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seven

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stories

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Ailki Tsothras Riley Jones Darren Klein

When I started at PCYC in 2014 I was broken. After being a drug addict my entire life I had finally got my shit together enough to land an office job. But then I got made redundant 2 years later and it broke me. I turned back to what I knew best. Drugs and destroying myself.

I had already been volunteering on the MAC program two nights a week and I was lucky that the then manager Sonu gave me a chance to work on reception.

Eventually I studied to be a PT.

It gave me purpose.

I met my soul sister there (actually I took her job because she wasn't showing up to shifts) and as broken humans we rebuilt our lives together.

I lived and breathed PCYC, I ran multiple youth programs from girls group to various different youth fitness classes.

Every week I showed up and so did the kids.

The best times were when the kids came in just to hang out, maybe they had a shit day maybe there were things going on at home. But no matter what we were there.

The stories were heartbreaking but over the years I have been lucky enough to see them flourish. They have become these amazing humans. I'm so proud.

Without PCYC I would have probably kept destroying myself.

I set out to help others but the truth is the community helped me. I am who I am today because of the St Kilda PCYC community.

It's not just a place. It has its own heartbeat.

Stevie



Chloe

I found the St Kilda PCYC in 2014, as a recovering addict. I had been trying to turn my life around but kept slipping as I didn't have a positive community to turn to, only other addicts and criminals.

One of my friends lived in the share house owned by PCYC, that had been purchased with the intention of expanding the PCYC into a youth hub. I used to crash on his couch, and ended up moving in to the spare room out the back.

Within 6 months of living in the house and the support of a community like PCYC, I managed to stay clean and land myself a job on reception thanks to a supportive gym manager, Sonu.

I stayed in this job for 6 years, as I turned my life around, and in turn, ended up with Sonu's job. Working with the youth, I became a role model and supported them in ways I'd wished I'd been supported growing up.

I became Operations Manager in 2017 and turned the share house I had once lived in with other addicts into Youth Accommodation, partnering with the Salvation Army to provide these youth with support services. I started boxing in the PCYC after work and became a contributing member of society.

I left the PCYC to travel in 2020. Since then, I became a professional Muay Thai fighter and opened my own gym with my partner, who I have two beautiful children with. Our gym employs a 24 year old receptionist who was a youth participant that I met and supported back in 2014.

PCYC and its community showed me there was still goodness left in the world, and that I could be a part of that. I credit the PCYC for showing me what I could be, which has given me everything I have today.

Sam Rhook

I run a local youth mentoring service and PCYC has always been an enormous part of the young people's experience whilst engaging with us.

We use the space 3-4 times per week and these guys come to use the facility to train in the gym, build their social skills, stay connected to society and be a part of a real community.

Some of these young people have built the skills to work as employees and volunteers in this place, and have been engaging in life long personal development at PCYC which is directly tied to their mental health and their level of community engagement.

It's a safe place where they feel welcomed and for some of them it is the ONLY place in their lives where they experience this.

The families of these young people are all deeply appreciative of the club, and its closure although can be overlooked - affects the dynamics in these family homes.

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PCYC's closure is having an enormous negative impact on multiple families in the community and the young people now lose this thread of connection to their own development and social expression.

I've seen disengaged young men and women move from multiple years of isolation to thriving connections in the community through PCYC. They were the ones who opened their arms and doors to take on these young people and give them a chance to elevate. Without the centre these young people would still be isolated in their rooms, anxious and fearful of the world.

PCYC's open doors serve as more than just a gym. It's a community space that has created stability and positive encouragement and outcomes for thousands of people.

Abdi

My first experience with PCYC was when they came to the flats where I lived in South Melbourne – I must've been around five years old. I still remember how much I looked forward to their visits each week, especially when they took us to the gym. Those moments became some of my fondest childhood memories.

Through PCYC, I also learned how to rap from Nadav, which was something I really enjoyed and still remember to this day.

The mentorship, guidance, and opportunities I received from the people running those programs helped shape the person I am today. Their support gave me confidence, direction, and a sense of community that's stayed with me ever since.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to share my story and to express how deeply important PCYC has been in my life.

As a child, I was unfortunately quite disadvantaged, as were a lot of the other kids in the community, and often felt like I had nowhere safe to turn. There were times when home life was incredibly hard, but I always knew that at PCYC I would be welcomed with kindness. If things were rough at home, I knew I could go there and be supported, cared for and never made to feel like a burden.

PCYC wasn't just a gym to me. It was a lifeline. It was a place of safety, stability, and belonging when I had very little else. The programs they ran didn't just give me structure and opportunities, they gave me hope! The staff treated me with dignity and encouragement at a time in my life when I needed it most.

Closing down PCYC wouldn't just mean the loss of a gym. It would mean taking away a vital community hub that continues to change lives the way it once changed mine. For kids who are growing up in difficult situations, PCYC is more than a building, it's a safe haven, a place of support, and sometimes the only place they feel seen and cared for.

I can honestly say that PCYC helped shape the person I am today. I urge you to consider the impact this closure will have, not just on individuals like me, but on the wider community who need it now more than ever.

Sincerely,

Sadie Smith



I joined PCYC in 2011 through the youth activities they carried out at the commissioned housing in Prahran. A sense of belonging, purpose and positive energy is what they provided. Through the numerous years I volunteered and worked at their youth gym. This gave me a fresh start to work with the youth, pursue creative journeys, go on adventures to Tasmania, a place to stay and through the help of PCYC secure a scholarship at RMIT which helped me utilise funds to carry me through university. Over the years PCYC has had a positive impact on me. There are too many names to count and I cherish all the kind staff members, mentors and friends I made along the way.

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Carl K.

Nicholas Porter

I worked at PCYC St. Kilda for about 6 years as a youth worker. I now as a teacher (Sport & Recreation, Maths) at a specialist school for students connected to juvenile justice system. The PCYC St. Kilda youth charity gym is a lifeline for my students, who face significant risks, including disengagement from education, involvement in anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, reoffending, mental health issues, serious injury and even preventable early death.

This facility is not just a place to exercise – it is a safe haven, a support system, and a pathway to positive change. Without it, my students will be left without an alternative, placing them and the community at substantial risk.

Facilities and Opportunities:

The gym provides structured, accessible activities that are proven to engage and empower young people:

- Boxing fitness and coaching - instills discipline, focus, and self-control.
- Basketball training and coaching - builds teamwork, communication, and belonging.
- Affordable, accessible gym facilities (weights and cardio) - promote physical health, mental wellbeing, and goal-setting.

Research shows that young people who regularly participate in supervised, coached, structured sport are up to 50% less likely to reoffend, and exercise is linked to significant reductions in anxiety and depression. These facilities are therefore not just recreational – they are preventative interventions with measurable impact.

Location and Accessibility:

The gym's central location makes it uniquely accessible. Having a central, visible, and welcoming space ensures high levels of engagement and consistency. It reduces barriers and keeps young people connected to positive opportunities at critical moments in their lives.

Staff and Culture:

This is truly what makes this centre truly irreplaceable. They are not just employees – they are mentors, role models, and trusted adults. Their approach is:

- Understanding and non-judgmental – meeting young people where they are.
- Relationship-focused – building trust in those who often distrust authority.
- Engaging, caring and consistent – providing stability in lives often marked by instability.

One student described the staff & culture as “the only place that really listen to us, believes in us and even when we stuff up they still accept us back, other joints would not let us in the door to start.” This sense of belonging cannot be replicated elsewhere.

Impact on Students:

The gym currently supports around 40 young people at high risk of:

- Anti-social behaviour and criminal activity.
- Reoffending and reincarceration (costing the taxpayer hundreds of thousands per student per year).
- Drug misuse, declines in mental health and harmful peer influences.
- Serious injury or preventable early death.

By contrast, engagement in this facility leads to:

- Reduced offending and improved community safety.
- Better mental health and reduced substance misuse.
- Improved resilience, self-esteem, and confidence.
- Long-term savings to the justice system, healthcare, and local authorities.

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Cost to the Community:

The economic case for preserving the gym is undeniable. Every disengaged young person places a heavy financial burden on the justice system, health services, and wider

society. Preventative services like this gym save money while saving lives. The closure or sale of this centre would not only displace my current and future students but also significantly increase risks and costs for the community at large.

Conclusion

The PCYC youth charity gym is useful, helpful, essential, necessary, and incredible. It is more than a fitness facility: it is a community hub, a support network, and a proven pathway away from crime and harm.

If the centre is lost, the consequences will be severe – disengagement, disadvantage, and displacement for vulnerable young people, alongside enormous costs to society.

Recommendation: This facility must be safeguarded and supported. Its staff, culture, and central location make it irreplaceable. Preserving it is not only the right thing to do for these young people, but also the smartest investment for the wider community.

“Every effort should be made to preserve this facility, safeguard its enormous culture, and continue its work focusing on youth, caring, supporting, engaging and empowering young people to make positive choices and build brighter futures.”

Tahlia

Hi, my name is Tahlia, and I'm proud to say that I was part of the PCYC youth programs for many years. Those programs—and more importantly, the people behind them—helped shape me into the person I am today.

I grew up in housing, surrounded by challenges and not always the most positive influences. My home life wasn't easy, and my mental health really took a hit, especially during my high school years. But PCYC became a safe space—a constant in a life that often felt uncertain. I wasn't just another kid attending a program. I was seen, supported, and valued.

PCYC gave me something I never knew I needed: a second family. Even after I stopped attending the programs regularly, I stayed connected. The people there became more than staff—they became mentors, friends, and role models. They're the kind of people I want my son to grow up around.

One memory I'll never forget is when I reached out to one of the workers—who is now a close friend—to help plan a surprise birthday celebration for my younger brother. He wasn't very social and didn't open up easily, but that birthday? It was one of the happiest, most confident days I ever saw him have. That ended up being his last birthday earthside, and I will forever be grateful to PCYC for helping make it such a beautiful memory.

PCYC is more than just programs and events. In today's world—where young people are struggling with identity, mental health, crime, and the pressures of social media—places like PCYC are more important than ever. Kids are



being moved from their homes and communities due to housing rebuilds, leaving them disconnected and isolated. PCYC has the power to keep them grounded. It keeps friendships alive. It gives youth something to belong to.

I'm now 23 years old, with an almost 2-year-old son. If you had asked me years ago if I thought I'd be a mum, or if I'd graduate high school, or even go on to study further—I would've said no. But PCYC helped shift that mindset. The people I met there made me believe I could dream bigger, aim higher, and become more.

Today, I'm studying for my Certificate IV in Youth Work because I want to give back. I want to be the kind of person for someone else that PCYC was for me.

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PCYC is not just a gym. It's not just a youth centre. It's a life-changing community—and for so many young people, it's the difference between surviving and truly thriving.

The next generation needs PCYC. We all do.

Thank you.

Rhys Hibberd

Years ago I got myself into legal trouble. I was lucky enough to be able to do my community service at stkilda PCYC.

Coming in on my first day I was nervous and a bit embarrassed. It wasn't long before I felt the complete opposite.

They trusted me to maintain and establish gardens in the house they own next door and also do odd jobs like mop the floor of the gym.

This experience gave me a sense of community that I hadn't felt in a long time prior to my legal troubles. I was welcomed and greeted every morning and treated with respect and as an equal the whole time I was there, not like some guy that was doing 'community service'.

I think my whole experience at pcyc at such a vulnerable stage of my life has played a role in my ongoing positive personal trajectory.

Hey my name is Harry I'm 20 years old when I was 16 to 18 I used to be very isolated and had difficulty leaving the house and being in social situations. I was 18 when I came to PCYC for the first time, I remember the first day I came in and I was greeted by Donny who was really friendly and made me feel like I belonged. Over the years everyone has always been super friendly and it's a super nice community it's helped me build up confidence to do things that I never thought I'd be able to do again like go back to school, find a job and make friends this place has basically changed my life and it would be really sad to see it go.

Harry

Annie

Hey I am Annie, 53 years young.. and a pies supporter ..no judgement please on my footy team

PCYC gym to me is a community service for all ages it helped me get back into the "gym" routine after that Covid-19 period, finding a gym to me that supports your health and lifestyle is so important and to find such a welcoming environment was the highlight of my week...and weekends

I remember coming back from a shoulder injury thinking ...I cant do this ... the amazing trainer Tiff soon changed that ... sat stretch were my favourite..where many tales were told ...

This venue made me smile everytime I went in everyone had a story to tell why they were there

And the best thing if you missed a classes friends checked in

I have made some wonderful connections here and in a hard last few years tiffs classes always left me with a smile 😊



The diversity of youth support, the coffee chats and paper to read ..to master classes and parkinsons boxing 🥊 is a life changing culture that needs to stay!

I am sad it has come to this but believe in faith it will be saved !

PCYC and what it means to me.

In 2013 me and my 4 children moved to Port Melbourne from the western suburbs and I was at a loss with what to do with my kids. And through my local Aboriginal health service they put my kids onto a kick boxing with Jason and that was where it's all began. My kids started going every Thursday and then going to MAC program. My son Semi developed his love for music even more through the music program and was there every time it was on. My son Russell went to Tassie and that was his first ever big trip away from family and it was amazing and humble for him. Through the gym I was also support by the amazing staff when I was going through my own struggles. PCYC helps so many kids yes but also helps so many families thrive. We need to keep the doors open. There are so many kids when I would be there who just need to come in just for a yarn or just a safe place to drop in. If this place is not there where else will they go?

Sasha Edwards

Why PCYC Matters to Me

Layla

PCYC saved my life.

When I was younger, it was where I went after school, following in the footsteps of my older brother who was involved in their programs. Back then, it was just a place I loved spending time – a safe space where I felt like I belonged.

Years later, when life had broken me down, I found myself in the darkest place I had ever been. I was lost, struggling, and unsure if I was going to make it out alive. One day, without even planning it, I walked past PCYC and something in me told me to go inside. That small choice changed everything.

PCYC didn't just open their doors to me – they gave me a reason to keep going. They offered me a job, responsibilities, and most importantly, a sense of worth. They reminded me that I had something to give, that my life still had meaning. That spark of hope gave me the will to live.

But their support went even deeper. I was a victim of domestic violence, with nowhere safe to go. I had no home, no security, and nowhere to turn with my dog by my side. Once again, PCYC stepped in. They helped me find a room in a share house. They gave me safety, stability, and the independence I needed to start again. From there, I was able to build a new life – and eventually, a home of my own.

PCYC isn't just a building. It isn't just a program. It's a lifeline. It's a place where brokenness can be healed, where people who feel invisible are seen, and where lives – like mine – are saved.

Working at PCYC has been just as meaningful as receiving their support. I saw young people grow, find hope, and discover their own strength. And I feel proud, knowing I got to be part of the same cycle of support that once carried me when I couldn't carry myself.

PCYC gave me safety, purpose, and hope when I had nothing. It gave me my life back. That's why keeping it open matters – not just for me, but for every person who will walk through those doors needing the same second chance I was given.





Nadav

My name is Nadav Zisin and my life has been deeply shaped by the St Kilda PCYC.

I first attended the club at the age of 12, and for me and many friends growing up in the area, it was the difference between finding a safe and positive space or being drawn into less safe environments. At PCYC, we found positive role models, support and opportunities that set us on the right path.

The PCYC was not just a place to go, it was a safe haven. From blue light discos to youth programs, it gave us a sense of belonging. My journey grew from participant to volunteer and later I became a youth worker, Youth Programs Manager and eventually Assistant Manager of the Club. Alongside a dedicated team, we supported thousands of young people through outreach programs across Melbourne, including the Mobile Activity Centre, KickStart, Koori Boot Camp and the St Kilda Amateur Boxing Club among others.

These programs changed lives. They inspired countless young people, including myself, to build careers in community development and services. The PCYC represents decades of community building, cultural connection and youth empowerment.

The idea of closing this club is devastating. The St Kilda PCYC is not just a gym, it is an irreplaceable part of our community's fabric. To lose it would be unthinkable. This club belongs to the community. It has shaped generations, and it must continue to do so for generations to come.

David Palmer Benjie Egay sue nikora Anber Yeah Paul Berimano Gene Ellam Robbie hendry Luke Kortez Carter Lawrance Amanda Cleveland Peter Laver Milo Abeyratne Boyd Hudson Meagan Roudq Ka-Vin Kwok Cam Dash Bree Johnson Marek Krol Elaini Blitsas Zoe Eyles Kimberly W George Antoniou Karen Jackson Shanassy Reeve Stephanie Brazzale Brett Hill Vickie King Elly Bengen Brogan Smith Joanna Miovovic Jill McLeod Cherie Mackinnen Jim Morriss Shane Hicks Kimberly Mortensen James Williams Michelle Scott Marchals Walsh Jill Golland Diara Cosgrave Simona Fione Angel Chatfield Amy Curllis MaryJeanne Watt Te-Ru Apiti Adele Gordon Annabelle Fidelia Iliya zolotarev Dale Marsh Lisa Logan Mark Visser Chris Lane Koko Korendyk Leon Mills Emmaleene Triebel Kathy Ryan Lauren Richards Tony Dowling Jergen Seitz Kim Vega Krystle Northover serena carmel Lauren Benci Denzel Peter Connor Doody Earle Desmond Liz Brown Megan Patience Maggie Hayews Alex Crooke Izabella Mamort maraea Apiti-Civciv Daniela Di Lullo Helen Williams Stuart Swann Bianca Lidano denise honan Jade Irving Marlon MacQueen Mia Law Brigitte Harvey Evelyn Gibbons Elisavet Iliia Felix Finney Jayanna La Bozzetta Frans willem van Hulten Nicole Rodriguez Delia Bradshaw Vinay Lim Jill Wheeler Ryan Clarke Elliot Norman Lilly Vassallo Catherine Wilson Esha Kumar Mark Campbell Anthea Risakas Will Taylor Ange Jamieson Victoria Hartcup Irena Sosinska Monique Chester Mirek Grabacki Kate Walmsley Andrew van Hulten Carmel Barker Belinda Galloway John Wheeler Michelle Ferguson Elisabeth Gottlieb Jadwiga Ale Penelope Davis Clare Brophy Pamela Funnell Leo John Walshe Armando Mena Romyne Holmes Jane Edwards Nicholas Iliia Jane Kneebone Jennifer Hughes Ronen-Martin Cohen Emilio Tissera Janet Clancy Orellana Wally Zylberberg Leo Mousinho Sara Felici Vicente Manterola Paul Leyland Marvin Holz Anusika Chandrasegaran Daryl Kennedy Annie Holmes Ruth Johnston Michelle Parkinson Rhiannon Sammons Revere Beynon Kate Lee Rob Loft Belynda-Jane Hemmling Lorel Johnston Sarah Hankinson Charles Brain Vivien Johnston Minae Nemoto Jana Eckert Noah Moya Max McGrath Nils Nordmann Priya Prasad Matthew Walsh Leo Bakhoehe Gail Foreman Ann Monaghan Jolin wang Pamela Loosmore WALTER ROSO Chris McClatchie Stacy Alley Alesha Hamlin Michael Mccombe Michael Lias Keerthi K Breezy Lewis Marli Ollerton Breanna Wilson Eilish McDonough Paul McDonough Alex Ghvaladze Cassandra Fing Bryce Walls Brenda Walsh Audrey Mims Venkata Nalluri Lucy Hawkins Kelsey Wilson Nathan Burns Fabio Da Silva Craig Hankin Michelle Guiney Louise Hird Stefan Aspiradits Ryder Keays Tara Jones Jayden Hill Leon Fairfield Lin Rotherham Kim Platzer Quang Dao Claire Birtles Jodie Ofield Margot McCartney Troy Earle Jaz Bradley Stephen Liddicut Tim Rand Graeme Warring Warren Middleton George Dellas Ranvir Gardner Michelle Wall Derek Ford Anastasia Auld anne boyd Dolly Leuzzi Wil Tucker Elizabeth Chatham Craig Taylor Perry Gx Felix Biviano Heike Weiss Michael Donaldson Walter Robles Tamara S Mark Tuohety Ha-Dieu Ford Maddie Chia Jonathan Dugec Evie English Julia Symons Shar Hughes Cassie Johnstone Tyreece Kaushik Anna Lindars Paul Haskin Natalie Sainsbury A.D. L Geoffrey Edwards Ashleigh Nichols Dara Conduit Jeanette Ravat Antonio Sanciolo Jesse Simonds Sheila Conduit David Trinh Prachi Kumar Tamara Hynam Jonathan Eytan Louise How Daniel How Zoe Stock Toni Grant Jess Wheeler Sam Barber Jackson Grant Melissa Noonan charlene nelson Natalie Little Oscar Hetherington Taj T Marina Ballias Robyn Szechtmian Ann Sanciolo Erin Brown Thomas Kuta Elizabeth Crowe Chris U Gav McKenzie Peter N Kimberley Petterson Nadunika Keerthisinghe Jenny Hedley Leonie Lee Jason Yeon Rohan de Korte Ian Peak Fin Hall Megan Stuart Jason D/Rosario Patrick McDonough Kasia Putkowska Allison Sayer-Jones Adelina Martino Rae Briggs Leon Gurning Henry Wings Rose Angi Jason Thompson simon sheedy Jennifer Tan Naomi Kay Daniel Wright Stephanie Kitchen Sylvia Kay Meaghan Mulvany Renee Rizio Felicity Keir Lisa Luscombe Donna Allenby Michelle Windsor Andrew Foster Ash Rimmer Jodie Gregson Moustapha Ayache Elizabeth Charles Raymond Luscombe Pat FIELD Kate Berridge Joga Singh Gabi Smalley Chris Smith Michael Williams Philip Meyer Malcolm Kay Harley berridge Sidney Lane Natalie Park Ella Wilson Joe Joe b Elbio Carlos Baldovino Catherine Wyllks Jethro Berridge Carrie Simms Melinda Kerr Caspian Romundt K Smith Michael Kerr Lachlan Rhind Jayden Perry Bianca Greenree Stephen Kirby Matthew Santa Stephanie Tanousis Misha Lukas Vlad Kucherenko James Shanahan Stephen Fox Stephen Collins Kshitij Shukla Helen Millard Oleg Pogreb Chloee Eglezos Ondra Benvenga Sheldon Brown SallyAnn Spencer Mikaela Jeffreans Alecs D/Orazio D/Orazio Maddie hunt Mark Degan Tavlia Trewin Linda DAmico Louise D/Amico Monica Biasio Ricky Nguyen Mataeo M Ibbv Ammari Joel D/Amico Amy Berridge naseem babawy zoe brereton Morgan Gilbert Hugo Radovanovic Terence Craig Geoffrey McDonald Mo Caz Aaron Hill Jye Brown Paul Smith Leon Burchner Mije Wells David Williams Fiona McIntyre Glenn Nelson Ciara B Dario Vodopivec Jenni Roper Andrew Ewington Taylor B Michael Gilbert Dubravka Tomasevic Victoria Gray courtney scanlan Bart Moya Michael West Amanda Vocal Belinda Ousley Dylan Allen Marika Stewart Kate Saunders Kristina Blatt Nick Leong Katie duBois Erin Dicker Jeannie Western Massimo Mandarino Fon Deevaia Elisa Casagrande Aaron Pryor Ashleigh McCully Peter Gourlay Matthew Ryan Darren Crean Amanda Fussell Mitchell Tanner Zoe Baranowski Fallon Downing Shellie Melrose Joanne Burgess Celeste Bruce Sergio Sieres Meg Guthrie Jinn Chong Harry KarunaJeeva Peter Stone Bridget Sowersby Kathryn Crissman Chris Odgers Lisa Abbott Lee Rhoden Michael Poultin Shoshi Rimler Tahlia McDonald Keith Odenberg Jane Bakos Diane Spartels Angus Stirling Silvio Marinelli Marieke Vaughan Hurley Lawson Sandra Ambrozic Troy Auld Juliett Genshi Bianca Sullivan Stuart Gibson Judy Williams Fred Sharp Simon Lovegrove Philip Seymour Sally Gibson Cherie Carmody Marina Payne Jaffa Hargrove Chris Sargood Jessica Addley Freeman Dobra Megan Robinson James Milton Jan Boulton Leah Lloyd-Smith Rod Freame cate howlett Brittini Akom Niamh Jordan Melinda Lollipop Amanda Craik Lorraine Berger Lucie Austen Hazel J Costello Maureen Urch Sam Threlfall sarah Bunnell bibi WONG Colin Sheppard Sarah Keens Kate Dalton Gloria Munitz Regia Regina Justin McIntosh Rachel James Tamsin O'Neill Aiya Elnazi Deborah Walker Joshua Woollan J Foo Richard Keenan Laura Clifford Eva Arundel Priscilla Rodrigues Rosa David Saunders Sol Saunders Jason Miller gaila saunders Mark O'Connor Monica Cassidy Robyn Denton Sharath Pasala Maximilian Meschers claire havens James McLean

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THE RESPECTIVE AUTHORS

Thank you too to the just over 1,000 people (as at around 8pm on Friday 26 September) who have signed the <http://change.org/savestkildapcycpetition>. If you squint, you might see your name. If you haven't signed it yet, go and do it now.

save st kilda pcyc

Plenty has been said in the past three weeks about the decision by the St Kilda PCYC board to sell the building at 179 Inkerman Street St Kilda. More is still to be said as members of the independent Association that is St Kilda PCYC Inc. rally to hold the board to account and preserve the core values of love, support and family that have carried the organisation for almost 80 years. If those values had a physical form, they would appear as the buildings at 175 and 179 Inkerman St. In the words of Stevie: the heartbeat is strong. That's why we fight.

Something that I think has been overlooked in the past few weeks has been the profound and sustained impact that St Kilda PCYC has had on so many people. It's not the sort of impact that you'll find in made up numbers in a grant acquittal. In fact, you might not notice it at all until you're invited to hear it. I think I can speak for everyone in the small WhatsApp group who were invited to read personal stories about 179 Inkerman that we are both humbled by your lived experience and grateful to local organisations like St Kilda PCYC that were there when you needed them. Thank you for sharing. And thank you for being here. We are so much richer for it.

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