3CR Binary Busting Broadcast
Sunday 21 March 2021, 1-2pm

*Out of the Pan*

**Sally:** 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, we'll throw those questions into the pan and cook up the answers for you. So go on, push that gender envelope, only on 3CR 855 AM digital and 3CR.org.au.

*['Gadigal Land' by Midnight Oil plays]*

**Sally:** 3CR 855 AM, 3CR digital, 3CR.org.au, and 3CR on demand. Welcome, in lots of ways, to the special Binary Busters Broadcast, and welcome to Out Of The Pan. Kicking it off, what an exciting thing today for all those who want to break beyond binaries of all sorts, trans and gender diverse people, bi+ people, everybody. Most of all though, 3CR acknowledges that we are on Wurundjeri land, and we pay respect to elders past, present, and emerging, and acknowledging any Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people listening in to Out Of The Pan and any part of the Binary Busters Broadcast, and acknowledge that the lands were stolen and never ceded. And it seemed doubly appropriate to open up with Midnight Oil's 'Gadigal Land' from 'The Makarrata Project'. Particularly I've got to send a big shout-out and hope that all those on Gadigal and nearby lands are very safe, given the huge amount of rainfall that has happened over the last couple of days. Thinking very, very much of you all, and hope that you are safe, and I hope you're able to listen in to this particular show, and the great Broadcast of Binary Busters today, and, you know, get a little bit of lift if you are needing it.

Lots of ways to get in touch with the show. You can email outofthepan855@gmail.com, SMS 61 456 751 215, tweet @salgoldsaidso, and that's the bottom line, and look for the posts on Facebook on my page, Sally Goldner AM and Out Of The Pan 3CR 855 AM Melbourne. Remember, any opinions that I express on the show are my own and not necessarily those of any other organisation with which I have been or still are associated. Might be some possibilities of triggering content today. We may have to tackle some difficult topics – and I'll tell you who 'we' is, we are, in a second – and so remember that Switchboard is there, 1800 184 527, but I don't think there'll be anything too graphically detailed.

Well, we're leading the way on the Binary Busters Broadcast. It's something that has really been on my mind since I did the interview with J. Andrew Baker last year, and how we talk about leadership in queer communities, so I thought when I had to do something for this broadcast, I'd love to talk about leadership in trans communities, and I have two awesome, awesome, awesome, awesome trans and gender diverse humans to help do it with me. Welcome to the show, Kayleen White.

Kayleen, I use the pronouns she/her. Can I check in with which pronouns you use, if any?

**Kayleen:** Yeah, I use she/her as well, and glad to be here, thank you.

**Sally:** And also on the show we have Jacob Thomas.

**Jacob:** Hello.

**Sally:** And Jacob, can I check in with which pronouns you use, if any?

**Jacob:** Yes, so my pronouns are they and them exclusively, and thank you very much for having me, Sally. Very excited for today.

**Sally:** Well, look, I mean, as I say, I have to admit, you know, I love doing this show every week, but I'm even a little extra excited today, so I will take a breath and just settle myself a bit, because we want to talk about this issue of leadership in – we're focusing today on trans communities, but I think there'd be lots of crossover for the broader rainbow/queer communities, and that I suppose is an issue in itself. And I suppose to start with, now, I might get you to just do – each to do a few highlights of what you've learned along the way. Sure, we've all journeyed as trans and gender diverse people, but what you might have learned, a few things, just a few overviews, executive summaries, standout moments, et cetera, on what you've learned about leadership in – I'm going to take it we are all coming under trans and gender diverse, but if we need to extend it to rainbow/queer, we'll do that as well. So I forgot to flip a coin before we came on air as to who was gonna go first, so anyone desperate to go first?

**Kayleen:** Yeah, okay, I'll start off. I think one of the things that's been really significant to me is the issue of mentoring. Because back in the early days when Sally and I were starting off in TGV, basically, and perhaps a little bit earlier, the thing that made a really massive difference to me was hearing the advice of other people. And I think one of the statements that most helped me was when I had to give a speech, and I don't like speaking in public, and I'm just pretending at the moment that it's only the three of us, so there you go – but the advice that I had was basically to speak from the heart, and when I did that, I basically stopped thinking about myself and I started thinking about the speech that I was going to give from the point of view of the people that I was representing, and I found that that really made a big difference to me, because it depersonalised it so it wasn't about me embarrassing myself. I was up there and I was doing my best to represent other people, specifically the TGD community. And yeah, I feel that I was a lot more eloquent and calm as a result. So I think that's probably one of the biggest lessons for me.

**Sally:** Oh, look, that's a flying start, and I'll come back to that in a second and just talk a little about that. Jacob, your opening thoughts?

**Jacob:** Yes. I think for me it's learning how to lead kindly and generously as much as possible. I think for those of us who are in TGD communities and across, you know, the Rainbow Experience if you will, you know, we have to deal with so much. Even still now, we still have to deal with so much bigotry and isolation, discrimination, harassment, that, you know, it can make us really, really hard and really, really cold. To how we get into making important and sustainable change happen and last, I was saying this to a school group that I was teaching a couple of week ago, and this is, like, a group of Year 9s, and let's just say this. The kids are doing great. Like, they're so good. I'm just – like, I'm so happy to see it. So happy to see it, because it's what I wanted. And one of the things I tried to give them for a perspective was recognising that, you know, I'm in my early 30s now, I'm a beneficiary of people who came before me. You know, my giants that I get to stand on the shoulders of, who had to be fierce, who had to be ruthless, who were literally fighting for their lives. And I get to be a beneficiary of that. To, you know, recognise your history – fundamental. Absolutely fundamentally important.

And, you know, for me now, I get to have the privilege of just being, if I wanted to. I now just get to exist. And, you know, one of the great things, I think, is recognising that you don't have to always be an upstart or a leader or, you know, creating change. You can just exist and that in itself is powerful, and that's really nice, but the important thing with that – and it is the 'but' – is that you still have to be kind about it. You have to be kind to your community even if you're fighting ferociously for their rights. I'm very happy to always punch up, if you will. As an ex-Canadian, always punch up, never punch down.

**Kayleen:** Hear, hear.

**Jacob:** Because if I want community to come along and to, you know, gain those benefits, to hold those benefits and to then bring that into their own whole personal self, then I need to do that really, really kindly. So my biggest learning, I think, is just like, no matter how frustrating it might be by the internal politics of the queer experience, trying not to throw that back at people. Take it on. Take it on, just listen to it. Because to be an advocate and a leader is a very, very, very special position that you are given and entrusted with. It's not something that you just wake up one day and just go, 'Ah, I'll just do that.' You know, you've got to listen. You've got to listen to that and you've got to be really kind about it. Be ferocious and fierce against the hetties, totally fine – unless they're allies, in which case we'll give them some flex, a whole two degree, but you know, it's – they get a binary. But you know, for the rest of us it's just – you know, I'm happy to go hard on conservatives. I have to in my job anyway. But for community? Always kindness. First and foremost, and keep it there.

**Sally:** Absolutely. Kayleen, you had a bounce-off during that.

**Kayleen:** Yeah, I've gotta say I totally agree with that. Being kind, I think, is one of the – you know, there may be a place for being, I think, more assertive than aggressive, although being aggressive is needed occasionally, but being kind about what you're doing is so important. And that also includes being kind to yourself, because it's so easy to wind up scarred, not just from being a leader, but just from living, and not – and also leading in other roles. So, you know, in my day job, that's led to me getting quite emotionally scarred at times, and I've got to be aware that I've got to make sure that I'm looking after myself properly, or otherwise I'm not gonna be effective in that role, because it's not me that's reacting. It's the scars that I've got that are reacting.

**Sally:** Yeah, look, a couple of quick thoughts there. We all have to do self-care that works for us, and I've got a – actually, it's a quick time to mention, thanks to the crew from Out of the Blue, diving deep for the marine news, as they do at 11.30 'til noon every Sunday, I did some self-care yesterday and went with a dear friend to Jawbone Marine Centre and snorkelled. It wasn't the greatest day, but it was still self-care to be on the beach, and I'm also reminded from the openers of your conversations of the quote by, and I do hope if I have the pronunciation of the family name right here, Maggie Kuhn, spelled K-U-H-N, 'Speak your mind even if your voice shakes.' Which sometimes isn't easy, but as you say, if it's coming from the heart, I think, and it's coming from a place of genuine kindness where you've reflected and thought, 'Is this kind?', then I think we're well under way to achieving that. So lots to open up in there, and, you know, there were so many thoughts that we could cover on this whole awesome topic. But, you know, Kayleen, you had a thought, I think, that you'd expressed to me once about – and I think it's based on the Peter Drucker, who's a management and leadership expert of the past, 'Leaders don't create more followers, but they create more leaders.'

**Kayleen:** Yeah.

**Sally:** So we've given a start to that. Can I perhaps ask you, you know, with your opening remarks, how would you expand on that one?

**Kayleen:** Okay, I'm actually going to use my day job as an example.

**Sally:** Go for it.

**Kayleen:** Because I started at a new company about 12 years ago, and when I went there, I said I had the aim of making myself redundant. Basically I wanted to train up people and pass on all my skills so that they could take over what I was doing and carry it on. Otherwise everything I knew just basically went to the grave with me, and unless I could find a good medium, it was pretty much gonna be lost. So – but I think there's another aspect to that too, which we already sort of alluded to, and that's basically, we're standing on the shoulders of the giants who've gone before us, so we're starting from a higher point because of their efforts. Now, we need to pass that on, because that way everything gets better in life. It's not a continuous process. It's a bit of, you know, two steps forward, one back, et cetera. But by sharing our skills and our knowledge, other people have the ability to build and learn and adapt on that, which is how civilisation has evolved.

When I look back at how the world was when I was first thinking about transitioning back in the – well, actually the '60s, and compare it to what we have now, you know, things have got better, and it's got better because people keep building on their other efforts. And one of the key things there is, you know, nobody can do it all themselves. Pass on what you know. And help other people as we've been helped to be able to be better leaders.

**Sally:** Mm. Jacob?

**Kayleen:** And I didn't know it came from Peter Drucker, but there you go. I'll look him up.

**Sally:** Yeah. Jacob?

**Jacob:** Look, really can't disagree with anything that Kayleen's just said. I think – and I'll put it into a personal context, is – you know, it's what I look at in academia, as an example.

**Sally:** Mm-hmm?

**Jacob:** So for context, I just started my PhD in medicine, of all things, so there we go, which I'm still very confused about, but they let me in, so I'll take it, and that's fine. I'll be Dr Jacob. Can't wait. But yeah, one of the things that I always talk about is, I guess, separating the power of community development, which I think is what you just talked about really eloquently there, Kayleen – is, you know, being able to pass on to community to keep, you know, that vibrancy and that learning and that story and that narrative to continue forth. One of the things that I also try and look at, not too separate from what's just been talked about, but you know, you look at somewhere like universities, schools, educational institutions across the board, they are very – we call them the academy a lot of the time because a lot of the information gets stuck in there. And for those of us who are academics, our job is to teach and to help people learn and to understand new things, and that has to be complemented with creating new stuff and finding new things and finding new ways to articulate that, because otherwise we do get stuff with, I guess, just the same knowledge, if you will. It doesn't build on top of that.

Like, I look at my research and my work, and it's still very surprising to me to – I say this seven weeks into a PhD – but I find this so surprising to even think about how I'm even approaching my particular piece of research hasn't been done yet, but it gets to be done because someone else fought for that space, and I get to work in that space, and then I get to create more content so more people and think about it, and then other people can do something with it, and then it just keeps going. It's about that vibrancy of creating new knowledge as time goes on, because when knowledge is sat within ourselves, it becomes wisdom, and that's a thing that's really, really beautiful. I want to do the hard work so that someone else doesn't have to, and someone else gets to benefit from it.

I love being able to do that, one, because I'm a nerd, so I'm leaning right into that, like a white woman on a board, 'Lean In'. Love it. Hate the book, hate the idea, but it is trying to – yeah, I was explaining this Eden to a few professors that I get to work with. Not to brag, but we work together. And I was just like, 'Well, look, if we' – we were talking about, like, trans inclusion in, I dunno, pick a topic, because there's a lot of gaps, right? Uh-huh. And I was like, 'Well, look, it's not just about adding, you know, like, I dunno, a new gender marker box, or just sort of, let's keep gender as an open field in the application form.' I was like, 'That's fine, but you've got to understand there's so many issues before we can even get to, like, this research piece,' and I was like, 'If you think about, like – and I work at a top 100 university, we don't even teach anything LGBTIQA+, anything queer, anything TGD or across the rainbow experience as a degree.'

We are guest lecturers still. You know, we're one week in a unit. I can't major in queer theory, as an example. You know? Like, we still can't do those sorts of things. So like, it's great that we're talking about it, but I want to instil that in the academy so that an undergrad can come along and just go, 'That's what I want to do.' Very excited about that, and I get to do that because other people created the units, because they gave me something to work with, and then I get to go and do that, because I want that new knowledge to be found. I want it to be grounded, and I want it to be learned and instilled in others.

**Sally:** Yeah. Good thoughts there. The thing that has struck me, I want to drill in a little more, and you've touched on it there, Jacob – I mean, Kayleen, you work in a, we'll say, professional environment in your work. Jacob, you've said you work in academia. But when we get into trans communities, which is the focus of today, what sort of adaptions need to happen for, you know, the sort of people that we are? I mean, I'm trying hard not to feed things into you here, but we know that the trans experience – which we've touched on a little, about what we've all come through, that it's a challenge – is an issue. How then do what I'll call in inverted commas, if there is such a thing, 'standard leadership textbooks', that are often designed with their limitations, how do they need to be adapted for trans and queer/rainbow communities, if they do? Let's not be too biased.

**Kayleen:** I think they do.

**Sally:** Yeah, go for it, Kayleen.

**Kayleen:** I think they do, but I think that it's not just adapting it for TGD and rainbow communities. I think most of the leadership books that get written, get written so that they can get sold, and the people who've got money who are likely to buy them are people in commercial fields and professions and academia and so on and so forth. So the leadership lessons are based on what I would term my day job, and that's got a whole different power structure to how leaders interact with people in a community-based – any community-based organisation or any volunteer-based organisation.

**Sally:** Mm-hmm.

**Kayleen:** And I think the earliest times I came across that were the sailing club that I was in up in central Queensland when I was a teenager, and we had such doozy interpersonal conflicts that people would ram each other when they were out sailing. I was on a protest committee when I heard, you know, to get technical, one boat was on a starboard tack and had right of way over the other. They collided. Everyone expected that we would rule out the port boat, the boat that was on a port tack. We did that, but we also ruled out the other boat for not taking action to avoid a collision. And after that, two of them settled down and started to behave like normal human beings. Most situations don't have that sort of option, but it is an issue that I think is fairly important, is being aware that you can get conflicts, and it's not just a case of being – disagreeing over meeting protocols or, you know, something that's relatively superficial. The issues that we're dealing with are about, well, really life and death. It's about us and us surviving. Not just surviving as our *authentic* selves, but surviving as ourselves.

So there's a lot of power and significance in what we're doing, so we have to be aware of that, and we have to tread – it's not the case, 'treading carefully', it really goes back to what Jacob was saying earlier about being kind. You know, we have to be far more kind. In a workplace, you can have counselling and, you know, you might monitor people's performance and so forth. At the worst, they might lose their job, which is significant in many cases, but it's not as significant as the issues about personal identity and personal truths that we're dealing with. So you have to take everything that's in the leadership books and adapt it for a different power structure, and the fact that we're dealing with personally very, very significant issues.

**Sally:** Yeah. Jacob?

**Kayleen:** I shall now dismount the soapbox.

**Sally:** Stay on it! But Jacob, your turn to climb up equally on the #1 position on the podium.

**Jacob:** Bless. Yeah, thank you for that. Look, apologies for anyone listening in. I can't really disagree with anything Kayleen says, so if you were looking for a fight, then I'm sorry. Go watch Drag Race. But you know, I think it's interesting – is that, you know, these points around care and kindness and everything as well, which, you know, very happy to hold onto those. I think also it's just like, we kind of need to focus on accountability of self as well. You know, I think – which is a hard thing, right? Like, it's very hard to be accountable and very hard to be kind within power structures.

And I mean, you know, I'm saying this as a white, middle-class queer who lives in Melbourne, like, you know, who's doing a PhD. Like, I've got a lot of good stuff going for me, right? I could very arrogantly just be sort of like, 'This is my experience, only fit to my experience, I will draw the line on what needs to happen. This is the ground that we need to achieve, and if you don't do that, you're a bad person, and how dare you, and bugger off.' Like, you know, to be an advocate, to be a leader, means to listen and to be very accountable for your own biases.

You know, we are – which I'm sure some conservatives would disagree with, and I'm not gonna say their names, but we are people, and people are imperfect and messy and – like, have you met humans? We're kinda gross. But it's this point around – some more so than others – but I think it's interesting of just, like, you do have to have a personal accountability to just – I'm trying to not to swear, but basically not be an arsehole. You know, it's just like – like, it's that thing of just, like, I am white and I still benefit from racism. Yes, I don't benefit from transphobia, but it's not about who loses most. I was rewatching – I don't know if anyone's seen Panti Bliss, who's this phenomenal Irish draq queen.

**Sally:** I love her.

**Jacob:** And she – yeah, and she came out as HIV positive a few years ago and everything as well, but I was rewatching her TED talk. Yes, I'm so sorry for everyone listening, and I am that queer who listens to TED talks. I'm so sorry. I've done as well, so, mm, cute, don't read the comments. But it is – she was talking about this point of just, like, it's not – you can't just talk about who's got it worst and the worst person gets to complain the most, because, and I think Roxane Gay points this out as well, is that it just becomes an oppression circle-jerk. No-one wins. It's all garbage. Like, it's not – I want our narrative to move away from suffering. That's what I want our narrative to move away from, because I want what's Kayleen's talking about, is survival, but I want that – I don't even want thriving. I want celebration. I want mundanity, to be quite honest, which Laverne Cox talks about so much, about representation in media. I want mundane a lot of the time, to be quite honest, because I don't think I'm exceptional just because I'm trans and gender-diverse. I'm not really that exceptional because I'm queer. I just kind of want to be.

I'm doing this work because I have to and I want to. Like, I'm here for a reason. I'm very here purposefully, but I also will still get things wrong and I will still – and I will apologise for them, and I will change my behaviour, and I will get better at that. It's why I think it's – to toot my own horn – one of the reasons why I'm as successful as I am in my space is because if I'm wrong, I'm just gonna say, 'Noted, sorry about that. I'll move right along.' Because I think this is a really just important thing, just when we're talking about younger people in trans and gender diverse communities. Professor Damien Riggs pointed this out in a phenomenal piece of research which builds into my own, is Damien pointed out that – I was in a presentation last year where Damien was speaking, and Damien was saying that, you know, we had this assumption that, you know, for youth to support each other within queer spaces, they're just gonna benefit. And like, some of them do. That's fine. Like, they've got that co‑solidarity with each other. But one of the populations that actually struggled most within that was trans and gender-diverse youth. You know, you can't have that co-solidarity in the same way, because they actually really – they don't benefit, on the whole. We don't benefit when we're trying to look after each other because we're trying to look after ourselves at the same time.

And the reason I bring that up is because, you know, it is this point around – you have to just be able to look after yourself selfishly. You have to be able to do that. As a leader, you have to be able to do that. And leadership texts do not talk about that at all. They talk about burnout. They talk about capitalist perceptions. They talk about, you know, you've got to start a business. No more businesses. I'm done with businesses. Go volunteer. Go do something good. Like, don't make it about yourself. Don't self-centre yourself within that. Go look after yourself. Go look after yourself please, and then you can go and look after other people. That's really important, because I don't want us to keep struggling all the time, and burning out all the time, and being tired and exhausted, and then in very dangerous situations of poor mental health and worrisome levels of disparity, I don't want us there anymore. I want us to move out of that, to be selfish. Bugger it.

**Sally:** Yeah.

**Jacob:** And then look after yourself, so then you can look after others. Please go do that. That is the biggest change I want to see.

**Sally:** Cool. Kayleen, something came up for you during Jacob's comments there.

**Kayleen:** Oh, a few points, but a couple I'd like to comment on. One is, and this was an issue perhaps in the early days of TGV in the – and sort of in the 90s generally, was when groups should come together and then perhaps not also be together so that you can focus on shared issues or focus on your own issues and so forth, and the whole thing reminds me of the saying that Khalil Gibran had about relationships, which was, 'Let there be spaces in your togetherness.' So yeah, there's times when we have to be together, and there's times when we need to have that focus, and that applies to different sections of the rainbow community. It applies to us and our groups and so forth, and our relationships and so on. So I think that's one point that I've sort of kept in mind.

But the other one that I really relate to is the fact of growth through life. When I look back at what sort of person I was when I was younger, and, you know, I can remember all the way back to when I was about three or four, and - - -

**Sally:** 25 years ago.

**Kayleen:** A wee bit more than that. Add a couple more. Anyway, but it's also a point that's brought out in, I think, my favourite action movie, and this is gonna blow your minds perhaps a little bit, but that's Gandhi. The action's not physical. The action is spiritual, and in the course of that movie, there's a lot of development that Gandhi goes through, and, you know, it doesn't cover a lot of the problems that Gandhi had, but it shows that we all, even the people who get looked up to and respected, have that potential for growth, and they probably have already been through growth, and I know that I have as well. So I think, you know, the issue of growth and kindness is really very, very important.

**Sally:** Yeah.

**Kayleen:** Yeah.

**Sally:** All right. I've got – there's a few things that have come up through the way, yes, and I'm glad, Jacob, you acknowledged the privilege that we can have, and I know – well, I'll only speak for myself here. I'm white. I'm non-indigenous. You know, I've always had a roof over my head. It's always been one of my own choosing. I've never been incarcerated. And I'm educated, which is one that often I overlook, because we live in a society where we think everyone's gonna at least go to some level of school. All these sorts of things and many, many more. And I think that – I just wanted to acknowledge that, for bringing it up. But I suppose if there's a tough question here, you know, yes, we need kindness and compassion, but how far can that go? You know, if you have someone who, let's say, is a – here's the really challenging question here, and this time, Jacob, because you seem quite enthused by this question, I'm gonna let you go first – you know, what happens when someone is continually, you know, even in a volunteer, traumatised environment, we all know there's lateral hostility, when someone just makes no effort to continue to improve themselves, or some people who are deliberately going out to be aggressive rather than, you know, assertive and doing this kindness, how do we deal with that from a point of view of kindness? And Jacob, you've put some hands up, so – which of course the listeners can't see, because I can only see the Zoom, but I'm going to throw to you first this time.

**Jacob:** I love these questions. They're my favourite. Because I think this is why I brought up accountability, right?

**Sally:** Aha.

**Jacob:** You still have to be accountable. Like, I think you can – like, okay, let's put it this way. Kindness is not an absolute. None of these things are absolutes, right?

**Sally:** Aha.

**Jacob:** They're not definitive. You know, I can't remove being kind to myself to be kind to you, because you're not being kind to me. Like, there has to be reciprocity, right? I mean, like, I can disagree with you. I have to work with a lot of people I disagree with, and it's not because I'm right; it's because I have a bias. I am a product of my own upbringing; they are a product of their own upbringing. So I'll give you some leeway on stuff, but I can still work with you, right? Like, I have to work with some very conservative individuals. I don't have to; I choose to. I choose to work with some very conservative individuals in my human rights work, in the institutions that I work in. I mean, as an academic and as a researcher, literally I'm not allowed to be biased. I just have to listen, and that's it, and take the experience on, take the opinion on. But, like, using a bit of a ridiculous example, but it's just like, if you keep throwing eggs at me, I'm not just gonna be like, 'That's fine, they can't help it. They've got an egg-flinging arm. It's just who they are.' No. Don't throw the damn eggs.

**Kayleen:** Absolutely.

**Jacob:** You know? It's just like, I don't – I mean, I just – I'm laughing because I've gone through a lot of therapy and so now it seems ridiculous to me, but I was an overly giving person to my own detriment, and it's wild to look at in that perspective now, and just sort of say, 'Wow, I really let a lot of people walk all over me.' And that's really interesting, because as soon as I started standing up for myself a lot more, and very bluntly, very quickly a lot of people were just like, 'Ugh. Ugh!' Like, they hated it. And so a lot of people were just like, 'You're really rude. You're really mean.' Blah blah blah blah blah. And I was like, 'No, no, no, no, no. This is just self‑respect. This is what it is. You just can't get what you used to get from me anymore, and I'm not even sorry about that one. You're just gonna have to deal with that.' Because if you're not gonna do the bare, bare, bare minimum of respecting me, I don't wanna be here, or I don't want you to be here.

You know, I have fired people from my organisations. I've left volunteering opportunities because I'm just like, 'You know what? I don't care how great I'm gonna be here. This is garbage. I'm out. I can put my energy somewhere else, like getting a good night's sleep, or, I dunno, like, mentoring a younger queer person who actually has potential and want to make the world better. I don't really need to give my spoons to you, or be – I'm trying to be – again, trying not to swear, but it's like, I always try and say, you know, you have to —

**Sally:** You can if you want.

**Jacob:** I know I can; I'm just trying not to. It's called a practice. Practice, practice. But it is – you know, you have to be discerning with the effs that you have to give to certain things, right?

**Sally:** Mm.

**Jacob:** You know, it's just like, sometimes I'm aware, you know, if you're just gonna be a bit of a flange, I'm out of effs. I'm out – to just give in that day, so bugger off. Just get out. I don't care. Because, you know, it's – I can't keep giving that to you. My mum actually gave me the best analogy for this, because we were talking about dating, because we've got a good healthy relationship where we talk about, like, what each other needs in regards to our own individual lives, because she's a very strong ally and it's just a very mentally well family that I get to have now, which I'm very excited about.

**Sally:** Yes.

**Jacob:** And we both date men, so eurgh. But she was just like, 'I'm not gonna pump up your tyres if you're not gonna pump up mine.'

**Sally:** Yeah.

**Jacob:** It – I was just like, 'Oh, my goodness. That's such a great way to look at it.' She was like, 'Yeah, we're not RACV. We're not rocking up to the problem. That's not it. I am in my car. You are in your car. We're driving down the same line. If you get a puncture, I'll help you out, but if my car then gets punctured helping you out and you drive off, no. It's not it.' So kick bad people out of your life. Kick crap people out of your organisations. Because also it's – I know I'm rambling a little bit, but I'm just so passionate about this.

**Sally:** Yeah, go on.

**Jacob:** Because we over-extend kindness to the point of burnout, and this goes back to my previous point. It is not kind to drill yourself into the ground because you want to give someone a second, third, fifteen-hundredth chance. Okay? That person has to be accountable. We all have to be accountable to our own garbage, and if you are a leader in that position – this is a big call-out to community – if you are a leader in these organisations that so many people are dependent on – I'm not, but other people are – other people are fundamentally on your leadership and your organisation, if you cannot do that well without harming other people, you are not a leader. You are just a person in power. That's all you are, and you need to pay attention to what's happening everywhere around Australia at the moment, because just because you're not cis, just because you're not the Prime Minister, just because you're not, you know, a white man in an ivory tower, doesn't mean we can't see it. You need to set the example. You need to set the standard. And if you can't do that, bugger off. Let someone else do it who's gonna do better.

**Sally:** Hear, hear. And I have to say, the thought did strike me on leadership as I drove to the studio today on exactly that example, and others we could talk about, that have happened during the week which are relevant. But Kayleen, bounce back, so to speak.

**Kayleen:** That was beautifully said, Jacob, I've gotta say. So, yeah, all I can do is add onto that. I think one of the – we were talking before about getting lessons from the workforce and how you apply them into the rainbow community's situation, and I think in the workforce I've seen people who've changed their behaviour enough to fit into the workforce, but I'm damn sure that if you get outside the workforce, they're still a bigot. And in the workforce, so for the sake that we can just go there, get our paycheque and so forth, I'm happy with that. But in the sort of organisations that we're looking at for the TGD and the rainbow communities, it does become an issue.

And if you've got a person who's having a disruptive effect that's harming not just themselves, because anyone who's indulging in that sort of behaviour is harming themselves as much as anyone else, but it's gonna start harming other people around them. It's gonna start harming the organisation. It'll get to the stage where the organisation can't function and so forth. Then you have to take action for – well, maybe the expression 'the greater good' applies. It's a little bit of a simplification, I think, but yeah, in that case where somebody's not prepared to respond, then they have to go. They have to be removed for the sake of everyone else around who's being affected by them. It's a little bit like, say an angry gorilla gets out of a zoo and starts pounding on all the people visiting the zoo. You don't focus on, 'Oh, what's upsetting you, Mr Gorilla or Miss Gorilla or Ms Gorilla or' —

**Sally:** Mx Gorilla.

**Kayleen:** — nonbinary gorilla, while other people are being put into ambulances. You know, you focus on, first let's get everybody else safe, and then if there's time and space and so forth afterwards, then we can look at what's happening with the gorilla.

**Sally:** Yeah. Yeah, fair enough. I wanted to do something earlier in terms of acknowledging standing on the shoulders of giants. Of course, going way back to Stonewall, you know, mentioning – thinking of people like Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, and in the bi community, Brenda Howard, the mother of Pride. And I – you know, I just want to quickly acknowledge one of the Victorian trans pioneers, Julie Peters, one of the – you know, just the awesome humans, who had a sense of humour. There's classic Julie Peters stories. I'm gonna do one quick one, and she's spoken about it publicly.

She was interviewed, of all people, one day by a certain 3AW morning announcer, who for once was a bit flustered and said, 'So did your television lighting experience – well, your lighting experience, was that in television or radio?' And Julie had the dignity at least to just, sort of, smile it off. But, you know, a sense of humour is a healthy thing, and, you know, it's how we maintain a sense of humour in this work, which is very serious. You know, as you've both said, people's lives are on the line here. But how do we find a sense of humour, not so much in the midst of the work, but in some of the things we do, and, you know, and maintain that as part of our own, first, self-care, and then leadership, being giving to others? I might just – I wanted to throw that one in, just to, well, lighten it up, if you like, and pick a – toss a coin again as to who wants to go first. Kayleen?

**Kayleen:** I'll make a bit of a joke. I'm Irish. So there you go. My father used to go to the Irish pub when I was a kid, and he came back with the lamest jokes. We loved them. You know, we were five and my sister was three, and we loved it. So basically, we were raised in an atmosphere where we tell jokes, and I'm a little bit notorious for it at work, actually. So – and in fact, when I was thinking about this week, there was a little bit of a pointed joke from The West Wing where there's a story about a French radical who sees his people running past on the street and says, 'There are my people! I must find out where they are going, so I can lead them!'

**Sally:** Jacob?

**Jacob:** Terrible. In the bin, Kayleen. Done with it. Humour. Look, I think one of the things we are allowed to remind ourselves of – I don't think we forget it because I don't think we were necessarily given it to forget, but one of the things that I want TGD people and everyone across our rainbow experiences and communities is to remind yourself that you are deserving of joy and deserving of peace and tranquillity. You are absolutely deserving of that, and I know I forgot it. Like, I had had – and I talk very openly about my mental illnesses. Like, I've got PTSD from activism, amongst other things.

**Sally:** Yes.

**Jacob:** Like, I'm 31 and I've had, I think, like, three breakdowns. And like, not 'I've had a bad day,' but like, clinically diagnosable, 'in hospital'-level breakdowns.

**Sally:** Wow.

**Jacob:** And there – it's only now that I look back and just sort of go, 'Oof, you were treating yourself so harshly.' You know, and, like, you know, if tell someone that they're garbage or that they're stupid or, you know, pick a thing, they start believing it, right? So I want all of our beautiful queer bebes to remember that you're allowed joy. You're allowed humour. You're allowed parts of the human experience just like anyone else. And part of that for me is – I mean, I'm funny, so it's great. It's either in the face or in the humour, so, you know, pick one. Sometimes it's both. Ooh, Yahtzee. But it is, you know – find people who nourish you. I use the word 'nourish' a lot, because, you know, that's what I need and it's what I have.

This work is very isolating. It's very isolating. I think most of us become arseholes in this work because we become isolated from it. And leadership's gross. It's so cold and lonely on that pedestal. There's nowhere to poop. It is just so – it is just – there's a little stick in the air just covered in faeces, and everyone's just like, 'You've got this,' and it's just like, 'But what if I fall?', and they're just like, 'You won't!' 'Oh, you're falling? Oy.' You know, it is so isolating.

So I think that's my allowance of kindness, just tying a few points in, is just like: I am fine to reach out to you if, like, you're being a bit of a dick, right? And not the good kind. To, you know, check in, why are you so mean, and why are you so isolating, and why are you being a bit vicious about things. And if you just are, then I don't care, but – work on that. I do care, but work on that. Accountability. But also it's just like, you're allowed to just not. You're allowed to have days off. You're allowed – as you know, we don't necessarily have, like, queer explicit unions in the community. Maybe we need to. I don't know. I just – maybe that's what we need. Join your union. But you know, it's just – you're allowed to take days off.

Like, you know, everyone asks me all the time – they don't, but I'll pretend that they'll do. This would be a really boring conversation topic. But they're just like, 'But you do so much. Do you get time off?' I'm like, 'I get my weekends. I get most of my nights off, because I'm really good at what I do, and also I just stopped for a bit.'

**Sally:** Mm.

**Jacob:** It goes back to what you said earlier, Kayleen. You're no good to others if you're no good to yourself. Take a break. You know, just go to a show, Covid-safely still at the moment. Like, you know, cook a food. Like, get people to cook for you. Get your – just, like, have alone time, or have a bath. Have a bath with friends. I dunno; you do you. Sit in some human soup for an hour. I dunno. You do you. Let's just – whatever you need to do to nourish yourself, to bring that joy in – Kayleen, for example, has just brought her cat onscreen, so we love that. Just tell everyone across the radio waves.

**Kayleen:** Absolutely.

**Jacob:** But it is – you know, you are deserving of time off. You are deserving of joy. You are deserving of humour, just don't make it racist and offensive. Just – you are allowed to have those things, so give yourself those things. Give yourself that time. When I am mentoring, it is one of the first things that I talk to a young person about, is take some time off for you.

**Sally:** Yeah.

**Jacob:** That's all I want you to do.

**Sally:** Yeah. Well, just two things. I actually, as well as going snorkelling yesterday, went to the Cat Café in Melbourne, which was much needed. And as for the cheeky sphinx cat and humour, well, look, I've got to give quick mention, because we had a bit of humour on the show a few weeks ago. Friday was the hundredth anniversary of the birthday of Tommy Cooper, British comedian and magician, well-known for puns. 'Doc, I can't stop singing The Green Green Grass of Home!' 'That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome.' 'Is it common?' 'It's not unusual.'

And now I've thrown you completely off-track, and my dad sends me that sort of stuff, and we call them 'dad jokes', or to be inclusive nowadays, we'd probably call them parent jokes. But seriously, you know, look, I think that this is really important, that you've gotta do self-care, and I'll just sort of give you a few moments, because we're going all the way through here, but we are near the end of the show, so I'll give you a few thoughts to marshal some, you know, thoughts on – to sum it all up, because I just want to mention the rest of the Binary Busters Special for seven hours today.

First of all, thanks to those shows like Freedom of Species and Enpsychedelia who have generously given up their timeslot for today. A whole range of trans and gender diverse issues to consider. From 1 'til 2, Tilde Joy, also the coordinator of the Binary Busters Broadcast, has recorded two interviews. The first half will be Witt and Keith from Incarcerated Trans and Gender Diverse Community Fund, re: incarcerated trans people. Then second half is a panel of trans health: Starlady from Zoe Bell Gender Collective, Elle Void from Your Community Health, Asiel Adan-Sanchez from Northside – and great work in terms of medical students – and Alex Cuffe from House of Mutual Learning. 2 'til 2:30, Unpronounsable. Nothing like a pun. Done By Law presenter MJ on a conversation about grammar, pronouns and language that shapes our genders and identities. 2:30 'til 3, Sassy's TDoV. Sassy's a trans sex worker of colour, and the importance of Trans Day of Visibility for Her. Queering the Air is still, of course, happening. There's a queer program. MV speaks with Hunter Dillon and Malaika Mfalme – I do hope I have pronounced that correctly – with focus on chronic illness and disability. 4 'til 4:30, Inclusive Architecture with the fabulous Simona Castricum. 4:30 'til 5, Busting the Binary in the Drag Scene. Megan Williams talks to Themme Fatale and how drag performance can trouble the gender binary. That sounds like a good thing to me. Sweet Dreams, lots of music, and then Trans Femmes in Noise and Industrial Musics from 6 'til 7. So I just wanted to make sure that you keep your eyes glued to the Binary Busting Broadcast, listeners, for the rest of the day.

Jacob and Kayleen, we've just about – we're getting near the end, so I mean, we could take the whole seven hours. You know, it's just such a huge topic that we're talking about, you know, today, so we'll sort of get some summary closing thoughts and the proverbial take-home message, if we can do that. Who wants to go first?

**Kayleen:** Okay. I guess building on what's gone before, looking after yourself so that you can go on, being kind and accountable, is what I've got out of today, and I think it's been marvellous listening to you, Jacob. It's helped clarify a number of thoughts for me as well, so, you know, I think there's multiple themes there to carry on.

**Jacob:** Oh, thank you so much, Kayleen. That's really lovely. Look, I think absolutely everything that Kayleen's already noted. I think recognising that for – I'm gonna still count myself as 'younger', even though I'm technically not anymore, but I don't care. Whatever. 'What's age? It's just a number.' Anyway, but I think is, you know, working through intergenerational responses. Recognising and understanding and learning history is really, really important. And working with privilege. If you have the capacity to help dismantle, you know, institutional oppressions and systemic oppressions so that others can benefit, then use your privilege for that as much as you can. You know, help each other out. That's what I would just love to see.

You know, one of the best things I think I've ever learned in my life, and it was when I was having my last breakdown, is to care is an action. You know, you can't just look at something and say, 'Oh, I care about that.' You have to act on it. Kindness is an action. Care is an action. Accountability, they're all actions, and they're all practices. So take the time and learn on those as much as you can too, because you'll benefit, as will your entire community.

**Sally:** Oh, look, there's some – absolutely on all of those. So yeah, look, totally so. Look, it's been an incredible conversation today. As I say, I wish we could have go longer. There are things we didn't cover, you know, about how – but I think we've covered a fair swag of it, which is awesome, and I hope, as I say, as I said at the start the show, that this is the start of an ongoing, we'll say frequently recurring, series of conversations that I'd love to have with plenty of people about this on this show. I think it's the sort of thing that we really need to start looking at in rainbow experience communities.

Jacob and Kayleen, what can I say? Thank you. Thank you so much for your time, your wisdom, very hugely, both of you. I hope that for our listeners, you know, we've – I think people have been pretty engrossed today with it all. Thank you, Hoffler, for tuning in. Hoffler loved the line about, sort of, going up, you know, and I agree. You know, to use my favourite adaption of the quote about privilege, 'Use your privilege for good and not evil purposes, Robin,' to quote Bat-pan. So I really, you know, love it. Thank you so much for giving up your time on the weekend, both of you, because I know you do work really hard during the week. Hard and fast, so to speak. So it's been really, really huge.

You know, in the theme of self-care, I'm going to end today with a track from the band the Cosmic Nomads, 'I'm Still Alive.' So you two just hang on a sec while I get that rolling, and to our listeners, thanks for tuning in to Out Of The Pan as part of the Binary Busters Broadcast. Stay tuned for the interviews with Tilde Joy in the chair. I'm Sally Goldner. Catch you next week for a TDoV show.

*['I'm Still Alive' by Cosmic Nomads plays]*