

'Out of the Pan' Broadcast 11-July-2021  
'Noah Riseman: History, Leadership, Ice Hockey'  
Content warnings: Nothing specified.

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[Show Intro: Opening music plays. Speaker: Sally Goldner]

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 855AM digital and 3CR.org.au.

[Snippet of 'Let's Cook' by Mental as Anything]

[Song: 'Get the Party Started' by Pink]

[Speaker: Sally Goldner] 3CR, 855AM. 3CR Digital, 3CR.org.au, and 3CR On Demand, 'Out of the Pan' with Sally Goldner. My pronouns are she/her. Brought to you noon til one every Sunday afternoon. Thanks for your company. 3CR broadcasts from the lands of the Kulin nations, and we pay respects to elders past present and emerging, and hello to any Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people tuning in, and acknowledge that all the lands was stolen and never ceded.

'Out of the Pan' is a show covering pansexual issues, knowing no boundaries of sex or gender. There's lots of ways to get in touch with the show via all the modern means of communication: [outofthepan855@gmail.com](mailto:outofthepan855@gmail.com); you can SMS +61 45 675 1215; you can tweet @salgoldsaidso and that's the bottom line; and you can look for posts on Facebook on my page, Sally Goldner or on 'Out of the Pan' 3CR 855AM Melbourne. And remember, any opinions that I express on the show are strictly my own and not those associated with any organisation with which I may have been associated or are associated.

Thanks to the crew from 'Out of the Blue', diving deep for the marine news as they always do: talking pen-goo-ins today, in the words of Bugs Bunny. And we opened up with Pink and 'Get the "Barty" Started'. I had to play that, oh, an awesome moment. Everyone is people in tears everywhere, of course, Ash, who idolises Evonne Goolagong Cawley and winning it for her, wearing the scallop dress, and of course, at the end of NAIDOC week, just too beautiful. What an event. So yeah, hashtag Barty Party and, well, if Ash Barty and Jimmy Barnes run on a joint ticket for PM and Deputy

PM, I don't care which has which role, I'll vote for them. Two people have just developed as beautiful humans over time and very, very awesome.

But the party is also for our—well, in parties, in studio party for me and my guest today, we're partying away here. It is my pleasure to welcome to the 3CR—no stranger, been on 'In Ya Face', four til five Fridays a few times. Good to have him in though today, Noah Riseman, welcome—well, welcome back to 3CR.

[Noah Riseman] Thank you so much for having me, Sally, and I'll just quickly throw out my pronouns are he/him and yes, I was also up late last night watching Ash and my partner and I were just you know having the [screams and gasps], you know, the ups and downs but it was amazing, though. It was amazing.

[Sally] Oh, look, definitely. I'm normally tucked into my little bed by 11 and I made the effort as well and sort of the end of that second set where she lost the tiebreaker, I was all 'no, no, no'. But she steadied, and she rallied, and she's just, I just—I just love her authenticity and her, you know, sort of humanity and that she's grounded. I mean, yes, fame of say, sport or arts or something, go to people's heads, but—or they can, you know, be too overwhelming. She just seems like she's so centred as a human.

[Noah] Yeah.

[Sally] I'm sure. She of course has amazing tennis skills, but I just wonder how much of that makes her an even better player on the court though, being so grounded.

[Noah] I know. Absolutely. And you know, we keep hearing about all the, pardon my French, the douchebag male tennis players and you're just like, 'well...' And people excuse it though, like, 'oh, but you know it's a tough sport, they've got these—' I'm like 'no! Look at people like Ash!' You don't need to be a douchebag. And congrats to her on—I mean, I don't know how accurate my Twitter or Facebook feed are of Australian society, but I don't think I can, at least since my time in Australia, I can't remember another moment that it seemed like everyone in Australia was watching the same event and cheering for it and just, it was a good distraction from all the other craziness going on right now.

[Sally] Well, this is very true and the craziness and the difficulties that particularly people in Sydney and surrounds are facing. We down here feels ya; we went through it for 110+ days last year. I don't think you're going to be that long, but it's going to be a little while yet and sadly, I think there were 70 cases, new cases announced this morning. I just had a quick look before we came on air, probably be a few 100+ days, but please just do the right thing up there. Stay home, minimise your contact and all that sort of thing, and you'll be back out there with us as soon as possible. So, yeah, and yeah saying, I think, gosh, I can't remember if I've said it on air or off, but Ash Barty and Jimmy Barnes for joint ticket for national leaders, and we'll have everything solved by five o'clock next Friday with some good leadership.

That is a segue because I'm interviewing people who identify as part or parts of our LGBTIQ+ rainbow/queer communities on leadership. And well, I have Noah with me today. Well, I could say—start by saying and I want to also give thanks to Xavier, one of our—3CR of course doesn't have regular listeners; we have awesome listeners. So one of our awesome listeners, I'm not sure if I got to these just towards the end of the show last week, but: 'Thanks, Sally. Just wow. What an eye-opening interview. Thanks for bringing these stories to the broader community, thanks for community radio and kudos to you for bringing this the show every week, week in week out.'

Well, thank you so much and said that both myself and Deanne were inspirations, which is very nice. But we need, you know, we need to be uplifted like Ash Barty, but the—and the queer community, we know, need that sort of uplifting at times. It hasn't always been easy. So I won't start by saying, tell me the Noah Riseman story.

[Noah] Would be a short and boring one, if you did.

[Sally] Let's pull a few—pull a few critical moments out, you know, that keeps it neutral. Could be highlights, could be challenging moments that relate to your journey and how you identify under the proverbial rainbow and, you know, sort of, what sort of things come to mind to just get us rolling here?

[Noah] Sure. And you know what, before I watched Ash last night, I was watching *Love, Simon* on TV, and so the timing of this question's interesting, because I was thinking about myself a lot when I was watching that and I love that movie. I'm a cis white gay man, and I know that our stories are—well even among cis white gay men we don't all have the same stories, but they're obviously quite different from a lot of the other parts of the rainbow alphabet. And thinking about myself, just when I was watching that and in general, I was 19 when I first realised I was gay and I was even watching the scene where Simon told his good friend, who was the first person he told. And I was remembering the first person I told, which was my friend Liz when I was at university. I was shaking, I remember, when I told her. It was at night and we'd sort of gone out to one of the lawns at the university where I was studying and I remember like shaking in my voice when I told her. And just, she was like, 'it's okay, it's fine!' And that's obviously why I told her, I knew she wouldn't mind. And then I remember the second person being nervous, but it did get easier the more people I told.

I was even thinking the other day, when I was walking home, or I was walking somewhere, maybe not home, but I was even thinking then, you know, and again I count myself privileged, I know not everyone has this experience, but I can't remember the last time that I haven't been open if that makes sense. I've been—I've had an open and out life as a gay man, partner for—oh god, he'll kill me, how long have we been together? 15 years, partner for 15 years and I can't remember the last time I wasn't out and open and I—that's really good. I think that shows a lot how far our society has come but again I also acknowledge that not everyone has that experience. So there's obviously ways to go. Yeah, I don't know if that answers your question, but just, those are—I mean the first was just that moment, I guess, was when I first came out but it's

hard to think of moments because it's so much a process for people and you're out to some people. You're not out to others. You're—you're more taking leadership roles in some sectors, but then maybe being quiet in others and seeing—yeah. Yeah, it's a process, it's hard sometimes to think a moment, but just that one when I first came out to the very first person, I was thinking about last night.

[Sally] Yeah. Well, let's, let's sort of work through all that unpack that. So if that, you know coming out was about 20 years ago, you know—

[Noah] It was exactly 20 years ago, actually, Sally, it was exactly 20 years ago now you mention that, in April.

[Sally] April's a good month to come out.

[Noah] Didn't celebrate the anniversary, I should have.

[Sally] Now there's more things to unpack here. I believe, you know, as queers, you know, if it's our choice—but I think that it is important to mark dates of coming out for trans people, say dates they started taking hormones, for those where surgery is important or surgeries, whichever dates. I think these are things that need to be celebrated, they're like our queer birthdays, spiritual birthdays, etc., so I think that's really important. And I've got to say as well, April 27th, 1995, my spiritual birthday.

[Noah] Did you know, that's two days before my bar mitzvah was?

[Sally] L'chaim! There could be Jewish in-jokes on this show today.

[Noah] Probably, sorry.

[Sally] But yeah, these are all the things that, you know, sort of what we need to do. But the thing is, you know, it's—it is important to note that it wasn't easy coming out, you know, in—I'll just keep this in say, say Victoria or, you know, cities in Australia, large cities, even in the late 90s, and that's for anyone under the rainbow. And of course, as you've rightfully acknowledged, and I think that's a really important point, we still, of course, have degrees of difference. Whether it's say, GLBT, I'm not going to say intersex people necessarily come out, it's a different—I think there can be some differences there and it's not my lived experience.

But of course then we look around Australia, it could be vastly different to come out in, in a Melbourne where well, we were just listening as we settled into the studio, the Pride Centre had its official launch today, compared to say somewhere and I know I don't want to stereotype but outback Queensland, or Western Australia or something like that, could be, you know, all other things being equal, being different.

So there's all these things, and I think the thing you've shown there immediately by acknowledging that is a sense of empathy and thinking beyond yourself, which in line

with our conversations on leadership, is a—well, I think it's almost a, it should be a basic quality of anyone in a position of leadership.

[Noah] Oh, absolutely. And I think we'll probably, I have a hunch we'll talk about this, is it's sad how much it's lacking, both—not just within the LGBTIQ+ community, but within all sorts of communities. But there is sometimes a tendency to say, 'well this was my journey and therefore my journey is representative and if your journey is different, then what's your problem?' I'm—some—I don't, I, you know, I'm not trying to say a lot of people do that. I'm not trying to say only a few people do that. But, you know, as we'll probably come to, I'm a historian and a lot of my research is oral history. So I meet all sorts of people from all walks of life, and there are quite diverging experiences and diverging opinions. And, and it's just interesting that those different experiences and opinions might formulate how people live their lives and relate to others and some with more empathy than others.

[Sally] Well, this is very true. And I mean, dry humour joke: as an educator where, if we have time in a session, we share, and whether it's myself or myself and a colleague in our work, share a bit of our personal stories. The running joke is, so you've now heard two trans stories which means you've heard two trans stories.

[Noah] [laughs] Exactly.

[Sally] And you know, that could be brought into rainbow queer and that's—and that's the thing, and on the positive side, you know, sort of one of the guidelines for the bi discussion group which—in which I'm involved every month is that everyone's journey is valid. You know, whatever your background, however you've got to wherever you are now, we need to affirm that. And I think this is, you know, of course, one of the things we face in queer communities from those who would for some reason, I'll say vehemently disagree with us is that they unaffirm. They deny even our sense of self and our identity and who we are and what we've been through, and 'how did you know?' and 'well, how do you prove it?' [irritated noises] and—

[Noah] I think, and this is, it's a slightly different angle. Sorry, I didn't mean to cut you off there.

[Sally] Go for it.

[Noah] It's a slightly different angle but also when some people, and maybe I'm stereotyping—I'm not stereotyping. When the conservatives, the religious Right, those who hate our community will have a member of our community who has their particular lived experience and has views that may be aligned with theirs, and they say, 'well, this person agrees with me, therefore what I say as a person who is actually demonising the majority of the LGBTIQ+ community is valid, because this particular member who I know, who is my friend, who I've spoken to, well, they agree with me. Therefore, what I'm saying—what they say represents your entire community and now I am not a transphobe when I say X, I'm not a homophobe when I say Y.' Rather than being more

well, that's *an* experience, that's *a* view. It is not *the* view, it is not *the* experience. There is no *the* experience. There is a—there are dominant, and this is one of the things as a historian that I try and talk about is dominant stories, dominant narratives, dominant patterns whilst also acknowledging diversity and difference even within the dominant stories.

[Sally] Well, look, definitely. There are, just got to get the number right, about eight billion experiences at least.

[Noah] Is that what we're at now?

[Sally] I've lost track.

[Noah] Me too.

[Sally] 7.8, eight billion. Well, you know, a couple of hundred million, who's counting between friends? Seriously, you know, everyone's experiences—but yeah, let's talk about the fact, well, the fact, the situation that your work is you're an historian, and you're based not within the block of 3CR when you go to work. Tell us all about that and how that relates to this issue, the issues that we're talking about here.

[Noah] Sure. So for those out there who don't know, I'm a historian and I work at Australian Catholic University and we can certainly talk about that too, if we want, I get asked about it all the time. But the short version of it is it's actually a far more affirming and accepting environment, at least for me, than people might assume based on the name. But that's a whole other story that might take us the whole program. So my background, I do LGBTIQ+ history. My previous research was looking at the history of LGBTIQ people in the Australian Defence Force, and I've written quite a lot on that, and there's a few books on that and people want to go read them, that would be lovely.

But of course, part of that is the T for the trans experiences within the Defence Force, and as part of that research, I interviewed about a dozen trans members of the Defence Force, past and present. And one thing that became really clear from interviewing them and learning about their life experiences and their experiences in the Defence Force is, you can't understand the experiences of trans people within one particular institution without knowing the much broader history, the legal, the social, the medical, the media, all of it, because it all influences on those life experiences.

And so from that, I then moved into a different project which has been ongoing and which has brought me into contact with Sally. And it is part of what's brought me here today, which is looking at the history of trans people in Australia since the early 20th century, and I've been doing this work for the last few years. As I've said a lot of it is oral history based, I've done about 70 oral histories with trans community members past and present. Well, I mean, they're still present, I mean past as in perhaps much more active in the past. And I also approached this knowing that I am a cisgender male. So I do try to work closely with various stakeholders, organisations, partners along the way, and

when I do write stuff and present stuff, I try to do it as much as possible where I can centre the trans voices and perspectives as an ally knowing that these are not my stories, but, I don't know; I'm a facilitator, maybe, is a good word or something, to try and get them out there and promote these stories and these voices. And that was a long segue explaining what I do.

But to go back to the question of leadership, I suppose, maybe I don't—see, it's funny. I don't see myself as a leader, Sally. Look, I do in other aspects of my work and life, but in terms of the LGBTIQA+ community, I absolutely don't. And that's because I see a lot more people, a lot more active, a lot more putting themselves out there, doing work that I think is much more fundamental. And I see those people as, as bigger leaders. But I do see my role or my envisioning of leadership in general is I think that word facilitate that I just said, of trying to get voices out there and perspectives out there and stories out there, that people individuals have known, some segments of the community have known. It's very interesting, when you hear the same story told by Sally, and then you know someone like Jonathan Pare tells the same story, and Julie Peters tells the same story. But then trying to compile those three versions of the same story and put it out there in a platform that a lot of people who are younger or who maybe weren't identifying as part of the community, or might be allies who back in the 90s weren't allies—not weren't allies, but weren't paying attention to be like, this is what was going on in 1990s in Victoria, this is what was going on for trans people in 1990s Australia, and for people to be able to learn from that. Sorry, very long-winded answer to your question there. We'll go with the word facilitator for the, for the moment, there are other words we can use too.

[Sally] Well, look, I'll go with your—although I have to say a word that did flash through my mind, you're a conduit in a sense.

[Noah] I almost used that word but I thought that sounded just too wrong but that could be another one.

[Sally] But you're not shocking. I'm sorry that was a pun, an electrical pun. Did want to acknowledge one thing, of course, your history which I want to talk about a little, you know, in detail, starts early 20th century and of course there have been people expressing their gender and identifying their gender authentically on this large island and smaller ones around, and all places on the earth since time began.

[Noah] Oh, look. And I acknowledge that, I think the reason we started early 20th century for this project was a) logistics that you can only do so much in a project. And so, of course everything I've written, I've acknowledged since time immemorial the, the long traditions of gender diversity within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities which today, you know, often identify as sistergirl and brotherboy. But the—look, I think the reason when, when we wrote the project grant that we set it at early 20th century was because—apologies for the offensive word, but this was the word at the time, transvestitism—that's when that word was first coined, and that's when you began to see a discourse around trans or transness. So that's look, yeah the project

itself is looking since early 20th century but I of course acknowledge we could go back sometime immemorial if we, if we were really determined to and maybe that's a, that's another project for someone else.

[Sally] That's right. It's a huge one. Although I know there are a couple of books that are either in the works or maybe even been published, I've got to follow-up on that, that are looking at a history of, well, gender in a broad sense of that word over the world since time began. And CN Lester, fabulous non-binary person from the UK, you know, sort of covers this in their first book *Trans Like Me* too a little bit, but it's a, you know, it is a definitely a book or a paper or seven PhDs in, in the, in itself.

[Noah] Exactly.

[Sally] But now I'm going to throw—here's a tricky question, the curve ball one. Can you have a go at defining leadership?

[Noah] Defining it? See, that's a really, oh my God. You are trying to trick me.

[Sally] You had a coffee before you came, right?

[Noah] You know what, I'm gonna—I'm not going to define it. I'm going to do—this is a very bizarre analogy, but it's hard to define fascism, for instance. And I think it's also hard to define leadership. But what we can say, I would say, is there are characteristics of leadership.

[Sally] Aha.

[Noah] And I think different people exhibit different characteristics and different styles. And thinking through some of those characteristics, I think it's the big picture, it's about taking people on a journey, it's about having an aim and having—coming up with strategies to get to that aim, taking people again on that journey to that aim. Those are the first characteristics that come to mind, but they're so broad on purpose because there are different styles and approaches to get there. Thinking about myself, and I know that, as I said, I do see myself as a leader in other aspects of my career, in my work, as I said, less so when it comes to LGBTIQ+ community. But in general, my leadership style, I like to think of is about listening and affirming, and I say that based on my own lived experience as a leader, but also of being someone who often hasn't been listened to or hasn't been affirmed in various aspects of life.

And I think that you—I've said this to lots of people, including some of the senior hierarchy at my workplace. I say you, look, you're never always going to get your own way, and that's totally fine. I think, partly because of that diversity of perspectives, diversity of voices, and diversity of what people want, whether it's for some aspect of the LGBTIQ+ community, whether it's about health, sport, the law. I mean, I don't know, like anything, anything, you're never always gonna get what you want. But you want to know that the people in the positions of power, or the people in positions of influence



who aren't always in power, are at least listening to you and doing it in such a way that they're respecting your voice and affirming your voice. And even when they're not agreeing with you, they're at least taking you on that journey, so you can understand why they've taken a different approach. Or they can say, well, we've taken this aspect of what you said, but we've also had this other perspective, so we've come up with this instead. And I think it's really, I applaud people who can pull that off. It's not an easy thing to pull off to get people who didn't always agree with you to still go, 'yeah, but I feel like you did this the right way'. But yeah, sorry again, another long-winded answer to your question, but my short answer is it's, I don't think you can define it, but you can characterise it and those are some of the characteristics.

[Sally] Yep. Well, I think that, now I'm going to challenge you in a really nice easy way this time.

[Noah] Oh good, phew! [laughs]

[Sally] I think—I would have to say with all I say, totally, I think you're underestimating yourself, because I try to either characterise or whether we—or define leadership as transference of strength. Now, you are transferring your listening skills, your love and knowledge of history and how to research. There's forms of strength that you are giving and, as you identified yourself as a cisgender gay male, as an ally to the transgender diverse non-binary community. So there's a form of leadership and sometimes, I think we all can do this where we don't even look at our own strengths, you know, a lot of us can, I won't generalise but, you know, it's that thing where we don't even—we underestimate ourselves too much because it's just, maybe we just love doing it?

[Noah] [laughs]

[Sally] We think isn't that how the world's, in inverted commas, 'supposed to be'? So I think there is a lot of leadership on that. And the other thing, taking people on a journey and setting goals so they grow—sure you're not a life coach? Sounds a bit like that.

[Noah] Yeah, I know, it does, doesn't it?

[Sally] So, you know, I think there is a sense of leadership in there that is really, really important in terms of what you're doing and how you're doing it and I totally agree with you in terms of affirmation. We just haven't sort of really, sometimes we don't do that and yes, it can be difficult in our rainbow communities and communities that have faced negativity because we're hurt, we're traumatised and trauma comes up and we feel like we've been traumatised and re-traumatised and we can't—we're not quite maybe in the proverbial present moment. And I think there's a lot of that in there. So if you've got that ability to listen and hold views that I'll say are either apparently or actually in conflict, and of course, that's a debatable thing. Perception is reality and of course they're bits of both, then I think that is a strength of leadership.

[Noah] That's very kind of you, and actually I will take your compliment and I'll actually, I think you've—you've just added a really important point to my characteristics of leadership is that word change and I think it's that ability to influence change. Perhaps why I'm a little less forward to put myself as a leader in this space, as I see myself as documenting and trying to promote and highlight the examples of change that others have, have been able to push and facilitate and that's what—and it's also because I've met and interviewed so many amazing people who've been so influential. I mean, yourself as one example, Kayleen White, Julie Peters. I got to meet the wonderful Roberta Perkins before she sadly passed. So I suppose, maybe it's when I see these people who really have influenced change for the better for LGBTIQ+ communities and those examples I just gave, specifically trans communities, that's why I'm sort of like no, look, maybe I'm telling great stories—not telling, sharing—sharing great stories of people who have facilitated change. I don't think I've facilitated change which is why maybe I'm hesitant to put myself up there. But I do thank you for your compliment because I think you are right in part different leaders and people are doing different activities, play to different strengths. And I think that that's, I would totally agree with that. And thank you for the compliments on some of my strengths.

[Sally] Well, that's the thing. And when we start then putting in everyone's strengths together, we build a better community, society and yeah, there is that thing out there called an economy as well, which is a part of our life and if that can be done ethically, just for once, then we're away.

I'm going to just need a little bit of a breather. So I've got a track lined up, which I hope you will like, and we've got a couple of messages to get to after we come back. So let's have a—just have a halfway pause and a message or two and a track, and then I'll continue my conversation with historian and well, reluctant modest leader Noah Riseman [Noah starts laughing] on 3CR, 855AM. 3CR Digital, 3CR.org.au, 3CR On Demand, 'Out of the Pan' with Sally and guest Noah, and here's a Bob Seger track.

[Song: 'Noah' by Bob Seger]

[Speaker: 3CR promo] YarraBUG radio, 10 to 10:30 every Monday morning on 3CR community radio. All things to do with cycling in Yarra region and around Melbourne. Listen in.

[Sally] 3CR, 855AM. 3CR Digital, 3CR.org.au, and 3CR On Demand, 'Out of the Pan' with Sally, first broadcasting noon through one every Sunday afternoon. Thanks for your company. We just heard from The Bob Seger System from somewhere way back in the early 70s and from the title track of an album called *Noah*, which anyone'd think the show was planned because my guest is Noah Riseman, who is many things including historian and lover of queer history and many other things. And we've had a couple of question messages come in from one of our awesome listeners because that's what 3CR has. Hofler's said, 'Proud of Pride Centre today. Any thoughts from your guest?' and, 'Pleasantly surprised with the depth and diversity of speeches at today's opening, very nice and incredibly moving.' And added a few minutes back, Michael—about 10

minutes ago, Michael Kirby speaking now. So you can watch the Pride Centre launch<sup>i</sup> back I would think on YouTube later, but you're—are there any thoughts?

[Noah] Oh, big questions again. Look I think congratulations, I'd first say to the to the organisers and the openers and the planners and everything that's gone into this. I mean congratulations to them. As the historian I would invoke history in that actually this is not the first Pride Centre in Victoria, although it's the first of its kind.

[Sally] Ooooh.

[Noah] Well, I don't know much about the other one, but it's mentioned in Heritage Victoria<sup>ii</sup> did a hundred historical places and objects.

[Sally] Oh, yes.

[Noah] Yes, and buried in that is the mention that in the early 80s, there was briefly this other place that was called the Pride Centre set up by the community. And so it's actually the second time there's been one in Victoria, which I think is a fun little fact that I didn't know until I attended the launch of that document when Ro Allen mentioned that. I would say I look I'm very looking forward to visiting the Australian Queer Archives there. For years they've bounced around from different locations, and they've been very fortunate that the then Victorian AIDS Council, now Thorne Harbour Health, always gave them a home since the late 90s, I believe, and now they have their own home at the Pride Centre, and that will probably be my first visit, will be to use their reading room.

Beyond that, look, I don't—there's a lot of community organisations there, different people will go for different reasons. I'll be honest, St Kilda is a bit of a pain for me to get to. I always joke that, well, I've always joked that St Kilda is a bit of a vortex that sucks you in, it's very easy to get there but you can never seem to get out. But in terms of the speeches and the opening just in part, because I was on my way here and we're obviously doing this, we haven't heard much of them, but Sally and I did catch the tail end of Dan Andrews' speech and it's pretty damn good, I have to say, and I did like his references to the north-south divide [Sally laughs], which made me go, 'well, exactly, why have you put this in St Kilda, put it somewhere more convenient for me!' But regardless look, congrats to the people who opened it and to those who will be housed there, you know, Joy FM, TGV is going to have a partial presence there, I think, isn't that right?

[Sally] Not speaking officially for TGV, which I can't do. But well, we're maintaining a joint presence at both 100 Drummond Street, Drummond Street Services, Queerspace, and more, and also at the Pride Centre which I think is good. So we're trying to span, we're trying to—

[Noah] You're spanning the north-south divide. Ding! So look that's, that's my thoughts on it. I think it's an interesting initiative and you know I hope it, I hope looks as fabulous as the drawings suggest when I see it in person.

[Sally] Well, looking at the video I did hop into the station early today to just watch it prior to the show. Does certainly from the outside looks pretty cool, and what I can see from the inside. And the thing is, I think that was—just to clarify for our listeners, that was the other announcement, that to try to everyone trying to bridge this north-south divide, north-south divide, there's going to be a sort of a sort of festival march in this festival type of thing in the streets, which was—planning for which got underway of course at the start of last year. And of course, delays, delays, as Marvin the Martian said, but there's going to be a belated sort of commemoration celebration of 40 years of decriminalisation of consensual sex. That will happen in December in— here in Smith Street.

[Noah] On the north side. And I think the premier said that it's going to become an annual event, which is great. But I'm so like December, but Midsumma's in January, it's bit close, but I'm sure someone will work it out. You know, everyone wants to party, so why not?

[Sally] Well, that's right, one bit queer—one big queer celebration,

[Noah] A big queer summer, every summer.

[Sally] That's right. Well, this is—normally the thing is of course, well, I'll say pre-COVID, we would sort of all stagger through our year to Christmas and then collapse in a heap for two weeks and then turn up for Midsumma Carnival. Now we'll have extra reasons maybe to collapse in a heap, I don't know.

[Noah] Correct. [laughs]

[Sally] You can collapse in a heap after exercise and sport and I wanted to ask you about that on a totally different tack because you wanted to talk about it. You, you're a bit of a, you know, a Sporty Spice?

[Noah] Well, I didn't used to be. So I used to have—look, when I was a kid, I played soccer, but I hadn't done sport in years, and then about almost two years ago now, I got sucked into playing—and I say sucked in not in a bad way, because I'm absolutely loving it—for the Southern Lights. And for those listeners who don't know, the Southern Lights is Melbourne and Australia's first LGBTIQ+ and inclusive ice hockey team. So I am now an ice hockey player. And I— I was about to swear by accident there. I absolutely love it. It's so much fun. We have just such a great team, a great vibe going out there weekly and getting on the ice. The team I'm on right now mostly plays on Saturdays. So that's how I spend my Saturday afternoons and evenings. And, oh, yeah, it's, oh, it's great. It's just so much fun. And so now, I've accidentally converted to a little bit of mini sportiness in my life third because of this.

[Sally] Look, you know, sort of I'm the same, I was Flabby Spice for years and you know, I don't think I've bored—I think I bored the listeners enough with my how I took up swimming about three and a half years ago, thanks to City of Darebin, who were the first to get in with one of the trans swim nights and there I was a couple of laps and now three lots of 20 laps three times a week. Although I have to say Friday morning two degrees was a bit much. [Noah laughs.] I delayed until lunchtime when it was a balmy 11 degrees and it's not really a sport.

[Noah] Is it an outdoor pool or an indoor pool?

[Sally] Outdoor.

[Noah] Oh God.

[Sally] It's—once you get in—

[Noah] Is it still open this time of year?

[Sally] It's heated so it's okay. And once you get in it's 27° and off you go, and your hands thaw out and there we are, but I think that isn't, you know, it's an issue for queers. We often—

[Noah] Whereas I'm like going to a sport that we intentionally get cold and go on ice. Padded up and all that.

[Sally] Yeah, sort of on ice, it sounds like a refreshing cold beverage, a Stone Cold Steve Austin my hero used to say.

[Noah] Yeah, we've had plenty of jokes about the other ways that might be interpreted among—plenty of other jokes about that.

[Sally] Yes. Well, we'll save those for off-air or after nine o'clock or something. But, you know, seriously, queers in sport is an issue. We know that sometimes queers haven't, you know, fitted in sport. The fact that we still don't have an out gay or bisexual player at AFL Mens' level of course—

[Noah] Or even past, even retired, we don't.

[Sally] Well, there's the thing, past or present, lots of lesbian, bisexual, queer women of course, past and present in AFLW. And I think that, my personal theory on that, I know I'm digressing a bit, is that I think they need to sort of, there's got to be—got, of course, be more than one past or present. And I think two or three people perhaps need to do it all at once to deflect it—

[Noah] Sally, I think you just stole my—that's what I've been saying for years. Because—look maybe I'm being a bit naïve and generous, but I actually think that the professional AFL is probably more accepting than we give it credit for and I reckon that there are gay players, bisexual players who are out to their teammates. Like I reckon they are and they're living their lives and their teammates probably are more supportive than we give credit for. But no one wants to be the first to be the public one that has to face the media, and all the scrutiny, and the extra attention. So, I reckon that there's probably a dozen. They probably all know each other. They should all come out together at once. That's my personal take, but, you know, I could be wrong. There probably is homophobia, of course there's homophobia going on there. But I also think that there probably is more acceptance than we realise and give credit for.

[Sally] I think so too. And I mean, you know, here's an interesting one. I mean where was it about 2009? I remember Professor Caroline Symons—or is it Doctor? Highly regarded sports academic put out her research at that point and Jason Akermanis, who former player—

[Noah] Ugh.

[Sally] And, I know, well, that was my response and, you know, sort of well wannabe-shock jock. But what he was trying to say was that there was, you know, it wouldn't be easy to come out in his badly communicated way, probably, and I think to some extent he was right. But you would like to think now in, you know, sort of, you know, increasingly in Australia that there's a chance that an AFLM player can come out, and for that matter NRL as well.

[Noah] Yeah. I think the reason I rolled my eyes and did the 'ugh' to Jason is he didn't just say it wouldn't be easy to come out publicly, he also said it wouldn't be easy to come out to your team. And that's where I think that's where I, as I said before, I actually reckon they are out to the teams, but that said, there's also, it's—dare I bring it back to my ice hockey team?

[Sally] Bring it back.

[Noah] There is an important role that that queer sporting clubs play. I would say for me personally it wasn't because it was—well, it was in part, it wasn't that I didn't—god, see, I'm all over the shop here, because different people join queer sporting clubs for different reasons. And so I can speak to my experience and some of my teammates, but also, my partner used to play for the Melbourne Chargers and so I know quite a lot of people who've played with the Chargers, the gay rugby team past—gay and inclusive rugby team past and present. Some people, it's because they were interested in a particular sport, but because of homophobia when they were younger or biphobia or, you know, just bigotry, let's just say, bigotry in general, when they were younger were turned off and this is a safe space for them to come back to that sport. For other people who never—they might have never even thought about the sport but it's, 'well this will be a safe space, I'm interested in trying out ice hockey or soccer or football or rugby or

whatever'. And so they know this will be an environment where they can do that and they can do it safely and be included. For others it's a social thing, just sort of looking for a way to make friends, meet people and you know, get a bit fit in the process, and so they join for the social side, knowing that it's another LGBTIQ+ space.

For me, how I got involved in the ice hockey team was actually, the reason I say I got sucked in is like I wasn't necessarily even thinking about ice hockey. I wasn't necessarily thinking that it would be a homophobic sport and I'm not interested in my experience and it's in part the team I play with and in part the league I play in, we haven't come across homophobia. I know it has happened at the professional level a little bit, but in the lower levels in Ice Hockey Victoria, I haven't seen it happen. But for me, it was just I knew how to skate. Like you can hear from my accent, I grew up in the US. I knew how to skate. I think it was mid-summer 2019, they had one of those come and try it out days and I did. And they sort of split us into two groups, people who had never skated before and didn't know what they were doing, and those who had played ice hockey before, and I was like, I fit somewhere in between the two of these because I know how to skate, but I've not played ice hockey before. I went up going with that group and then went out for a little meal afterwards and the vice president of the club was like, 'oh, so who do you play for?' I was like, 'what are you talking about? I've never played in my life,' but he was really encouraging. And the club—we don't do it enough now and part because of the lockdowns all of the arenas, the three ice rinks keep opening and closing.

[Sally] Of course.

[Noah] They used to—we used to run a once a month, just a social skate for anyone to come and so I started going to that. And then I didn't play in the Southern Lights first season but I did play in their second season because all of a sudden this email went around, it's like, all right, we need people to sign up, and I was like, I'll just do it. Just do it. And the next thing I knew I was playing my first game. I was like, I don't know what the hell I'm doing. I didn't! I had no idea what I was doing! I went way offside and then like and got the whistle blown on me for offside and the ref who was actually really nice pulls me over because he just goes, 'I know you're learning, but you just went offside. I think you need your coach to explain that to you'. And I was like 'okay!' and I got off. And she did, she's like 'okay this is what offside is' and I, like, I've never done it so ignorantly again. Every now and again, you get caught, I get caught offside, but not like—but it's just been so much fun in the club, the people are absolutely amazing.

And as I said, different people have joined for different reasons. We have a lot of allies who play for us and we've gone from that first season before I played there was one team. The season I joined, we had two teams. Then lockdowns happened, but we got restarted and November–December last year after the big lockdown we had three teams. This season we have five teams. Our club—and I was saying to Sally before, I don't know of any other queer sporting club in Melbourne that has five teams. That's how quickly we've grown so fast and we are actually known within the Beer League that we play in [Sally laughs] it's called the Beer League because it's meant to be a social

event, and after each game you get a free beer and if you're a non-drinker you can get a soft drink. But so it's called the Beer League but within the Beer League, our club is known for having a really good reputation of having a great culture. Because of course, we want to win and we do win. We don't—like, we do win games. One of our teams was in the grand final for their division last year and were runners-up. But if we don't win, it's not the end of the world, we are known as an encouraging club and our skill levels go from just learn how to skate all the way through to some really good people who are really good and they play for the better team, of course.

So I'm obviously very proud of my club and encourage any listeners, if you have any inkling, we're called the Southern Lights, and you can follow us on Twitter<sup>iii</sup>, on Facebook<sup>iv</sup>, or go to our website<sup>v</sup>, and you can put in an expression of interest form. All of our five clubs—all of our five teams, we play in Reservoir, which I don't live anywhere near Reservoir, so it is a bit of pain in the arse, but luckily one of my very nice teammates who's this big burly Icelandic guy who also lives in the western suburbs usually gives me a lift and every car ride with him is another adventure.

[Sally] Hopefully not because of his driving.

[Noah] No, no, because of the stories, because of the stories that he tells.

[Sally] Just wanted to check.

[Noah] He's pretty funny, a pretty funny guy. But this is the guy who, you know, he's an ally and you know, he early on was like asking me questions about, you know, queer culture and things. And it's been learning experience for him and for others. And you know, now I—we're trying to teach his six-year-old son to skate. So I've been going skating with him and his six-year-old son and actually this is kind of fun. We've been going to O'Brien Arena which is the one in the Docklands for that. And they, on certain weekend mornings, have like a family for under eights, a family thing with it, which is a really good cheap rate. And so we've been getting that and I think all the staff there think we're the two fathers which is totally fine. I just think it's funny. I'm like, 'I'm pretty sure the staff think you and I are both his father' and he's like, 'oh well'.

[Sally] Well, it is really cool and I'm, you know, sort of catching the enthusiasm as you're talking.

[Noah] Yeah. Maybe the listeners can hear the big smile on my face and if you'd talked to me two and a half years ago, you'd be like, 'Noah, ice hockey, what?' And my dad grew up playing ice hockey.

[Sally] Aha.

[Noah] My dad is so stoked that I've taken this up because I had no interest whatsoever as a kid and my dad's like, 'what? Why? What?' It's like he's so proud and he watches



our matches on YouTube afterwards. So it's, yeah, it's this really interesting family dimension there too.

[Sally] Well, there's so much in that, there's the joy of it. Yeah, it's sort of so many things. And well, you can get a free beer afterwards. In the words, I've got to say it in the words of my—

[Noah] Or a soft drink if you're not a drinker.

[Sally] Or a soft drink. But in the words of one of my heroes Stone Cold Steve Austin, 'throw me a beer, I'm thirsty'. @salgoldsaidso on Twitter. But yeah, sort of, to me, I think that ice hockey—the thought struck me, I know it's, you know, we've got skates and then we've got wheels with roller derby. And roller derby is, you know, to me, what I hear, one of the most queer-inclusive sports—

[Noah] Absolutely.]

[Sally] —and exercising things out there. So I just wonder if there's a sort of parallel there that really—

[Noah] There's more than a parallel, Sally, a lot of our players, and not just on our team, but on a lot of the ice hockey, are former roller derby people.

[Sally] Aha.

[Noah] And because the skills are transferable, so we have a lot of former roller derby players, queer identified, lesbian, trans, we've got, we've got quite a few of them and they're some of our best players, the ones who come across from the roller world are really, they, they pick it up so quickly because I think once they get used to the ice, all the other skills are—they've already got them.

[Sally] Yeah, well, look, I'm still working out how to walk in medium heels, so it won't be for me. See that's the joy—

You know what that means, Sally, you have balance skills. If you've got—it's the balance is the key thing that's transferable. So you actually could probably be fine if you put on a pair of skates and have a few goes around the rink.

[Sally] I think I'll need a suit of armour rather than just padding. Now I'm getting visions of Bugs Bunny in 'Knighty Knight Bugs'. Anyway.

[Noah] Well and also we're the, we're the Southern Lights, the, as I said, Melbourne and Australia's first team, but there is now as of this year, Sydney has the Harbour Lights and we're very excited. There were plans to have an exhibition match against them in September, obviously, who knows now. But you know, we're very hopeful that Brisbane we can get a Northern Lights, Perth we can get a Western Lights. I don't know what

would happen if Tassie got them since we're already the Southern Lights, but it would be great to see this expand and I also know that we're—the Southern Lights is part of what's called, I think it's LGBT, LGBTIQ Ice Hockey Australia, or maybe it's Australian LGBTIQ+ Ice Hockey. And I know that the leaders and look, there's a bit of a blurring because they're basically the leaders of the Southern Lights, tend to be the leaders of that as well, but they are doing work with the Australian Ice Hockey League on issues of inclusion and diversity. Because, as I said, there have been a few incidents of homophobia that have been known about. And so they've done work with them, just as the Melbourne Chargers and the Sydney Convicts and the Perth Rams have done work with Rugby Australia. Just as those various roller derby clubs and others have worked. So, so there's—it's great because it comes from the ground but also the peak bodies, often when they start listening, sometimes there's a lot of banging on the door to get them to start listening.

[Sally] True.

[Noah] Often there's an incident that sparks them realising, 'oh, okay,' and then they will turn to the clubs, but better late than never, I suppose. But a lot of those peak bodies will work with the queer sporting clubs to try and facilitate change more broadly, which is a great thing.

[Sally] Definitely. Yeah. So, just a few thoughts that come in, come in before we had better start wrapping up because—

[Noah] Sorry. We haven't even talked about the history!

[Sally] Well, that's something else, we're gonna have to squeeze in so that and just some final thoughts from you, but just a couple more messages. Hofler is multitasking today. Dr Carolyn Briggs made a great speech at the Pride Centre launch—

[Noah] Oh good!

[Sally] And Mama Alto singing 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow as she does' so well.

[Noah] Oh, bless.

[Sally] Tongue-in-cheek, hi boss, Mama Alto, the new CEO of Transgender Victoria and so lots of wows going on there. And a couple of other things I've just got to mention, random thoughts that I think are important. Interesting story today about a former conservative Liberal Party politician Michael Yabsley coming out at 64<sup>vi</sup>, which I think is a story that, you know, I know people might criticise the Liberal Party, but, you know, I think we need to acknowledge our rainbow seniors perhaps on a day like this. And I forgot to mention at the start when I got all excited about Ash Barty, of course congrats to Dylan Alcott.

[Noah] Oh my god, of course, yes!

[Sally] So you know major blue on my part to not get all that diversity in. But—

[Noah] And can I throw a quick criticism to Channel Nine? Shame on you for not showing the Dylan Alcott match.

[Sally] Live. Yeah, it was on after, afterwards.

[Noah] I think it was on Stan TV, but it wasn't on Channel Nine. Shame on them.

[Sally] Oh, that's right. Yes, yes, you're quite correct. Yeah, I did hear that, and boo hiss to Channel Nine, an Australian champion just as important as Ash or any other Australian champion therein. We've got a couple of minutes left before we need to wrap up and make way for 'Freedom of Species', will be talking on the show today about reporting on plant-based meats, because they do all things animal advocacy on 'Freedom of Species'. And—but we've got to mention two things quickly, the trans history report and also just any final thoughts that you have, doesn't have to be linked directly to do with leadership and then we'd better close it down.

[Noah] Well, look, yeah. So I would say the project I've been doing on Australian trans history is still ongoing and I'm still interviewing people. So if there are any trans or gender diverse listeners out there who would be interested in doing an oral history interview, please do get in touch. But yeah, that was one of the outputs because, you know, as academics we're always generating lots of things from the research, was a report on Victoria's transgender history, which Transgender Victoria very kindly published and it is available online for free<sup>vii</sup>. And it was meant to be about sharing the—again, the sort of dominant stories, the dominant narrative of the history of social, legal, medical, and living experiences of trans and gender diverse people in Victoria. And that report does actually go back earlier than the 20th century, but most of the information is from the 20th century and, and it's just a, I don't know to say it's based on a lot of wonderful people who were willing to be interviewed, people who I actually would call leaders. And it's—and also a lot of the records, they very generously shared, and it's just one example of the type of things that I'm trying to produce.

I've been agreed to produce something similar for New South Wales that ACON is going to publish next year. We're aiming for Trans Day of Visibility for that to be published. And I'm still working on bigger stuff, there'll be a book that comes out of this eventually, but it is about trying to get information out there because—I know we're short on time but last year when there was a Zoom launch of the Roberta Perkins legal project, I remember when people were talking about the history and there were quite a few people in the chat saying, we want to know more of the history, we want to know more of the history and so again, it's about getting that out there and so that people can learn this history. Both trans people and allies, cis people as well because it's a really important history that hasn't been shared enough. And so the more we can share it, the more people can learn and hopefully with that learning, progress even better going forward.

[Sally] Yep. Well look, keep leading us with your history work, with your ice hockey work and fun, most of all, Noah an absolute pleasure to have you on the show today. Better wrap it up there, make way for 'Freedom of Species'. Take it out today with Shirley Bassey and the Propellerheads and well it's just a little bit of 'History Repeating'. Noah Riseman—

[Noah] [laughs] You can't help yourself, Sally. Thank you, thank you.

[Sally] Thanks for being on 'Out of the Pan'. I'm Sally Goldner, catch you next week.

[Song: 'History Repeating' by Shirley Bassey and the Propellorheads]

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<sup>i</sup> <https://pridecentre.org.au/victorian-pride-centre-live-stream-event/> - at 15-Jul-2021 I could not locate the video on YouTube, but it may be linked from this page in future.

<sup>ii</sup>

[https://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0026/513890/History\\_Of\\_LGBTIQplus\\_Victoria.pdf](https://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/513890/History_Of_LGBTIQplus_Victoria.pdf) - 8MB if you download it, 254 page PDF document. The location Noah is speaking about is on page 36.

<sup>iii</sup> <https://twitter.com/slicehockey/>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/282019619420349/>

<sup>v</sup> <https://southernlightsicehockey.com/>

<sup>vi</sup> <https://www.smh.com.au/national/i-couldn-t-go-on-living-a-double-life-why-conservative-michael-yabsley-came-out-at-64-20210330-p57fab.html>

<sup>vii</sup> <https://tgv.org.au/victorias-transgender-history-report>