less damaging to the environment.” ediblebugshop.com.au.





“There is a very real possibility that certain species have been totally wiped out, but at this point, we just don’t know”

Dr Phoebe Meagher

Wildlife Conservation Officer,
Taronga Conservation Society

“I HAVE FELT deeply connected to Australia’s wildlife since my childhood. When I was a kid, I was lucky enough to spend holidays in a little shack on beautiful Kangaroo Island, which has an amazing array of native animals, although we have lost so many of them during this summer’s terrible bushfires. Seeing the news reports about the fires tearing through the island’s habitats was so worrying, because these island populations of native species are unique. The biggest issue now is how we help the recovery of these isolated populations, because when the numbers bottleneck down to maybe just a few breeding pairs, as we think may be the case on Kangaroo Island, it severely affects their future viability.

“It’s so hard to know at this point how much damage has been done. One statistic that has appeared a lot in the media is that a billion animals may have died, but even though that is a huge number, that doesn’t include invertebrate populations, for example, so the death toll could be even greater. There is a very real possibility that certain species have been totally

wiped out, but at this point, we just don’t know.

“That’s why conservation work is so important, because rehabilitation goes hand in hand with long-term conservation planning over several years. We can only help struggling animals when we have the best information to draw on and that comes from studying healthy populations so that we have a baseline to refer to when these disasters occur.

“This fire season has been beyond belief, I’ve never seen anything like it. They talk about it being unprecedented and I really think that is the case. But I hope that it’s also been a wakeup call for people that aren’t aware of the issues around climate change and I hope it inspires them to start looking into those issues more carefully. It’s only going to get more important to be aware of the changing climate if there is any hope of reducing the impact on our wildlife. Because it has been so in-your-face this summer, I think people that may not have thought about climate change before might now really be considering what changes they can make to be less harmful to the planet.”

“For many First Nations people, this summer has brought such a deep sadness, not just because of what has happened to the land, but because we knew it was coming”

Luke Briscoe

Proud Kuku-Yalanji man and founder and CEO of Indigi Lab

“**MUCH OF MY** upbringing in Northern Queensland was spent on Yalanji Country learning cultural practices including the community’s land management practices. That cultural knowledge led me into a career in the media sector, where I found myself working on projects and covering stories about Indigenous science. It really opened my eyes to the fact that this ancient knowledge didn’t really have a voice – Western science was the only scientific practice that held any kind of importance. So that’s where the idea to launch Indigi Lab came from, about six years ago, to educate people about Indigenous science: what it means, how it’s different to Western science, and how the two can be merged.

“One of the key differences to Western science is that First Nations land management is culturally and geographically specific, because local communities understand their Country with really deep insight. So when we started Indigi Lab, its central goal was to find ways that could inform and embed itself in the way we use the land today, and that has inevitably aligned

with much of the work we do with sustainability goals. Partly that’s about bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous scientists to drive discussions and thought leadership, to ask the question: ‘What’s the next step? How can we really look at what’s happening today, at what social factors are involved? How can we collaborate and work together to solve these huge issues, like climate change?’

“Ever since the environmental movement began in the ’60s and ’70s, there has been a disconnection between eco-activism and Indigenous culture and knowledge. And I think that’s because people see the land as a resource, rather than a brother or a sister or a mother. Very little to no knowledge from Indigenous perspectives is embedded in fire management or water management strategies, and yet our culture is deeply rooted in how to work with the elements and respect the elements. All my community can really do is continue to show that fire management practices are the way to go, to continue to share our understanding of how the ecology has changed since colonisation. Just listen to us, that’s all we ask.”



MU SEA UM

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
MARITIME MUSEUM



© Detail: Yongqing Bao

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

N NATURAL
HISTORY
MUSEUM

Images that spark reaction | Darling Harbour | sea.museum/wildlife



“We just started making things: joey bags, koala mittens, bat wraps, even jackets for lizards”

Freda Wilson Williams

Avalon Llewellyn
Volunteers for the Animal
Rescue Collective Craft Guild

“**WHEN THE GROUP** started in about April of 2019, we had no idea what was waiting for us. The Craft Guild was originally eight ladies who came together to make beds and toys for abandoned cats. The idea took off a bit and our numbers grew from that original group to a few hundred and then, by about September last year, a couple of thousand members.

“But then the fires started to spread, and we decided that we had to try and help the rescuers. Animals were dying, joeys needed pouches because their mummies were no longer alive. So we just started making things:

joeys bags, koala mittens, bat wraps, even jackets for lizards. The scale of the task was unlike anything anyone had ever seen before. But then word got out, and I can’t quote exact numbers because it all happened so fast, but we went from a few thousand to more than 50,000 members in the space of week, from all over the world. In fact, we had to ask the people sewing overseas to stop making things at one point, we just had so many donations.

“From a bad situation, sometimes comes good. This is such a fantastic international community of people who feel that they should be doing something to help. The donations we receive, they’re made with love and compassion. It’s absolutely beautiful to see. And it’s had a positive effect on people in a way none of us anticipated. We’ve heard from volunteers about how making donations for our injured animals is helping them through depression. We’ve had several people who have advanced cancer, telling us that being able to contribute to this cause is taking their minds off their treatment.

“All of us are feeling the grief of the awful loss that these fires have brought to Australia, but the inaction of the government has caused a huge outrage especially amongst our members overseas. They feel desperate about what’s happening here. They’ve said to us, ‘Get your government to do something about this. We have to do something about it,’ because they really feel like a part of it too. Hopefully, something like this never happens again, but true grace comes from amazing connections, and that’s what we’ve found in the help we’ve received from all over the world.”

"I love summer, but I don't love summer when everything's burning"

Suzie Finemore

Medical secretary and first-time climate activist

"I'M NOT MUCH of an activist, but I'm active in my own life and my children's lives, and we're doing the best we can. I go to marches, contact MPs. I talk to people. When the next election comes, I'll go hand out pamphlets. I'm a big sharer on Facebook. I've got a few friends who are not on board with it, and we've had arguments. They're my friends and I love them dearly, but it gets me revved up when people don't believe science. Someone said 'oh, you're not one of those, are you?' and I thought, how can believing in climate change make you 'one of those'?"

"I've been to rallies all my life. My daughter and I went to the Marriage Equality march – and then Marriage Equality did happen, and that felt really good. But the Sack ScoMo protest was my first climate one. I wore all red, just like Jane Fonda does every Friday when she gets arrested with Ted Danson and Lily Tomlin. There were people of all ages there. Some of the placards were just brilliant – there was one that was just a stick with a bit of burned cardboard at the top, nothing left.

"Some people think, 'What's the point of us drastically changing until America and China do?' but just because someone else is doing something bad doesn't mean we have to go along with it. It's amazing how much we're doing wrong in Australia. Don't we want a future? I want my girls to have a future. I want the planet to be here for my grandchildren."



"The only way to enact any sort of change is to ask people to take responsibility, but that's an incredibly hard thing to do"

Steph Tisdell Comedian

"I WAS REALLY glad when I was asked to perform in the comedy bushfire fundraiser at the Sydney Opera House, not only because it's a great cause, but because it's held me to account a bit. I'm the first to admit, I've not always been that climate conscious. I have some terrible habits – I love drinking bottled water. I know I should buy a reusable one, but I dunno, I just love plastic bottles of anything (I know, I'm weird). But I think a lot of people have similar habits, and right now is the time to break them. The only way to enact any sort of change is to ask people to recognise knowledge and take responsibility, but that's an incredibly hard thing to do. It turns people off. It's human nature:

we don't like taking responsibility for things that require effort to change. But that's the reason comedy is the perfect medium to talk about these issues, because stand-up allows a comedian to reveal things about themselves. If I'm on stage acknowledging my own failures, if I'm taking responsibility and allowing myself to be vulnerable, the audience gets to decide if that's something they want to do themselves. I would never come out on stage and say to everyone, 'You're all the worst.' Because if you point your finger at someone, they're way less likely to do something than if you give them the option to embrace it on their own terms. And when that happens in the context of a live performance, it creates this sense of community and it breaks down barriers. It brings us all closer together." ■ → Comedy Steps Up for Bushfire Relief, Sydney Opera House, Bennelong Point 2000. 02 9250 7111. sydneyoperahouse.com. 8pm. \$149.90-\$1,999.90. Mon Mar 16.



MONICA PROUK

10

ways to be greener in Sydney

Small lifestyle changes can make a big impact. Here's how to live more sustainably in Sydney.

By *Maxim Boon*

1 If possible, compost

Domestic food and garden waste is responsible for 35 per cent of Australia's landfill, so it's time to stop chucking out your scraps. Most community gardens in Sydney have communal composting facilities, and websites like **Planet Ark** (www.planetark.org) provide helpful advice on where to find your nearest site. The City of Sydney is also currently

trialling a new kerbside food scraps recycling pilot that could soon add a dedicated compost bin to your home's collection of wheelies.

2 Reduce your waste by up-cycling

When something breaks our usual response is to toss it out and get a new one. But not so long ago, regular folk had the skills to repair where they could, reducing their waste by giving their stuff a second lease on life. These skills are still out there for Sydneysiders to discover. Check out our feature on where you can learn to mend in Sydney on page 24 for more details.

3 Contribute to local green spaces

Sydney is one of the most heavily planted cities in the world, with barely a street unlined by leafy boughs. But trees offer more than just kerb appeal. Within the city, plants provide vital habitats and food sources for local animals and insects, while also purifying the air and enriching the soil. Help Sydney's green spaces by volunteering at a community garden, such as Wendy's Secret Garden in Lavender Bay.

4 Buy local and support NSW producers and makers

There are umpteen reasons why buying your produce at local markets is by far the greener choice. Not only will it be fresher and use less harmful packaging, it will also have a smaller carbon footprint and boost the local economy. Also, at a time when many small Aussie businesses are recovering from this summer's devastating fires, it's a proactive way to support communities in recovery.



ROBERT POLMEAR

Wendy Whiteley's Garden



CASSANDRA HANNIGAN

Redfern Park



DANIEL BOUD

Bondi Markets

5 Eat more veg and grow your own

Livestock farming is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, and the food miles they rack up can be huge. If you're green-thumbed, why not get growing? You'll save dollars and the planet too.

6 Reduce your use of plastics

Perhaps the most successful green initiative of recent years has been the campaign to reduce single-use plastic waste. Investing in reusable coffee cups, straws, lunchboxes, shopping bags and sandwich wraps has never been easier. Check out our low-impact living starter kit on page 31.

7 Reduce the carbon footprint of your travel

Cars are bad for the environment. Whether you walk, cycle, skateboard, rollerblade, swim, kayak, pedalo, or treat yourself to a rickshaw, you can travel far and wide all over Sydney and remain carbon neutral.



8 Use biodegradable toiletries and detergent

A nice hot shower and a soapy scrub is the way many a Sydneysider starts their day, but did you know that some of the most common daily toiletries contain chemicals that can take decades to breakdown? Not only is switching to biodegradable soap made with natural ingredients better for the environment, many of these eco-friendly products have zero-plastic packaging.

9 Use environmentally friendly sunscreen

Slopping on the sunscreen is a mandatory part of life in Sydney, but taking a dip in the ocean after you've slathered on chemical-rich high-SPF products can be bad news for the ecosystem. While totally swearing off the most readily available brands is probably overkill (several contain oxybenzone, which can be toxic, but rarely in the concentrations left behind by swimmers), wherever possible try and opt for sunscreen using natural ingredients, such as zinc oxide.

10 Help out local animals

The bushfire disaster has had a devastating impact on Aussie wildlife, but it's not just out in the bush where animals have struggled. In our cities, poor air quality and drought conditions made it a particularly hard summer for many of our native critters. Head to page 22 to find out where you can learn the skills to support your furry and feathered neighbours, from providing water in your backyard to taking a wildlife care course. ■



Things to Do

Edited by Maxim Boon
timeout.com/sydney/things-to-do

HOW TO HELP

Wildlife in Sydney

Australia's animals are struggling to cope with the impacts of climate change, but there are plenty of ways Sydneysiders can support our vulnerable critters. By Sarah Theebom

IT'S BEEN ESTIMATED that more than a billion animals may have perished in the catastrophic bushfires, and millions more have lost the habitats they call home. With the bushfire season threatening to return later this year, it's impossible to know the full scale of the damage and the long-term impact of these fires. What we do know, however, is that our wildlife needs ongoing assistance if it is to recover from this and future disasters.

If you want to help our wombats, koalas, kangaroos and possums, monetary donations to wildlife organisations will have the most impact. But you can also do your part in your spare time and around the house to give our precious wildlife an extra assist.

Help make the city a thriving wildlife habitat

Do a solid for your local wildlife by providing food, water, shelter and nesting materials in your backyard, balcony, or even in your local parks. No matter the size of the outdoor space, you'll be providing a valuable rest stop between habitat corridors, which are sadly fewer and farther between these days. **Habitat Stepping Stones** (habitatsteppingstones.org.au) provides practical, location-specific advice on how to make the city more wildlife friendly, and the

City of Sydney (cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au) has a handy downloadable guide entitled 'Creating Habitat for Urban Wildlife'.

Your local council may also have some helpful resources. For instance, as part of its **Backyard Habitat Program**, Lane Cove Council provides residents with free in-home consultations and native plants. The Hills Shire Council is hosting a gardening workshop called **Pick of the Crop of Native Plants** on Thursday, March 19 (*Community Environment Centre, Currie Ave, Annangrove 2156. thehills.nsw.gov.au. 10-11am. Free*). And on Sunday, July 5 you can join a **Habitat Gardening** workshop run by Randwick City Council (*Randwick Sustainability Hub, 27 Munda St, Randwick 2031. www.randwick.nsw.gov.au. 1.30-4pm. \$10*). Go on, be a good neighbour and put out the welcome mat for your local bush critters.

Take a wildlife care course

This is like taking a first aid course but specifically for helping injured or sick animals. It's also a prerequisite for volunteering with organisations such as **WIRES**, which offers a range of training sessions across NSW. The most hands-on skills can be learnt on WIRES' **Rescue and Immediate Care Course** (www.wildlifetraining.org.au), which teaches species



Taronga Zoo



Taronga Zoo Keeper for a Day

identification, common rescue scenarios, safe handling of various types of critter, and of course, first aid and immediate care techniques.

Certain courses, such as the one offered by **Sydney Wildlife** (sydneywildlife.org.au), even qualify you to care for animals in your own home – although you might want to run that idea past Mr Pickles and Chairman Miaow first.

If you want to care for more exotic creatures, **Taronga Zoo** (taronga.org.au) also offers training for its keeper volunteers, who have the opportunity to use the skills they learn to assist in all areas of animal care, from cleaning out enclosures to preparing feeds and even taking part in the zoo's presentations and animal shows. Prospective applicants can check out what's involved at one of Taronga's regular keeper information sessions, which are free to attend.

Help restore habitats in your spare time

Remember that book about the Giving Tree? Well, now it's time to give back. From planting and weeding to monitoring threatened wildlife, there's loads to be done – and organisations need volunteers to help do it. If you're keen, register as a volunteer with **NSW National Parks** (nationalparks.nsw.gov.au) or **Conservation Volunteers Australia** (conservationvolunteers.com.au), who both have opportunities that are specific to bushfire relief.

Alternatively, if you'd like to help out with research and wildlife surveying, check out the current projects on **Citizen Science** (citizenscience.org.au). And whether or not you live in an area that has been directly affected by the fires, you can always help look after your local bushland by joining your nearest **Community Landcare Group** (landcare.nsw.gov.au). If you just can't find the time right now, that's OK. You can commit to volunteering in the future. Bushland rehabilitation is a marathon, not a sprint, which means help will still be greatly needed months and even years down the track. ■

FIVE EASY WAYS

You can help wildlife today



1 Put out shallow containers of water for thirsty animals, but no food unless instructed to do so by a wildlife carer.

2 Cover swimming pools or drapery something over the edges so animals don't get trapped.

3 Keep an emergency kit in your car with a ventilated cardboard box, towel or blanket, water and a small bowl.

4 Save the number of a wildlife rescue group in your phone in case you encounter an animal that needs help.

5 If you haven't yet completed a course and you encounter a sick or injured animal, please do not try and rescue it yourself. Instead, contact a wildlife group or the RSPCA.



Make do and mend

Repair Cafés

What are they? Community events for fixing broken things. A lady named Martine Postma organised the first repair café in Amsterdam in 2009, and now they take place all over the world. The idea is simple: people bring their broken household goods and repair them together. At a repair café you'll find free tools and skilled volunteers who can help you fix your gear, from bicycles to hairdryers or even your favourite jeans. In Sydney, Repair Café Sydney North (repaircafesydneynorth.net) meets twice a month in Lane Cove and also offers a sharpening service for dull knives. The Bower (bower.org.au/repairs) hosts weekly and monthly repair cafés at its Redfern, Parramatta and Green Square locations, dedicated to items such as mobile phones, furniture, clothing and electricals.

Kintsugi

What is it? A way to mend pottery that increases its beauty. Instead of viewing a broken plate or bowl as garbage, adopt the Japanese philosophy of wabi sabi that says there is strength and beauty in imperfection. That's the idea behind kintsugi, a traditional technique that uses lacquer and gold or silver powder to mend broken pottery. The visible join lines bring their own unique loveliness to the restored ceramics. To learn this traditional art form, take a workshop

with Jun Morooka, founder of Kintsugi Australia. You can join a two-hour beginners' class or a more comprehensive weekend-long course. → Suite 402, 235 Clarence St, Sydney 2000. 02 9262 2258. kintsugi-australia.com.au.

Sewing classes

What are they? A way to extend the life of your clothing. Every year the average Australian throws a shocking 23kg of textiles into landfill. Why not mend or upcycle your castoffs instead? Learn to sew at Bobbin and Ink (bobbinandink.com) in Petersham, Sew Make Create (sewmakecreate.com.au) in Chippendale, Usefulbox (usefulbox.com.au) in Marrickville, the Remnant Warehouse (theremnantwarehouse.com) in Alexandria, Busy Bee Sewing (busybeesewing.com.au) in Penshurst, Bronte Sewing Room (brontesewingroom.com.au) and other craft studios around

Repair, reuse and save your stuff from landfill with a little help from these Sydney-based events and venues. By Sarah Theeboom

Sydney. If you just want to focus on alterations and mending, try Narda Campbell's Upcycling Clothes for Beginners class (classbento.com.au/upcycling-clothes-for-beginners-class-sydney) or the Sewing Repair course at Sydney Community College (sydneycommunitycollege.edu.au/course/sewing.repair). Typing the search term "upcycle" into Classbento (classbento.com.au) also brings up a variety of fun, creative workshops. Turn a pair of jeans into a hat, or repair or upcycle your broken jewellery.

Reverse Garbage

What is it? Marrickville's creative reuse centre. Reverse Garbage has been turning trash into treasure since 1974. The warehouse is part op shop, part art supply store, and part Willy Wonka's factory, with all manner of surplus goods and castoff materials for sale. In addition to the retail operation,

Reverse Garbage runs art and craft workshops. Learn to make a hanging planter out of a kokedama moss ball, create an assemblage sculpture using reclaimed objects, or weave old textiles into baskets, rugs and wall hangings. → 8/142 Addison Rd, Marrickville 2204. 02 9569 3132. reversegarbage.org.au. Mon-Sat 9am-5pm; Sun 9am-4pm.

The Bower

What is it? An award-winning reuse and repair centre. In addition to its regular repair cafés, this environmental charity also operates the Inner West Tool Library (innerwesttoollibrary.com.au), two retail stores, and a program of reuse and repair workshops. The classes take place in Redfern and Parramatta, and tend towards building and handiwork. They cover DIY home maintenance, powertool tutorials, woodworking, carpentry, upholstery and furniture restoration. ■ → bower.org.au.

Find more things to do at timeout.com/sydney

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© Detail: Stefan Christmann

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

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TO DO

Get out and about in Sydney over autumn with these top events

MARCH

Latin American Festival

This zesty celebration of all things South American has been transforming Bondi with art, dancing, music and feasting for more than four decades. The festivities kick off with a dazzling parade, but be warned: the rhythm is gonna get you at the Latin dance lessons happening throughout the day, where you can learn cha cha, salsa and reggaeton steps. There will also be traditional performances, art exhibitions, live music, markets and Latin-influenced food and drink to sample. → Bondi Pavilion, Queen Elizabeth Dr, Bondi 2026. events.humanitix.com/au. Noon-8pm. \$25-\$35. Sun Mar 15.

Russell Brand: Recovery Live

The job description of 'comedian' doesn't really do justice to this political firebrand, working-class rascal and scourge of the ruling classes. An insatiable bad boy with the libido of Mick Jagger and the

hips to match, Brand defies simple pigeonholing. And that's made him a divisive figure, to some a righteous hero of free thinkers, to others an insufferable knowitall narcissist. But one thing that most people can probably agree on is that this British TV personality and author is damn entertaining, and that's exactly what you can expect at this 90-minute one-man show. → State Theatre, 49 Market St, Sydney 2000. 02 9373 6852. statetheatre.com.au. 7pm. \$89.90-\$274.90. Mar 3-4.

All About Women

The Opera House's annual fiesta of feminist philosophy is not only examining concepts of contemporary womanhood this year, it's taking aim at some of the biggest existential threats to humanity. *Orange Is the New Black* actor Yael Stone will head a panel on the climate crisis, and NSW right to choose lobbyist Wendy McCarthy will lead a discussion on the political zeitgeist. There will also be talks on matrilineal connections in First Nations communities, body politics in pop culture, the evolving dynamics of



Sparkling Sydney

gender identity, and more. → Sydney Opera House, Bennelong Point, Sydney 2000. 02 9250 7777. sydneyoperahouse.com. Various times. \$33 per event. Mar 7-8.

APRIL

Festival of Dangerous Ideas

Geopolitics are increasingly fraught, the climate crisis has scorched our landscapes, and extreme ideologies threaten our lives from without and within. It's little wonder that the theme for Sydney's original disruptive festival this year is 'Dangerous Realities'. Amongst the speakers unriddling this topic will be the likes of wrongfully imprisoned mother Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton and whistleblower-in-hiding Edward Snowden. This weekend of big conversations, which marks the tenth anniversary of the festival, is taking place at Town Hall as a nod to the traditional rallying place for concerned and engaged citizens,

including, most recently, Sydney's Climate Justice demonstrations. → Sydney Town Hall, 483 George St, Sydney 2000. festivalofdangerousideas.com. Various times & prices. Apr 3-5.

Patti Smith in conversation with Paul Kelly

When Patti Smith, the godmother of punk herself, last performed in Australia in 2017, many feared it would be the 73 year old's final visit Down Under. Fortunately, she's defied those worries to play Byron Bay's Bluesfest, along with sideshows in Sydney and Melbourne. While she's here, Smith will also be sitting down with everyone's favourite yarn-spinning uncle of poetic Aussie rock'n'roll for a public in-conversation event. The pair will be discussing the powerful magic in storytelling as part of this year's Sydney Writers' Festival. → Sydney Town Hall, 483 George St, Sydney 2000. www.swf.org.au. 6.30pm. \$55-\$65. Wed Apr 8.

Marvel Universe Live

Thanks to a seemingly endless supply of superpowered mayhem



Yael Stone

DANIEL BOLD

on both the big and small screen, the popularity of the sprawling Marvel universe of characters is at an all-time high. Now, courtesy of some seriously impressive production values and a shedload of pyrotechnics, Aussie Marvel fans of all ages can assemble to see 25 of their fave heroes in the flesh – including Spider-man, the Avengers and the Guardians of the Galaxy. This live-action show is a high-octane battle between good and evil with several thousand spectators on the sidelines. Expect 'splosions, web slinging and the occasional Hulk smash. → Qudos Arena, Olympic Blvd, Sydney 2127. marveluniverselive.com. Various times. \$35-\$149. Apr 16-19.

MAY

Backstreet Boys

Having amassed more than 100 million album sales since their debut in 1996 and selling out arena tours across the globe for the quarter of a century since, this quintet of high-school crushes

surely ranks as the gold standard of the boy band genre. The Backstreet Boys – well men now, really – are returning to Australia for the first time in five years with their DNA tour, a veritable pop spectacular that will be peppered with both their greatest hits and new material. → Qudos Arena, Olympic Blvd, Sydney 2127. 132 849. premier.ticketek.com.au. 7.30pm. \$101.75-\$386.95. May 22-23.

Sparkling Sydney

This festival honouring all things fizzy will be returning to Pyrmont for a second year, featuring everything from dry bubbly rosé to a bold sparkling shiraz. There will be tastings of more than 60 local and international pours from the likes of Freeman Vineyards, Hungerford Hill, Tulloch Wines, Iron Gate Estate, De Beaurepaire, Hanging Tree and many more. You'll also find a host of fare that goes well with bubbles, from rock oysters, cheese, and charcuterie to fancy condiments and Champagne soaps. → Pirrama Park, Pyrmont 2009. sparklingsydney.com.au. 11am. Free. Sun May 24.



Penn & Teller

Since the mid-'80s, Penn & Teller have been the most bankable magic double act on the planet, and yet they've never toured one of their spectacular shows to our shores – till now. Expect new bits alongside old favourites as they bring their unstoppable wit and unconventional magic to one of our grandest venues.

→ Capitol Theatre, 13 Campbell St, Sydney 2000. 02 9320 5000. capitoltheatre.com.au. 7.30pm. \$59-\$149. Apr 14-21.

FESTIVAL OF DANGEROUS IDEAS

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Easter fun at Centennial Parklands

Family favourite event The Great CP Egg Hunt returns this Easter!

Join us for an activity trail and receive a chocolate treat.

Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 April

centennialparklands.com.au/egghunt



Kids

Kids go **wild**

Foster an appreciation for the environment in your brood with nature play and close encounters with flora, fauna, land and sea. *By Alannah Maher*

Feeding Time at Plants with Bite

Ocean Lovers Festival

Take the family down to Bondi for some salty aquatic fun at this six-day festival that celebrates the ocean and showcases cool ideas that can help us save the wonders of the big blue. There are lots of free activities, films, talks, workshops, competitions, and art to explore as well as eco markets with live music. You can even literally dive into an underwater crayweed forest and living seawall display in the Bondi Icebergs Pool. → Around Bondi 2026. 0411 500 160. oceanloversfestival.com. Mar 17-22.

Feeding Time at Plants with Bite!

Budding little horticulturists and kids who'd fit right in with the Addams Family will be delighted by this educational workshop at the Botanical Gardens' carnivorous plant display. Learn about the evolution of these hungry plants and how they catch their prey, and take home your very own venus fly trap. This is not for the faint of heart, but the plants are all bark and no bite (for humans, that is). → The Calyx, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney 2000. 02 9231 8111. rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au. Sun 11am & noon. \$18-\$35. Mar 29, Apr 26 & May 24.

Eco Art for Kids

Centennial Parklands hosts a lot of brilliant nature-play activities that allow city kids to get their hands dirty. Our pick this school holidays is this two-hour art workshop for creative 5-12 year olds who love plants and animals. Make a day of it by booking into the Super Shelters

workshop in the morning, where kids learn to build a wild shelter fit for a bush adventurer.

→ Wild Play Discovery Centre, Centennial Park 2021. centennialparklands.com.au. 1-3pm. \$31 per child. Apr 16 & 21.

Stream Troopers

This free two-hour workshop organised by Camden Council encourages children aged 5-12 to get hands-on with nature, learning about how they can help native wildlife and exploring their local waterway with a scavenger hunt and a water bug survey. Kids need to wear enclosed shoes at this workshop.

→ South Creek Reserve, Cloverhill Cr, Gledswood Hills 2557. eventbrite.com.au. 10am-noon. Free. Apr 16 & 21.

Primal Kids Adventure

Don't have the time to take your kids on a nature quest these holidays? Drop them off in Randwick and pick them up four days later with this fully immersive, fully catered, three-night camping experience that takes 9-13 year olds abseiling, kayaking, orienteering and laser skirmishing around the Glenworth Valley.

→ 0438 430 737. primaladventures.com.au. Tue 8.30am-Fri 4.30pm. \$795. Apr 21-24.

Lane Cove Bush Kids

This community-led initiative aims to engage young children with nature and foster a lifelong love for the environment. There's inexpensive nature-centric play activities for kids from 2-10 years that will get them interacting with all



Eco Art for Kids

things leafy, feathery, furry and exoskeleton-y.

→ Around Lane Cove 2066. lanecove.gov.au/bushkids. \$6.85 per child, per activity. Mar-May, see website for dates.

Sydney Zoo

Lions, and tigers, and... well, no bears (oh my), but cheetahs, African painted dogs, Asian elephants, zebras, giraffes, hyenas, penguins, a three-metre croc and even a shark. Sydney's first new zoo in more than a century offers plenty of reasons to head out west and change it up from the usual suspects close to the CBD. Settle in at Primate Boulevard and marvel at humankind's cousins with your own little monkey, or meet 62-year-old Saigon, one of Australia's last surviving circus elephants. ■

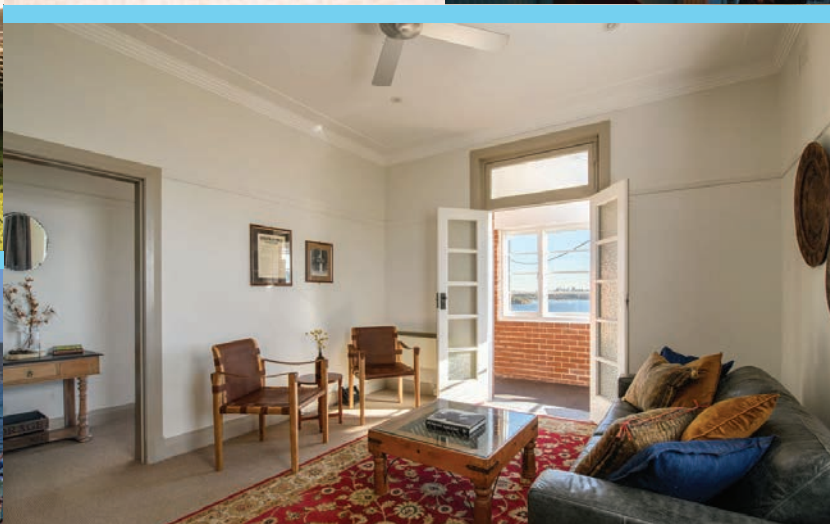
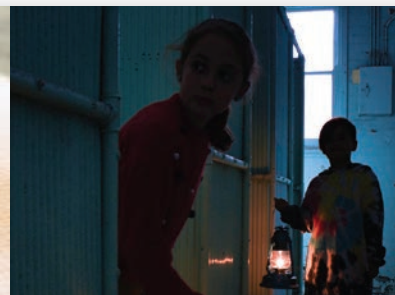
→ Sydney Zoo, 700 Great Western Hwy, Bungarribee 2767. 1800 843 966. sydneyzoo.com. Daily 9am-5pm. \$20-\$46.

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& STAY IN A HERITAGE LISTED PROPERTY
ON THE EDGE OF SYDNEY HARBOUR.**

a unique experience for the whole family!

Q Station offers a range of family activities including history and ghost tours, free museum, kayak and SUP hire on the private harbour beach,

a range of accommodation options, two restaurants and a bar and a direct ferry service into Manly and the CBD.



Shopping

Edited by Maxim Boon
timeout.com/sydney/shopping



Good Citizens

High fashion, low impact

Being an eco-conscious consumer doesn't mean you have to compromise your style. These are the boutiques and independent designers sharing their distinctive brands of eco-chic with Sydney. By *Maxim Boon*



Spunky Bruiser

1 Glam Corner

This online high-end clothes rental platform was founded with a mission to reduce fashion waste by loaning out designer threads. By making the season's must-have looks accessible and affordable, Alexandria-based Glam Corner helps consumers resist the urge to buy mass-produced, environmentally harmful knock-offs while championing brands that are making fashion eco-friendly. They offer four- to eight-day prepaid rentals as well as premium subscription services that allow unlimited access to its top-shelf closet. → glamcorner.com.au.

2 Jeff McCann

Jeff McCann's accessories are 'rubbish' – his words, not ours. The resourceful practice of this Sydney-based performance artist turned style pioneer has seen him turning trash into treasure of the most fashion-forward kind. Using lo-fi materials like reclaimed cardboard, up-cycled with bold, vividly colourful designs, McCann's jewellery, bags and garments have become popular with Aussie indie musicians Thelma Plum and Montaigne. His signature pieces are playful corrugated card earrings, which are specially treated to survive wet weather. → www.jeffmccann.com.au.

3 Spunky Bruiser

This Darlinghurst-based boutique has been a creative powerhouse for 12 years, transforming pre-loved clothes into one-of-a-kind garments. All made by hand by owners Rebecca Frost and Christian Orso, these vibrant looks are definitely not off-the-rack statement pieces, embracing loud patterns, bright colours, patchwork and appliqué, and a helluva lot of joy. If you consider yourself a trend setter, or if you're just in the mood to give your wardrobe an injection of fun, look no further. → 84 Oxford St, Darlinghurst 2010. 0401 879 797. www.spunkybruiser.com.

4 Social Outfit

This Newtown enterprise is a triple threat: it sells bespoke fashions, that are sustainably created, with sky-high ethical standards. At its heart is a commitment to social justice, employing and training people from refugee and new migrant communities in Sydney. It's also looking out for Mother Nature. Since it began trading three years ago, it has already saved more than three tonnes of fabric from landfill by collaborating with major brands to make use of unused scraps and offcuts that would otherwise be binned. → 188 King St, Newtown 2042. 02 9550 3691. www.thesocialoutfit.org.

5 Commune

Necessity is the mother of invention, so they say, and this has certainly proved the case for Bondi fashion and homewares emporium Commune. Noticing a lack of fairtrade and sustainable clothing and décor in Sydney's retail space, friends Loren Morton and Kristie Keith decided to launch their own store in 2016, championing handmade, ethically sourced, sustainably created products, designed and made in Australia. There's a beachy, boho-meets-Coachella vibe to the designs stocked at commune, as well as a range of sustainably made wardrobe basics. The name of the shop is a perfect expression of its mission: to bring talented, eco-minded artisans and climate-conscious consumers together.

→ 96 Glenayr Ave, Bondi 2026. 02 9365 3961.
www.comunebondi.com.



Jeff McCann



Commune



Social Outfit

Find Sydney's best shops at timeout.com/sydney

6 Good Citizens

Pollution from single-use plastics is an environmental crisis on a truly global scale. Reducing and reusing is a good start, but designer Nik Robinson saw another way to make use of the seemingly endless supply of plastic waste on humanity's hands. Inspired by his son Harry's severe climate anxiety, he pioneered a way to efficiently manufacture sunglasses using PET plastic bottles. Made from 100 per cent recycled plastic, this range of modular sunnies combine timeless aesthetics, top-of-the-line polarised UV400 lenses, and low-impact credentials that are hard to beat.

→ goodcitizens.com.au. ■

Low-impact living starter kit



These Australian-made accessories are a must for anyone who wants to reduce their environmental impact

Reusable coffee cup

Close to a billion disposable coffee cup lids end up in Australian landfills every year. Invest in a reusable option, such as a sustainably made ceramic one from Sydney-based company Claycups [claycups.com.au. \$45].

Reusable water bottle

Billions of water bottles are binned each year with a large percentage ending up in the ocean. Using a personal water bottle, such as a sleek and shapely stainless steel option from Sydney company Onya [onyalife.com. \$27.95], is not only better on the environment, it'll save you dollars.

Lunchbox

Bring a clean, empty lunchbox such as the triple-decker one from Seed & Sprout [seedssprout.com.au. \$79] to your usual lunchtime go-to and say no to wasteful, disposable containers.

↑ Waxed sandwich wrap

Not only is clingfilm damaging to the environment, the BPA compounds in it are also harmful to your health. Swap it for reusable wraps, like these from Blue Mountains-based company Bee Wrappy [beewrappy.com.au. From \$30].

Low-impact cutlery

Bamboo alternatives from Ever Eco [evereco.com.au. \$14.95] are not only a lot lighter and less noisy than metal cutlery, they are made from one of the most renewable sources of wood there is.

Bamboo toothbrush

Keep a toothbrush at work? Switch to a bamboo brush from Bamkiki [bamkiki.com.au. \$13.90], which will biodegrade naturally, so once it's ready for the trash you can chuck it out, guilt free. ■

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY



Ways to help keep regional businesses alive

↑ Visit rural communities and bring an esky

The #GoWithEmptyEskies campaign is asking visitors to arrive "with empty cars and low fuel" to encourage tourists to spend with hotels, restaurants, shops and servos.

Buy wine from fire-affected vineyards in the Hunter Valley

For many of the 150 wineries in the Hunter, the entire 2020 crop has either been incinerated outright or so damaged by smoke and drought that the fruit has had to be dumped. Support businesses during this recovery period by drinking their existing vintages.

Follow this Instagram account to find businesses to support

Created by activist, athlete and grass-fire survivor Turia Pitt, the @spendwiththem Instagram account spruiks small businesses across the country, including dozens across NSW, and is a handy cheat sheet for where it's best to spend your dollars.

Directly support small retailers via It's My Shout

Millions have been donated to help those who have lost their homes and livelihoods in the bushfires, but many other businesses are being indirectly impacted. It's My Shout [itsmymshout.com.au] allows donors from anywhere in the world to 'virtually purchase' coffees, beers, haircuts, meals and the like, with the proceeds donated directly to the respective traders. ■

Travel

Edited by Maxim Boon
timeout.com/sydney/travel

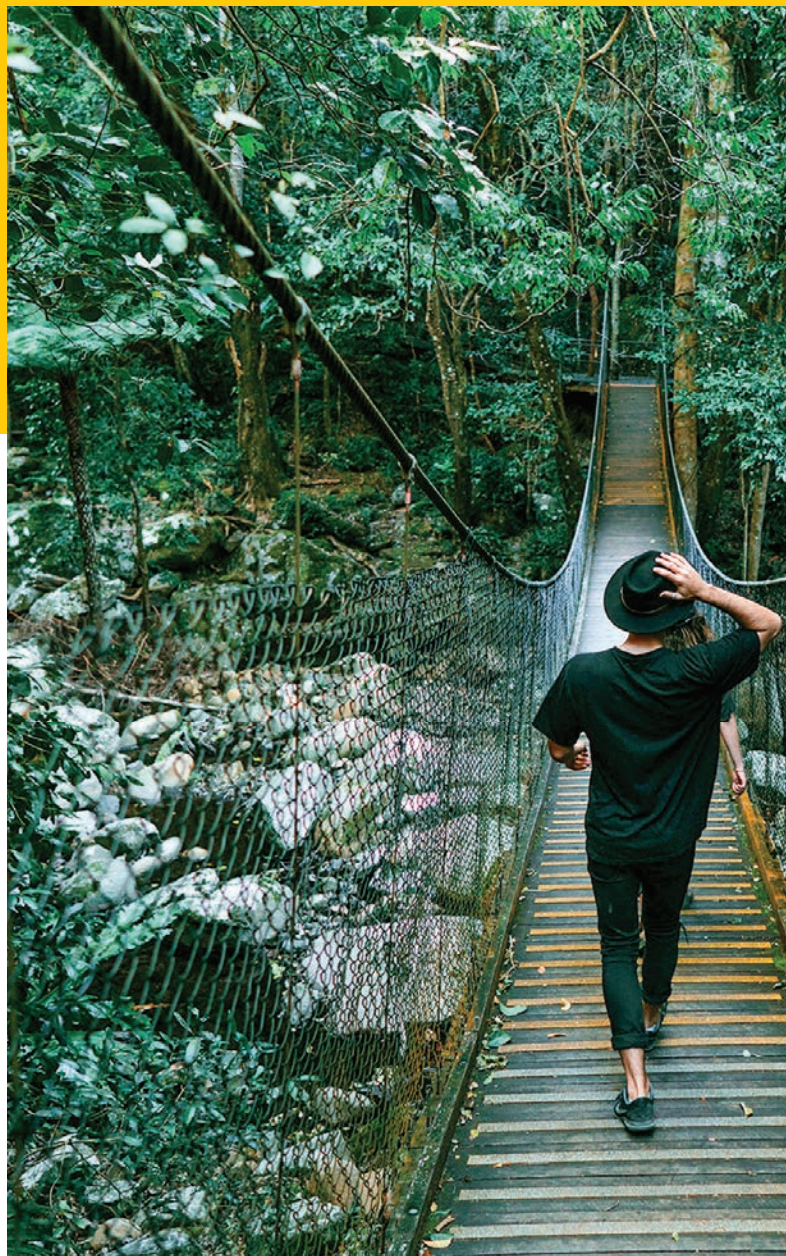
Holiday heroically

Instead of hopping a carbon-burning flight overseas, it's time to vacation in our own backyard and support businesses that are struggling to survive. It's practically your patriotic duty – and there's plenty to see, do, eat, drink and experience right here in regional NSW. By *Cass Knowlton*

South Coast

ONE OF NSW'S most popular – and beautiful – tourist regions was evacuated on New Year's Eve, and it has been struggling to attract visitors since. There are plenty of areas that need your tourism dollar more than ever – and luckily for you, they just happen to be gorgeous. For a once-in-a-lifetime lunch experience, book in a 'cliffnic' (outdooraw.com.au, \$400) in **Shoalhaven**, which is unlike any picnic you've ever gone on before, on a platform suspended over a cliff. As you relax and look out over the river and valley, local treats are lowered to you in a basket. For those who like their adventures aquatic, Woebegone Free Dive (woebegone.com.au, \$70-\$175) offers snorkelling tours of stunning **Jervis Bay**, where you can see seahorses, fish, seals, and maybe a whale or dolphin. If you'd rather enjoy sea creatures from above, Dolphin Watch Cruises (dolphinwatch.com.au, \$35-\$65) has been bringing people out on the water to see cetaceans of all

kinds for 30 years. Tour options include a scenic tour, whale watching (May–Nov), eco cruise and guaranteed dolphin spotting venture. Or get moving on a spectacular coastal walk through Wodi Wodi and Dharawal land, split into three sections, taking you from Minnamurra to Werri Lagoon just outside of **Gerringong** (*Loves Bay, Kiama 2533*). The third section is a six-kilometre one-way trip that takes you up over undulating seaside cliffs and down to rocky coves. If you want a beer to go with all that scenery, Jervis Bay Brewing Co (3 Duranbah Dr, Huskisson 2540, 0438 474 958, Wed–Thu & Sun noon–8pm; Fri–Sat noon–10pm) is another new business in the area that has been hard hit by the disaster. The brewery opened on December 20, 2019, only to have to close at the start of 2020. All those coastal views will make you hungry for seafood, so head to Wheelers in **Pambula** (162 Arthur Kaine Dr, Pambula 2549, 02 6495 6330, wheelersoysters.com.au, Daily noon–8pm), which has its own oyster farm.



Wine House

JORDAN ROBINSON



Minnamurra Rainforest Centre



Woebegone Free Dive

AIN RAADIK DESTINATION NSW

JORDAN ROBINS



Pepper Tree Wines



Dolphin Watch Cruises

Hunter Valley

FIRES HAVE CAUSED visitor numbers to NSW's famous wine region to plummet, but the wineries in the region are open for business and need your tourism dollar. You'll come home with bottles clanking in the boot, with the promise of good drinking long after you leave the region. The Hunter's big four are their semillon, which is crisp and citrusy in its youth and honeys with age, a peachy chardonnay, lively verdelho and a medium bodied, savoury shiraz. At **Wine House** (426 McDonalds Rd, Pokolbin 2320. 02 4998 7668. winehousehuntervalley.com.au. Daily 11am-5pm) you can try them all and more as you're guided through a tasting flight, and then sashay over to the self-service wine bar. Your next port of call is **Pepper Tree Wines** (86 Halls Rd, Pokolbin 2320. 02 4909 7100. peppertreewines.com.au. Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Sat, Sun 9.30am-5pm). If you have a particularly keen interest in wine science, or want to test the tasting skills you've learnt so far, book in for the winery's Vault Experience. Knowledgeable

staff will take you on a private tasting journey of the boutique winery's premium labels, while providing some history about their three decades in the business and the master vigneron behind it all, John Davis. Are you done with all the tannins and creamy chardonnays? Cleanse your palate with a craft beer at **Hope Estate** (2213 Broke Rd, Pokolbin 2320. 02 4993 3555. hopeestate.com.au. Daily 10am-5pm.) These guys are smashing stereotypes and producing solid craft beers in addition to their wine range. There are always 12 brews on tap, rotated around 20 core range and seasonal beers – the mango sour is a shining light among this brew family. Ask any Hunter Valley dweller where to go for a schmick dinner date and they'll say **Muse Restaurant** (2450 Broke Rd, Pokolbin 2320. 02 4998 6777. musedining.com.au. Wed-Sat 6-9pm; Sat, Sun noon-3pm). The towering atrium dining room is perched on the perimeter of Hungerford Hill Winery. The celebrated kitchen offers a seasonal menu marked by ingenuity and its championing of local produce. ■

TOP TIPS FOR

Regional NSW breaks

- 1 Check the NSW Regional Fire Service website (rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me) to make sure where you are going is safe.
- 2 Check the air quality at dpie.nsw.gov.au/air-quality.
- 3 Be sun smart. You will want to spend a lot of time outside, so make sure you slip, slop and slap.
- 4 Check Google's crisis map (google.org/crisismap/australia) to see if there are any hazards in the area.
- 5 Take the train when you can to avoid unnecessary cars on the road. Check transportnsw.info/regional for routes.
- 6 Carpool. It saves on carbon emissions, and holidays are more fun with friends.
- 7 Bring an esky with you and fill it with as much local produce as you can carry.
- 8 Spend money. Buy gifts for your friends, early Christmas presents, or treats for yourself while supporting local artisans and businesses.
- 9 Although all of the businesses and regions mentioned were open at the time Time Out went to print, things change, so make sure you call ahead.

Art

Edited by Ben Neutze
timeout.com/sydney/art

Biennale of Sydney: Tony Albert

Sydney's biggest festival of contemporary art is using First Nations knowledge to imagine a better future – for both people and the country we live on.

By Neha Kale. Portrait by Daniel Boud



IN 2018, TOWNSVILLE-BORN artist Tony Albert was part of a project that aimed to 'heal' the land of the former Blacktown Native Institution, an early site for the institutional removal of Indigenous children. "You were taken from your parents to be domesticated, either as a servant or a land worker, and a number of these children didn't survive," says Albert. "I worked with Dharug children, descendants of those people, and we gifted positive memories to the first children who were taken in Australia. There was so much hurt there, the whole site needed healing." That project sowed the seeds for 'Healing

Land, Remembering Country', a new installation that will premiere at Cockatoo Island as part of Nirin, the 22nd Biennale of Sydney, curated by Brook Andrew in March. "Now we're looking at a whole country on fire. ['Healing Land, Remembering Country'] is about gifting the ground beneath us our thoughts, our hopes and our dreams."

We're sitting on a bench at Cockatoo Island, overlooking the Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers. For now, the site of 'Healing Land, Remembering Country' is an empty square, surrounded by low, convict-era architecture. But over the

next few weeks, it will become home to a sustainable greenhouse. Here, visitors will be invited to write their memories on slips of paper embedded with the seeds of dusky coral peas, lemon myrtle and forest red gum along with other non-invasive native plants. The memories will be housed in hanging baskets. Later, they will be planted within the greenhouse and around the country in locations chosen in collaboration with Indigenous communities.

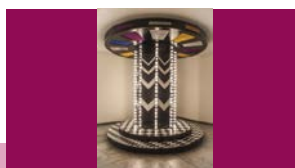
Colonial logic tells us that humans are masters of our environment. But for Albert, the act of exchanging memories in his



THE BEST OF THE BIENNALE

ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Arthur Jafa, winner of the Golden Lion at last year's Venice Biennale, presents 'The White Album' (2018), a trailblazing video work that skewers the way whiteness shapes the world.



ARTSPACE

Peruvian artist Fátima Rodrigo Gonzales re-imagines the famous TV set from *Sábado Gigante* (*Gigantic Saturday*), which was the longest-running variety show in television history.



CAMPBELLTOWN ARTS CENTRE

See video works and photographs from Adrian Stimson, a member of Canada's Siksika (Blackfoot) Nation, who's known for performance personas that challenge colonial-era truths.

AUTUMN ART

Catch the season's hot art shows

↓ REBECCA BAUMANN: RADIANT FLUX

Baumann's installation turns the Redfern arts wonderland into a giant kaleidoscope of colour. She has covered every glass surface of the main Carriageworks foyer – including the skylights – in dichroic film, a material that reflects and refracts light in a range of colours, which evolve as the viewer moves and the light changes.

→ Carriageworks, 245 Wilson St, Eveleigh 2015.
02 8571 9099. www.carriageworks.com.au.
Daily 10am-6pm; later on performance nights.
Free. Until Jun 14.

ARCHIBALD, WYNNE AND SULMAN PRIZES

The Archibald is affectionately known as the face that stops a nation. Everyone has an opinion about who is most deserving of the \$100,000 top gong – and the exhibition of finalists features faces familiar and not, by big name, mid-career and emerging painters. Don't miss the Wynne and Sulman Prizes – the former for landscape painting or figurative sculpture, the latter for subject painting, genre painting or mural art – which are part of the same show.

→ Art Gallery of NSW, Art Gallery Rd, The Domain, Sydney 2000. 02 9225 1700.
artgallery.nsw.gov.au. Thu-Tue 10am-5pm;
Wed 10am-10pm. \$TBA. May 9-Sep 6.

I AM A HEART BEATING IN THE WORLD

This exhibition is part of the lead-up to the 'Diaspora Pavilion' at the Venice Biennale 2021. The pavilion is designed as a challenge to the way national pavilions dominate the Biennale and will bring together artists from across the world. This program has artists living in Australia, the UK and Caribbean: Abdul-Rahman Abdullah, Kashif Nadim Chaudry, Lindy Lee, Leyla Stevens, Zadié Xa and Daniela Yohannes.
→ 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, 181-187 Hay St, Haymarket 2000. 4a.com.au. Tue, Wed, Fri 11am-5pm; Thu 11am-8pm; Sat, Sun 11am-4pm. Free. Apr 16-Jun 7.

such as pandanus leaves or grasses to make objects that we live with. And the style in which they weave is unique to the place and plants they have available to them. ['Healing Land, Remembering Country'] is about getting people to realise all the intrinsic links [to country] we already have."

Albert grew up in Brisbane and has family connections to the Girramay and Kuku Yalanji people in Queensland's rainforest region. 'Healing Land, Remembering Country' addresses the divide between humans and the environment that has given rise to the climate crisis. But – in keeping with the premise of Nirin – it's also about showing how Indigenous systems of knowledge can help us tackle the challenges we urgently face.

"[It's] about knowing and understanding how that plant on the hill" – Albert gestures at the grass – "needs more water than a plant near the river or ocean. It's about backburning, the act of only taking what you need. It's about knowing that no Australian native animals are hooved, because they have soft padded feet, and that farming has compressed the land we live on in a way that is incredibly destructive. More than ever, people are realising that we need to marry Western and Indigenous forms, these two ways of working. It's the way it always should have been."

For Albert, the project in Blacktown was also an act of unburdening. He tells Time Out that he asked some of the children who participated to 'relinquish' – rather than simply share – their memories. He hopes that 'Healing Land, Remembering Country' also fosters gestures of generosity and encourages audiences to realise that individual actions can add up to collective change. "[In Australia] we still have so much – we still have this connection to country and to a family and it's good for people to reflect on positivity. The success of the [fight against] climate change is not a few people doing zero emissions perfectly – it's about millions of people doing it imperfectly. We need everyone to understand that they can make a difference." ■ → 'Healing Land, Remembering Country', Cockatoo Island 2039. biennaleofsydney.art. Wed, Thu, Sat 10am-2pm. Free. Mar 14-Jun 8.

"Our systems of knowledge can help us tackle the challenges we urgently face"

installation is a reminder that we share a symbiotic relationship with the world around us. "In Indigenous languages, [the word] for 'skin' is often the same word for bark – midja or gunya. Your home is also your heart. Even our language attaches us to the land. Given the catastrophe of the times we are living in, in Australia, we need to go back to thinking about that land in a primary sense – and how we need to take care of it.

"Indigenous people use tools



MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

The MCA is presenting three must-see bodies of work by Professor Sir Zanele Muholi, the trailblazing photographer and activist famous for capturing South Africa's trans and queer communities.



NATIONAL ART SCHOOL

Watch out for 'Alchemy Garden', an interactive community garden growing edible plants that was spun out of repurposed materials by Andrew Rewald, an artist interested in the ethics of food.

→ Biennale
of Sydney.
biennaleofsydney.art. Mar 14-Jun 8.



Theatre & Dance

Edited by Ben Neutze
timeout.com/sydney/theatre-dance

9 to 5

A new trio of leading ladies is taking on the horrible bosses – and workplace sexism – in this stage musical version of the groundbreaking film comedy.

By Ben Neutze

the Musical



IT'S DIFFICULT TO quantify the impact of *9 to 5*. The 1980 comedy was Hollywood's first explicitly feminist blockbuster, starring Dolly Parton, Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin as office workers who join together to take revenge on their vile, sexist boss. Its enormous success (grossing over \$150 million – only *The Empire Strikes Back* did better business at the US box office that year), proved there was an audience for stories led by complex women claiming their independence, paving the way for hits like *Thelma and Louise* and *The First Wives Club*.

But despite that impact on cinematic history, what the movie has to say about women in the workplace has lost none of its currency. Its message was heard around the world, but did it really sink in?

"We think we got there, but then we kind of slipped," says Marina

Prior, who is taking on Tomlin's role, Violet, in the Australian premiere season of *9 to 5 the Musical*. "You think, 'surely we should be living in a post-feminist society,' but we're not, because we're still fighting for the same pay, the same value and intrinsic worth."

Erin Clare, who'll be stepping into Parton's shoes as Doralee, says the story takes on a different resonance following the #MeToo movement, which has seen more women speaking openly about workplace harassment than ever before.

"When the film came out, it was almost like a farce," she says. "It was like, 'how amazing would it be if three women got together to take down their boss?' and now that is happening, and it's been happening for the last three years."

The stage version hews closely to the plot laid down by the film and is penned by original screenwriter

"You think, 'surely we're living in a post-feminist society,' but we're not"

Patricia Resnick, with a score of old and new songs by Parton herself. It premiered on Broadway in 2009, but was reworked by Parton and Resnick for a successful West End production that opened last year and was celebrated for its comedic smarts (and has a killer role for Caroline O'Connor to play in the Australian tour as an executive assistant desperately in love with her horrible boss). That's the version of the show Australian audiences will see.

"Dolly is such a genius at threading storylines through her songs in her own world, so it makes sense that she'd write a musical where the songs do just that," says Samantha Dodemaide, who rounds out the leading trio as Judy, the role made famous by Fonda.

Parton, whose popularity seems to be greater than ever right now, thanks in part to the hit podcast Dolly Parton's America, is something of an emblem for the



Find more musicals at
timeout.com/sydney

sical

production, and has crafted songs in a wide range of styles, from country-inspired pop to classic Broadway-style song and dance numbers.

Clare and Dodemaide are Parton fans, but starring in one of her shows is a full-circle moment for Prior, who grew up busking in Melbourne with her trusty guitar. Parton songs were a regular inclusion in her sets.

"Dolly has this great saying: 'Find out who you are and do it on purpose,'" Prior says. "That's a great ethos for us, in the entertainment industry, where your image can be flipped and maneuvered."

Prior, who started out playing ingénues in shows like *Les Misérables* and *The Phantom of the Opera*, has evolved her own career since it kicked off in the late 1980s. She's been playing predominately comedic and character roles since 2000, when she convinced the

producers of *Guys and Dolls* to let her audition for the comedic role of Miss Adelaide, after she was asked to play the pure-as-snow Sarah Brown.

"I remember people around me were saying, 'that's career suicide, what are you doing?'" Prior says. "It was all 'you have to stay where we put you.'"

But although Prior has spent almost two decades playing tough, funny women, the show's story of women standing up to a bully in the workplace resonates loudly with her. When she was just 20, Prior starred opposite acting great Richard Harris in an Australian tour of *Camelot*.

"He was the producer, the director and the star of the show," Prior says. "But he yelled at me, he bailed me up against a wall, screaming in my face when he wasn't happy with how a scene went. He was a bully. And I was 20, and I'd done one show before, and

I remember just being so cowed and scared and upset and... it still makes me emotional when I think about it. I think about my daughter and if somebody was being like that to her; I'd want to tear their throat out."

While Prior's *Camelot* story doesn't come with as many laughs as *9 to 5*, she did manage to find the strength to give Harris an ultimatum: either he started treating her with more respect, or she'd leave the show. "From that moment on, he treated me like a queen. In a way, it's probably the single best thing that happened to me professionally, because I learnt who I was and that I'm actually a lot tougher than I looked. After that, nobody has ever, ever intimidated me. No matter who they are, I'm not scared of anyone." ■

→ Sydney Lyric, *The Star*, Pirrama Rd, Pyrmont 2009. 02 9509 3600. 9to5themusical.com.au. \$59.90-\$169.90. Apr 19-Jun 14.



Pearls of wisdom from a rhinestone queen

Not only does Dolly Parton have a song for every situation, she's usually got a saying too. Here are a few of our favourite Dolly quotes...

"I know some of the best Dolly Parton jokes. I made 'em up myself"

– Because she's always one step ahead of her detractors.

"I'm not going to limit myself just because people won't accept the fact that I can do something else"

– A reminder that you're more than what the world would have you be.

"Storms make trees take deeper roots"

– When you need a push to get through a tough time.

"My songs are like my children – I expect them to support me when I'm old"

– Luckily, she wrote 'I Will Always Love You'.

"We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails"

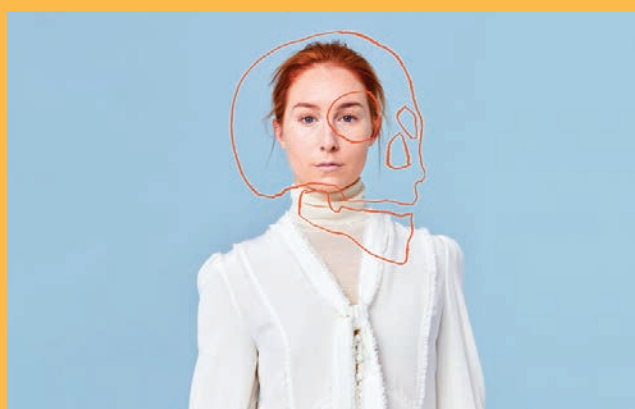
– Dolly knows a thing or two about adapting for survival.

"I look like a woman but I think like a man. And in this world of business, that has helped me a lot. Because by the time they think that I don't know what's going on, I then got the money, and am gone"

– Advice worth taking to the bank.

TO SEE

From welcome revivals to challenging new works, autumn's shows are set to earn ovations



PIERRE TOUSSAINT

Hamlet

Bell Shakespeare is kicking off its 30th anniversary celebrations with a new production of his most celebrated tragedy, starring Harriet Gordon-Anderson in the title role and Lisa McCune as Gertrude.

→ Sydney Opera House, Bennelong Point 2000. 02 9250 7111.
www.sydneyoperahouse.com. \$37.50-\$97.50. Until Apr 4.

MARCH

A Chorus Line

Few shows have made as big an imprint on musical theatre as Michael Bennett's 1975 masterpiece about dancers auditioning for Broadway. Now the show that spawned 'What I Did For Love' gets a rethink from choreographer Amy Campbell, at last making her directing debut at Darlinghurst Theatre Company. She has assembled a fabulous ensemble led by Tim Draxl and Angelique Cassimatis. → Eternity Playhouse, 39 Burton St, Darlinghurst 2010. 02 9331 3107. darlinghursttheatre.com. \$60-\$87. Mar 13-Apr 19.

Dance Nation

US playwright Clare Barron's comedy features a cast of adults of various ages playing a group of teenage girls preparing for a dance competition. The dog-eat-dog world of competitive teenage dance is exposed and becomes a metaphor for something much bigger. This production by director Imara Savage features veterans Mitchell Butel and Tara Morice. → Belvoir St Theatre, 25 Belvoir St, Surry Hills 2010. 02 9699 3444. belvoir.com.au. \$46-\$89. Mar 14-Apr 12.

Sydney Dance Company: Bonachela/Forsythe

Sydney's most prestigious contemporary dance company is returning with a new triple bill.

Artistic director Rafael Bonachela is making a new work exploring the ephemeral nature of our world, set to a brand new score by Bryce Dessner from American band the National. This work as Bonachela's 'E2 7SD' will appear alongside choreographic legend William Forsythe's 'NNNN'.

→ Roslyn Packer Theatre, 22 Hickson Rd, Walsh Bay 2000. 02 9250 1777. sydneydancecompany.com. \$25-\$98. Mar 21-Apr 4.

Is God Is

The Old Fitz Theatre might be tiny but it has a reputation for getting the local premieres of significant international shows. American playwright Aleshea Harris's celebrated 2018 play is about twin sisters who travel from America's south to California to get revenge for their mother. Anna Houston will direct the Australian premiere of this blood-splattered tale. → Old Fitzroy Theatre, 129 Dowling St, Woolloomooloo 2011. 02 9356 3848. redlineproductions.com.au. \$35-\$45. Mar 25-Apr 18.

La Traviata on Sydney Harbour

One of our city's most ambitious arts events, Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour, is returning to its roots this year and reviving its first ever production: Francesca Zambello's *La Traviata*. This was the production that made HOSH a success, thanks in large part to Brian Thomson's set design, which features a giant picture frame as the stage and a massive, nine-metre, Swarovski-encrusted chandelier. → Mrs Macquaries Point, Mrs Macquaries Rd, Sydney 2000. 02 9318 8200. opera.org.au. \$99-\$369. Mar 27-Apr 26.

APRIL

Home, I'm Darling

The first scene of this award-winning British comedy has a 1950s housewife sending her husband off to work. But then she pulls a laptop out of a drawer and it's clear she's actually in the 21st century. This Sydney Theatre Company production is directed by Jessica Arthur and stars Andrea Demetriades. → Sydney Opera House, Bennelong Point 2000. 02 9250 7111. sydneytheatre.com.au. \$50-\$103. Apr 6-May 16.

Merrily We Roll Along

Dean Bryant has directed several of the Hayes Theatre's most successful productions and is returning to take on this decades-spanning Stephen Sondheim gem. The musical famously unfolds in

reverse, telling the story of a trio of friends who start out as wide-eyed, optimistic writers ready to change the world. But success has a way of corrupting, and the musical uncovers how the trio falls apart.

→ Hayes Theatre, 19 Greenknowe Ave, Potts Point 2011. 02 8065 7337. hayestheatre.com.au. \$79-\$99. Apr 16-May 23.

A Room of One's Own

This isn't the first time Virginia Woolf's lecture-turned-essay-turned-literary sensation has been adapted for the stage, but its subject feels particularly pertinent in the 21st century. One of Sydney's finest actors, Anita Hegh, will be performing this solo show, adapted by Carissa Licciardello.

→ Belvoir St Theatre, 25 Belvoir St, Surry Hills 2010. 02 9699 3444. belvoir.com.au. \$46-\$89. Apr 18-May 17.

MAY

Anna Karenina

Tolstoy's romantic tragedy about a woman pushed to the edge has been adapted for just about every medium, and it works particularly beautifully as a dance work. This new production by the Australian Ballet is a collaboration with Chicago's renowned Joffrey Ballet and will be choreographed by Yuri Possokhov, a former dancer with the Bolshoi Ballet. → Sydney Opera House, Bennelong Point 2000. 02 9250 7111. australianballet.com.au. \$41-\$333. Apr 30-May 18.

Triple X

This play by NYC-based Australian Glace Chase follows Scotty (Josh McConville), a Wall Street banker who is on the cusp of marrying his fiancée. But he's secretly having an affair with a trans drag performer, Dexie, played by Chase. Paige Rattray (*The Beauty Queen of Leenane*) is behind this surprising romantic comedy. → Sydney Opera House, Bennelong Point 2000. 02 9250 7111. sydneytheatre.com.au. \$50-\$70. Apr 30-May 23.

Kindness

Matthew Whittet is known for writing sweetly quirky plays about the awkwardness and pain of growing up. This new work follows a group of 20 year olds trying to help their friend Lukas through his grief by telling stories. Griffin's outgoing artistic director, Lee Lewis, will be guiding this play to the stage. → SBW Stables Theatre, 10 Nimrod St, Darlinghurst 2010. 02 9361 3817. griffintheatre.com.au. \$20-\$62. May 8-Jun 13.

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Film

Edited by Nick Dent
timeout.com/sydney/film



Women who kick
arse dominate the
movie landscape from
March to May.
By Nick Dent

Black Widow

Downhill Mar 5

An American couple (Will Ferrell and Julia Louis-Dreyfus) on holiday in the Alps uncover fault lines in their marriage when an avalanche strikes. Based on the satirical Swedish/French movie *Force Majeure*, it's been adapted by the screenwriters of Alexander Payne's *The Descendants*.

See this if you liked: *Marriage Story*

In Fabric Mar 12

How's this for size: a killer dress (as in deadly, not great looking) moves between owners, wreaking havoc. This film by retro-horror fetishist Peter Strickland tears at the edges of nightmare while offering a balls-out critique of our addiction to retail.

See this if you liked: *The Love Witch*

Queen and Slim Mar 12

A lawyer (Jodie Turner-Smith) ends up on the run from the law

with her Tinder date (Daniel Kaluuya) in director Melina Matsoukas's incendiary and romantic crime thriller about race and political activism.

See this if you liked: *Badlands*

A Quiet Place Part II Mar 19

Get ready to set your phone to silent as John Krasinski directs a sequel to his 2018 horror smash hit. Emily Blunt again stars as Evelyn Abbott, who must lead her family through the dangers of a world invaded by blind monsters with hyper-attuned hearing.

See this if you liked: *A Quiet Place*

The Personal History of David Copperfield Mar 26

Charles Dickens' favourite of his own novels has been filmed many times before, but this version from Armando Iannucci (*The Death of Stalin*, *In the Loop*) has been



Queen and Slim

acclaimed as both uproariously funny and daringly cast. Dev Patel takes on the title role.

See this if you liked: *Wuthering Heights* (2011)

No Time to Die Apr 8

Daniel Craig extends his licence to kill for one last hurrah, with a retired 007 going in search of a missing scientist and coming up against Rami Malek's Safin. Phoebe Waller-Bridge (*Fleabag*) polished the script, making her the first woman screenwriter to tackle a Bond since the early 1960s. Maybe a woman can direct next time too?

See this if you liked: *Killing Eve*

Antlers Apr 16

Talented filmmaker Scott Cooper (*Crazy Heart*) directs the story of a teacher (Keri Russell) who takes an interest in a troubled student with a deadly secret. Guillermo Del Toro produces this Gothic monster tale.

See this if you liked: *An American Werewolf in London*

Misbehaviour Apr 23

The Miss World Pageant held in London in 1970 marked a turning point in modern-day feminism and race relations, with the event marked by protests that helped galvanise the Women's Liberation movement. Directed by Philippa Lowthorpe, the film stars Keira Knightley, Gugu Mbatha-Raw and Greg Kinnear as smarmy host Bob Hope.

See this if you liked: *Battle of the Sexes*

Black Widow Apr 30

Double Oscar nominee Scarlett Johansson steps into the spotlight as the lead in a Marvel movie, with visionary Aussie filmmaker Cate Shortland (*Somersault*, *Lore*, *Berlin Syndrome*) becoming the first woman to independently helm a Marvel epic.

See this if you liked: *Wonder Woman*

The Woman in the Window May 14

A housebound New Yorker (Amy Adams) witnesses a murder in the house across the street in an all-star adaptation of AJ Finn's bestseller. Gary Oldman, Julianne Moore, Anthony Mackie and Jennifer Jason Leigh are part of the cast, and Joe Wright (*Atonement*, *Darkest Hour*) directs.

See this if you liked: *The Girl on the Train*

I Am Woman May 21

Australian pop star Helen Reddy, best known as the singer and co-writer of the feminist anthem 'I Am Woman', is the subject of this music biopic that chronicles her battles against sexist record company executives and her influence on US and world politics. Tilda Cobham-Hervey (*52 Tuesdays*, *Hotel Mumbai*) plays the title role in an Australian production directed by South Korean-born Unjoo Moon.

See this if you liked: *La Vie en Rose* ■

See this

Alliance Française French Film Festival

Since launching in 1989 the AFFFF has grown into the largest festival dedicated to French films outside of France. The 31st event will screen new movies starring Karin Viard, Vincent Cassel, Fabrice Luchini, Omar Sy and Juliette Binoche.

→ Palace Cinemas. affrenchfilmfestival.org.
Mar 10-Apr 8.





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Food & Drink

Edited by **Matty Hirsch**
Time Out reviews anonymously
and pays for meals

Restaurants that bake the best bread

All rise for the chefs that really get it right. By *David Matthews*

Sixpenny

IT'S EASY ENOUGH to serve Iggy's sourdough rolls or slices of Brickfields rye and call it a day (and no one would complain), but Sydney's restaurants that bake their own bread bring a little something extra to the table, whichever way you slice it.

Arthur Sourdough with cultured butter

Made with a mix of organic Provenance wholewheat, baker's and khorasan flours, the dough is given depth with malt powder, sweetened with honey, and seasoned astutely with Tasman sea salt. The result is a loaf with a dark crust, good chew and a light crumb, served with butter cultured with kefir grains. → 544 Bourke St, Surry Hills 2010. 0468 991 088. arthurrestaurant.com.

Automata Bread rolls with chicken- and-anchovy butter

Clayton Wells veers away from the sourdough trend towards something whiter and fluffier, with soft mini rolls baked together in a loaf tin. They come out hot, ready to be pulled apart and spread with

flavoured butter, at times whipped together with yoghurt and Pecora Dairy sheep's curd, but most often mixed with sticky reduced chicken stock and anchovies. → 5 Kensington St, Chippendale 2008. 02 8277 8555. automata.com.au.

Bar Vincent Sourdough batons

Bar Vincent may be relatively new in town, but chef Andy Logue has been caring for his starter (one he brought with him from Scopri in Melbourne) for more than seven years. His batons, made with unbleached baker's flour, are nicely rustic – with a dark crust, a tight yet light crumb and a lingering sourness that matches nicely with olive oil, or together with butter and oysters. And since the bread comes complimentary, the price is right, too. → 174 Liverpool St, Darlinghurst 2010. 02 8354 0881. barvincent.com.au.

Café Paci Potato molasses bread with whipped brown-butter butter

What is it about Pasi Petänen's potato and molasses bread that

makes it so damn alluring? Is it the way the chef combines a regular starter with a rye starter to add complexity? Is it the way he folds through boiled, riced potato to lighten it? How he takes a festive Finnish bread as inspiration but twists it into a savoury opener with just a hint of caraway and a sticky-sweet molasses glaze? It could be any of these things, but that'd leave out the butter situation, where brown butter gets whipped back into regular butter for serious depth and nutty complexity.

→ 131 King St, Newtown 2042.
02 9550 6196. cafe paci.com.au.

Ester Potato bread, sourdough, ice cream

The only question at Ester is, which bread? There are the potato rolls, steaming hot and dark-crusted, to be spread heavily with kefir-cultured cream, dashi jelly and orbs of salmon roe. There's the woodfired sourdough, deep brown and made sweet and rounded with malt, that Mat Lindsay has quietly perfected. Then, of course, there's the leftover sourdough ice cream, a cool scoop of toasty comfort

given crunch with a crumble of breadcrumbs. → 46-52 Meagher St, Chippendale 2008. 02 8068 8279. ester-restaurant.com.au.

Firedoor Sprouted rye bread

A collaboration with Shady Wasef at Pioik Bakery in Pyrmont, Lennox Hastie's bread is made with a blend of rye, wholewheat and unbleached stoneground flour on a starter kicked off on rhubarb, pear and apple juice. The loaves are baked in the cooling furnaces, gaining a distinct char and a fine crust, and are served with butter churned from cultured Pyengana cream smoked over plum wood and sprouted rye grains crisped over coals. → 23-33 Mary St, Surry Hills 2010. 02 8204 0800. firedoor.com.au.

Fred's Fougasse

In a city of so many sourdoughs, classic yeasted breads can fall by the wayside. Not so at Fred's, where Danielle Alvarez keeps it straight and simple with good ingredients, handled well and proved quickly. The dough, which combines baker's flour with



ANNA KUCERA

Totti's

organic white flour, is shaped and scored before being slid into the ironbark-fuelled wood oven and served hot and steamy with sweet house-churned butter and a dish of olive oil for good measure. Some choose butter, some choose oil, but those who know best always do both. → 380 Oxford St, Paddington 2021. 02 9114 7331. merivale.com/venues/freds.

Nomad up the Road Flatbread with za'atar and toum

When Nomad temporarily relocated up the road in Surry Hills without the wood oven, it seemed the flatbread would be decommissioned, too. Turns out adaptation can have delicious results. Taking the same focaccia dough, they prove it hard to develop air pockets, then fry it on the plancha in enough oil to turn it deeply crisp and dark golden, with a centre that stays soft and fluffy. Garlic oil, a dredging of za'atar heavy on Aleppo pepper, and garlicky toum for swiping seal it. → 85 Commonwealth St, Surry Hills 2010. 02 9280 3395. nomadwine.com.au.



Fred's

Ode Focaccia

Ben Abiad's focaccia at Ode proves that when it comes to breadmaking, experience tells. Abiad honed his skills at Brickfields and brings them to bear on Ode's focaccia, itself a take on the Brickfields ciabatta. In his hands Demeter Farm Mill flour, olive oil, fresh yeast and Murray River pink salt come together in a moist, fluffy loaf that seeps olive oil with a salty crust that snaps like crackling. The result? The best focaccia in town. → 251 Bondi Rd, Bondi 2026. 02 9130 2894. odebar.com.

Sixpenny Sourdough and leftover- sourdough sourdough with mascarpone butter

Take a seat at Sixpenny, enjoy the flurry of snacks that open the meal, break the bread, spread it with sweet mascarpone butter that comes concealed under a dainty butter cloche. Nice bread, you'll think, and it is, classically sour with a thick crust. But that's just the start of it. Another slice comes

out after a few more courses, this one made with the toasted crumbs of yesterday's loaf blitzed up with coffee grounds and sweetened with golden syrup. Smart, waste-conscious, and memorable as all get out. → 83 Percival Rd, Stanmore 2048. 02 9572 6666. sixpenny.com.au.

Totti's Woodfired bread

Totti's bread is the stuff of Mediterranean fever dreams: a fat round of pizza-like dough that puffs up and blisters in the wood oven made all the better by a drizzle of olive oil and a scatter of salt flakes. And be it at the Bondi original or at the more snack-focused Bar Totti's in the CBD, you can count on two things: that bread being the centrepiece for a table laden with new-wave Italo-style antipasti, and scorched fingers all the way. → Totti's 283 Bondi Rd, Bondi 2026. 02 9114 7371. merivale.com/venues/tottis; Bar Totti's, ivy Precinct, 330 George St, Sydney 2000. 02 9114 7379. merivale.com/venues/bar-tottis.

Wyno x Bodega Focaccia

The focaccia that spans the menus at Wyno x Bodega and neighbouring Porteño hits all the spots good focaccia should: it's fluffy without being dry, just the right amount of crusty, and it does as good a job cleaning up the dregs of a spiced pork sausage with pear cider sauce on the Bodega side as it does dabbing up roasted meat juices at Porteño. Look out for the Argentinian focaccia special at Porteño, too, which is dark, handsome, shot through with grapes and rosemary, and often served with wicked-good chicken-liver parfait. → Wyno x Bodega, 50 Holt St (entervia Gladstone St), Surry Hills 2010. 02 9212 7766; Bodega, 50 Holt St, Surry Hills 2010. 02 8399 1440. bodegatapas.com.

Continental Deli Bar Bistro Sourdough

A tin of sardines in oil, an oversized wedge of Basque blue cheese or a platter of top-shelf charcuterie is only improved by good bread, and nobody knows it better than the pros at Continental. Made on a mix of rye, wholemeal and baker's flour, the sourdough is deliberately dense and deliberately cut extra thick to stand up to all the richness coming out from behind the counter. Add seasonal Australian olive oil and a canned cocktail or two and it's a combination to write home about – when you're done eating, that is. → 210 Australia St, Newtown 2014. 02 8624 3131. continentaldelicatessen.com.au. ■

CONSCIOUS DRINKING



ANNA KUCERA

**Michael Chiem –
co-owner of CBD bar
PS40 – shares seven
simple ways to consume
more sustainably**

1 Make 'oleo' by cutting up leftover produce and lightly coating it all in caster sugar. Leave out for three days in a sealed container stirring occasionally, strain off the syrup and sub this is into any classic cocktail that calls for sugar syrup.

2 Seek out bottle shops like P&V Merchants (64 Enmore Rd, Newtown 2042) that support homegrown producers.

3 Buy seasonal and locally: fruit in its prime stands up against spirits much better. Harris Farm is great for this.

4 Freeze chunks of fruit and use them as ice cubes in blended cocktails. This saves buying bagged ice and cools your cocktail with flavour not water.

5 Refuse the straw – or look for glass, metal, polypropylene, wheat or bamboo alternatives.

6 Ditch single-use party cups. If you can't use glassware (by the pool or in a park), there are polycarbonate options.

7 If you're juicing citrus, peel the rind first. This makes the process easier, and you can use the rinds to garnish and express oils over the top of your cocktails, adding complexity and aroma. → PS40, Shop 2, 40 King St (entry via Skittle Ln), Sydney 2000. ps40bar.com.

RESTAURANTS

Colombo Social



IT'S EASY TO boil sustainable practices in restaurants down to scrapping single-use plastics and pounding pesto from leftover carrot tops – and those are important things. But what about the social, human element? What about creating an inclusive, empowering workplace that promotes personal development and also contributes to the community at large? These are big, often overlooked questions, but they're questions that schoolmates Peter Jones-Best and Shaun Christie-David are tackling headfirst at Colombo Social, the contemporary Sri Lankan diner they opened on Enmore Road at the end of 2019. With the help of Settlement Services International and Newtown's Asylum Seeker Centre, the duo is recruiting refugees and asylum seekers in the hope of providing support and the potential for a successful future in Australia. That might explain why almost everyone in the long, bright, buzzy room appears to be smiling. But perhaps it's just the pervasive,



heady scent of what must be a whole spice cupboard toasting slowly in a pan. Or maybe it's the roti tacos – the first of a series of street-food snacks on the menu known as 'short eats', which toy with global influences without straying from the essence of Sri Lankan cooking. The stretchy, buttery flatbread not only withstands the weight of a whole deep-fried soft-shell crab better than a corn tortilla ever could but also feels right at home in the company of diced mango, spicy mayo, crisp curry leaves and a scatter of coconutty pol sambol. A very strong start.

Colombo-born executive chef Chamara Pathirana isn't tied to his roots. He puts a subcontinental spin on a halal snack pack by swapping chips for devilled potatoes, shredding ultra-gamy lamb over the top. He stuffs breaded pan rolls like Gwyneth Paltrow might, with a superfood smash-up of kale, peas and sweet potato. They're fun, snappy tweaks that aren't too tricky, but as the portion size increases, creativity takes a back seat and gives way to classic dishes that define the island nation. Focus your attention on the five curries, which are made from Christie-David's mother's recipes (she, too, is Sri Lankan). They possess that rustic intensity so specific to memorable home cooking and give you an excuse to pile your plate with sambols (thumbs up for the sweet seeni) and hoppers – the lacy, fermented, bowl-shaped pancakes with a spongy bottom, manufactured for scooping and mopping. Ask for the Jaffna-style goat curry, and you'll get asked whether you like chilli. It's more of a dare than a question; the thing's deliciously spicy, but the meat is meltingly tender, and you won't be able to stop eating it if you measure excitement in Scoville units. Creamy, turmeric-stained fish curry is a milder proposition, but equally satisfying, especially when spooned over saffron-gold basmati rice with cashews and sultanas.

Colombo Social's good conscience lingers long after the burn tapers off. Whether it's the act of donating a meal to an asylum seeker for every Amma's Table banquet menu sold, or the support of like-minded suppliers such as RAW straws, Thankyou soaps and Who Gives a Crap toilet roll, this is clearly a restaurant that cares, and has something to say. ■ *Matty Hirsch*



WHAT IS IT...

A Modern Sri Lankan social enterprise restaurant.

WHY GO...

The food is delicious, and the venue employs asylum seekers.

→ 159 Enmore Rd, Enmore 2042.
02 9020 6366.
colombosocial.com.
au. Tue-Fri 5-10pm;
Sat noon-11pm;
Sun noon-10pm.



ANNA KUCERA

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Mus Nigh

Edited by Maxim Boon
timeout.com/sydney/music

The bare essentials

Sydney's burlesque scene is about more than just glamorous stripping – it's an artform that is empowering and connecting many people. *By Alannah Maher.*
Portrait by Anna Kucera

BURLESQUE HAS SOME problematic roots. Emerging from America's minstrel culture, it was once entirely about the art of titillation: bawdy music, alluring glances and glitzy costumes peeled away like the layers of a seductive onion. The "golden age" of burlesque, from the 1910s to 1930s, cemented its most recognisable aesthetic – corsets, pasties, tassels and ostrich feathers. But while its trappings have remained largely unchanged over the ensuing century, its essence has greatly evolved. In the 1990s and early 2000s, figures like world-famous burlesque star Dita von Teese championed neo-burlesque, spearheading the retro revival of American pin-up style. The contemporary burlesque scene continues to diversify, with performers from all walks of life using the artform to celebrate bodies, reclaim sexuality and explore femininity, masculinity and identity. It has transformed

from a subculture into a progressive political statement.

"Burlesque is a very femme-identifying industry. Most of the time women are in charge," explains Porcelain Alice. "When I first started I liked that I could create these dreamscapes where I could be very feminine, but still be in control and strong."

Burlesque is something Alice came to "by accident" several years ago, when a friend talked her into doing some improvised fan dancing for a performance. Once she realised she could get paid for it, she became obsessed. She has now been a full-time burlesque artist for five years, performing, producing, teaching and community building. She says that the main difference between her stage persona and her "real self" is that "Porcelain Alice is much better dressed".

"Burlesque is such a broad artform," says Alice. "Burlesque performers come from all different

backgrounds, they can come from circus, they can come from dance, they come from comedy, acting, or striptease. They can come from nothing, they can just be like 'hell, I really have a great idea.'"

For Lottie Lamont, it was her background in musical theatre, love for MGM classics and her affection for all that glitters that drew her to burlesque. "I love that you don't actually have to be a very good dancer," she says. "You don't even have to be particularly 'sexy'. You can be funny. You can be political. It's about constructing a narrative and how you express your character during your story. And everything else is secondary."

As Alice explains, the one thing you can expect every burlesque act to have in common is an element of striptease.

"The performer is 100 per cent in charge, and they are telling a story that they have chosen to tell." For many women, and other people across the gender

spectrum, exploring burlesque can be an act of claiming or reclaiming one's femininity and sexuality. You learn that it's not about what you take off, but rather how you take it off. A stage persona can help a performer shed inhibitions or hangups, whether or not that performance makes it onto a stage.

"When I started burlesque, I wasn't looking to feel better about myself," Lottie says. "But it just kind of happened because I was in this environment that was so supportive and all about empowering you and making you feel great." At 37 years old with a full-time job, dabbling in burlesque isn't something that Lottie expected to be much more than a hobby. However, with two paid gigs already under her garter belt this year, she's keen to lock in more opportunities to fund her lingerie habit.

Lottie cultivates her stagecraft under Alice and other performance professionals at Sky

WHERE TO SEE

Burlesque in Sydney



“Burlesque is a very femme-identifying industry. Most of the time women are in charge”

Find concerts at
timeout.com/sydney

Sirens Academy of Burlesque, Pole Dance and Aerial Artistry in Surry Hills (www.skysirens.com.au). In Marrickville, Sydney Vintage Dance Studio (www.sydneyvintagedance.com) also offers an inclusive environment to learn burlesque skills from those in the know. Both studios run terms throughout the year, with sessions starting in early-mid March.

There are typically two kinds of burlesque shows you can see in Sydney. On one end of the spectrum there are pricier, glossier productions with established performers where you can often also enjoy a sit-down dinner. Then you have your cheaper (sometimes free) community events where a melting pot of performers of all levels will stage cheerful showcases. Aside from big-budget travelling productions, Sydney doesn't see much in the way of big productions with a cast serving group routines. This is something Alice and her collaborator Bella

Louche are seeking to change. La Femme at the Vanguard is a full production with a troupe of four performers joined by a guest star each month. The core performers are the show's founders, Porcelain Alice with the “glamorous and horrifying” Bella Louche; the reigning Miss Burlesque Australia, Betty Bombshell; and vogue star Karlee Luna. The special guest for the first shows is bearded drag queen Lady Fur.

Alice compares the dynamics of the burlesque scene to stand-up comedy, and similar to stand-ups, the performers only really know what's working if the audience is responding. “Please cheer, because we are alive and we do want to hear you. Give us the love that we crave.” Just don't be the creepy guy who yells “Take it off!” or the audience member who can't keep their hands to themselves. Respect the art, and respect the performer, because what they're doing is a helluva thing. ■

↑EMPLOYEES ONLY

Pop in to this speakeasy-style bar for extravagantly costumed, top-tier showgirls getting up on the bar to do spots. → 9a Barrack St, Sydney 2000. 02 8084 7490. employeesonlysyd.com. Fri, Sat. Free.

UP LATE AND UNCUT

Burlesque is live on stage and on your table at this night that pays a tongue-in-cheek homage to the Kings Cross of old. → Dulcie's Kings Cross, 44 Darlinghurst Rd, Potts Point 2011. facebook.com/uplateanduncut. 8.30-11pm. \$20. Thu Mar 19.

BURLESQUE IN HAND

Fledgling performers find their feet at this open showcase on the top floor of a pub on the last Friday of every month. → Friend In Hand Hotel, 58 Cowper St, Glebe 2037. 02 9960 2326. facebook.com/burlesqueinhand. Doors 7.45pm/show 8pm. \$10. Fri Mar 27.

RED LIGHT CONFIDENTIAL

This variety night features sweet newbies rubbing shoulders with the country's biggest showgirls.

→ Low 302, 302 Crown St, Sydney 2000. 02 9368 1548. redlightconfidential.com. Doors 6pm, show 8.30pm. \$11.50-\$16.85. Thu Mar 26.

ROYAL HEART REVUE

Expect to see circus too at this vintage-style variety show, best enjoyed with a two-course dinner. → The Vanguard, 42 King St, Newtown 2042. 1300 438 849. thevanguard.com.au. Doors 6pm, show 8.30pm-late. \$55.85-\$101.75. Thu Apr 2.

LA FEMME

This brand-new monthly neoburlesque show seeks to be Sydney's answer to Paris's famous Le Crazy Horse Saloon. → The Vanguard, 42 King St, Newtown 2042. 1300 438 849. thevanguard.com.au. Doors 6.30pm, show 8.30pm-late. \$50.75-\$91.65. May 7-8.

SOULTRAP REVUE

This raucous night of burlesque hosted by vintage vixen Bettie Bang Bang takes over a tiny speakeasy on the third Friday of the month.

→ Soultrap Bar, 70-72 Campbell St, Surry Hills 2010. 0452 275 707. soultrap.com.au. Doors 7.30pm, show times vary. \$15-\$20. Fri Mar 20.

FREAK FLAG

Expect live bands and badass burlesque stars at this brand-spankin'-new weeknight burlesque and variety show that rolls out of the more niche and nasty side of the bed. → Frankie's Pizza, 50 Hunter St, Sydney 2000. frankiespizzabytheslice.com. Wed 9pm-late. Free entry.

BLUES & BURLESQUE

Unfolding on the northside, this is a petite version of the Martini Lounge, a long-running local burlesque institution run by legend Sheena Miss Demeanour, where live blues meets top-notch burlesque.

→ Music @ Street Market, 116 Willoughby Rd, Crows Nest 2065. 02 8540 5535. streetmarketasiatapas.com. Dinner 6pm & 7pm, show 7.30pm. \$43.92-\$89.93. Sat May 23.

Edited by Ben Neutze
timeout.com/sydney/comedy

Comedy

Sydney Comedy Festival

A flotilla of funny folks is coming to Sydney for our annual celebration of all things comedy. Here are our highlights of the festival's 15th anniversary program. By Ben Neutze

↑ Daniel Sloss: Hubris

With more than a decade of critically-acclaimed shows, two Netflix specials and countless high-profile TV gigs, Daniel Sloss's star has truly risen. You can always rely on the Scottish comedian for a provocative and thoughtful show and the sort of laughs that'll have you clutching your sides and cringing in equal measure.

→ Enmore Theatre, 118-132 Enmore Rd, Newtown 2042. sydneycomedyfest.com.au. \$49.90-\$54.90. Apr 23-26.

Joel Creasey: Messy Bitch

Creasey has had a dream run on TV, hosting Australia's Eurovision coverage and showing up on reality and competition shows. But it's on the stand-up stage where he's at his unfiltered best. You can expect the acid-tongued prince of Australian comedy to deliver sass and maybe just a touch of scandal.

→ Enmore Theatre. sydneycomedyfest.com.au. \$50.95. Sat May 23.

Fiona O'Loughlin Addresses the Nation

The beloved stand-up veteran is back with a new show, looking back at how her experiences – the highs of her career and personal life, and the devastating lows she's suffered in recent years – have led her to the place she is now. The beauty of a Fiona O'Loughlin show? She's an absolutely open book and is always willing to put all of her humiliations on the line in the name of a good joke.

→ The Factory Theatre, 105 Victoria Rd, Marrickville 2204. sydneycomedyfest.com.au. \$33-\$39. Sat May 16.

Jordan Raskopoulos: Frankenstein's Lobster

Jordan Raskopoulos is best known as one third of musical comedy group the Axis of Awesome, but the comedian and sometime activist is stepping out on her own at this year's festival. She's promising stand-up as well as a few songs and some "very upsetting erotic fan fiction". We'll be honest: we can't wait.

→ The Factory Theatre. sydneycomedyfest.com.au. \$25-\$32. May 14-17.

Nicole Byer Live

If you've never watched Netflix's baking-gone-wrong show *Nailed It!*, then you may not be familiar with Nicole Byer. You have? Then you already love her. The always-affable host has also appeared on *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, *RuPaul's Drag Race*, *30 Rock*, *Transparent* and *The Good Place*, and hosts several podcasts, but is arguably at her best performing stand-up. → The Comedy Store, The Entertainment Quarter, Cnr Lang Rd & Driver Ave, Moore Park 2021 (Factory Theatre on May 2). sydneycomedyfest.com.au. \$50.90. Apr 30-May 3.

Nazeem Hussain: Hussain That?

Hussain has been a favourite of the Australian stand-up scene for more than a decade, but is now being discovered by the world, with a Netflix special and sell-out seasons globally (including an opening spot for Dave Chapelle in New York). He's not giving away much about this new show, but we're big fans of his politically-charged, tell-it-as-it-is style. ■

→ Enmore Theatre. sydneycomedyfest.com.au. \$30.50-\$35.70. Sat May 2.

Five up and comers

Daniel Sloss has been on the comedy scene almost as long as the Sydney Comedy Festival, so we asked him for his pick of this year's stand-up acts you probably haven't heard of

MICKY BARTLETT (N.IRL): LOVE IT!

"Irish, no gimmicks – just plain funny. He's also great fun to have a pint with, but first and foremost he does an excellent hour of jokes. Definitely go see."

→ Enmore Theatre. May 14-15.

JAMALI MADDIX: STRIP CLUB EINSTEIN

"Jamali's not a newcomer, but newish to Oz. He's well known in the UK from his telly stuff and is basically a great stand-up."

→ Factory Theatre. May 14-17.

↓ CHRIS RYAN: I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE

"I haven't seen her live but I hear nothing but good things so I will be checking her out myself when I'm over. Chris won Best Newcomer in Sydney last year. Worth a look before the success all goes to her head..."

→ Factory Theatre. May 13-17.

FLOYD ALEXANDER-HUNT: THINK FLOYD

"Another of those quirky young comics that Sydney does so well. She plays ukulele, but I'll probably forgive her for that as she has a great opening joke."

→ Factory Theatre. Apr 30-May 3.

BART FREEBAIRN: ACHIEVEMENTS & SPARKLES

"Fucking funny. He's a friend of mine (full disclosure) but really worth checking out. Also I owe him one because he helped me move house – there you go, fucker. Now we're even."

→ Enmore Theatre. Apr 30-May 3.

Find more comedy at
timeout.com/sydney



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YOUR SYDNEY CHEAT SHEET

Ease into autumn with our guide to
Sydney's unmissable events

□ Russell Brand

The UK comedian and controversy magnet brings his new show to the State Theatre.
→ Mar 3-4.

□ All About Women

Gender politics and more are under discussion at the Opera House.
→ Mar 7-8.

□ Alliance Française French Film Festival

A star-studded line-up of Gallic movie greats graces this year's fête of French film.
→ Mar 10-Apr 8.

□ Biennale of Sydney

Indigenous artist Brook Andrew curates the 22nd city-wide expo of local and international art, subtitled 'Nirin'.
→ Mar 14-Jun 8.

□ Dance Nation

Adults play teenage girls in Belvoir's production of Clare Barron's evocative US comedy.
→ Mar 14-Apr 12.

□ Ocean Lovers Festival

Dive into six days of seaside activities for all the family.
→ Mar 17-22.

□ Tim Minchin

We're so ready for this: the super-funny star returns to play songs old and new.
→ Mar 17-21.

□ Sydney Dance Company: Bonachela/Forsythe

Three sublime dance pieces choreographed by William Forsythe and Rafael Bonachela play the Roslyn Packer Theatre.
→ Mar 21-Apr 4.

□ La Traviata on Sydney Harbour

The first Opera Australia production to ever grace the harbour returns complete with that famous giant chandelier.
→ Mar 27-Apr 26.

□ Festival of Dangerous Ideas

Speakers from Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton to Edward Snowden illuminate our dangerous realities.
→ Apr 3-5.

□ No Time to Die

Daniel Craig's 007 swansong parachutes into cinemas in April, with Cary Fukunaga (*Beasts of No Nation*) in the director's chair and Billie Eilish's earwormy themesong to sing along to.
→ From Apr 8.

□ Penn & Teller

The world-famous magicians – one mouthy, one mute – finally perform in Sydney with shows at the Capitol Theatre.
→ Apr 14-21.

□ Merrily We Roll Along

Sondheim's musical tale of compromised lives unfolds in reverse at the Hayes Theatre.
→ Apr 16-May 23.

□ 9 to 5 the Musical

Working girls get their revenge in Dolly Parton's musical version of the hit movie, playing at the Sydney Lyric.
→ Apr 19-Jun 14.

□ Sydney Comedy Festival

The joke's on us as the world's funniest people converge on the city.
→ Apr 20-May 17.

□ Black Widow

Australia's Cate Shortland directs Scarlett Johansson in the latest Marvel Universe epic.
→ From Apr 30.

□ La Femme

Local neo-burlesque stars join forces for a night of va-va-voom at the Vanguard.
→ May 7-8.

□ Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prizes

It's the face that stops a nation. Peruse the portraits (and more) of Australia's most famous art prizes at the AGNSW.
→ May 9-Sep 6.

□ Stormzy

Sydney will be hit by a grime wave as the Croydon rapper returns Oz-side.
→ May 9-10.

□ Backstreet Boys

The biggest boy band ever plays Qudos Bank Arena (because you want it thaaaaat way).
→ May 22-23.



La Traviata on Sydney Harbour



Tim Minchin



Stormzy



All About Women



State Library of Victoria



Stomping Ground



Melbourne for witches and wizards

It's year two for *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*. To celebrate, travel to Melbourne and go on a full-day adventure based on your Hogwarts house: Gryffindor, Slytherin, Hufflepuff or Ravenclaw

Ravenclaw

Ravenclaws love new experiences, so enjoy a full Japanese breakfast or nori and furikake on toast at **Ima Project Café** before embarking on a **Hidden Secrets Tour** of Melbourne's famous back alleys. **Readings = World's. Best. Bookstore.** If that doesn't get your Ravenclaw heart racing, nothing will. Learn about Melbourne's modern and Indigenous history, the natural world, the human body and dinosaurs at **Melbourne Museum**. At **Annam** you can have an express lunch in 45 minutes (Wed-Fri only) to get you well fed and back to your books quicksmart. **State Library of Victoria** is the most Ravenclaw of all of Melbourne's spaces – book a Dome to Catacomb tour. Have a pre-theatre classic pub meal and drink at quirky **Natural History Public Bar**, where you'll find taxidermied animals in glass cases, then head to **Harry Potter and the Cursed Child**. Book a room on one of the upper floors of the **Sofitel** to remind you of lofty Ravenclaw Tower and be refreshed for more learning tomorrow.



Butcher's Diner

Gryffindor

Wake up bright, early and raring to go and head to Melbourne's famous **Degraves Street** for a coffee – you'll need all your bravery to navigate the crowds. Gryffindors will empathise with **KAWS'** triumphant backstory, so go to the NGV International for immersive, kid-friendly **KAWS: Playtime** exhibition, on until April 13. Come for the burgers, but stay for the skewers of offal at **Butcher's Diner**. Yes, offal. Come on – you're brave! Try and find a butterbeer rip-off at Collingwood's **Stomping Ground**, an inner-city brewery. Gryffindors looking for a special little something-something best check out **Block Arcade**, one of Melbourne's most magnificent arcades. Want to show off your courage? Of course you do, you're a Gryffindor... head over to **Rush Escape Game** in South Yarra then brave the queues at **Chin Chin** where you can try dishes spanning South East Asia. **Harry Potter and the Cursed Child** is a magical, immersive production; if you stay at funky boutique hotel **Ovolo Laneways**, you'll be right around the corner from the Princess Theatre.

J.K. ROWLING'S
Harry Potter
AND THE
CURSED CHILD

Welcome back to Hogwarts! Are you ready for year 2?
Get your tickets at: www.harrypottertheplay.com/au/

J.K. ROWLING'S

Harry Potter

AND THE
CURSED CHILD



**WELCOME BACK TO HOGWARTS
ARE YOU READY FOR YEAR TWO?**