

20240512 ootp

Thanks for downloading a 3cr podcast. 3cr is an independent Community radio station based in Melbourne, Australia. We need your financial support to keep going go to www.3cr.org.au for more information and to donate online now stay tuned for your 3. CR podcasts.

Panoply panorama panpipe pansy aha pansexual: knowing no boundaries of sex or gender, sound interesting? Then join Sally on Sundays at noon for out of the pan. All those gender questions making you think too hard? Whether it's transgender bisexual polyamorous or beyond will throw those questions into the pan and cook up the answers for you. So go on push that gender envelope. Only on 3 CR 855 am digital and 3 CR dot org dot au.

3cr 855AM, 3 cr.org au3 on demand out of the pan with Sally first broadcasting noon through 1 every Sunday afternoon. Thanks for your company.

3 CR broadcasts from the lands of the Kulin Nations at the overlap of the Wurundjeri and Bunnerong peoples and we pay respect to Elders past present and emerging hello to any Aboriginal tourist Strait Islander First Nations people tuning in from wherever you are on this planet and we acknowledge that all the lands were stolen and never ceded always was always will be Aboriginal land.

I'm Sally Goldner. I'm your host for the hour good to be back with you after last week's special Mayday broadcast. And uh, I use the pronouns she and her and we opened with King Missile and detachable penis, um, because there really was no other choice to open a show talking about a book with my guest who I'll introduce in a second Sam Elkin, um, but if you want to get in touch with the show because there's plenty to discuss today. There's lots of ways to do it out of the pan 8555 at gmail.com SMS 61 456 751215 your operator is waiting for your our operator is waiting for your call. And that's me. you can tweet Mastadon blue sky and Instagram at Salgoldsaidso and that's the bottom line and look for posts on Facebook my page Sally Goldner am and out of the pan 3 CR 855 mm Melbourne and remember any opinions. I express on the show are strictly my own not those of any organization with which I am or have been Associated. Uh, you can snail mail in as well PO Box 1277 Collingwood 3066

and want to thank the crew from out of the blue diving deep for the Marine news as they do every Sunday morning from 11:30 till noon talking about how we can restock our red fin and that's a very important thing a great show full of marine news and every Sunday morning.

Uh, there may be some general content notes today particularly lateral hostility and mental health. Um, so we will just give those I will give the numbers now for Q life including switchboard in Victoria and Tasmania 1 800 184527 and rainbow door 1800 729367, but only mentions not detailed descriptions.

So we opened up with King Missile and detachable penis because as I said, it was the absolute Natural Choice for um, the uh topic of our interview today, which is the book detachable penis a queer legal Saga by Sam Elken Sam great to have you in the 3185 we dive in when it happens. So queer is on from Wednesday 1:00 p.m. To 2:00 p.m. And it's really a um lgbti QA plus arts and current affairs show that goes for an hour every week with um, me and my co-host Hamish McLaughlin and Jimmy cafearella cool. Um, so yes, very a very very welcome thing. I think we we still need Grassroots.

Queer media of All Sorts. Um, so I'd be kind to Lance TV bent TV. Um, and um also to Joy and um also to um queer presenters on any Community station no matter what you're presenting but um, you are here to talk about you've done an amazing thing. Thanks to um, The Fabulous people with the help. I should say of of upswell publishing you've written a book as you do. Um what let's start with the the dive into the hardest question first. What on Earth made you want to write a book. Well, I've always been really interested in creative writing Sally. I started um, a fine art degree at Curtin in a very long time ago in the early 2000s and I did 1 creative writing subject during that degree and I really loved it. And um, I don't think I created anything, uh, particularly inspiring but um, the a tutor gave me some good feedback. So from there like I'd always been sort of wanting to write so I definitely did.

A lot of blogs in that early notes, um while I was traveling and stuff like that and yeah always use journaling as a way of processing my day. So, you know very much been a long time diary writer and um, yeah this book I guess is sort of come out of that process of trying to um reflect on my experiences and write down things that I thought were funny throughout the day. So yeah when the pandemic hit I had a lot of material, um to work on and this had been a you know, incredibly tumultuous couple of years that I'd um been transitioning while working at the lgbtq legal service and I felt like wow there's so much in that. Um, maybe it's time to unpack it.

Yeah, well, um you that's certainly a you know, a major major topic of the book. If not almost the central Focus. Um 1 of 2, you know, 1 is your um affirmation of gender transition and the other is um, you know, sort of the lgbtiq plus legal service and um, you know, there's so I'm I'm not really sure it's of which 1 do we dive into first? I mean let I mean you you take it which 1 would you would you would you know pick a flip a coin? Oh, we don't like binary. Let's talk about trans stuff first. Shall we? Yeah. Yeah. Um, so yeah, I mean your own personal journey. I mean, I I still don't think we can get enough of these stories actually, um, you know, sort of, you know, tell us what you want to share about, you know, the trans your trans Journey, um, you know from as much as you want from wherever you want to start really yeah. Well when I was considering writing about this experience, really my experience in transitioning and my

Experience of work went completely hand in hand. So it didn't feel like I could write this book without writing about both things at the same time. Um, so basically I started on taking testosterone. Um, I think a week before this book starts. Um, so yeah, I've been on it for 1 week when I start my first day at the lgbtiq legal service and over the course of the book. Um,

Yeah, I go through um, you know hormonal changes related to my voice for example, so there's um a chapter where I'm at. Um the trobe uni, cuz I have a transgender Speech Pathology Clinic there. Uh, I talk about the experience of um going to counseling with an lgbtiq A plus um affirming, uh counselor who takes me through, uh, a lot of the uh gender affirming Journey type stuff, um to work out what I what I wanted to do and also to get my letter for surgery, um, cuz you need to get this we're at that time you needed to get a letter for surgery. Um, and yeah, it goes through um, quite explicitly my um experiences of having chest surgery, um down in um cfield way. Uh, and yeah the experience of kind of increasingly passing as a male, um, after a period of you know, having a very, uh, G gender, um, non-conforming and androgynous gender presentation,

For some time. So yeah, I sort of come out at the end of the book where um, I'm still uh, read a kind of and androgynous I suppose but tending more to the masculine. So it's sort of going through the experiences of socially having to change the way that you do things and work out how to relate to the world now that they're treating you differently. Yeah, if you're up for it, I I I'll always say that um, would you like to drill down another level on that? Um relating differently

new experience is how how you read all that sort of thing? Yeah. Well, um probably important to say for the outset that I'm a white settler. So my experience of gender is very much, uh particular to my um, privileged position in the colony as a white person. So um, yeah, I went from being read as a kind of gender non-conforming Butch lesbian type person, um who, you know would fit in really well on the streets of

Brunswick and Collingwood, but not so much in out of Suburbia. Let's say um to yeah presenting as a fairly, typical looking white guy um living in um, Melbourne still but yeah finding the experiences of everyday life like the red carpet was being rolled out for me. Um, all of those kind of microaggressions and weird put Downs that you kind of feel like maybe you're experiencing when you're coded as a female or 1 that is not uh, even doing the job. Well of being a female, uh, yes suddenly disappeared and the world honestly is just been a much nicer place for me to exist in but you know with that knowledge comes, uh, you know, a great sense of kind of rage and frustration that um, you know, life's not like that for everybody.

Very very very true down. Um, no, it is something that I think gets missed that through no intention of their own that um trans men do FAA, you know experienced some of these things as you to use your words get red red carpet rolled out which you know is a very, um, you know, it's you know, I suppose how I'm trying to find the right words here. I mean, you know, it's sort of it's not something you'd expect. Um, it's you know, and um, yeah, there's still that empathy for women non-binary people trans that um, they're not getting that red carpet. Yeah. Yeah, definitely and you know, it is a sort of conditional privilege because you know, like I go into in the book when you go to an airport for example and have to go through the full body scanner then you know, the gender reveal kind of happens and you know, certainly as I'm you know, planning on going on tour with this book, um, and you know going to Sydney and Brisbane and the NT which is really exciting, you know, I'm thinking about the fact of like, wow, I'm going to have to go through that. You know what I find quite a traumatic experience over and over again. So it's a strange, um experience of you know, everyday life is um, you know, generally very good, but then you have these moments of difficulty, you know when your body is on display whether that be in a health care setting or you know in somewhere like um an airport

Yeah, look look very very true. I mean I just find I'm sorry to say I have to say it. I find airport security staff of All Sorts to be a constant bug bear. Um, and this has been the case over time. I've been you know, misgendered and done the polite thing and say look, I identify as a woman, please use she and her pronouns and oh, sorry about that and then I walked off and I've heard security people just out out laughing behind my back, um, you know, constant misgendering all that sort of thing, um, you know, sort of it doesn't make um,

You know as much as 1 might say oh the privilege of traveling on a plane, um, it's you know, everyone has a right to travel through an airport securely and the thing that gets me is I've tried all sorts of angles. I've tried talking to unions airport management all sorts of people Pride groups at airports and I yes, this is this is a problem and then nothing ever happens.

Yeah, it's uh to think of the scale of the kind of training that you would need to do with that Workforce across the whole country. Let alone the whole planet is um a lot to think about and yeah, it's interesting. I was recently reading, um Earnest prices fiction debut the Pyramid of needs. Um, he's another trans guy who's a debut author and he's got a scene in his book that's all about um, you know, the the stress and angst of going through an airport security, um at Melbourne Airport, so I was just like wow that was yeah a while to see that. Um, you know, we have very similar scenes kind of in our true books, but we weren't comparing notes or anything. Well, look, I mean obvious, you know, there's going to be some similarities between we'll say

transmasc experience non-binary experience trans women experience and then we'll say across the whole transgender diverse non-binary kaleidoscope. And you know, I think that um, when we the more we get those conclusions out there, um quoting a Billy Joel song in giving my

Why some are Highland Falls for all our um Mutual experience our separate conclusions are the same. Um, karaoke after the show not on the air anymore. Um, and I think that the thing is though the seriously the more people say these things I think the more it gets it gets it across and so I think we do need to you know, say these things and then you know, the universe connects and people might start working on it together and all that sort of thing. Yeah. Yeah for sure. I mean, you know, as you know, Sally I've worked in lgbtqa plus law reform and done inclusive practice training and things like that and I guess increasingly. I feel like the stuff that I'm drawn to doing as a form of advocacy is storytelling because I feel like when you tell a story whether that's through, you know film television and books radio, I feel like you know, there's a way to sort of connect with people emotionally that has um, sometimes a greater impact than doing, um, the law reform stuff. I mean we need that too. But yeah, I think that storytelling is super important.

Yeah, look. Well, I'll totally agree with that as um, I've got to start heading into Idaho but week I'll be sharing my story a bit here and there as well. So that's um, thank you for that. Um you um, you've given the host something there. Um, we've had a message in from 1 of our awesome listeners because um, as always 3cr and all its programs don't have regular listeners. We have awesome ones as do all of community radio. Um, and um Kayleen has come in and said hello to Sam and I've just bought a copy. There you go selling like hot cakes as they say and also Kayleen sadly says I gave up using air travel years ago. Oh, wow. Yeah. Yep. I can I can hear yeah. I'm catching the train from Sydney to um Wonga in a couple of weeks to experience trying to use train travel more instead of airport travels. We'll see how that goes. But obviously, you know here in this very vast country. It's difficult to rely on trains to get around.

Very very true including our vast Suburban networks. Um, um, and that are spread out and all that sort of thing. So yeah, there's a lot that you cover in there about the personal Journey, you know changing voice, um, and all sorts of things. Um, which I think is important. And again, we need new stories. We need them updated. I think they're all still valid. But um, you know my story of growing up say for example in a time when there was no internet will be different to what say a trans person who's now who was born, you know, say 2000 35 years after me, um, we'll go through as they have gone through internet and social media and its ups and downs and in between so yeah the more stories we have the better and I think it's very very important that you weave that in. Um, let's go to the the other um as much as we don't like binaries too much, um this other side of the coin and that is your stories which are a times Well challenging and heart rate.

And frustrating and yet empowering all at the same time of your involvement in the lgbtiq plus legal service and what I'll call in my words not not yours. Advocacy more broadly what let's go to the underlying thought. I'm going to go to the underlying thought what compelled you to want to put some of those stories down, um and get them out there.

I guess the thing that drove me to write this book more than anything is that you know, I started in what I thought was my dream job as a lgbtiq Outreach lawyer and then it ended up being a total nightmare and I was like, how did that happen? You know like this should be good Community should be good for me. Right and be in the community should be good and it didn't feel good. And I was trying to work out, you know, what exactly had happened along the way and you know, what choices had I made to create a situation that I was unhappy in. Um, and

what choices you know, I didn't have like what were just structural issues that existed in the um, sort of the lgbt QA plus not for profit industrial complex if you will, um, because they, you know, there is a lot of tension between organizations and it's often kind of amusing like, you know, there is a lot of humor in that which I did try and kind of lean into in the book. Um, so yeah, it's not all just to kind of

Mitigated sob story but I did try and find the humor in, you know, organizations fighting for funding and you know, really fighting for scraps of funding, um with the government and how that sort of impacts on people and the way that people kind of like boss each other around and position each other as you know, not important as them or whatever so

Yeah, I wanted to kind of I I suppose paying a portrait of what life in that space is like and I guess I want people to reflect on you know these organizations and how we can make them better because you know, they're meant to be serving us but we're also part of the community. So if you know the people that are working in them, um are having a really bad experience and I think those organizations need to think about why

Yeah, very very true. Look, um, we are getting into to some some area and I will just give a Content General content note here. We're getting into the topic of there's 2 levels to this of lateral hostility both we'll say at the organization as you call it, you know industrial complex level, but we're also there is issues in the individual level but sticking to the industrial complex stuff for a minute. Um, you know, we know there's a problem and I've spoken about this, um, as we head to 19 and a bit years of this show many times on this show. It's a it's a sad statement that some of the in according to the podcast stats I have which are the best indicator that the the this topic does get very high listenership and that's a sad thing, but

We talked about it and talked about it and nothing seems to change. Um, which I think is the first question. Why does this keep getting buried or how or what? Um, why questions can be tricky. How do we get this out there? Because I was approached. I think it was late last year, um that there was some state government of um interest in this some consultancy will be and that's my word but they wouldn't publish the report. What's the point in retraumatization?

Flip those on damaged enough as it is, um half serious half joking, um that um, yeah, we you know, we bury the report. Um, so I mean there's a lot in I've just thrown out at you but um dive in you know, if you feel safe to swim dive in um, yeah, it is in interesting thing that uh, you know, I'm a volunteer or use the services of so many different lgbtiq plus organizations and I think it's fair to say that every single 1 of them that I've you know interacted with in some way does have some cultural issues.

Let's say like there's conflict and you know conflict is necessary in some situations and it's inevitable in you know, any form of human culture, but the way that we kind of deal with it is uh immensely variable and I have noticed that you know, I also volunteer, um for a radio station, you know, I'm volunteering for Triple R at the moment. And yeah, the cultural issues do seem very different like there doesn't seem to be the same level of conflict in lateral violence in that non-lgbt space that I'm in and obviously that's just 1 example. But um, I do feel that there's an issue with us kind of like perpetually kind of re-traumatizing each other, um, by the ways that we care or fail to care for each other in these spaces and you know, I think there's there's so much that you could unpack, you know, there's the scarcity of funding which leads to kind of like infighting between organizations. Um, there's the fact that projects are often, you know, if they are funded they're funded by the government, you know in small grants on a sort of

Like 12 month pilot project, you know, there's constantly these pilot projects running and that creates sort of unrealistic expectations and it makes it difficult to you know, quit things and meet. Um, you know, what is often like a long-term social change project?

I think that there's also you know, not necessarily the same expectations of a good kind of workplace culture in some of these places. Um, you know, I think that as volunteer sort of, you know, tiny activist groups sort of become I guess organizations that employ staff then there's different questions of well. Like how is this meant to run? You know, like I think there's some teething issues there. So yeah so many questions not many answers from me. Yeah. It's it's a big topic and I think you know, look, um personally 1 of my issues is that we bring in corporate toxic masculinity structures into places that need more Community. I'm not against hierarchy per se I'm going to misuse of power and misuse of hierarchy and I think you've got to have some I I know some people will argue for flat structures and that sort of thing.

Um, but when we bring in that same toxic masculinity that traumatized us and re-traumatized/ilzes and at times, you know, I agree with you on the government stuff and the bureaucracy that don't look at their own privilege against the community sector particularly the more underfunded parts and at times, you know in my not so much in the queer communities, but I remember just thinking at times that even some of the bigger not for profits, you know don't seem to understand that smaller not for profits aren't as well resourced. I remember um 1 day that um, I got an an email from Able say a large not for-profit about renewing their membership and the next day I get someone why haven't you paid it? It's like I'm only doing the accounting for this not small not for profit once every 2 weeks, you know, give me a break and there's this lack of realization or insurance companies that say, well, you're only in once a week. It makes us hard to deal with you when we're trying to do the insurance renewal or something. So I think there's a lot of that as well that there there is this lack of resourcing, um, definitely there and then you add in the fact that you know vast majority of queer communities are traumatized and then we've got all the layers

So there's a lot to unpack in there. Um, but you also talk about some of the difficulties that I'll say queer individuals face and the lateral hostility involved in that which is another level. Um, again, geez my phrase of the day drill into that a bit more.

Yeah, well, it's something that I've spoken a bit about with other, um queer and trans authors, uh, when releasing books that the funny like not funny. Haha, but funny sad I suppose a reality is that when we put out books or other forms of you know, creative practice. The thing that we're most worried about worry about is not like blowback from cisgender audiences, but from the trans Community, um, I don't know if we have a very good track record of supporting each other and um, I think that you know, it's hard to say whether that sort of Dove tales with like tall poppy syndrome, which is considered to be a sort of Australian phenomenon is in and of itself or whether um, you know, there's something to do with traumatized people, um, you know, struggling to kind of enjoy and appreciate the successes of others. I don't know what it is, but I think that it's something that I've been trying to you know model, um, and be a real supporter of other trans people when they, you know, put something out whether it be a book.

Or you know a film or whatever the the killer Film Festival which I love and then your volunteers are part of you know, like I want to sort of spend my energy uplifting, um other trans and gender diverse people and other queer gender non-conforming people to kind of say like this is how we should look after each other in community and um, you know, certainly not saying I'm perfect but I think if we can all you know, try and model kind of like best practice in that space, maybe we can uh, get a better happier, um, more functional transgender versus Community, I think so

so it's in you know, this, um, look totally agree on that, um, you know, and it's incumbent on us all to try as hard as we can acknowledging different levels of privilege to keep growing ourselves and um working through it and match our values to our behaviors as much as possible. I'm talking with Sam Elken who is the author of detachable penis a queer legal Saga. Um, you know, Sam, you know, we get right down to the

Um the Grassroots of You know things you some of the stories you talk about the people who come into your office and needing help crying all that sort of thing. I mean, you know, it's just um,

And they're feeling very you know helpless abandoned all that sort of thing. It's just um, and I'm sure there's all sorts of people doing that but we know that you know, the, you know, the systemic structures that you talked about, you know for Trans people and queer people, you know, marginalized more and more. Um, you know, what's I'm going to ask you a question then, you know, not so much drill into those experiences, but you know, what sort of self-care techniques did you use particularly the time because we in terms of this role you were talking roughly at the time of the the the pandemic as well. Yeah. It was just sort of pre-pandemic and I sort of ended up leaving the role during the pandemic. Um, so yes, it was in the glory pre pandemic days when you know, Donald Trump had just been elected. Yeah Paul scenario all those you know, like dictators and right-wing authoritarians were sort of sweeping all over the world and brexit and stuff. So, yeah, so it certainly wasn't a perfect time. But yeah. Yeah, so I mean what sort of self-care techniques did you use and I'll say both

You know 20 20 during 20201 because that was of course a very you well badly you need time if we're going to twist our words around, um, but also pre and post pandemic what sort of things have helped you to at least work through some of the stress factors involved in you know, that in that job pre you know all in those time help you get back to a sense of recovery.

Oh, yeah. Well, um, I think stepping away from working in Igbtiq a plus Community Law was a good start. Um, I loved the job and you know, I really do. Hope 1 day to go back to that sort of work. But um, I didn't really have the boundaries that were necessary to succeed or maybe the what the way the project was set up meant that you know, like there weren't boundaries because we were trying so hard to build an Evidence base for such a thing. So we were basically like taking on any other any any matter, um that we could you know, so we're working at a sort of 120 percent and um, you know, that's a a Surefire way to burn out. Um, the Community Legal sector also relies heaps on volunteers. There's a, you know, strong kind of cultural practice of law students, um volunteering with Community Legal Services, which in 1 cents is great. But in another sense is, you know, I think potentially damaging and harmful

For those um young people or or not, so young people who are retraining. Um, and I think that expecting them to you know, work, you know essentially do unpaid work in these very, um stressful and emotionally demanding jobs is stressful and difficult for them. It's also stressful and difficult for the lawyers who are supervising them because you're dealing with your own kind of vicarious trauma and then trying to manage, um, you know, an unpaid volunteers, uh, vicarious trauma as well, which is, you know, just a d double impactful. So, um,

I think for me, um stepping away from the law for a bit was really healthy and um a very healing thing for me to do. I was really lucky that I got a kind of pandemic type job doing arts and culture stuff at a local Council which I'm forever grateful for because it gave me the opportunity to kind of reflect and do something different and you know had a chance to put on some awesome, you know, cool stuff like, um, you know, we put on queer Pacifica down in St. Auburn's and you

know worked with Amalia tolu and stuff and you know did some great stuff that was still kind of community stuff, but it wasn't in the law so I didn't have any clients anymore. So I didn't feel that sort of constant sense of expectation that I was failing to meet. Um this time around now that I've sort of moved back into the law again, I'm definitely much more like I'm treating like this as a 9 to 5 job and trying to you know, uh work to rule type thing. Um, as opposed to kind of the, you know ongoing hustle of you know, checking emails at 7:00 a.m. And 7

P.m. Um really trying to do that differently. And yeah, I guess um sort of yeah value other cultural activities. Like I've really enjoyed the Melbourne Comedy Festival that's been on recently and it's sort of really decided. I really enjoy comedy and I want to you know, just go see stuff like that more and try and find more joy in life because you know, if you just focus on the activist Community, um all the time, um, it's, you know, it's a hard place to be

Yep, um, we'll just say yes to that. All right, I should say we I will say yes to that. I'm sure there'd be many others who would agree. Um, you know balance, um said the libran over here, um is so important. Um, Yeah, it just it sounds like you're in a more grounded space which is incredibly incredibly welcome. Um, I reckon we might just have a little bit of a breather. I'm going to um, pull up some music, um to um, Sue this and um, which 1 will we go with? Uh, let's just have a short track, um with played with some degree of irony. Um, here's Richard Clapton's version of um, the uh, Sonny Curtis track, which if I can get my numbers, right we will play um, this is the the track I fought the law and the law 1 385 55. Mm 3cr digital 3cr org.au 3cr on demand. My guest is Sam Elken talking with me Sally goldner on out of the pan.

3 CR stay tuned stay radical Wait a minute the full restoration of all indigenous lands and resources and we demand the immediacy station of all forms of exploitation and destruction of our land.

Mind you About sovereignty and our original demand from day 1 Started with intentional genocide of our people Around the world and England It's all lies here. Everything's a lie. It's a great opportunity right now. Step into a sovereign independent republic We did a treaty. We demand our land back we demand to stop flaps as in custody.

Trans family is a not for profit organization providing a peer support group for loved ones including parents siblings extended family and friends of the trans and gender diverse person trans family runs discussion groups in person and online. We offer a safe space to share your experiences ask any questions regarding your situation and provide peer support. We are especially Keen to hear from loved ones in Regional and Rural, Victoria. Donations to trans family are tax deductible. For more information visit transfamily.org Au or look for us on Facebook trans family is a 3cr supporter.

3 CR 855 mm 3cr digital 3cr org.au 3cr on demand out of the pan with Sally first broadcasting noon through 1 every Sunday afternoon. Thanks for your company. And we've had a message in from Kayleen. Um agreed balance is essential. Yes, um balance is good and we're going to balance out the rest of the show talking with um, Sam elk and um on who has put out the book detachable penis. We're going to just broaden out a bit. Um rather than focus on specifics Sam trans writers is a topic passionate and passionately close to your heart. Um, tell us about um, you know, talk talk about it. Yeah. Well, um early on in the pandemic actually, um, I met uh Eve Reece who went on to write a memoir. Um All About Eve notes on a transition, which is a great trans. Um Memoir and we um ended up collaborating all throughout

The pandemic um to work on a transparent project called spilling the tea which was a trans writing project. So we um had you know Zoom thingies, um every week and we had like little

writing exercises and and stuff like that and it was a really awesome experience. It meant so much to me connecting with other trans and gender diverse people who were either doing Memoir writing or doing sort of fantasy writing or any kind of writing. Um, no no, um, genre barard, um, and that project kind of culminated in US putting out, um, nothing to hide voices of trans and gender versus Australia, which was an anthology of trans writing which even I and 2 other um, wonderful editors, um bowick said and um,

Alex Galaga, of course the poet in Sydney, um put out and um, yeah that gave me an absolute, uh, wonderful intro into a lot of the amazing Trends and gender diverse writing that's going on in Australia. So yeah, I love working with trans writers to help them. Um, you know achieve their goals. I'm really excited. I'm host. Um not hosting I'm judging the Lord Mees, um, city of Melbourne writing prize this year and there's a transgender diverse category for the first time which is really awesome. I think um seahorse Victoria did heaps of advocacy to make that happen so that I'm really looking forward to um, judging those Awards and yeah, it would say to any transgender reverse person. I believe they're still open so submit something um, because I would love to read your words. Um, but yeah, there's just such a healthy culture of transgender diverse writers all across the world and here in Phnom and here in so-called Australia. So, yeah, it's fun to be part of a kind of in the mix full of other awesome people

Absolutely. Yes, there are some trans writers and there's been lots of great books over time. I mean, um, I'm just going to be honest. I some many people have said I should write a book. Um, some somehow autobiographical or of some sort and I must admit the thought daunts me to some extent um, you know, but you know, it's sort of still doesn't go away either, um, you know, sort of what would you say to people like me who are you know, daunted where to start in terms of both the writing and then the publication? Yeah. Well, I would love to read that. Uh story Sally so I let me add myself to the chorus. Um, I'd love to read that book.

I for me, I've done heaps of writing courses. I'm a real Stan on writer's courses. Um, I'm doing 1 with um Christine at the moment online, um, write your Memoir and there are so many great like courses either through writers Victoria or veruna which is a writer's house in the Blue Mountains that organizes heaps of writers courses online. Now, there's so many great courses for me, um having like a deadline and accountability is really important. So, you know, if you're not somebody who's like at University or whatever, which I'm not, um, the only way to kind of get a deadline is either submitting to you know, things like writing prizes like that that um, Lord me 1 that I mentioned or um doing a course where you know, they say go away and do this and bring it bring your work back and we'll Workshop it next week. So I love being a part of a community of other writers. So that works really well for me. Um, and you can obviously do it online now a lot more because of the pandemic which is really great for accessibility. I find that really helpful. Um, so yeah, I would say do a course, um, maybe set up a um, sort of group with friends. I'm in a queer writers group as well which, you know, just a bunch of friends and I set up and I find that really helpful because again you get a deadline.

But yeah, I would say um, you know, try and write 1 sort of 3,000 word piece for example, because that's often the limit that literary journals will accept so, you know Overland for example has annual callouts and griffith review Mangin, you know, there are so many awesome. Um, Australian literary journals and international ones that are calling for people's work. So you can kind of write a shorter piece as maybe this the spine of what will become a longer book. Okay? Yeah. That's that's a good way to start chunk it down. Um as they say, so that's that's a really good tip and I I hadn't thought about online writing courses. Um, that's um, you know, something certainly to consider as well. Um, you know, of course, um in this day and age of online and I mean really, you know, don't necessarily need to be together. It's of course good to have some

you know, um personal contact and that sort of thing but um, it's probably something you could do. Um, if um, if that helplessly helps people who might be isolated.

Um, wow, all good stuff. Um as well. Um, so, uh my happy coincidence during the week The Fabulous Michaela here at 3 messaged me and said, hey, you should talk to Sam Ellyn, um about some something. Um, and I said, um, I've got Sam on the show to talk about um detachable penis and said, I've got something else you could talk to Sam about queer narratives in the law with Sam. Milin. Yes Soutel do tell. Yeah. So that's a law week event. It's going to be on Wednesday the 22nd of May, um at na nugu, which is the new library that's in the CBD. So it's across the road from um, the queen Vic markets on the theory street. It's such an amazing Library. You should go there regardless of whether you come to my event. It's such a great place to study or whatever. It's beautiful. Um, and there's a whole family services up there. So it's a great initiative that the state government has done that. Um, but yeah the event that I'm doing we're

Going to have a keynote speech from Liz Bennett. Um SC who is an extraordinary, um silk working here in um who has done kind of like most I think it's fair to say of the groundbreaking transgender diverse legal cases. So she's extremely experienced in family law in um, civil law and stuff like that. So she worked on um, like a groundbreaking case which is um called Cobalt which is about a religious camp and whether or not they could discriminate against lgbtiq plus young people from attending it. So yeah Liz has had an a brilliant career in the law and she'll be doing a keynote about current issues, um of relevance to the transgender diverse Community around legal issues. So I imagine she'll probably be talking about the family court and some of the issues which happened there, um in relation to uh, parenting disputes in the Family Court around transgender diversity,

Young people I imagine she'll be talking about religious discrimination stuff, but I don't know. Um, but yeah, she's the expert so she'll be talking. Um, and yeah, she's very senior Barista. So I'm very grateful that she has um offered to come out and speak and then um Eve reason I who I mentioned before who's a trans writer and a historian who works at Latrobe. Um, they'll be doing an in conversation with me for the rest of the hour. So we'll be talking. Yeah about um, queer law basically and yeah riffing on my Memoir a little bit and talking about legal issues. Um,

Which continued to Bubble away for the Transcendent reverse community and it's actually been recorded by um ABC's Big Ideas. So that's really cool. So, um, yeah, we'll have to think of something pretty interesting to say because um, yeah to ultimately be broadcast to a national audience which is yeah really exciting. Yeah. Look, you've given me a few thoughts there just in relation to the Cobalt case. Hello just Sue Hackney. If you're out there somewhere fabulous worker from Central Victoria who did so much and was a part of that case as well. Um played the trans family message before cuz trans family is meeting next Saturday. But um, I as a Committee Member will not be there because I'll be down at the city of Casey. Um, oh that's right with you. We're talking um us too and the fabulous Julie Peters at to uh, sorry us to um, and more talking about radio and podcasting for quiz. And yeah Jonathan Butler as well will be part of it. Yeah, who's the author of The Boy in the dress looking forward to that? Yep, so that'll be fun. Great to have q lit stuff down there and then Yours Truly along with Eve and

Angel The Magnificent, Julie Peters will be talking about um trans and queer history in um, amongst many other activities that say in those Immortal words a packed program. So, uh, yeah, um get some details up, um in due course about where and where we know what how you can get to them. I think they're all free events. Yeah. I'm really looking forward to talking to you and jono about radio and podcasts and stuff because it's something that I've done for a long

time, but I haven't really talked about it very much and it's a big part of my life. And you know, I'm really passionate about Community radio and really passionate about trying to get other people into doing community radio. So I really hope people come down, uh to the city of Casey in narrow Warren on the 18th. So yeah, it's next Saturday. And yeah, it should be a real blast.

Absolutely, and if I can be a little um kind of self-indulgent, um yours truly is um, next Tuesday the 14th. Um, the city of Manningham has its ID Hub at celebrations and yours truly is speaking. Um, 10:00 for flower grazing 10:30, um to hear me share a personal story and I'll be doing that a couple of other times during the week in more private settings as well. So yes, I better um get my coffee allowance, um up and rolling for the week, um, because it's pretty um going to be a busy 1, um, but um,

Yeah, definitely Lots going on and wishing everyone a happy Idol Hobbit week, um for sure um, and I hope that um gives you the celebrations that you want in the theme I think is very relevant this year. No 1 Left Behind. Oh is it I didn't actually know what it was. Yeah. It's so important. I I had a hobby this year because local councils have just been smashed lately over things like drag story times and stuff like that and there's a whole bunch of um, nefarious people who are trying to stop lgbtiq cultural development type stuff. So yeah, I would say definitely get along and support your local councils activities for Idaho Wherever You Are

Absolutely and well, we'll say a big thumbs down to half of Cumberland Council in Western Sydney. Um Deary me Banning books. Oh goodness. It's scary, isn't it? Yeah, I've got I've got to give though just on a if we can pull a humorous note in there, um to um, Kirsty Miller who had a great um, um meme on, um, Facebook, um, apparently the Cumberland counselor now Banning fairy bread protests protesters are anticipated in hundreds and thousands so good. So well done to that 1 C. I don't know if that 1 was yours, but you you that's where I saw it first so well done. Um, and but yeah Cumberland half of Cumberland Council. Um, just what are they thinking and I mean, um,

Yeah, just absolutely bizarre world. Um, um that um, you know that that's happening and we just don't need that sort of us imported right wing Malarkey at all. Let's come back to you to wrap up. Um the show because there are you you are just doing so much at the moment and I'm deeply admiring of that, um that you are doing things that make you happy and contribute other projects. What else is Sam Ellyn up to? Oh well, um, yeah, obviously I have the weekly radio show. I'm doing a whole bunch of stuff for Q lit. So, um, you mentioned that before Sally that's a sort of lgbtiq A+ Rural and Regional and out of suburban kind of initiative that's bringing literature to yeah, suburban and Regional libraries. So I'm going to a donga as well, um on the uh 24th, I think um that weekend anyway and doing a live Friday course, um up there at the top of the state and yeah, I'm off to Sydney for my book launch. Um, and yeah doing so much stuff going

Into the Brisbane Riders Festival Darwin Writers Festival camera Riders Festival. So yeah, I'm going to be Writers Festival in uh for the rest of the year, which is you know, really exciting and yeah, very grateful for the opportunities. And yeah, hopefully it'll be a chance to kind of like

Campaign, um in a way for you know trans and gender diverse issues while um, you know, hopefully getting people to connect with my book and you know, hey, maybe sell a few copies make uh, my publisher Terry Anne at upswell who's a total Legend happy. That's my plan. That's a good plan. Um and got to mention a couple of things, uh there when our um, checking in when um, Sydney sounds like it's first for that launch Wednesday. Yeah. So that's Thursday the 23rd at um better read than dead, which is a wonderful Bookshop in Utah and another trans

writer Aaron Riley, um who put out a wonderful Memoir last year. Um, they're launching it for me. So very excited about that event. And then yeah going to drop into a few book shops in Sydney and go to sock drawer Heroes, which is a wonderful, um trans and gender diverse, uh, like clothing and Inter Intimate Apparel Outlet, um, that also sells books going to do a book signing there. And then yeah literally catching the sleeper train to get to a donga. Um,

And then yeah back back home. So yeah, really doing a regional tour.

Busy busy stuff. Um, yeah. Um, I wanted to find out about the Sydney 1 because we do have a few. Um, I'm sure we have listings everywhere for this show, but I know there's 1 listen to who isn't able to tune in live anymore due to work but um does sometimes tune in so, um hello to um, our regular listeners, um, and I'm having a name blank which is so terrible. Um, anyway, it'll come along and say hi. Anyway. Yeah come along and say hi. Um, if you are, um, listening out there to um to the show, um, if you are in Sydney, and that's why I wanted to give it a mention. Um,

Um very much the case, um to Genie there. It is in order to come brain brain relieved. Um, so yeah, you are definitely everywhere Sam. Um, it's hugely appreciated. Thank you for all you have done and do continue to do. Um, it's uplifting um and gives us hope which we need, um keep hanging in there and um, we're going to wrap it up today, um in a minute, um, freedom of speech is coming in next I should mention and there they're talking today about a whole range of topics. Um, they're talking Mutual Aid Mother's Day and some Mental Health Resources, that could be helpful, which I think are all things that are of great relevance 2:00 rotations, um, 3 p.m. Querying the air and 4:00 alarm radio show so a great afternoon of listening on 3cr community radio and um,

What else um on next week's show I will have Greg gold in the studio to talk about his new single. Um, which covers some thought-provoking topics as well, but I'll tease you with that for now. Um Sam. Once again, thank you so much for coming in. Um on a Sunday afternoon take it out today. Um, if you're watching the if you're trying to get another look at the Aurora tonight, um, you're going to need this. It's Paul Kelly and his winter coat because it could be a bit crisp out there. Thanks Sally. Thanks for tuning in to out of the pan. I'm Sally Goldner. Catch you next week.