

# Honi Soit

SEMESTER ONE, 2016 • WEEK 6

FIRST PRINTED 1929

## USYD OF THE FUTURE

**THE 2016-20 STRATEGIC PLAN  
EXPLAINED • NEW BUILDINGS:  
HOW WILL CAMPUS CHANGE?**



### Who is Auntie Donna?

Patrick Morrow  
knows

**PROFILE, PAGE 14**

### The pain of endometriosis

Katelyn Cameron encourages us to  
take the disease seriously

**OPINION, PAGE 12**

### The summer school trap

Nick Bonyhady asks why summer  
school is so expensive

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### AMWU slams 'dishonest' NUS campaign

**NEWS, PAGE 6**



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## 15 / FEATURE

Alexandros Tsathas deconstructs the construction on campus.

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# Honiscopes

The stars, as interpreted by Heston Blumenthal Art: Zita Walker



**Capricorn**  
Repeat as necessary to cook the remaining soldiers.



**Pisces**  
Blitz the mixture until fully incorporated. Wear safety goggles.



**Aquarius**  
Sit back and watch their surprise as the base explodes in their mouths.



**Scorpio**  
Simmer until reduced to a jam-like consistency. This will take approximately 25 minutes.



**Sagittarius**  
Make sure you include all three elements – it's the combination that makes it so good.



**Leo**  
Put on 2 pairs latex gloves, followed by safety gloves covered with another pair latex gloves.



**Gemini**  
Don't let it come into direct contact with your skin or you will get a nasty burn.



**Virgo**  
Substituting the flour with potato flesh gives a lighter, springier donut



**Aries**  
Don't squirt out too much.



**Libra**  
Serve immediately.



**Cancer**  
To start the ice cream, pre-heat the grill.



**Taurus**  
Using a blowtorch, light the chips until they begin to smoke.

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Andrew Bell

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. The University of Sydney – where we write, publish and distribute *Honi Soit* – is on the sovereign land of these people. As students and journalists, we recognise our complicity in the ongoing colonisation of Indigenous land. In recognition of our privilege, we vow to not only include, but to prioritise and centre the experiences of Indigenous people, and to be reflective when we fail to. We recognise our duty to be a counterpoint to the racism that plagues the mainstream media, and to adequately represent the perspectives of Indigenous students at our University. We also wholeheartedly thank our Indigenous reporters for the continuing contribution of their labour to our learning.



## EDITORIAL

Andrew Bell

The violent fracas that dragged across the foyer of Fisher Library this week is the most visible and recent sign of the struggle between competing visions of the future of this University. The catalyst was the resurrection of a scheme to restructure and expand the debt that future students will bear. It may be of little consequence to much of the current populace of Sydney University – but certainly is for those who tread the same path in years to come. While each student only experiences a fleeting episode of its history, the conversations on Eastern avenue now will shape the course that this University takes for many years to come. These conversations ventilate fundamentally different conceptions of the value of education and who should be able to access it. In this edition we take apart the new strategic plan, track the largely as-yet-unseen evolution of the architecture at this University, and question current the operating cost of Summer School for students. Further in, we dissect proposed laws to stymie protest not dissimilar to that which has become a fixture of Eastern Avenue. These pieces canvass and critique our projected course of development, soon to become become reality if left undisturbed. The proposals in the strategic plan are still in their embryonic stages; many architectural plans still aspirational, cries to change summer school barely more than a pipe dream. However, the chance to influence the future sits with us in the present, and the path we take will be determined by whose cry is heard above others. Despite the strength of our sandstone architecture, the University we are experience is fundamentally impermanent. This edition is a small snapshot of our protean yet longstanding institution, and one voice in the cacophony of those trying to shape its future.

# Letters

## We definitely had nothing to do with this

It has come to my attention that you main campus extremists have zero social skills. Like actually zero. I'm not talking about you as individuals, but as a cohort. As individuals you're tolerable, as a cohort you may as well be government employees. I'm sure you all believe you are a group of noble and dignified people who protest for humane causes. Unlike all those other groups at main campus, who are just uncultured swine.

This is a matter of common courtesy. Not like common sense which is borderline extinct. I come from the mystical lands of Cumbo; where the only people promoting stuff is the bible/Jesus groups and they at least give you free food. Let me set you straight. If you want me to vote for you, or to sign your petition, don't bombard me on the street with papers and words. You don't need to be a real life infomercial, because honey, ain't nobody buying. If this was a limited offer I would be psyched. But its not. You assholes are at main campus all the time. Seriously, do you live in the 24 hour zone at Fisher?

Now, every-single-fucking-time you people come and accost me, I instantly despise your cause. I curse you with a year of group assignments filled with uneven tables and bad wifi. You could support equal rights, homeless shelters or even Gandhi, I really give no shits at the present. I'm not a Hitler supporter, but there's a time and a place

For example, an asshole wanted my vote in some upcoming event. I was walking to SciTech and talking on the phone. Did you honestly expect me to hang up my phone and listen to how you will solve world hunger if elected? I could have been on the phone to Obama solving a crisis. I wasn't; it was my mum nagging me to get a job, but still. Let me put this in words you can understand. Headphones in = don't talk to me. No headphones = fair game. Don't be that teacher who would literally ask the only kid in class with his hand not up for the answer. That kid probably went on to always voicing his thoughts, even though they were wrong. Next thing you know we have another Donald Trump on our hands. Don't give me brochures to take with a smart catchphrase. All I hear, as you hand me your

flyer on saving the environment is, 'please throw this in the bin for me.' I'm 99% sure that's what you say, because I have my headphones in. If you're really invested in your cause get some hot models to promote your stuff. I am willing to sacrifice part of my day, normally filled with How to Get Away with Murder, to have a hot guy/girl stop me to talk about something super important. Like my phone number.

Sincerely,  
Frustrated 3rd year Speech Pathology student

## Setting the right kind of trap

Dear Honi,

"The parent trap" was interesting reading although a bit disappointing in its portrayal of a lack of support from the university to parents, especially mothers.

There is a lot of talk around the University currently about women's issues and other equity and diversity issues. As you point out, most of it is concerned with the welfare of staff at various levels, especially their career path. In the School of Physics we are trying to be ahead of the game on some of these issues, but we also find ourselves concentrating on staff issues so far.

However, one of our current initiatives will hopefully help out a little with one of the problems highlighted in your article. We are currently fitting out a new parenting room within the Physics building (room 104) that should be available within a few weeks. We hope that all students will feel free use this room.

Child care is a much harder problem, but a major one for students and staff and we all need to press the University to make this a much higher priority.

John O'Byrne  
Co-Chair  
Physics Equity and Access Committee (PEAC)

## Good Story

Dear Honi,

I liked your story this week.

Thanks,

Alexi Polden  
Arts/Law IV

## Read this please mum

To the editors,

I spent several years at university writing for *Honi Soit* and I am now working full-time as a journalist. I never studied journalism or communications. I got the job based purely on my volunteer writing experience at university. I'm now changing roles and some of the people being interviewed for my position also wrote for *Honi Soit*.

I just wanted to let the *Honi Soit* community know how well-respected the publication is in the industry. Every student who is serious about being a journalist should be aiming to contribute.

Cheers,  
Felicity Nelson  
Journalist at Lawyers Weekly

## Here is a letter from a tory

Dear Honi,

'A sarcomere is to Michael Spence, as a muscle is to...?'

The answer is 'the University of Sydney', because in the same way that sarcomeres assist muscle contraction, Michael Spence is assisting in the contractive restructure of the University of Sydney. Spence's desire for a restructure is being painted in *Honi Soit* (Week 4 p4-5) as immoral, but I am happy to be on the record as supporting his desire to cut the University's degrees... somewhat.

It is clear that in principle a restructure of degrees should be largely supported by the staff and student community of the University once one takes a look at the Domestic Undergraduate Guide for 2017. Even though student activists may mention the 'lack of student choice' under the VC's plans, I could hazard a guess and say currently there is too much choice; with choice verging on unnecessary duplication. Conveniently enough, most of the duplication is present in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, with degrees including the BPES, BIGS, BA (Languages) and BA (MECO) and B Economics wasting significant space being operated as separate degrees and could be operated as separate programs in the Bachelor of Arts. However this choice is probably being preserved due to activists' fear of their degrees being abolished, which should be irrelevant.

Apart from this, however, a restructure probably should be supported in order to streamline degrees towards postgraduate specialisation, allowing for students who are unsure about future career paths to have the same opportunities as those who are certain about career paths to enter their chosen career. For example, replacing the LLB with the postgraduate JD across the board would mean that students who are unsure about entering the legal profession could do so after completing a BA or a BSc, for example.

In discussions on Facebook, however, along with anti-research and anti-intellectual comments from activists, included one comment which will cause concern: 'also the generalised model greatly increases student debt, especially with the fact they want to funnel students into four year degrees/force them into deregulated postgrad'. Even though the Melbourne Model implemented in Sydney would be more beneficial for students academically, this comment's concern is true, it will be very poor (literally) for (most) students unless equivalent undergraduate CSP places are extended to their postgraduate equivalents.

This is thus a very big caveat to my in-principle support.

carefully considered thoughts on relevant subjects is also a skill. And, if the rumours are true and the Business School accepts international students even when their IELTS scores are not up to scratch, well then (apart from their low standards), perhaps it is not the Business School who is at fault here. My friend has been living in Australia and speaking English here for over 10 years. And he regularly comments on how amazed he is by the English spoken by international students – in both good ways and bad. International students regularly maintain a far superior grasp of English than my friend. In a spectacular example of the very opposite, I heard of a particular incident where a Chinese student misspelt China as 'Chine'. Not even in an exam, but in a report. But I digress. My friend studies his butt off. He usually sits in the front, paying close attention to the lectures (commenting that most other students fiddle with their phones instead). He studies four hours a day for one subject. He listens to lecture recordings over and over and looks up Youtube videos in English to aid his understanding. He has hired personal tutors for several subjects and has befriended lecturers and tutors alike because of how many questions he asks and his willingness to totally understand the subject material.

This is how you pass a degree in a foreign language. You take it seriously. You don't rely on money – everyone pays, and if you take Summer/Winter School you pay as much as an international student – you rely on your own skills, your effort and your knowledge to pass exams, just like everybody else. Although I acknowledge that there is probably some element of bias within the marking criteria, surely it is not so large that one fails purely because of it.

Samuel Chu  
Physiotherapy I

## The way to the top is hard work

I'd like to start off by saying that all of this is hearsay, and none of it stemming from personal experience. That said, a very close associate of mine has told me this in confidence, and I can guarantee his veracity.

A bit of background about my friend: he is a postgraduate student studying Accounting, neither Chinese nor English is his first language, and he regularly uses WeChat simply because 99% of his classmates are Chinese international students. Needless to say, they are not the minority. My friend and I are both POC.

This degree is not a language degree, it is true. But the way you express yourself is always important in any degree. In Chemistry, when you are asked why HFCs and CFCs are damaging to the environment, you set out your answer in a logical way, explaining each reason thoroughly and backing it up with your evidence (chemical formulae). You do not list dot points. You do not throw up whatever you have thought of first and leave a jumbled mess of facts and figures on the exam paper. Being able to articulate

carefully considered thoughts on relevant subjects is also a skill. And, if the rumours are true and the Business School accepts international students even when their IELTS scores are not up to scratch, well then (apart from their low standards), perhaps it is not the Business School who is at fault here. My friend has been living in Australia and speaking English here for over 10 years. And he regularly comments on how amazed he is by the English spoken by international students – in both good ways and bad. International students regularly maintain a far superior grasp of English than my friend. In a spectacular example of the very opposite, I heard of a particular incident where a Chinese student misspelt China as 'Chine'. Not even in an exam, but in a report. But I digress. My friend studies his butt off. He usually sits in the front, paying close attention to the lectures (commenting that most other students fiddle with their phones instead). He studies four hours a day for one subject. He listens to lecture recordings over and over and looks up Youtube videos in English to aid his understanding. He has hired personal tutors for several subjects and has befriended lecturers and tutors alike because of how many questions he asks and his willingness to totally understand the subject material.

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Ryuuzaki Lawliet

Want to see  
your name in  
lights the letters  
page? Again, try  
keep it short.

Send a letter to  
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honisoit.com

## LETTERS



STUDENT PROTEST

Riot police clash with students protesting Education Minister



Naaman Zhou & Andrew Bell

Riot police and student protesters have clashed inside Sydney University's Fisher Library, spurred by the presence of Federal Education Minister Simon Birmingham on campus.

Birmingham was on campus to adjudicate a round of the Sydney University Liberal

Club's (SULC) John Howard Debating Cup.

A group of approximately thirty Sydney Representative Council (SRC) Education Action Group (EAG) activists were forcibly removed from the venue. Some were carried up stairs and pushed out the front doors.

Georgia Mantle, SRC General Secretary and Indigenous Officer, told *Honi* "they put me in a wristlock and pulled my hair and lifted me up by the ankles."

After approximately fifteen minutes of chanting and speeches, riot police formed a barricade around the group and ejected them.

In the process, a securi-

ty door on the main entry to Fisher library was severely damaged.

The police and riot squad had been pre-emptively called onto campus. Members of campus security indicated to *Honi* that this was at the behest of the event organisers.

April Holcombe, SRC Welfare Officer, told *Honi*: "We were peacefully standing outside the venue when police came and violently pushed everyone out of the building, viciously assaulting an Aboriginal woman in the process."

Liam Carrigan, SRC Education Officer and organiser of the protest, said "no student

responded violently."

"People were nearly trampled. Students were heavily traumatised by the police action."

In 2014, a similar protest and clash with police occurred during the visit of then Education Minister Christopher Pyne to judge the same competition.

Preceding this year's event there was no promotional material available to those external to SULC. William Dawes, the Club's President, was approached by *Honi* but was unavailable to give comment on the evening.

The protest was in response to recent comments by Birmingham that the government's controversial fee deregulation

plan, which was shelved by the Liberal Party late last year, was back on the table.

"It is despicable that Birmingham thinks he can step onto campus after the announcement that the government's higher education policy remains to be deregulating fees, a move that will lock lower SES students out of education and destroy accessible education in Australia," said Carrigan.

"It is important that the student movement remains militant in opposing these politicians on campus."

Police restricted access to the library following the incident.

*Additional reporting by Victoria Zerbst, Justine Landis-Hanley, Siobhan Ryan.*

SEXUAL ASSAULT

University abandons its own sexual harassment film screening

Subeta Vimalarajah

A one-off, University organised philanthropic screening of a documentary about sexual assault on university campuses played to a near-empty Manning Bar Thursday morning, after University management failed to promote or attend their own event.

The film screening of The Hunting Ground organised by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Registrar) Tyrone Carlin, was only attended by three people – SRC Vice President and Wom\*n's Officer Anna Hush, an *Honi Soit* editor and a representative from The Hunting Ground Australia Project, Mary Macrae.

Macrae said it was the first time she'd been to such a screening without attendance from a single staff member.

"I was a bit surprised. When I went to look at the details for the event today it wasn't even listed on the Manning Bar website as one of the events," she said.

Wom\*n's Officer Anna Hush had been informed of the screening on March 22 by The Hunting Ground Project, but was unable to find any public details for students. On March 31 she emailed Deputy

Vice-Chancellor, Tyrone Carlin, an organiser of the event, to raise these concerns.

Hush also contacted Jordi Austin, Director of Student Support Services and the management liaison for the University's sexual harassment working group, who told Hush she was unaware of the screening.

The film was also scheduled to screen at 2015 USU Radical Sex and Consent Week, but was not included after a request for delay in anticipation of the campus-screening program in 2016.

"They did not want to jeopardise the chance of the University pulling the plug [on screening it later], so they refused to allow us to screen it. It's actually kind of comical that this happened," said Radical Sex and Consent Week director, Courtney Thompson.

The Hunting Ground Project is engaging with the Australian university sector and community in an outreach campaign around sexual assault. Coalition partners include Universities Australia, the National Union of Students and the Australian Human Rights Commission. A key aim of the project is to engage students in a "unified campaign" in response to incidences of sexual violence.

After Hush received no response about the impending screening from Carlin, she and other student representatives including SRC President Chloe Smith and USU Wom\*n's Portfolio Holder, Tiffany Alexander, all e-mailed a co-signed letter to Carlin requesting the screening be postponed to a later date to allow for consultation with students.

In the co-signed letter, the student representatives wrote: "This [the screening] is more broadly indicative of the University's approach to sexual assault: acknowledging it as a problem only when there are political points to be gained."

Carlin did not respond to the letter, nor *Honi's* requests for comment in time for publication.

"It didn't surprise me to see that the screening was empty. I think there would have been significant interest from the student community, but as the event was not promoted in any way by the University, there was no way for students to know the screening was taking place," Hush said after the screening.

It is understood at this point there are no current plans for another University screening, but students intend to screen the film themselves later in the year.

BUREAUCRACY BREAKDOWN

University formalises Simple Extension policy

Max Hall

A formal procedure for the provision of Simple Extensions to all students was adopted at an Academic Board meeting on March 30.

The policy states, "A unit of study co-ordinator, who is satisfied that it is appropriate to do so, may permit a student to submit a non-examination task up to two working days after the due date with no penalty."

The policy implies that students should request an extension from their lecturer via email.

Specific procedures are being drafted to specify wheth-

er unit co-ordinators are able to delegate the provision of Simple Extensions and the information they are required to give students if a request for an extension is denied.

The Board's vote ends months of confusion and miscommunication of changes that lead many students and staff to mistakenly assume the practice's demise.

Efforts to abolish Simple Extensions as part of a centralisation of the University's Special Consideration policy backfired last December, resulting in the broadening of the practice to all students.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A SIMPLE EXTENSION

Send an email to your lecturer saying why you need an extension on written work and how long you need it for. They can say yes to anything up to two days. That's literally it.

No documentation. No online portal or other such formal shenanigans. All you need is your UOS co-ordinator's email address and a legitimate sounding reason for not handing in your soon-to-be-genius essay/report/nude life-drawing.

Remember, anyone from any faculty can apply and your faculty or individual lecturers are not allowed to say otherwise. Applying doesn't stop you from receiving Special Consideration later on if you need it.

BIRTHS, DEATHS & MARRIAGES



White men, wine, cheese and an SRC vacancy

Debating diversity

The University of Sydney Debating Union, one of Sydney's oldest and most prestigious societies, has moved away from its predominantly white male success stories to provide a particularly diverse showing at the Australian Intervarsity Debating Championships.

Of the 13 teams they send, the debating society has affirmative action for women, and requires a proportion of the contingent not come from a "blacklisted" school, being schools that do not have access to good coaching (usually public schools, with some exceptions).

The entirely Sydney-based Grand Final, featuring the University of Sydney Union 1 and the University of Sydney Union 5 (the winners of the tournament), was one of the most diverse finals in recent history. Impressively, Sydney's top teams boasted absolutely no white men in the final (hoorah!), as well as seeing half the competitors identify as queer, a majority of female speakers, and Sydney's first entirely female USU 1.

An extra fun fact? The Grand Final make up was more than half *Honi Soit* reporters, and even one editor!

Union Board rumours

As the dreaded Union Board elections draw nearer, *Honi* brings you a few extra faces to watch out for on redfern run.

Second year student Esther Shim, a former Strip for Honi candidate, has confirmed she will be running, managed by

Jacob Messina. Whilst Shim and Messina have both been linked to the Sydney University Liberal Club (SULC), Shim claims she will be running as an independent and that neither Messina or herself have spoken to SULC about her campaign. Shim boasts the advantage of already being involved in one campaign last year, as well as citing support from the Politics Society, the Arts Society and Surg FM.

SRC councillor and director of student publications David Hogan has also confirmed he will be in the running, drawing support from his 2015 Launch for SRC ticket. Interestingly, Hogan is yet another candidate with links to Liberal factions on campus, but who will be running as an independent. Hogan has, however, admitted he will be drawing some support from liberal party friends.

*Honi Soit* can also confirm that Courtney Thompson has won the Grassroots preselection, in an ultimately uncontested ballot.

Song saga continues

On April 4, Wom\*n of Colour Collective Officer, Vanessa Song, put her allegedly illegitimate pre-selection to a vote of confidence. Earlier this semester, *Honi* reported on allegations of electoral fraud in Song's pre-selection to a coveted \$12,000 paid position in the SRC as co-Wom\*n's Officer.

Following internal tension, including subsequent claims Song was not performing her duties as Wom\*n's Officer, SRC caseworker Melissa De Silva acted as the Returning Officer for Song's vote of confidence.

The final tally, including roughly 8 proxy votes, was 10-10, with two additional informal votes.

Given the deadset tie (we don't make this stuff up folks), Mel ruled the vote had failed. Critics on the "no confidence" side say there were no anti-stacking measures in place. In her defence, Mel says only people who had been members of the Facebook group for over a month were eligible to vote, and the group itself had no rules or official process for membership.

In the SRC meeting on 6 April, Song announced the result, as well as plans to close the Wom\*n of Colour Collective Facebook group for two months. Song later confirmed this "moratorium" was for members to undergo media, and bullying and harassment training. *Honi* understands closing the group for two months will also assist Song in preparing for her upcoming Union Board campaign.

Wanted: SRC Vice-President

On March 18, during an executive meeting, Jamie Rusiti – the elected co-Vice President of the SRC – was dismissed from his position by his peers. The SRC constitution states that missing two consecutive executive meetings is grounds for dismissal.

Much like Rusiti himself, members of the executive made no apologies for their decision. They all voted – with the exception of Michael Sun, who was absent – for Rusiti's removal.

Rusiti had been overseas over the break. "That being said, over this period I've kept up with the content of meetings

and have approved motions via email," he said, prior to the dismissal.

The position is also shared with Anna Hush. Rusiti assured *Honi*, "we've kept in close contact regarding our duties and where possible, I've worked on projects from abroad."

For those looking to jump on the vacancy, act fast, or your careerist best friend might beat you to it. "No one has expressed interest in filling the role yet, but it's certainly something I would consider," Hush told *Honi*.

Late on Sunday night, Rusiti sent us this statement: "Because of personal issues completely unrelated to the SRC, I was put in a position where attending meetings or even being in the SRC office became a major point of anxiety, which has led to my resignation as VP. This situation has been difficult for everyone on council and is proof that it is completely unreasonable for people to impose their personal disagreements on a professional environment."

Whine and Cheese

The FrenchSoc's semesterly Wine and Cheese night was cancelled last week due to University of Sydney Union licensing restrictions on the planned venue, The Cellar Theatre. The cancellation for the event, 'DÉLIRE DANS LA DISCHOTHÈQUE', was publicised the day before it was scheduled following a series of updates informing ticket buyers of 'pesky restrictions' on alcohol and location changes.

The USU also asked that the society's replacement 'Slushies

and Cheese Night' be postponed 'even if non-alcohol drinks were served.' FrenchSoc President Alana Cherry told *Honi*, "Whilst it's a shame Wine & Cheese Night had to be cancelled, we completely understand the concerns of the USU and cannot wait to work closer with them to bring it back even bigger and better next semester! As the French say, c'est la vie!" The society was able to refund all tickets purchased and claim back the \$800 spent on cheese, baguettes, pastries, and non-alcoholic drinks.

Graduation day

Last week was all about activism on campus. While the fracas at Fisher Library made national headlines, the Great Hall also saw its share of (slightly less dramatic) action during the Science Faculty graduation ceremony on Thursday morning.

Science graduate and SRC Environment Officer Lily Matchett, who earlier this month locked on to a coal conveyer at Narrabri to protest fossil fuel mining, broke from stifling graduation procedure mid-ceremony to unfurl a banner that read "Science Student ashamed to graduate from a Uni that FUNDS climate change".

While the action was ultimately brief, Matchett told *Honi*, "the only dignified way I could graduate from Bachelor of Science was to take a stand against and highlight the University's inaction on Climate Change", citing its failure to divest from the fossil fuel industry.



# Neither university nor corporation

If the University of Sydney really intends to be run like a corporation, it should start behaving like one, writes Alexi Polden

The University's new strategic plan settles it. So far as the powers that be are concerned, the University is breaking free of its pesky cocoon of academia and is taking flight as a fully formed corporate insect.

Just for a moment, let's put aside the debate about how education institutions should be run, and imagine we're settled the corporate approach is best. Imagining it is, you've got to ask yourself.

Is the University any good at it? From administration to governance the scorecard isn't great. As a friend of mine said the other day, USyd couldn't organise a booze up at a brewery.

My friend made that comment after the University failure to promote its own screening a documentary about sexual assault, The Hunting Ground. The screening was organised (I use that word loosely) in part by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Registrar) Tyrone Carlin, presumably in response to criticism of the University's repeated failure to take sexual assault and harassment on campus seriously.

The screening was never advertised, and neither Carlin nor any member of the University's Student Support Services attended. The Director of Student Support Services and management liaison for the University's sexual harassment working group, Jordi Austin, told SRC Wom\*ns Officer Anna Hush even she hadn't been told about the screening.

It's not hard to advertise an event on campus. Just about every student club does it regularly, yet it's somehow beyond the

grasp of University administration. I'd hate to see them attempt it in the private sector.

Okay, so what about customer service? You'd expect the fact USyd constantly touts its "student experience" as a selling point would mean it treats students with respect. Not so.

Due to the utter failure of information technology that is Sydney Student, it took me weeks of emails and sitting on hold to finalise my enrolment this year. By the time I was enrolled, timetables were out and it was near impossible to arrange my classes around work.

This was made infinitely harder and slower by the fact that I couldn't speak to any faculty staff—instead I was directed to the central student line (1800 SYD UNI). The call-centre staff couldn't actually process anything themselves, though, instead their role seemed to be CC'ing me into emails with faculty trying to sort things out.

I'm the first to admit the preceding paragraph reads like something posted by an enraged customer on the Facebook page of any second rate telephone company – and that's kind of my point – it's the kind of service I'd expect from my budget telephone plan, not Australia's (self described) "leading higher education and research University".

In the corporate governance stakes USyd doesn't rate much better either. For the third time in seven years, the Independent Commission Against Corruption is investigating the University.

In 2012, ICAC made a findling of corrupt conduct against

University IT manager Atilla "Todd" Demiralay, and made seven anti-corruption recommendations to the University to prevent the practice occurring again. The University duly said it would clean up its act.

It doesn't seem to have stuck. ICAC is once more investigating irregularities in IT contracting arranged by Jason Meeth, a senior member of the University's ICT department. In his opening address, counsel assisting ICAC, Warwick Hunt, said it would also be looking at "how the system allowed such conduct to occur and go undetected during the period that it was undertaken" and that "evidence suggests that there was a failing by management more senior than Mr Meeth to identify that policies were being breached during the relevant period."

If those allegations – which Mr Meeth denies – are borne out, it raises serious questions. If any business were hauled before the corporate regulator as much as the University is before ICAC it wouldn't just raise questions, it'd raise eyebrows.

Now, I won't deny that the University has been getting pretty good at balancing its books lately. It's a shame that they've achieved their fiscal responsibility through – among other things – staff cutbacks, increasing class sizes and treating international students like ATMs.

Unfortunately, running a business is about more than balancing books. For that matter, so is running a university. I'm not quite sure they're doing the best job at either.

## NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS

# Union slams 'dishonest' NUS textbook campaign

Eden Faithfull

The Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU) has slammed an anti-tariff campaign run by the National Union of Students (NUS) aimed at lowering the price of textbooks as "at best naive and at worst dishonest" in a fiery rebuke against the embattled organisation.

The national campaign advocates the repeal of tariffs on textbooks sold in Australia – known as parallel import restrictions (PIRs) – has been spearheaded by the NUS since it adopted it as policy at its national conference in December.

Speaking to *Honi Soit*, AMWU campaign officer Joe McKenzie said the campaign was misguided and the repeal of PIRs would put Australian jobs at risk.

"Simply put, PIRs are not the reason textbooks are expensive," he said.

"Not only would the repeal of PIRs devastate the Australian book industry, costing hundreds of jobs, the international evidence suggests that it would actually increase the price of textbooks."

It's been a difficult start to the year for NUS. In March, the organisation's general secretary sought legal advice over the removal of president Sinéad Colee following a factional stoush.

NUS national welfare officer, Robby Magyar, defended the textbook campaign,

saying it had already struck a chord with students.

"I have travelled the length and breadth of this country running the Fight for a Fair Price #CheaperTextbooksNow campaign, and have not only gained over 6,000 signatures, but have heard countless stories of how textbook prices are impacting students," he said.

Magyar attributed NUS's adoption of the position against PIRs to a 2009 report from the Productivity Commission that found the inflationary pressures produced by PIRs are the chief cause of high textbook prices.

The report further recommended the tariff be abolished.

"Removing PIRs will allow competition into the market, which will drive prices down, making the information contained in textbooks financially accessible for all students," said Magyar.

Magyar rebuffed the claim that abolishing PIRs would lead to job losses, saying McKenzie's argument "[defied] common sense."

McKenzie said the AMWU nonetheless remained disenchanted with the NUS campaign.

"We would rather NUS office bearers spent their energy fighting the Turnbull government's plans for tertiary education than each other," he said. "We look forward to engaging constructively with NUS on the issues that actually matter."

library population, we agreed to just stop attempting to print on it," she said.

*Honi* understands there is no refund process currently in place for instances where students have unsuccessfully attempted to print.

One student reported a forty-page exam can be printed (double sided) in less than two minutes using a Unikey printer, but took in excess of fifteen minutes for a SydPay printer.

"SydPay was introduced as a means of replacing... four systems with one simple account for print and copy services and putting it all onto your student card, for convenience," a University spokesperson said.

*Honi* received no response from the University about the reasons for system failure.

"I dread the day that they get rid of them [the Unikey printers] – people won't be able to print anything. It'll be such a mess," said Wishart.

# A national union in name only

Eden Faithfull sheds light on growing dissatisfactions around the National Union of Students

The National Union of Students (NUS) was founded to represent the interests of tertiary students across Australia. A cursory glance at the Union's website informs us that it has been established to "fight for affordable, quality education, better living standards for students, and make our campuses safer for all".

However, 2016 has seen intensifying dissatisfaction in the way the NUS are carrying out these responsibilities, if at all. News of the NUS general secretary seeking legal advice over the president's removal last week only added to perceptions of internal dysfunction within the organisation.

As reported in *Woroni*, the ANU's Student Representative Council held a meeting in March to discuss whether the ANU Students Association (ANUSA) should reaccredit with the National Union of Students. Following discussions from both sides, the motion to reaccredit failed by a vote of 12 for, and 18 against.

An ANU student and reporter for *Woroni*, Jessy Wu, claims the reasons behind this decision were manifold. Among these

was an accusation that the NUS's National Conference is no longer a safe space for students, with drunk and disorderly conduct being a staple of the event.

Wu claims that during NatCon students in competing factions have used psychological and physical intimidation tactics, such as confronting and harassing students in corridors in the middle of the night. Along with this, Wu points anecdotally towards a rise in reports of sexual assault.

ANUSA also allegedly prepared a list of demands that featured changes the NUS should enact by the end of 2015. Though there were attempts to carry out a small number of these, the overall inaction exhibited in regards to the suggestions led to ANUSA's reinforced belief that the NUS had little potential for internal progression.

Liam Carrigan, Sydney University's Student Representative Council's Education Officer, suggested that while students should be constantly critical of the body representing them, disaffiliation is too drastic a measure.

"The National Union of Students is incredibly important, considering the Australian

government has only recently reconfirmed their desires to deregulate university fees, seeing lower SES students locked out of the possibility to attend tertiary institutions."

"The attacks on universities are currently at an unprecedented level, and the events such as the National Day of Action has brought the issue of education to the fore of Australia's consciousness. I believe we should remain critical of the NUS, but remain involved with it. There is nothing else like it for tertiary students on a national scale."

But ANU is not the only tertiary institution demonstrating its dissatisfaction. Adelaide University, whose student union (AUU) effectively controls the SRC budget, has decided to reduce the NUS accreditation budget of \$14,625 in 2015 to zero, making it impossible for Adelaide to accredit the NUS at all this year.

Former president of the University of Adelaide Liberal Club and AUU board director, Rhys Williams, moved the motion on March 23. Williams claims the union's affiliation with the NUS has been "extremely wasteful on

numerous levels", and claims the affiliation endorsed "left-wing student hacks to jet-set around the country and play Prime Minister".

"Every year the delegates we send, from all sides of politics, report back to this Board of the unproductive National Conference which shuts out all legitimate debate in the name of grubby, backroom deals between the Labor factions."

"NatCon continues to earn a reputation where violent socialist groups come and intimidate people on the basis of sex and ethnicity. The organisation does not seem to be doing anything to stop this behaviour, hence we should be playing no role in condoning this conduct."

The motion carried by a vote six for, and four against.

Adelaide University student and editor of *On Dit*, Lur Alghurabi, claims that anti-NUS sentiment had been present on campus for some time. A key motivation for passing the motion, she said, was that so few students were aware of the NUS, and should therefore not be compelled to pay money towards it.

Making the decision exceptionally easier was the fact that

it was not an unprecedented move. Many universities around Australia have bitten the bullet and come to the conclusion to disaffiliate from NUS.

"The fact that ANU pulled out of NUS as well was a major motive. I believe from memory that less than half of Australian universities are affiliated now, and that doesn't do the NUS's reputation any favours with the Adelaide board".

The AUU saw the opportunity to redistribute the affiliation fees to fund a scholarship program for refugee students. Alghurabi argued that it would be a highly visible move should it become reality, playing to the AUU's interest.

With 2016 being an election year, and the very real possibility of Australia facing a federal election on the July 2, it is a disturbing truth that the union founded to represent and advocate for the interests of tertiary students across the nation has not yet even begun their main campaign for the federal election. With such an advocate, perhaps it is time for Australian tertiary students to demand more for themselves and their interests.

# The summer school trap

Nick Bonyhady wants to know why the cost of summer school is so damn high

In her welcome post, Dr Jillian Stewart, Director of the University of Sydney Summer School, provides a few reasons why students might choose to spend their holidays studying at summer or winter school: "To catch up on subjects in which they may have been unsuccessful, manage the demands of their normal semester programs much better, or accelerate their progress towards their degree." What she does not mention is that the University will charge students who take up her pitch roughly four times as much as those who study during semester, for no clear reason.

This year, if a domestic undergraduate student takes an English subject during semester time, they either pay \$769 or defer that amount to HECS, a loan with no interest or fees. If the same student took that subject during summer or winter school, they would pay \$3700 – a fee that can't be put on HECS.

FEE-HELP, another loan scheme, is available, but it comes with a 25 per cent fee, bringing the total cost of an English unit

to \$4625. That is an impossible cost for many students to bear. The difference in cost between a summer school subject on FEE-HELP and a regular semester subject on HECS is a difference of \$3856 – enough to cover a whole semester of regular full-time study.

For some students, the extra cost of summer school is still worth it to finish a degree earlier or to fit in more extra-curricular activities during semester. But for others who are taking it to re-attempt failed subjects – who constitute "approximately a third" of enrolments, according to a university spokesperson – or to get back on track after taking time off for personal reasons, the additional stress of paying for summer school can be a huge burden.

But here's the rub: the University does not have to charge more for summer school than during semester. The Higher Education Support Act allows universities to make a choice. They can receive Commonwealth funding for summer school, make HECS available and limit prices to standard

semester rates or declare summer school full fee, remove the option of HECS and receive no Commonwealth funding.

A University spokesperson claimed that "no student is disadvantaged" by summer school because all summer units are also available during semester – a structure that the legislation forces the University to adopt if it wants to set its own fees. However, if the University instead chose Commonwealth support and lower prices, it could still make all summer units accessible during semester. Moreover, this decision does not explain why the University has chosen to set fees so high.

Part of the cost of summer school is explained by the fact that the University needs to make up for the federal funding it has chosen not to receive. However, for an English subject, that would only be \$692, which still leaves an unexplained gap of over \$2000 between summer school and semester study.

So why the spike in cost? Some of the money may be for paying academics for teaching outside semester. It is also

possible that keeping buildings open over summer costs more, but staff need access regardless and otherwise the University's investment in infrastructure would be wasted for months each year.

Not all universities charge their students so much over summer, including some of Sydney's closest competitors. Summer school fees at UNSW (except for their business school) are the same as semester fees and HECS is available. UTS's new trimester model has the same outcome. Back in 2003, even Sydney did not charge more for summer school. Legislation at the time required that Commonwealth supported students pay the same amount for their subjects, no matter when in the year they took them. According to Brendan Nelson, then Education Minister, the option of charging full fees was only reintroduced after "ongoing consultation with the higher education sector" in 2004 – and extended to winter school two years later. Certainly, these changes to allow higher fees were not made

at students' urging.

Aside from an SRC petition in 2014, there has been little recent dissent about summer and winter school fees at Sydney, but there is not universal agreement either. Mark Warburton, a former senior public servant at the Department of Education who administered university funding until 2014 said:

"An innovative and efficient 21st century university that is concerned to maximise and support the learning experience of students should not need to use the legislative provisions for summer and winter schools. They probably should have been removed when the Government sought to eliminate undergraduate fee paying and provide Commonwealth support for all domestic undergraduate students studying at university."

In light of other universities' ability to offer similar units over the same period for less, this raises questions about whether Sydney's pricing scheme is justified by its costs or an unfair attempt to raise revenue at students' expense.

## STUDENT ICT

# Students dissatisfied with new SydPay printing system

Ajay Sivanathan

A new printing system has been the subject of widespread complaint from students, culminating in the April 4 failure of its Fisher library component.

SydPay has been rolled out across the University this year, to replace the current Unikey and other printing systems. It aims to mimic the functionality of an Opal card for students.

"I don't even know how to

use it, let alone actually print anything," said third year student, Grace Kim.

"The University's existing print/copy cards – including Extro (UniKey payment), Monitor, Bear and Unicard will be phased out as part of implementing the SydPay system during Semester 1," a University spokesperson explained.

Some members of library staff were more optimistic than others. "I do prefer the Unikey system – it's been used effec-

tively for over 10 years, but eventually the new printing system should be better," said a member of staff from the Information and Communications Technology helpdesk.

Science student Tayler Wishart was particularly frustrated by her experience.

"After accepting my printing job and taking my money, it never printed my document. I was in the library for another 8 hours, and it just never printed anyone's work. As a general



# Why I don't do my readings

Grace Franki will make up for her participation mark in the exam

When I walked into my first year gender studies tutorial I was expecting some of the lively, politically controversial discussion for which Sydney University is infamous. Instead, I was stuck in a tutorial about “neurosexism”, which sought to prove that biological differences between men and women were the cause of inherent gendered inequality.

Rather than a conceptual discussion about science's role in the oppression of women, or the distinction between sex and gender, the focus was on a 26-page long 1915 neuroimaging study. At first, I wondered whether the tutor had made a photocopying error, by about a hundred years...

This experience was emblematic of an ongoing struggle with my 200-page reader throughout the semester. Esoteric at best, and utterly useless at worst. It also doubled as a doorstop.

There has to be a better way.

Unlike courses such as science or engineering to which the subject matter is more integral, the primary purpose of readings in the humanities should be to inform students' understanding of a topic, and encourage a broader discussion.

This could be accomplished by a three-page fact sheet, or a summary of relevant arguments, rather

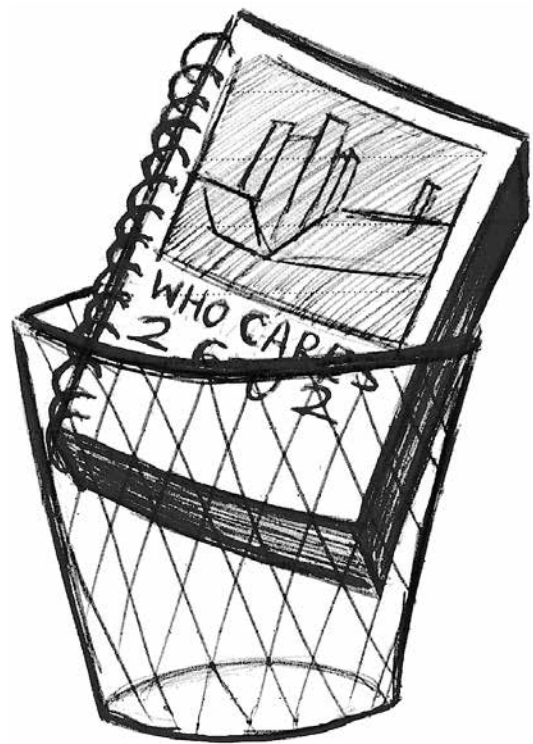
than excessively intellectual readings. These academic papers cater to the private school elite that USyd is so infamous for attracting, but are often inaccessible to students without that privilege. And even for the most dedicated, upper middle class student, the 100-page per week reading load across four subjects can sometimes be overwhelming.

For many students, readers aren't touched after the first two weeks or we find ourselves madly scanning through a 50-page document before a tutor to inefficiently create our own top-level executive summary.

The effect of this is self-evident. The focus on readings unnecessarily shuts discussion in tutorials. Instead of a genuine debate that is accessible to all students, tutors often focus on the specifics of a particular academic's opinion. Aside from being exclusionary, this approach to tutorials also discourages students from forming their own opinions, and from thinking about the contemporary implications of the issues being discussed.

All Arts students have also had that experience of walking into a tutorial near the end of semester that is half empty and stonily silent.

Lecturers and unit coordinators need to be more discerning in their choices of coursework in Arts.



Art: Jess Zlotnick

Sadly, readers are often reused year after year with little critical evaluation or change. I'm not saying you should never do your readings, but I do think it pays to be selective where staff are not.

# Pretending to be poor

Mary Ward is sick of watching the performance of poverty for popularity

The life of Rebel Wilson has seen more opinion pieces than birthdays, but please indulge me just one more. I promise it references neither her weight, ever-lowering age nor that bad movie she did with the girl from *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

Earlier this year, Wilson appeared on SBS's *Julia Zemiro's Home Delivery*. The show follows Australian celebrities (in the actually a bit famous sense, not the *Celebrity Apprentice* sense) returning to their childhood neighbourhoods. I am one of its 23 viewers.

Wilson has built her career on a western Sydney personality. She wrote and starred in a show called *Bogan Pride*, which she promoted by saying she was “proud of [her] bogan heritage”. In 2013, after hitting the big time in the US with roles in *Bridesmaids* and *Pitch Perfect*, Wilson told Ellen DeGeneres she was “from the more ghetto side of Sydney”.

But, it became increasingly apparent while watching *Home Delivery* that Wilson's ghetto act was just that, an act. Wilson's childhood home is in Castle Hill (a place whose “western Sydney” status is maybe geographically merited, but socio-economically dubious). She was educated at the \$25000-a-year Tara Anglican School for Girls. Despite Tara being less than 30 minutes drive from Castle Hill, she boarded in years 11 and 12.

Of course, there is no reason to care about where Rebel Wilson went to school (unless you were working for Rotary International in the mid-2000s, in which case you would have needed that information to approve the “bogan” law student's South Africa gap year application). She's a comedian giving interviews to promote movies; she's hardly under oath in court. However, when some other people perform poverty it has the potential to be much more damaging.

## Campus compass

Percentage of USyds undergraduate population who live in the northern or eastern suburbs (2010)

65

Percentage of Sydney's population who live in the northern or eastern suburbs (approx.)

10

Some student politicians are very good at pretending to be poor.

There are stories of socialist student politicians concealing their family's wealth, trading politically on upbringings spent in state housing when they went to private school in Mosman (two not incongruous facts, but the former should probably be stated with the caveat of the latter).

Middle class student activists rallying behind working class rights is, of course, not new. But, what distinguishes USyd's position from Act II of *Les Misérables* is the culture of identity politics, where the person the most qualified to speak about an issue is the person most oppressed by it. The “I personally am not affected by this but recognise it affects others and want to help” argument (rightly or wrongly) is seen as lesser than a personal connection to an issue. But, when it comes to class, the personal connections drawn by student politicians who are able to spend time participating in campus life that others might need to spend working another shift to make rent tend to be quite obtuse.

The result is activism like the ongoing NUS campaign against high textbook costs, which features various Facebook profile picture testimonials from familiar student politics faces. It includes tales of how they feel guilty when going to their parents for textbook money. This sort of disconnect from what an actual financial struggle is devalues any legitimate premise on which the campaign is based. Textbooks cost a lot, but the strongest form of the argument for lower pricing is not the strain your Co-op order puts on daddy's credit card.

Student politics is dependent on personality, and it doesn't take a genius to figure out that the

“rich, smug bastard” is not very electable. This results in some sort of an identity-fuelled race to the bottom: Who is the most poor? Unfortunately, the kind of poverty projected by student politicians is about 15 years out of date.

The archetypal poor student – living in their Newtown sharehouse, spending long nights on the grass at Hermann's with stockpiled happy hour schooners with no job to go to and a liveable welfare packet – is heavily romanticised, but on a campus where you're lucky to find a single room for rent within a 5km radius for less than \$250 a week, they no longer correspond with reality.

Nowadays, the poor student is more likely to be like a fly-in, fly-out worker, coming in to university on an hour-long train ride, and going straight to their classes (which have been scheduled to minimise break time) before rushing home for a 4pm shift.

When the USU Board decided to introduce a limited number of \$20 ACCESS cards for financially disadvantaged first-year students this year, the \$55 discount failed to take into account the myriad other ways in which low-socioeconomic students are excluded from their Clubs and Societies program by considering how much unpaid time goes into a campus production, or comparing some societies' mid-week, late-night social schedules with a Busways timetable.

Back to Rebel, *Bogan Pride* was ultimately a derivative dabble in working class stereotype and wasn't renewed for a second season. As this year's crop of student politicians emerge for the Board elections, they would do well to realise that, while performing poverty might bring short-term success, self-awareness will probably be more fruitful.

# Anti-protest laws: a flawed approach to a moral question

Michaela Vaughan examines how Baird's bill will hurt activism

On March 22, the NSW parliament assented to a suite of legislation introduced by the Baird Government targeting environmental activists and protesting across NSW. Making good on an election promise to the mining industry, these laws were with concerning swiftness thanks to Fred Nile and the Shooters and Fishers Party, despite the heavy implications for civil liberties and freedom of political expression.

It has been revealed this legislation was drafted with little community consultation. “The Premier actually announced the policy changes to a meeting of the Minerals Council. This means farmers, traditional owners and those protecting our forests were left out in the cold,” said Greens justice spokesperson, MP David Shoebridge.

A particular concern is the impact on Indigenous communities, in a context where Indigenous Australians are already incarcerated at a disproportionate rate – 14 times more – than the general population. The changes mean an Indigenous person may be targeted for “interfering with a mine” by merely being on country. If this legislation's aim is one of deterrence, the only thing it will deter is the freedom of cultural expression of Indigenous Australians.

Gadigal woman, USyd Arts student and Students' Representative Council Indigenous Officer Georgia Mantle was not surprised by these changes.

“This is nothing new – we have always been criminalised for trying to remain on our own land. I do think the law disproportionately affects Indigenous people due to deeply rooted, institutionalised racism,” she said.

Baird's policy quashes the symptoms of wider community resistance to the fossil fuel industry, highlighting the extent to which our legislators are linked to powerful mining companies.

Critics of this legislation note the previous laws were sufficient in cracking down on criminal behaviour and that mining companies already had the option of suing protestors for damages where they were entitled to compensation.

Many environmental protestors both accept and welcome the law's invitation by putting their bodies on the line, and new laws aren't going to stop them. The environment cannot speak back when companies seek to destroy it and the communities – predominantly Indigenous – have too much at stake to be deterred.

Some student activists see the new laws as an invitation. Usyd social work student Alex Walker commented, “These new laws motivate me more because it shows the government's alliance with the coal and coal seam gas (CSG) companies that are destroying the environment.”

Walker was arrested and charged with intentionally and recklessly hindering mining equipment in 2013, when she “locked” on to mining equipment at the Tarrawonga Coal Mine in Northern NSW. She was initially convicted and fined \$5500 but was acquitted on appeal in 2015.

Baird's policy also does not recognise illegal protesting as a last resort after all other avenues have been exhausted, and that those involved are otherwise law-abiding citizens. At times it is enacted when legal proceedings are already afoot, yet the area concerned continues to be destroyed.

Convenor of the Australian Students Environment Network and Usyd student Marco Avena commented, “There are many examples of where non-violent peaceful protesting have succeeded in protecting the environment and has been critical in preventing greater damage from being inflicted.”



Above: The Leard blockade. Right: Lily Matchett. Photo: @Asenenviro/Twitter

Avena was arrested in East Gippsland Victoria in 2015 for halting the logging of old growth forest. Even though a legal challenge – which eventually succeeded – was underway regarding the appropriateness of the site for logging, the logging company continued to harvest timber. Avena's actions were therefore one in a range of tactics that activists were using to fight the environmental harms.

It clear that these laws are an attack on our civil liberties and the core values of any good democracy. The freedom to protest opens up an important dialogue between the people and our chosen representatives. There is no denying that the safety of protestors is important, but it has not been demonstrated how these laws will mitigate any danger.

Only this mid-semester break, even after these laws had been assented to, Usyd Environment Officer Lily Matchett locked on to a coal conveyor belt with Hannah Grant. Matchett and Grant mounted a conveyor belt owned by Whitehaven coal, and, hanging 30 metres above the ground, pulled the emergency stop buttons and proceeded to shut the entire mine down.

By the time police rescue arrived with the appropriate equipment to remove them five-and-a-half hours later, Matchett and Grant had both successfully stopped 6000 tonnes of coal from being mined and processed.

Matchett and Grant were charged with hindering property, trespass and remaining on inclosed land. Echoing Walker's words, Matchett is not deterred by Baird's scare tactics.

“I'm 100% positive it will fail. The climate is in a state of global emergency so the activist community is responding with “up yours.” If anything we are more angry, more energised and more justified in pursuing our “unlawful” yet moral agendas.”

The verdict is clear: fining protestors more who are trying to save our water, land and climate will not stop them. These laws protect mining interests and profit margins at the expense of basic freedoms, but passionate activists will not surrender to them.

## The changes to protest laws in NSW: explained

- Individuals found unlawfully entering inclosed land (eg a mine site) may now be fined up to a maximum \$5,500 – a 900% increase on the previous \$550 fine.
- The definition of a mine has been extended to include gas mining, and also includes the entire life cycle of minerals and petroleum mining, from exploration to decommission – thus broadening the scope in which someone may be charged under the existing offence of intentionally or recklessly interfering with a mine.
- Expansion of police powers to search and seize items without a warrant, where there exists a “reasonable suspicion” that an individual possesses those items for the purpose of interfering with the conduct of a business or undertaking (such a mine).
- Expansion of police powers in public places, considerably lowering the threshold trigger for dispersing a rally. Where there is an obstruction of traffic or police identify a risk to public safety, they can ask participants to move on.

For any students who would like to get involved in the environmental movement there is a Student of Sustainability conference in Brisbane 7th-11th July <http://www.studentsofsustainability.org/> or get in contact the SRC environment collective.



# The Strategic Plan

The University's 2016-2020 Strategic Plan released last week will change USyd as we know it. **Subeta Vimalarajah** and **Tom Joyner** read it so you didn't have to.

## Organisational design

### Infrastructure

\$1.7 billion has been spent on providing more infrastructure from 2011–2015, paying for the new Charles Perkins Centre and Business School, among other projects. New infrastructure projects in the same vein planned for 2016–2020 include the “Sydney Centre for Translational Data Science”, the “Sydney Policy Lab” and the “Sydney Knowledge Hub”, which will be specifically designed to house industry and community partners.

The focus of these new buildings is to address “global challenges”, and so they will be accompanied by two new senior management positions: the Vice Principal (External Relations) and the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Global Engagement).

### Faculties and schools

Consistent with the theme of “simplification”, faculties will be merged to facilitate consistent roles and policies across the University. This will be complemented by simpler structures for the way faculties are governed.

The number of faculties will be reduced from 16 to 6. Not all changes are confirmed. The four confirmed faculties are: Arts and Social Sciences, Business, Engineering and Information Technologies, and Science.

In the remaining area of health and medicine there will be two faculties, until the Faculty of Health Sciences (currently in Lidcombe) eventually moves to Camperdown–Darlington, when the plan is to merge them with Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Midwifery, and Pharmacy.

Three stand-alone schools will remain, but they will be able to report straight to management in the way faculties do. The schools will be Architecture, Design and Planning, Law and Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

## Undergraduate education

### Pathways

Undergraduate education will be tailored towards the University's new “graduate qualities”, which include: developing skills in using technology, talking to people, solving problems, working in different subject areas and working with people from different backgrounds.

The University has identified three main “pathways” students can follow in the hope of attaining these qualities.

- A professional track = six years of study, with a Bachelor's degree and a specialist Master's degree at the end to show for that mammoth HECS debt.
  - A “more open” track = a regular three year Bachelor's degree in arts, science or commerce, all of which will be retained; or the new four year “Bachelor of Advanced Studies”.
  - A research track = eight or so years for a Bachelor's degree, a Master's and then a PhD.
- For all undergraduates, a new focus will be on exchange. By 2020, the University aims for 50 per

cent of students to have undertaken this “mobility experience”. A key way of implementing this will be through opportunities provided by the University's own “China centre” in Suzhou.

### Bachelor of Advanced Studies

An entirely new four-year degree will be introduced, which appears similar to the generalist undergraduate degrees offered in the United States. Students will need to complete at least two majors, and will have the opportunity for:

- Taking courses from the “Open Learning Environment”, which are short courses designed to give students an understanding of foundational concepts in a range of areas including ethics, leadership, project management etc. These will either be worth no credit points, or two credit points.
  - Enough time for students to experiment with different areas before deciding on majors/minors; so, an Arts degree, but more exclusive and an extra year.
  - Completing a research, entrepreneurship, industry or community related project to make up between 12 and 36 credit points of their degree (equivalent to two to six subjects).
- In order to facilitate movement between disciplines, common definitions of course components will be introduced across the humanities, social sciences, business and science.
- Continuing work through the Ally Network – which aims to include and support queer students and staff, most recently known for their USyd Mardi Gras float.
  - A sponsorship program for women of colour.
  - Creating a culture taskforce with people from these backgrounds, which will provide further recommendations to the University.

## Industry Research

The strategic plan outlines a renewed focus on academic research funded by industry, away from traditional models of publicly funded research. This new direction coincides with both the government's much touted ‘innovation’ agenda as well as news that gutted commonwealth science research body the CSIRO is planning to halt scientific research without financial gain.

The plan outlines a need for the University to move away from “category 1” sources of research funding, typically grant bodies like the Australian Research Council or the National Health and

Feeling masochistic? You can find the full Strategic Plan at [sydney.edu.au/strategy](http://sydney.edu.au/strategy)

Medical Research Council, and toward “category 2–4” sources of research funding through direct links to private industry.

The focus will be on delivering an “appropriate administrative infrastructure to effectively manage the partnerships and projects, and support our staff to develop a better understanding of principles of commercial interaction”.

This will further include a “dedicated collaboration space” for industry partners in the University of Sydney Knowledge Hub on the Camperdown campus to engage the ‘start-up community’ and commercial industry ‘leaders’.

## USyd's Culture & Values

The University has identified four different sets of values they aspire will be held by staff as the “culture-bearers” of the University, and passed through the minds of students as we come and go. These are:

- Courage and creativity: pursuing the “good and the right”.
  - Respect and integrity: all members of the University should be treated as equal participants of the University community.
  - Inclusion and diversity: creating a University that accommodates people from a variety of social and cultural backgrounds.
  - Openness and engagement: making the University more accessible to the broader community.
- Although the least concrete part of the strategy, a few vague means of implementing these values are outlined, including:

- Developing a series of education programs for staff.
  - Enforcing the University's Code of Conduct more strictly when bullying, harassment and discrimination take place between staff.
  - A new professorial distinction, the “Payne-Scott Professor”, which recognises academics who help develop other members of staff, contribute to reform and public debate. This position will include an increased salary.
- There is a specific focus on those of marginalised backgrounds, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, LGBTIQ people, women and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Initiatives to facilitate their inclusion involve:
- Setting targets for women's inclusion at various levels of University employment.
  - Encouraging women in science.

## How students reacted...

“Easily mistaken for the MBA course reader with its level of meaninglessness.” – *James Leeder*

“Why is there a picture of jellyfish in the middle? Tentacle-symbolism for grossness?” – *Hannah Elten*

“Deliberately deceitful.” – *Dylan Griffiths*

“Strategic plan - strict anal peg.” – *Patrick Massarani*

“I wasn't sure what was worse - the content or the art style.” – *Cameron Caccamo*

“If you reached your goals two years earlier, why are you trying to cut staff?” – *Ahmed Suhaib*

“We need more Chinese students to cover that.” – *Michael Spence, Student Consultative Committee, March 2016*

## Four key players



### The Vice-Chancellor

Michael Spence was an undergraduate at USyd before going on to study at Oxford, where he eventually become head of the law faculty. Appointed Vice-Chancellor in 2008, he was a vocal supporter of university fee deregulation when it was first proposed. With Belinda Hutchinson, he was an architect of the changes to Senate makeup in 2014 and the ongoing University restructure.



### The Chancellor

Belinda Hutchinson began her tenure in February 2013 after a career in the corporate sector, including executive roles at QBE Insurance Group, Telstra, Coles, Myer, Energy Australia, TAB & St Vincent's Health Australia among others. With Spence, she has led a push from the top of the University to affect major reforms towards increased corporatisation of USyd.



### The Registrar

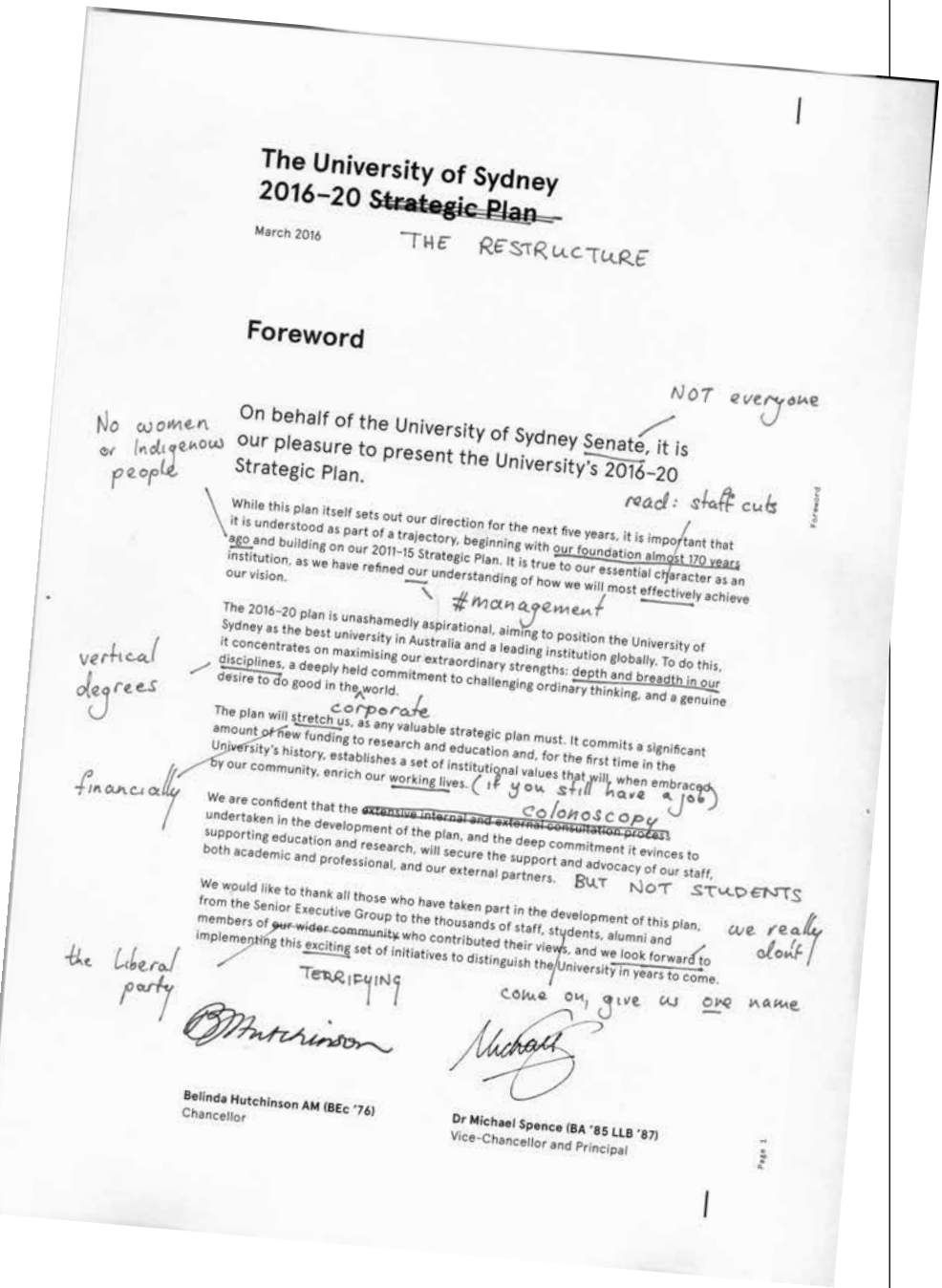
Tyrone Carlin graduated from UNSW and has spent much of his career as a law academic. Previous to his executive appointments at the University of Sydney, he was Dean of Law at Macquarie University, leaving in March 2014.



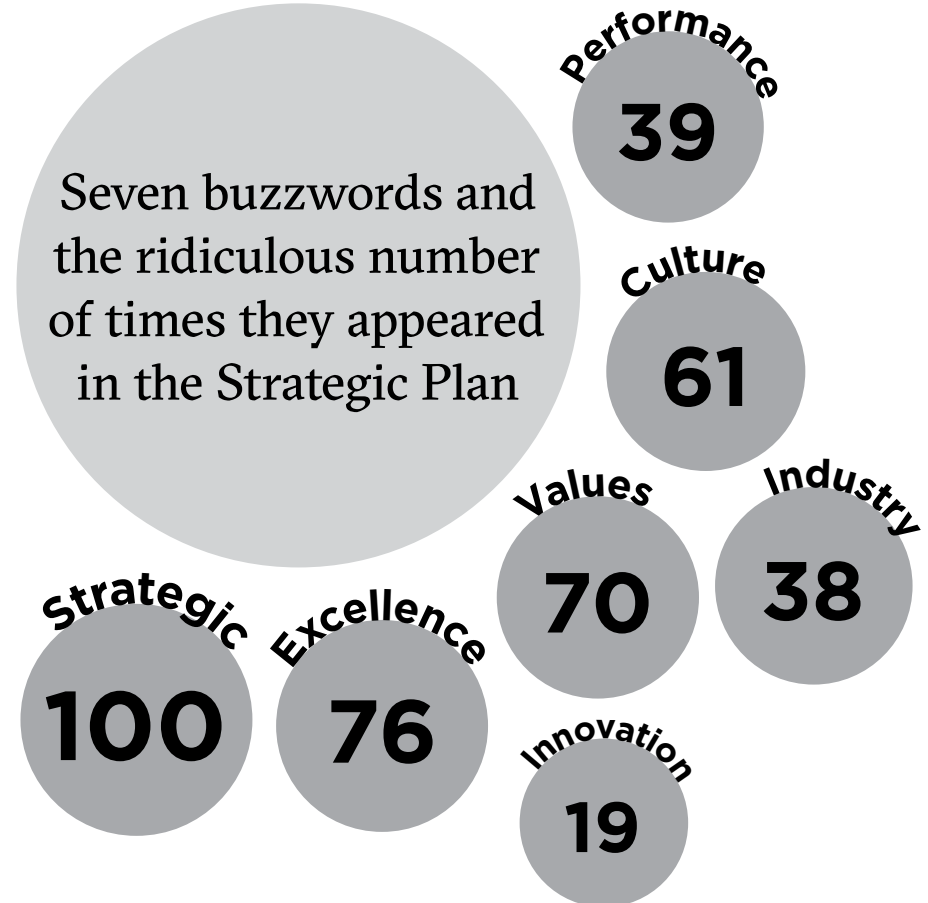
### The DVC Education

Pip Pattison was previously a Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Melbourne. Her research background is in psychology. She was elected a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia in 1995.

## EXCLUSIVE: LEAKED DRAFT



Seven buzzwords and the ridiculous number of times they appeared in the Strategic Plan



## How did we end up here?

**2012** **University staff cuts**  
A planning document released in February 2012 revealed job losses for University staff with a 7.5 per cent cut to staff salaries.

**2013** **Belinda Hutchinson becomes Chancellor**  
After a career in the corporate sector, including executive roles at QBE Insurance, Telstra, Coles Myer and Energy Australia, Belinda Hutchinson became Chancellor of the University of Sydney. Her appointment was unorthodox as she did not come to the role with much experience in the academy, as is traditional for the role.

**2014** **Fee deregulation**  
The deregulation of university fees was announced in the Abbott government's first budget in 2014 as part of a host of reforms that would see public funding of universities gutted. The proposal allowed for universities to set their own fees as high as they wanted, placing more financial stress on students to access a tertiary education. The announcement prompted widespread anger and protests among students across the country.

**2014** **Michael Spence comes out in favour of deregulation**  
Shortly after the budget announcement, University of Sydney Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence came out in support of the reforms, telling *The Australian* that fee deregulation would “make an investment in access and educational quality”.

**2015** **Fee deregulation shelved**  
After three failed bids to pass the higher education reform bill through the Senate, the government decided to shelve the proposal, at least until 2017.

### University governance changes and approval of restructure

In a closed meeting during the summer break, the University of Sydney Senate approved sweeping changes to the structure of faculties, with the reduction in available degrees and the possibility for staff cuts. It also passed changes to its own makeup, cutting alumni-elected fellows of Senate entirely from 2017. Vocal opponents of the move included former High Court judge Michael Kirby and current Senate fellow Christopher Murphy.

**2016** **Launch of 2016-2020 Strategic Plan**  
The strategic plan was passed by the University Senate and published online.



# Uncovering hidden pain

Katelyn Cameron encourages everyone to take endometriosis seriously

When it comes to period pain, women are often told to suck it up.

“It’s just something that you have to put up with.”  
“Pop a couple of Panadol and get on with it.”  
“Go buy a tub of chocolate ice-cream.”  
“It can’t be that bad.”

“Use a heat pack and you’ll be fixed in no time.”

Unfortunately, perceptions of period pain such as these often lead to a serious medical condition going undiagnosed.

Endometriosis is a disease where tissue, which should be found inside the uterus, grows outside of it (where it is absolutely not meant to be). This can cause a range of debilitating symptoms, including severe period pain that does not respond to medication, heavy bleeding, exhaustion, and depression. The Global Study of Women’s Health found that women suffering from endometriosis can lose as many as 11 hours a week while they attempt to cope with their symptoms. It can also result in infertility. With symptoms like these, you would assume that women experiencing them would head straight for their GP to get to the root of the problem. However, this is not the case.

For many women, endometriosis can go undiagnosed for years, despite these painful symptoms. *Medicine Today* reports that the average delay for a diagnosis is eight to 12 years



Art:  
Amandine Le Bellec

– a shocking statistic considering that one in 10 women are affected by the disease. This delay is largely due to a lack of social awareness of endometriosis, and the fact that period pain is frequently dismissed as ‘just part of being a woman’.

# When social justice becomes ‘just us’

Eric Gonzales reflects on his experience with juvenile justice visitation initiatives

From the moment you step into law schools around Australia, you are subtly engineered towards a corporate career. Facebook photographs of clerkships depict a lavish lifestyle of cocktail mixers and dress up parties, the precursor to a 70-hour working week embellished with bonding trips and myriad extra benefits. It’s ironic that the corporate world has such a bizarre fixation on the ideal curriculum vitae being loaded with volunteering, community engagement, and proof of a social conscience.

One of Sydney University Law Society’s social justice portfolio programs is the Juvenile Justice Mentoring Scheme, where law students interact with young inmates on a fortnightly basis.

Upon first entering the centre, volunteers must sign a contract agreeing to its strict terms, which prohibit inquiring into personal stories and sharing last names. If inmates persisted, we were advised to diffuse the situations with a smile, and repeat our first name instead.

The regulations are there for the inmates’ safety, and they make total sense, but it also means the students attending only ever learn a snippet of the experiences they are there to understand.

Each subsequent visit further illuminated that while the visits revolved around the inmates, they were designed for our benefit. Weekly volunteer-made program plans aimed to foster ‘trust between the girls and visitors’ or inspire ‘reflection about future goals’.

Yet the aspirational cliches sugarcoated what was essentially origami paper-folding and paddle-pop scaffolding. Celebrity heads and charades similarly fell short of life-changing epiphanies. That there are so few activities that accord with the rules didn’t alleviate the sense of infantilisation. But to law students who enter the program expecting to step outside their bubble of privilege, injustice seemingly lies in the girls being subjected to pitifully boring time-fillers. While its simplicity lessens the load for a volunteer, the initiative prohibits those precious insights that could humanise them beyond a first name and a uniform, even whilst maintaining crucial privacy boundaries.

Otherwise, the whole process resembles observing subjects of a study behind a two-way mirror. And at the end of it all, the noble altruist ticks a box, convinced that they have done their bit.

Therein lies the problem. For at least some of the volunteers, social justice isn’t one their core values. It’s an extra line on their resume.

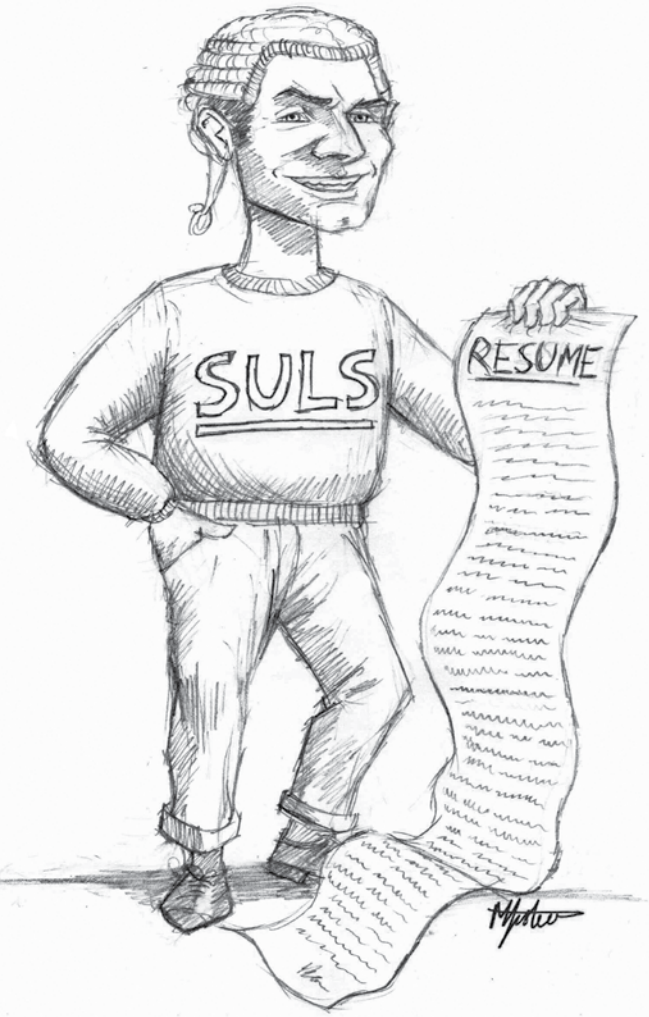
What deters volunteers from proactively engaging with other local community causes is that the initiative conveniently kills two birds with one stone. First is the absolution of guilt-hued privilege. The other, an extra curricular activity that provides prime material for society-climbing and CV stacking. One LinkedIn user vouches for their “recreational, personal development and mentoring experiences” under the program. On another profile, the program occupies a sizable box under “Volunteers Experience & Causes”, where the member describes himself as “a positive role model”. In other words, spiel that speaks volumes about their conviction in a cause, pandering to corporate law’s obsession with extracurricular volunteer work as an ironic precursor to representing the privileged elite.

But the underlying aspirational value of the program shouldn’t be discounted too easily. The Sydney University Law Society has fostered an opportunity where students overwhelmed by the faculty’s ubiquitous corporatism can engage in social justice activities. It has been the role of the unpaid law students that hold the Law Society together to compensate for this hole in our learning experience, one that other university faculties such as the University of New South Wales take more seriously in supporting legal centres through their on-site Law Precinct.

The program becomes problematic when we believe one initiative to be an adequate substitute for broader community engagement. In truth, it isn’t. It becomes another case when social justice is just for us. The moments with inmates that prompt a law student to reflect on their own privilege are important and valuable. Even though non-disclosure measures employed by the centre are undoubtedly vital to the privacy of both parties,

Art: Matthew Fisher

the nature of the program and the students it sometimes attracts means these moments can be few and far between. Social justice must be more than the illusion of enriching engagement, but insofar as programs are dominated by students who care more about their LinkedIn profile than community activism, these programs will fail to live up to their potential as the fostering ground of compassionate lawyers.



Art: Matthew Fisher

# Stories from Lebanon

Nabila Chemaisssem reflects on the hidden beauty of the ‘Paris of the Middle East’

In Lebanon there is a sadness, but it is not one that every Lebanese person feels. It lives in the cracks of pavement eroded by bombs and the feet of thousands of people who began running in 1975 and didn’t stop till 1990. It lives in the imprints left by a civil war that lie buried beneath fresher coats of paint on walls riddled with bullets. For Lebanese Australians who were not born in Lebanon, this sadness both lives in us, and in the fact that we cannot ever understand this sadness completely.

“I dislike the fact that such a naturally beautiful country – given its position, geographic importance and proximity to Europe and Asia – isn’t treated as well as it should be by its own population,” says Johnny Farhat, the President of the Youth Australian Lebanese Association.

My mother once told me a story about her neighbour, a woman whose apartment overlooked the fruit markets, who joked about how she was going to protect her male cousin who needed to go down to buy bread. They left, there were gunshots, and she did not return. I was fourteen when I was told this story, and to me, it spoke to the overwhelming compassion and heart of the Lebanese people, for decades gunned down by war and a government that couldn’t care less.

When I was last in Lebanon, walking the streets made me physically ill for the first two weeks. The congestion in the city meant that there would always be a visible haze on the skyline, and the smell of diesel down on the ground was enough to make even the hardest person nauseous. But my mother loved it. She would revel in the sights and the smells and the people and the sheer life of it all, and couldn’t understand why I didn’t feel the same way about these things too.

She would wake up at 6am, make herself a pot of Lebanese coffee, and then go out onto the balcony to drink and watch the city slowly wake up. This was her childhood. This was, and still is, her home. And I would watch and envy her from afar, not feeling like it was quite my place to join her.

‘The Paris of the Middle-East’, she calls it.

And despite no longer looking the part, Lebanon still has so much history and culture that you needn’t look very far to find it. It lives in the warmth of the people, in the homes they carry with them in their eyes and that they share willingly with complete strangers. “The hospitality there was like no other,” says Kawsar Ali, a Lebanese student at Macquarie University. “Despite the locals of the village being considerably poor, they refused to let us pay for a fortnight’s rent.”

Their kindness belies the sadness that lives in the marketplaces, in the fresh meat hanging from hooks in butcheries, in the push and press of bodies, in the aswak that are so run down but would be as beautiful as any Turkish bazaar if only someone would look after them. We, the Lebanese that are not born or raised in our motherlands, look on at these things and find ourselves in limbo, where we are playfully referred to as “the Australians” and made to feel like outsiders: ‘ajaneb’.

“I mean, it’s a totally different society,” says Mariam Bazzi, an Australian-born 5th year student with Lebanese heritage. “In a sense it is kind of like a culture shock [when we visit], even though it’s the same culture. I guess it’s a bit ironic in that sense’.

For those of us neither born nor raised there, the sadness that permeates the unlit highways of our country is hidden behind a curtain of stories and wistful memories from our families. Shayma Taweel, another student, lives out her experiences through her mother’s stories of her grandfather.

“One story my mum often recounts is how,

owning multiple properties, jido would take my mum and her siblings on trips to a flat in the mountains to get away from the summer heat. A few weeks prior to the war breaking out, he died from gangrene, and my grandmother and her ten children gradually lost these properties to tenants, and their savings were soon spent.”

My step-grandfather was the same: wealthy beyond belief, but when the stock market crashed he crashed with it, and passed away soon after. The stories of our families to a great extent shape how Lebanese Australians like me and Shayma see our motherland.

*‘For those of us neither born there nor raised there, the sadness that permeates the unlit highways of our country is hidden behind a curtain of stories and wistful memories from our families.’*

However, in their sadness exists immense joy. That’s the hidden beauty of Lebanon: things


we would consider binary opposites exist side by side, entwined so closely with one another that it becomes difficult to tell these opposites apart. There is an “energy” in Lebanon, says Johnny, “that I think is unique to Lebanon. It doesn’t exist in many other places”.

“One of my fondest memories was gazing out into the imperfect landscape of South Lebanon,” says Mariam, “and sinking my teeth into the perfectly organic figs that were in season.” My mother tells me stories of how as a girl, her grandmother would make her own jams, would preserve her own fruits, was fiercely protective over her kitchen, and would make the most amazing mlookhiyeh. My father talks about how, as a child, he would eat pine nuts off the forest floor and climb the olive trees with his friends and how alive it all made him feel.

Those of us who were not born there find ourselves falling in love with our country through these stories. When I asked Shayma and Mariam to describe what Lebanon meant to them, they said “insane and wonderful” and “home”.

My mother sits on the balcony and watches her city rub its sleep eyes and prepare for another day. I gaze at her, at her hands that slowly lift the tiny cup of Lebanese coffee to her lips, and love her for the home that lives in her eyes and tongue.


In Lebanon there is a sadness, and I am privileged to have had that sadness shared with me.



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PROFILE

# Not just a crazy aunt

Pat Morrow sat down with the boys from Auntie Donna

Auntie Donna's new show 'New Show' is great for all the reasons you can take for granted. Their fear of the sketch show's forty-minute lull makes for a frenzied pace, a stage presence that never drops below ecstatic, and incredible volume. It's futurist, bold and very funny.

"When we all started, none of us were writers. Except Sam, who was a writer," Broden Kelly – a third of the cast – explains.

Now, they're exploding. They've 12 million views on YouTube, they're selling out shows around the country and have just finished a pilot series with the ABC. Four years ago they were theatre students in Ballarat playing their first festival in a fifty seater they were lucky to have.

"We'd only done plays and maybe had a funny part. The first month was harrowing. We kept coming in for rehearsals. Having nothing. Leaving with nothing, just perpetually. It looked like we'd really set the bar too high by assuming we could be funny."

They found themselves an incredibly distinct voice. It's loud and spontaneous and sloppy in all the right places. And while they mightn't have started as writers, their recent shows have been impeccably crafted.

They structure their shows lightly and effectively. Last year's Auntie Donna told tale of two sketch troupes – Donna going head to head with The Bubble Bath Boys – and climaxed in a brawl between every character from both shows. It was wafer-thin and wafer-delicious. New Show relies less on narrative, in favour of a series of well-placed audience interactions and a non-plot about the King of Australia.

What's more, they've nailed web-series structure in a really big way. 1999 is a ten-part production that makes its 1999 office setting sometimes feel accidental. It's an ironic nostalgia that kind of informs the material, and makes for a very good outtake with a VHS sandwich. The wide lapels, Y2K paranoia and primitive computers make every individual episode feel like a meaningful part of a series, without intruding on sketches individually. It's very good.

"While there might be fun ideas, I think ultimately the audience enjoys the undertone of us just fucking around." Zach Ruane – another third – says.

Sometimes an idea is pitched and improvised

into shape. Other times a conceit is more deliberately worked on, and then tested. Other times, "something horrible will happen to Mark – like a glassing. And that will be enough," Zach explains.

All the Donna reliables are in New Show: a Masterchef parody goes predictably violent but is still very fun, while an IT help-desk routine tackles the same staple with less bounce and more thought. Both are crowd-pleasers.

Likewise, when a game show host is tagged out for Pausey Pete right before the rapid-fire round, you know you're in for a classic, but Donna brings such a ferocious spirit to the thing that it doesn't feel antiquated. You know where it's going and it goes there proud and big.

Their use of tech is typically on point. It's hard to bore an audience when you're keeping time with a driving backing track. The lighting is glorious and the music itself is up to task, even if it's beginning to feel a little familiar.

*It was wafer-thin and wafer-delicious. New Show relies less on narrative, in favour of a series of well-placed audience interactions and a non-plot about the King of Australia.*

"On stage it's theatrical and you're engaging with an audience and energy is key," Zach says, "Imagination is great. It's a dream factory."

"The show is evolving and tumbling and turning the whole time. As soon as it becomes stagnant, it sucks."



Photo: Facebook

It's hard to pick favourites from New Show because, as in all Auntie Donna shows, the sketches roll and bleed into one another beautifully. It's a testament to the way the team works on the show as whole, as well as on individual sketches. They are so, so good at managing energy. It's occasionally breathtaking.

That said: Lord Whoopee manages to stand out. In a preamble, Zach declares the sketch is "in the words of one reviewer, very vulgar and juvenile, even for Auntie Donna's standards." A silent movie caricature villain makes a firefighter, then a nurse sit on a whoopee cushion. These people are pulled from the audience, is brilliant, stupid, basic status play and it is outstanding. It's facile, hammy, and self-aware – the very best of Auntie Donna.

While there's an overlap between their video material and their stage shows, it's a division they negotiate thoughtfully. Not every one of their stage sketches makes it online.

"On stage you plant the image in people's minds. On film you just show them the picture. Whenever we adapt a sketch from the stage we break down why it worked live and see if we can capture that on film," Sam Lingham, the only writer, says. They've gotten good at it. The tight

cuts and quick repetition in clips like Cresps and Found Out I Was Gay quickly push simple ideas to their funny limits with the bounding enthusiasm of their characters on stage.

It's sweet how earnestly stoked Zach is by the formula's success: "We never expected them to get more than 300 views and then we woke up one morning and it was 20 000 views. A few months later it was 200 000. Bikie wars is now at – what? A million? But even 200 000... you forget how cool that is."

It's not an audience you can short-change or take for granted, though.

"You have to do the best in whatever form you're working in."

The team's most significant video project to date has been their ABC Fresh Blood pilot series. It was a program established to nurture the next generation of Australian comedy exports. It falls to the ABC because, as Broden says, "No-one else is doing it."

"Fox of course has Open Slather, which was a great opportunity for everyone who's been on Kath and Kim."

Zach finishes the thought: "There would be no comedy in Australia if it wasn't for the ABC – everyone just invests in the acts that the ABC has given the first chance to."

"For the first time in years we got to involve women in significant roles and it was so much fun. Miranda Tapsell is incredible, and Sally-Anne Upton plays our manager and she is effing hilarious..."

"Sorry for swearing," Broden says, low and earnest.

Everyone at the table has a turn at saying effing. Sam Lingham, like gutter guards at a bowling alley, steers us back (it's how he works in a writer's room too, Broden says).

Tapsell and Upton are both excellent. In fact, all of Donna's high production video stuff is great. The new sketches are characterised by frantic prop escalation and a palpable sense that Zach can't believe they're receiving funding for what

they're doing. He doesn't try to hide his corpsing as rivers of coins fall out from under his hat in the pilot and it's the same cheekiness that makes their live shows so loveable. The Fresh Blood blooper reels run about as long as the sketches themselves and has the same seat-of-the-pants energy.

"Validity is the word," Broden says. "Getting the funding to do high end sketches gives you more validity with an audience that doesn't know if they like you or not – people who think you're just a YouTube channel for teenagers are suddenly willing to get on board with you."

And they're going to ride this skittish, Fresh Blood-fuelled rocket to the moon.

They talk a lot about how useful the writer's mindset is. Broden, Zach and Sam constantly push conversation into jokes. We met in exactly the sort of café that plenty of their video sketches start in and it feels like we're on the cusp of a musical number or mindless act of comedy violence.

It's never tedious, just the fuckaround fun that they have taken to the stage and web to rightful acclaim. New Show is brilliantly constructed, spit-flecked exciting, and bafflingly unique. It is a must-see. Auntie Donna is a must-see. They've done very well indeed.

FEATURE

# Another brick in the wall



## Alexandros Tsathas gets an education in the University of Sydney's construction masterplan

The University's proposed administrative restructure has received much airtime of late. Rightly so. Another restructure, this one already well underway, has not garnered the same attention despite having similarly huge implications on the future of the University. Enter the Campus Improvement Program (CIP) 2014-2020.

### What is it?

The CIP is the University's construction masterplan. It's big. Between now and 2020, \$600 million will be spent on demolitions, refurbishments and swanky new buildings. All up, it's worth \$1.4 billion.

2020 is more a waypoint than a final destination. Director of Campus Infrastructure Services (CIS), Greg Robinson, says there is "no way in the world" all projects will be completed by then. In the CIP, the University has created a construction wish list, with a hierarchy, from which individual items will be ticked off when they receive the requisite funding and approval. Robinson says that in laying out the University's development cards on the table, a clear vision can guide budgeting and decision-making for the next decade or so. Also, and no one can accuse it of "development creep". The CIP has three parts.

Firstly, it aims to geographically co-locate similar faculties into a number of "precincts". Many faculties will shift, and most of the USyd's satellite campuses will be put out of orbit.

Secondly, most University-owned buildings near campus are to be transformed into student accommodation. This includes the Regiment and Medical Foundation buildings and in the long term, the Faculty of Nursing's Mallett Street campus.

Thirdly, there's to be a new "access strategy". Cars won't be allowed near the University's sandstone inner sanctum, but roads will remain so that electric golf buggies (the University's proposal depicts those used by Google at its headquarters) can still service University property.

### Why have it?

Beyond the "world research excellence" and

"world-class student experience of learning" justifications of the CIP, the proposal is heavy on international student rhetoric and figures –

"The CIP will also facilitate increased spending in the order of \$374m over the 2014- 2020 period linked to the ability to grow the international student market at Camperdown Darlington."

The CIP is billed as upgrade of facilities rather than an expansion of enrolments. It assumes a modest annual growth rate of 1.9%.

### Where are we now?

Approval of Stage 1 of the masterplan was granted by the NSW Minister for Planning in February 2015. This means the State Government has specified where buildings can be built, and how big they are allowed to be. Their exact design will only become apparent once Stage 2 development applications are lodged, the first of which, Robinson says, will be submitted in the next few months. Honi has managed to get its inky hands on a number of Stage 2 design renderings.

What does the CIP mean for you? Turn over.



The proposed F23 Administration (left) and Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences (LEES) (right) buildings. View from Butlin Road, see V1 on next page for position. Image exclusive to Honi Soit.

### CONSTRUCTION BEFORE THE CIP

BUILDING	\$\$\$ (MIL)	FINISHED
Nepean Clinical School	11	May 2012
Concord Clinical School	11.5	Dec 2012
Charles Perkins Centre	385	Dec 2013
Marie Bashir Centre	10	Nov 2014
Queen Mary Building	58	May 2015
Abercrombie Precinct (CIP)	250	Jan 2016
Nanoscience Hub	150	April 2016

The proposed FASS Building, to be the new home of the schools of Economics and Social and Political Sciences. View (below) from Parramatta Road, see V2 on next page for position. Image exclusive to Honi Soit.



FEATURE



Life Sciences Precinct

ACCOMMODATION

The CIP plans to create another 4,000 “affordable” student accommodation beds in the vicinity of campus, “supported by a retail strategy to service the future campus and existing neighbourhood populations”. *Honi* is sceptical of the University’s commitment to affordability but SRC Housing Officer Jenna Schroder called the proposal “reasonable” and said “rent will be 25% less than market rate, that’s guaranteed”. The 4,000 spots will come from the expansion of existing colleges and the conversion of the following extra-campus buildings into student accommodation:

**Regiment Building (A1)** Cost: \$46 million  
Soon to be ex-home of the University’s Army reserves.

**Darlington Terraces (A2)** Cost: \$11 million  
3-storey sleeping quarters are to span the backyards of the terraces. Existing heritage structures will house living quarters.

**International House (A3)** Cost: \$69 million  
Redevelopment and expansion planned.

**Mackie and Telfer Buildings (A4)**  
Conversion to student accommodation once vacated by the Uni’s lawyers.

**Mallett Street Campus (A5)**  
Conversion to student accommodation once vacated by Nursing.

**Maze Street Car Park (A6)**  
Multi-storey purpose-built student accomodation, plans for a mini-supermarket.

**Medical Foundation Building (A7)**

**St Paul’s College (P1-4)**

**St Andrew’s College (D1-3)**

**St John’s College (J1)**



Health Sciences Precinct

SATELLITE CAMPUSES

The faculties of Health Sciences and Nursing will relocate to the new Health Precinct. Cumberland Campus belongs to the State Government, who will decide its fate. A sale to the University of Western Sydney and residential conversion are two options that have been floated. Sydney College of the Arts (SCA) remains in limbo. The original proposal was to move the SCA to Wilkinson Building, where the Faculty of Architecture resides. This seems unlikely

now. USyd’s official position is that it is “under active discussions for a merger with UNSW’s College of the Fine Arts, the negotiations may not progress”. UNSW said “discussions are continuing between SCA, UNSW Art & Design and the National Art School to explore opportunities for a closer association between the three institutions, with the aim of strengthening the delivery of art and design education in NSW”. Well, that clears things up!

FLORA AND FAUNA

An ecological assessment was conducted before Stage 1 approval was granted for the CIP. Australian Museum Consulting noted USyd’s Camperdown and Darlington campuses were “highly modified environments” where “the diversity of native shrub and ground cover species is very low”. The Australian White Ibis was listed as one of the seven fauna recorded during site visitation. The only threat real posed to local animals by the CIP was a potential

loss of foraging habitat for Grey-headed Flying-foxes, Eastern Bentwing Bats, and Large-eared Pied Bats. To minimize harm, it was recommended “the removal of mature trees be avoided and the loss of open space be minimised”. Basically, the CIP will have little environmental impact because the campus is already so developed.

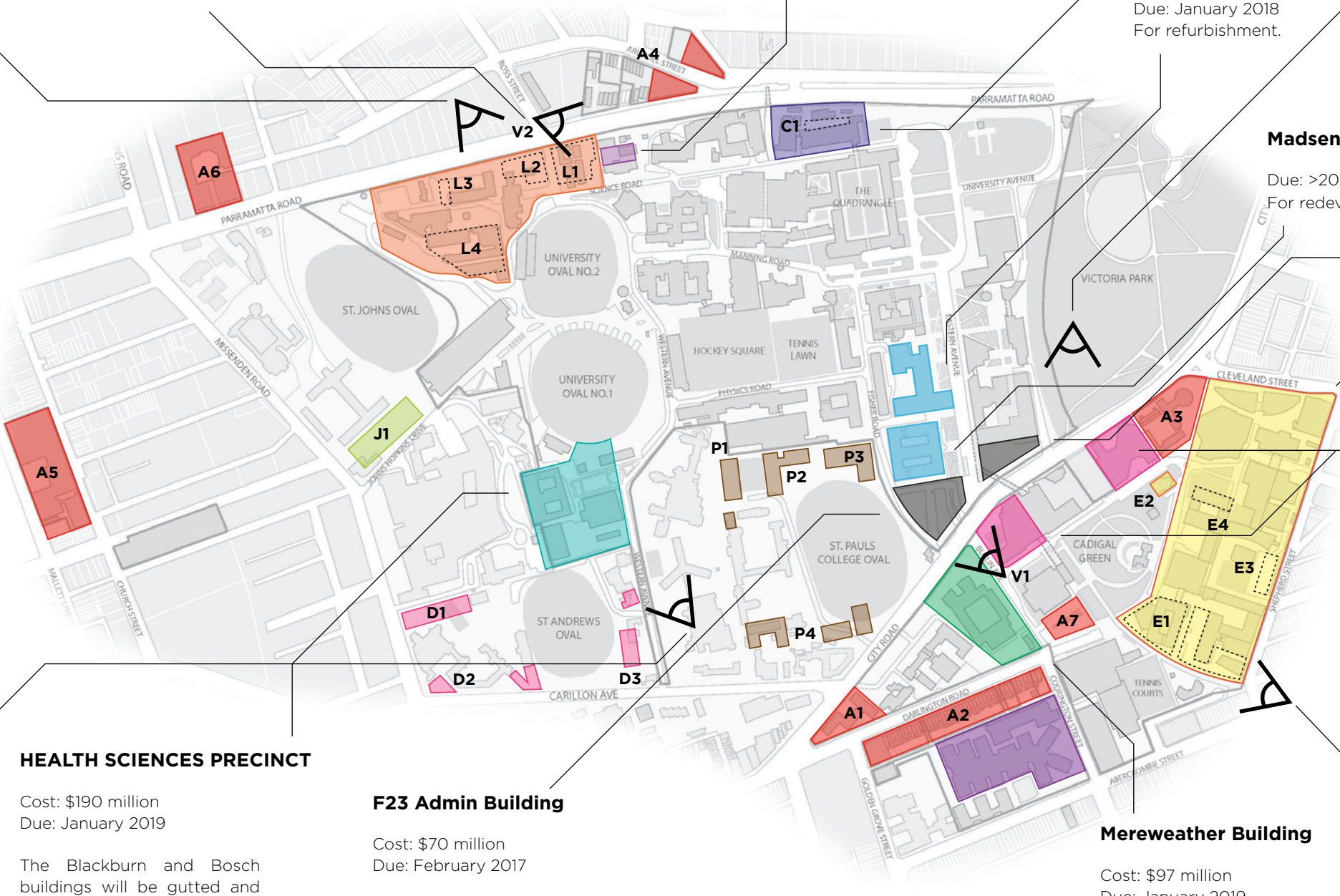
LIFE SCIENCES PRECINCT

Cost: \$150 million  
Due (all projects): >2020

To house the faculties of **Veterinary Science, Agriculture** and elements of **Biological Sciences**. The new Ross Street Building will have an east wing (L1) and a west wing (L2) and bridge the Ross Street entrance. An extension will be built onto the McMaster Building extension (on the site of current car park, L3). The Gunn building will be demolished and rebuilt (L4).

THE PRIORITY LIST

1. New FASS Building
2. F23 + LEES (combined project)
3. Westmead Clinical School
4. Health Precinct
5. Engineering Precinct



HEALTH SCIENCES PRECINCT

Cost: \$190 million  
Due: January 2019

The Blackburn and Bosch buildings will be gutted and replaced with a 5-tower complex for the relocated faculties of **Nursing** and **Health Sciences**. Will probably also contain an RPA-linked clinic.

F23 Admin Building

Cost: \$70 million  
Due: February 2017

Will house over 600 administrative staff, “co-locating and consolidate a number of bespoke University administrative departments into one location”. In it will reside the upper echelons of management (including the **Chancellor and VC’s**) and the Uni’s lawyers, marketing and HR departments.

FEATURE



International House (left), Wentworth (right) and Engineering Precinct (behind)

LEES (Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences) Building

Cost: \$67 million  
Due: September 2017

Will house the relocated schools of **Molecular Biosciences** and **Biological Sciences**. The new building will receive the City Rd foot-bridge, which will extend across Eastern Ave into the new F23 building.

ENGINEERING PRECINCT

Cost: \$135 million  
Due (all projects): >2020

The **Faculty of Engineering** will stay put. Most buildings will be refurbished and four new ones will be built. The biggest change is the demolition of the Chemical Engineering buildings, to be replaced by a huge Multidiscipline Teaching and Research Building, which will overlook the Boardwalk (E1). A new Innovation and Display Building is proposed for the engineering-end of the Cadigal Green (E2). Another new building will be built on the site of the Shepard Street Carpark (E3). The Electrical Engineering Building will receive an extension (E4) and the Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering Building will be refurbished.

CITY ROAD PRECINCT

Cost: \$170 million  
Due: >2020

Wentworth Building will be redeveloped (a 10-storey building has been budgeted for). The revamped building will maintain ground-floor retail, but will introduce learning and teaching spaces above. The Wilkinson and WH Maze buildings are slated for demolition. The **Faculty of Architecture** will move back in and may be joined by the **Sydney College of the Arts** (see *Satellite Campuses* inset). Jane Foss Russell will remain untouched.



Engineering Precinct

FASS (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences) Building

Cost: \$39 million  
Due: January 2017

Five-storey building to be built between the RD Watt building (formerly the School of Agriculture) and Parramatta Road. It will house the relocated schools of **Economics** and **Social and Political Sciences**.

CULTURAL PRECINCT

Cost: \$35 million  
Due: January 2018

The School of **Biological Sciences** will to be relocated to the new LEES Building. The Macleay and Edgeworth-David buildings will be converted into a museum and cultural exhibition centre, with Macleay receiving an extension (C1).

Chemistry Building

Due: January 2018  
For refurbishment.

Madsen Building

Due: >2020  
For redevelopment.

Mereweather Building

Cost: \$97 million  
Due: January 2019

Will receive a “landmark” redevelopment. **Arts** will stay put. The new structure will be a maximum height of 55m and have student accommodation on its upper floors.

ASBESTOS AND LEAD PAINT

As it turns out, most of the buildings to be demolished or refurbished as part of the CIP are riddled with asbestos and lead paint. Mereweather, Wilkinson, Bosch, yep, everyone’s favourites! There’s also “the potential for asbestos to be present in surface soils” as a result of the demolitions in the past.

Bosch 1A	Asbestos – yes Lead paint – yes	<i>Materials Risk Assessment Report, Noel Arnold and Associates, 4 April 2012</i>
Bosch 1B	Asbestos – yes	<i>Asbestos and Lead Paint Materials Risk Assessment Report, Noel Arnold and</i>

COLLEGE EXPANSIONS

**St Paul’s** – Will grow from 200 to 592 students by way of 3 new buildings (Graduate House (P1), Library (P2), Academic House (P3)) besides Physics Road, costing \$73 million. There are longer term plans for new structures near City Road to accommodate a further 170 students (P4).  
**St Andrew’s** – Plans to expand from 250 to 300 undergraduates and from 30 to 100 postgraduates. A new “Northern Building Precinct” (D1), costing \$20 million will shoulder most of the load in the short term. St Andrew’s also has

lodged council plans for a new Learning and Performing Arts Centre (D2) on the corner of Missenden Rd and Carillon Ave. Costing \$17 million, it will have a blackbox theatre and rehearsal spaces, catering to the intercollege community. Another two buildings in the south will accommodate a further 150 students in the future (D3).  
**St John’s** – The University’s masterplan indicates St John’s big plans for expansion, as does the college website. The college didn’t reply to *Honi*’s contact attempts (J1).



# Family practice

Rina Yang on the cultural complexities of traditional Chinese medicine

At least once a year when I was a child, I caught a cough from another kid at school. I would do my best to hide it from my parents by holding my breath. At night I would sleep fitfully on my stomach, burying my face in the pillow to muffle the sound of coughing. Naturally, my parents always found out, and they would bring out the reason for my subterfuge: a tiny glass bottle of traditional Chinese cough syrup, brewed from bamboo. Its potentially bitter taste was worse than the pain of the coughs. I cried whenever I was forced to drink it, and afterwards I would fervently pray for it to do nothing so that I would have an excuse to avoid taking more.

Without fail, that little bottle of syrup was as effective as it was bitter. Once the taste eventually left, I would finally be able to sleep uninterrupted.

Most Asian families have traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) around the house. Some keep it in the medicine cabinet, among the Band-Aids and blister packets of Nurofen. Others, like mine, blur the line between food and medicine. In the pantry, there is a packet of dried dendrobium orchid – used for replenishing fluids – resting against a fat jar of Nutella. We keep a bottle of *pípágão*, a dark honey-like formula that dates back to the Qing Dynasty, in the same cupboard as the instant coffee.

TCM generates polarising opinions: from belief in its superiority over Western healthcare, to scepticism whether it should even be called medicine. Many young Asian-Australians grew up with traditional and Western medicine in concert. The flow of migrants from Asia has brought TCM businesses to most towns in Sydney with a sizeable Asian population. They tend to be small, cramped and lined with wooden drawers – each

Some symptoms abated, others worsened; a severe rash flared up around her neck and shoulders. Eve decided to see a Western dermatologist. “She didn’t explicitly tell me to stop seeing the others but said it was dubious whether TCM was working at all,” she says.

“She focused on the surface of my skin, giving me an allergy test and sending skin cell samples to the lab, but I strongly felt that it was something internal. Western doctors are mostly concerned with managing the symptoms of chronic illness. A TCM doctor approaches treatment with the mindset that they want to cure the disease from its root.”

alternative to be real medicine. And though modern TCM is actually starting to resemble Western medicine, sold as colourful, gelatin capsules that could pass for Panadol, some of it is undeniably strange to the Western eye. Much is made of the more peculiar ingredients, such as the *ophiocordyceps sinensis*, also known as the “winter worm, summer grass”: a parasitic fungus that burrows into the live larvae of ghost moths, eventually killing them and growing a stalk out of their heads.

Yet such ingredients are almost banal to TCM proponents. My mother only shrugs when I ask her about it: “You can put it in soup, you can stew it, you can chew it dry,” she says.

“It’s more plant than bug.”

At worst, TCM is portrayed as brutally outlandish – we’ve all seen the images of emaciated tigers and bears in cages. Eve calls these practices “absolutely awful”, but points out that they constitute a fraction of TCM. “The medicine that comes from animal abuse gets a disproportionate amount of attention,” she says. “Most traditional medicines are plant-based teas, balms, and oils.”

Arnold\*, like Eve, hails from a Chinese migrant family, but regards TCM with a strong sense of scepticism.

“Although it seems to work in some cases, I think some of it is completely useless,” he says. He has tried TCM to limited success. “I didn’t have a choice. I took whatever my parents told me to take. And parents know what’s best for you, right?”

The last straw came when he was ten years old. His parents checked his nails and found white patches on them. They decided he had a stomach bug: ringworm. From a store in Carlingford Village, they brewed an infusion out of roots and herbs. “It looked like laksa,” Arnold says. “If only it tasted as good as laksa.”

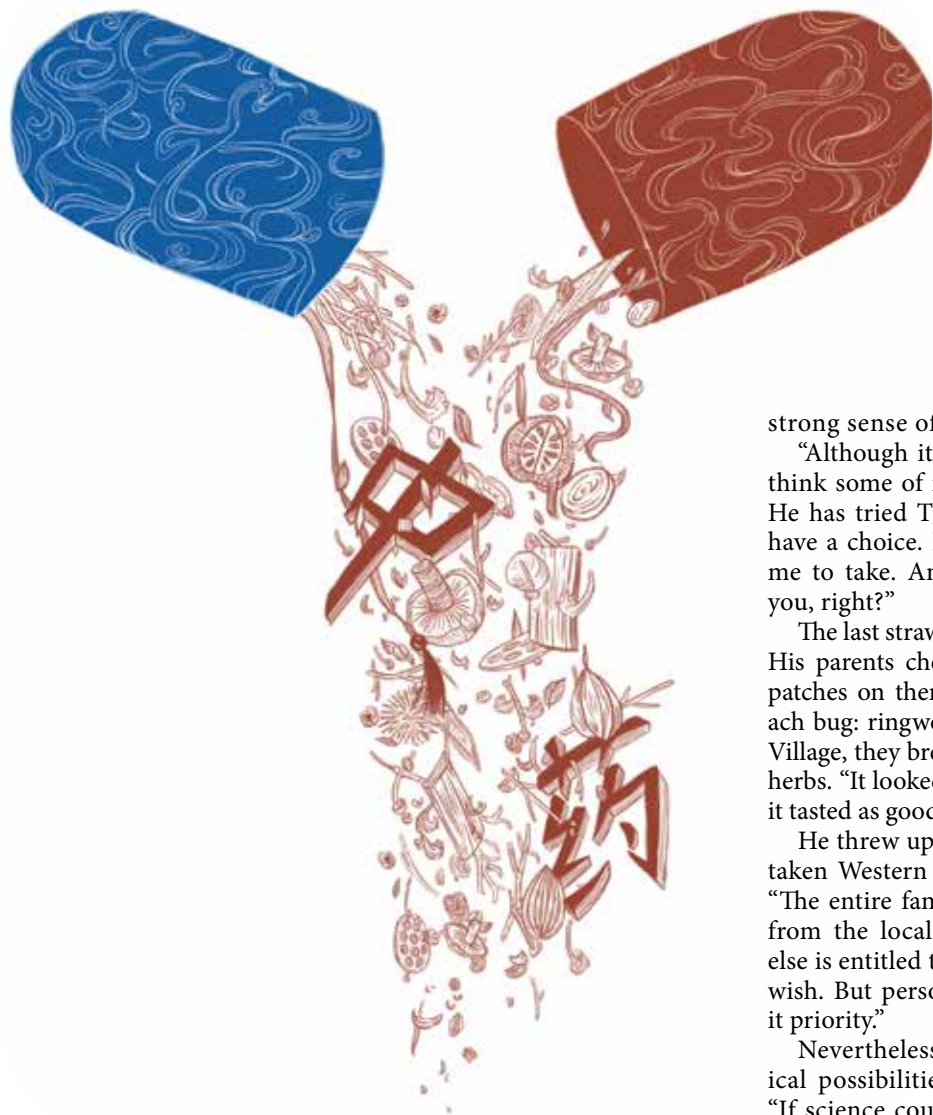
He threw up after drinking the brew, and has taken Western medicine exclusively ever since. “The entire family has settled for the medicine from the local pharmacy,” he says. “Everyone else is entitled to keep using TCM however they wish. But personally, I would be careful giving it priority.”

Nevertheless, he remains open to the medical possibilities – if there is scientific proof. “If science could show that each type of TCM works, I’ll be one hundred per cent on board with it. I’ll make my future kids take it even if it tastes bad.”

For Eve, scientific proof is not a prerequisite for medication to be effective. “I understand the scepticism, because I’m also sceptical about TCM to an extent,” she says. “But it has persisted for millennia, and in the end, it’s the effectiveness that is important to me. It has worked for me when Western medicine hasn’t.”

Regardless of its effectiveness, TCM should not be regarded as exotic, frightening, or the product of stupidity. It is irrevocably a part of Asian culture, and deeply embedded in many families. When faced with the choice of medical treatment, all of us – Eve, Arnold, myself, and probably thousands of young Asian-Australians – straddle the gap between traditions and heritage, and the sensibilities of the country we live in.

\*Name has been changed.



Art: Rina Yang

carefully labelled by hand, in brisk cursive script. My family patronises the shop of a wizened man who wraps all purchases in a sheet of crimson crepe paper, deftly folding in the corners to create an envelope of dried ingredients. For some Australians, these shops are as familiar as the sterile, disinfected offices of the local GP.

Eve\*, a student at Sydney University, has visited her fair share of both Western and TCM clinics. Her parents migrated from China when she was an infant. “I’ve grown up with TCM,” she says. “My family has always used it. It’s part of our cultural legacy.”

Eve suffers from skin issues, including painfully itchy hives and eczema. Her first two doctors – TCM practitioners – struggled to produce satisfactory results. Every day for six months, she would stew a packet of herbs over a low flame on the stove. The steam that issued from the clay pot had a dense, bitter smell. After filtering out the loose plant matter, the liquid was black and grainy. She drank it from a bowl, wincing. Three times a week, she had an acupuncture appointment.

*In the pantry, there is a packet of dried dendrobium orchid – used for replenishing fluids – resting against a fat jar of Nutella.*

# Professional peers

Natalie Buckett and Nicholas Horgan reflect on the rise of student photographers

Scrolling through Facebook photo albums of events gone by allows us to relive stories of wild parties and memorable nights. Look closer, and you will see a watermark embedded on the pictures that tells another kind of story.

House of Cameo, RAAW Creative and Samuel Hoare Event Photography; these are the names that pop up in the event meetings of university clubs and societies, the committees of college formals, the excited interchange between friends as they plan lavish parties.

University photography businesses have skyrocketed over the past few years, with ordinary students crafting loyal clienteles ranging from university clubs and societies to corporations and political parties. Their photos boast impressive traction, with Facebook business pages that rack up over 20,000 likes.

The journey usually starts with an interest in photography, and often does not even involve a considered business plan. For Sydney Law School graduate John Fennel, his business developed organically. “I got involved in photography at uni by bringing my camera along to a few events at the start of my law degree. People began noticing that I had a camera and asked me to snap their events,” Fennel says.

But student photographers are clearly not inexplicable success stories; they cleverly tap into an eager, and often lucrative, client base. “It’s a captive market,” says Samuel Hoare of Samuel Hoare Event Photography. “Everyone knows everyone, everyone [is] having 21sts, everyone is really into social media and want pretty pictures on their Facebook. People aren’t going to go out of their way to hire someone for triple the price, especially when they’ve got university peers who they’ve seen do a good job.”

Generally, the cheap prices that university photographers offer are largely due to minimal overhead costs. It is common to receive cash in hand payments for jobs, meaning it is possible to avoid paying tax on income received, or for it to impact on means-tested welfare payments.

The unique edge that university photographers provide is that, well, they’re university photographers. Hoare says, “Everyone knows me and it’s a lot easier for someone to yell at me ‘yo take my photo’ if they’re your peer”. Young people have a specific grasp of digital media and marketing in the 21st century, making it easier for them to provide these services.

It’s not just 18th and 21st parties that this applies to, university clubs and societies, and many other organisations want a photographer who can appeal to a young audience. Students we spoke to had done event photography for Young Labor events, Liberal party conferences, Out For Australia and a range of university parties. Each job leads to a new network of connections, and an unending supply of customers.

Fennel explains that when hiring other photographers on behalf of clubs and societies he thought it was “important to employ students because it gave them a chance to practice their art”. Moreover, he contended that the “clubs and societies program is one of the best ways to give a bit of extra money to student photographers”.

However, the nature of a student photographer’s appeal, being both peer and professional, can also be the source of difficulty. A focus on college formals and university events requires photographers to navigate the boundary between client and friend, particularly when guests encourage the photographer to drink and socially integrate for a more “intimate” set of photos.

Photograph: Sarah Cutter-Russell

Unlike Hoare, who is able to source his income largely from university contacts, some photographers have broadened their customer base to a younger scene.

Tim\* spoke to *Honi* about his experiences as a guest at events shot by student photographers, providing an insight into their capacity to exploit their professional position for personal gain, or even more perverse reasons. “In my opinion the context of professionalism is also deliberately used to network friendships, court relationships and in more insidious cases coerce sexual relations... my 16 year old sister has on multiple occasions been asked to come for private photo-shoots at the beach by event photographers in their mid 20’s who have met her in fleeting at the birthday parties of her friends,” he said.

Rita\*, a high school student who has attended numerous parties photographed by university students observed “a party isn’t exactly a [normal] workplace environment and when you take into consideration the fact that the photographers are also usually guests its definitely more difficult to distinguish between personal [and] professional.” Rita goes on to claim that “often they’ll ask girls to do things ‘for the photo’ that are inappropriate and in some cases predatory. She went so far as to say it’s ‘just an opportunity to add to their own personal soft-core porn collections.’”

*“The struggles of balancing professionalism and constant expectations to remain youthful, agile and involved are numerous, and sometimes the uniqueness of these photographers’ position can blur boundaries between freelancer and friend, and in more insidious instances sees the blatant exploitation of a position of power”*

The distinction appears to be – as Rita identifies it – in the nature of the event. “I’ve had some good experiences with University photographers who have stayed professional. I think it was because it was set in a more reputable place like a function a genuinely successful and dynamic business is impressive to say the least.

The key to producing fun and youthful photo albums appears to be a photographer’s capacity to enjoy events in the same way as a guest, whilst maintaining the respectful behaviour expected in any conventional workplace. Fennel said, “there are no strict expectations of my behaviour. Common sense dictates that I shouldn’t be creepy or rude... often the events involve alcohol and I make sure I have a couple of drinks (if whoever has hired me is okay with that) to help get on the same level as my subjects, without getting wasted.

“It’s a fine line between being professional and unprofessional in such a situation, but I think it’s important to toe that line. In saying that, it’s very important to be respectful of people’s wishes at all times.”

Some photographers dislike the ambiguity in



professional and personal boundaries. Fennel speaks about the process of ‘summoning’ where people persistently hassle the photographers regardless of what else they are doing. Another student photographer, Lee\*, noted that whilst his age was often an advantage, it also made him feel more susceptible to rudeness and brashness from event guests. “When they want you to take a photo or show them a photo of them, they sometimes feel more empowered to nag at you or yell at you because you’re just another young person at the party,” he said. He also claimed that, whilst a client base at university provided many opportunities, it also elevated expectations of “mates rates”, which made hours of work less lucrative.

Watching the development of these students’ photography move from a passionate hobby to a genuinely successful and dynamic business is impressive to say the least. However, the struggles of balancing professionalism and constant expectations to remain youthful, agile and involved are numerous, and sometimes the uniqueness of these photographers’ position can blur boundaries between freelancer and friend, and in more insidious instances sees the blatant exploitation of a position of power.

The point at which these businesses are most admirable though, is when students push back against a society that frequently correlates age with vulnerability or incompetence, and use their youth, literally, as their selling point. As this market continues to grow and regulate itself, one can only hope the experiences of students like Rita and Tim become the absolute exception.

\*The names in this article have been changed



# A cheapskate’s guide to Sydney life

Tansy Gardam on the essentials

While it’s all well and good attributing Gen Y’s current economic struggles to negative gearing and the changing nature of the workforce to, there’s a basic truth that most students face – being broke. It sucks. As a generation mostly raised in the comforts of a standard of living we can no longer afford, it sucks even more to look at small things we once took for granted and now romanticise – hair cuts, new shoes, bubble baths. Luckily, I’ve been a cheapskate my whole life, and spending as little money as possible is a craft I’ve honed over the past four years of tertiary education. This is my list of cheapskate shortcuts for Sydney University life – it’s by no means exhaustive, but it might help you out.

Hair

Take a walk down past Broadway to the **Australian College of Hair and Beauty** – then ring them instead, because they don’t actually take walk-ins and you’ll look like a bit of a dick just strolling in without an appointment. Getting your hair cut by students might sound risky, but there’s good supervision and, in cases of more complex procedures like full head bleaches, they are usually already working professionally finishing off their last couple of assessments. There’s a bit of a wait for an appointment – usually around 2-3 weeks – and the session itself will take a little longer than usual, but at the end you can walk out with a cut, wash and blow-dry for free.

Clothes

**Clearit** on King St is a personal favourite, because it has a wide variety of labels in one loca-

tion, and it only seems to get more stuffed full of stock over time. If you’re looking for some vintage, avoid **Vinnies Newtown** – they’ve become drunk on reputation and their prices show it – and walk to the **Red Cross store**. Their stuff tends to be in better condition and all the good stuff doesn’t go as quickly. **Kmart’s** clothes are dirt cheap and particularly good for staples like t-shirts and exercise gear.<sup>1</sup>

Coffee

On-campus coffee is complicated – I only took it up last year, but **Parma** is probably cheapest overall at \$2.80 for a standard coffee with the ACCESS discount. However, it isn’t part of the network of USU spots where scanning your access tallies a free coffee after every 5 – Parma loyalty cards only give you every 10th coffee free, and you need to ask for one and remember it each time. I did General Maths back in 2011, so my numbers might be rusty, but provided you get your card at Parma, it does equal out as slightly cheaper over time (\$151.20 vs \$157.50 for 60 coffees<sup>2</sup>). Or just don’t drink coffee, since losing two a day will save you either \$151.20 or \$157.50 every month.

Shoes

If you have a car, congratulations – you can drive to the **Wittner** factory outlet on Botany Rd. If not, it’s a little less than 15 minutes to walk from Redfern Station. The range is broad, the quality is high and the cost is negligible compared to buying new boots in a store. Botany Rd also has a bunch of other outlets, including some good sports stores

if you need a new pair of runners (although those are actually closer to Green Square Station).

Food

The best tip for saving money on eating out is probably don’t, but I’m not here to judge. Behind the **Great Southern Hotel**, stacked next to a number of other restaurants, you can find **Chinese Noodle House** – order the special braised eggplant and any of the dumplings and noodle dishes. If you need breakfast on Saturday morning, hit up **Eveleigh Markets** at Carriageworks – everything is expensive, yes, but everything also hands out free samples. And if you feel like forking out \$8 for a pork bun, you can get one made by Kylie Kwong. If you’re sensible and you’re eating in with mates, descend to the depths of the Broadway car park to **Harris Farm** – their weekly cheese specials will impress the most judgmental of friends<sup>3</sup>.

This is not a comprehensive list of ways to avoid spending money in Sydney – there’s no bars on this list, for example, because when I’m drinking my cheapskate instincts go out the window and my spending spins out like the \$15 cocktail wheel at **Knox St Bar**<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Just don’t buy the shorts with fake pockets. Because fuck fake pockets.  
<sup>2</sup> Maybe don’t trust my math.  
<sup>3</sup> Note: this will not work if your most judgmental of friends is vegan.  
<sup>4</sup> Totally worth it.



Art: Jess Zlotnick

with stand out performers. Logan McArthur is perfectly cast as the gentlemanly Emmett Forrest, Isaac Carroll as Professor Callahan is every bit the shark his character intends to be, and complements his undeniable acting skills with a brilliant singing voice and Lauren McShane is wonderful as her character you love to hate, the snarky Vivienne Kensington.

While watching Legally Blonde, it is impossible not to be astounded by the energy constantly present onstage, from fully choreographed skipping-rope routines (awe-strikingly led by the incredibly cardio-conditioned Lucy Allen) to simple, intimate interactions between Elle and Emmett.

The vigour and enthusiasm in this show is utterly infectious, and most definitely not to be missed.

# How to get away with doping

Chloe Saker examines transgressions of sportsmanship.

Confessions are a funny thing. Common thought is they reveal the transgression at play, but what they really expose is the character behind it. Confessions expose every word, the spoken and unspoken, so there is nowhere to hide.

Sport has so accustomed us to the truth that players spend millions on products to augment physical performance, that doping has found its way into our moral compass. The player’s personal reaction or confession is the true touchstone by which we judge, rather than by any moral wrong; we judge players according to how they judge themselves.

On March 7, Maria Sharapova admitted to failing a drug test during an Australian Open press conference. The incident is classic: rising sporting star, doping revelations, loss of respect and reputation, end of career. Only, for Sharapova, it wasn’t.

Sharapova had never broken regulation until meldonium was added to WADA’s banned list this year. Before any allegations

could surface, she had already confessed.

In a 2013 Oprah interview, Lance Armstrong confessed to doping his way to all seven of his Tour de France titles. The circumstances exceeded Sharapova’s in drama and intensity. For at least a decade, Armstrong consistently denied allegations, went on the offensive and engaged in lawsuits against accusers, all to knowingly and voluntarily cheat. Not only did it take Armstrong over a decade to confess, it took Oprah to get him to do it. The interview itself lacks the remorse, shame, or hurt you would expect. His apology is facile, “One of the steps of this process is to say sorry. I was wrong, you were right”.

Ultimately, Armstrong was sorry he got caught. He said taking drugs was “part of the job” and without them, it was impossible to win the Tour de France. Whilst Armstrong had brazenly denied everything from 1995, Sharapova’s confession, just a few days after her test results, is oddly refreshing. She called the press conference, got up there, came forward and accepted the repercussions. There was no denial, no shift of responsibility and most certainly, no assertion that she was caught up in the culture, or it was the only way to win.

Long-time rival, Serena Williams praised the confession, “...she was just upfront and very honest and showed a lot of courage to admit to what she had done and what she had neglected to look at”. Novak Djokovic said “she has approached this very maturely. I really admire that”. Rafael Nadal affirmed it must’ve been a “mistake”. Whilst Nike and Tag Heuer have suspended their sponsorships, Sharapova’s racquet manufacturer,

Head, intends to extend her contract.

Armstrong by contrast, was stripped of all seven Tour de France titles, and handed a lifetime ban from all sporting competitions. Last year, he was ordered by a Texas arbitration panel to pay \$10 US million to previous sponsors.

*“While the scale of their breach is a factor, the real difference between the two is their respect for sport.”*

While the scale of their breach is a factor, the real difference between the two is their respect for sport. Armstrong consistently compromised the procedural fairness of WADA and Union Cycliste Internationale for his own success. His case destroyed the credibility and integrity of cycling – something authorities, players and admirers tirelessly work to achieve. Without integrity, sport has no foundation. It has no platform to build and develop from.

Sharapova respected tennis enough to immediately confess. She protected her sport because it’s what gave her the strength and stamina to be a champion.

Post-scandal, tennis remains a highly credible and well-respected sport. I’m not sure the same can be said for cycling.

# Can you smell what the quad is cooking?

Victoria Zerbst likes wrestling and academania.

Public Relations is as much of a sport as Wrestling. Wrestling is as much of a sport as any Andrew Lloyd Webber musical. Ergo, anything is a sport if there are winners and losers at the end. And there are always winners and losers. So this is serious sports journalism.

I spoke to Vince McMahon<sup>1</sup>, CEO of WrestleMania, which is one-part sport and one-part theatre, and I told him he needed to localize his talent pool and expand the Australian market. We love a good WrestleMania and we want to be represented.

Remember, there are two types of wrestlers: faces and heels. Your faces are your good guys: Steve Austin, The Rock, my dad. The heels are those bad eggs we love to hate like that dirty nature boy Ric Flair and his daughter Charlotte. It’s a family affair.

I am sick of these heels. I am tired of goat faces. I don’t want to undertake the Undertaker downunder because I am scared of magic<sup>2</sup>.

So point your fingers in the air and say WOOO! and let me introduce the latest additions to the WrestleMania family. Introducing heavyweight VC \$PENZ and Big Man Tyrone.

What Australia needs is a man who can bring the smackdown on student idealism. A real male champion of change. I bring you: VC \$PENZ, the real big \$PENDER.

VC \$PENZ still puts the ox in Oxonian and PR in Priest. He probably puts the vice in vice chancellor but that’s unsubstantiated. He claims he didn’t shoot his deputy.

His deputy is Big Man Tyrone, or Tyronnosaurus HECS as he is known to his fans. BMT is such a heel, just look at all his past wrestling accolades: *BCom UNSW, LLB (Hons) Syd, MCom (Hons) UNSW, LLM Syd, PhD Macq, Grad Dip Fin SIA, CA, FCPA, FFin, Grad Dip Homeopathy*<sup>3</sup>.

*“VC \$PENZ still puts the ox in Oxonian and PR in Priest.”*

Hail these new heels. Together these heroes have three times the power of Triple H, which make them Nonuple H (HHHHHHHHH). They’ve been wrestling with deregulation and training with a tag team of public relations professionals. These men are ready. Are you ready to be schooled?

<sup>1</sup>This is as real as wrestling.  
<sup>2</sup>Which, as we know, is just as real as wrestling.  
<sup>3</sup>I promise you this is as real as wrestling.





# In a world of our own

Justine Landis-Hanley on the political perspectives left behind

With protests against university fee deregulation taking place in the library, classes titled *Intimacy, Love and Friendship*, and Pride Week starting soon, it can be easy to think we have entered an era of widespread progressivism.

Even if we don't want to pick up sticks and join the ranks of the socialist revolution, at the University of Sydney it is fashionable to declare ourselves part of a left-wing ideological evolution. If there is dissent, it is mostly unchallenging. Right-wing students form the minority.

We have acclimated to this imbalance, but if we look beyond our sandstone walls to other tertiary institutions, it becomes clear that USyd's on-campus ideology is a poor reflection of the vastly more conservative broader political culture.

Before coming to the University of Sydney, I was a law student at Bond University, one of Australia's private higher education institutions. There was only one politically-affiliated club on campus: the Liberal Club. A former Nationals MP taught the Australian Politics class. The Women's Welfare Society's great success was hosting an arguably transphobic "gender-bender" party.

Not only was there a lack of diversity in opinion on campus, but to challenge the dominant opinion cast you as an outsider. Calling Australia Day "invasion day", and vocalising my support for an open-door policy for asylum seekers had me branded a "left-wing hippie".

While my ideas had me labelled a "communist" by peers at Bond, I was, much to my surprise, considered almost right-wing at USyd. I spent a few months aligned with Student Unity, who, although supporters of the Labor Party, were considered by the other factions to be right-wing.

Bond and USyd operate on very different political spectrums. The thing they have in common,

however, is that they are both self-contained worlds, with unique social conventions and language. I had never heard of non-binary gender until I attended a club meeting which opened with students introducing themselves by name, degree and preferred personal pronoun. When I tried to describe learning about intersectional feminism in my gender studies class to a family member, they looked at me with confusion. These ideas rarely fall into one's everyday terminology. And yet, at USyd, they are largely embedded in our discourse.

It is natural to believe that our campus is a microcosm of the 'outside world'. But cast your gaze elsewhere and you will see that we are, rather, an anomaly. Just last week, students at the University of Queensland sparked a widespread debate over the existence of a gender pay gap

*"USyd is one of Australia's most elite tertiary institutions. And like any elitist, it is both disconnected from, and ignorant of, reality"*

and received death threats for selling cupcakes at different prices to men and women. Similar initiatives have been conducted on Eastern Avenue without so much as a passing comment, but perhaps the debate over UQ more accurately represents the ideological tone of the "real world".

The University of Sydney is one of Australia's

most elite tertiary institutions. And like any elitist, it is both disconnected from, and ignorant of, reality. It assumes that the majority fall into line on its left-skewed spectrum, when in the real world, political affiliation and social convention are neither so simple nor progressive.

Most ideological battles on this campus consist of factional infighting, with progressive students dividing themselves over nuanced issues, such as whether lobbying or protesting is a better mechanism for change. In such a skewed ideological landscape, it can be easy to forget who the real opponent is.

The danger with receiving a political education in an ideological bubble such as USyd, is that it does very little to prepare progressives for interacting with, and existing within, a far more diverse reality. After years of factions dividing themselves like fractions, various strands of the 'left' will need to realise they have to band together to stand against a rising majority: conservatism. All those years of USyd's political juggernauts casting the 'right' into their stupor shadow may have been to their detriment; in the real world of discourse, one will not only have to engage, but persuade and negotiate with those calling from beyond the other side of the fence.

The lengths of our degrees limit our days on campus. Eventually, we will have to emerge, graduation cap in hand, and see the brave new world for what it is: diverse in opinion, largely inconsiderate of identity politics, and on the cusp of electing Donald Trump into the American presidency. Sure, the progressives may still hold on to the political views they formed at university and practice their taught social and verbal conventions. However, many will have to learn how to walk and talk in a far more challenging political culture. They will realise that those red flags, far from being tools of liberation, were in fact blindfolds.

But even scoring a job doesn't relieve my anxiety. In fact, it creates a further expectation of development. Every time the task gets overwhelming, I'm always reminded by the fact that other people, who have more activities, never complain. Whenever I see a job advertisement or take up new commitments, unsettling thoughts would come. Am I doing this for my own sake, or for the cover letter? When should I stop, if ever?

Other young people might be lucky enough to have something to hold on to when they feel aimless. "While I'm not participating in the rat race, I get to know what truly matters," said Beatrice, regaining her confident tone. "It's my family."

That sounds almost too simplistic, but simplicity is what I want. Because I still can't shake off the guilt every time I turn down "productive" opportunities to watch Netflix or hang out with friends and family. Because meeting someone with a 'busier' life still makes me feel like less of a person, despite everything else in my life that I could be grateful for. Because it seems like the only thing I don't take for granted is a career.

Indeed, maybe professional fulfilment is to me the way family is to Beatrice. But the attempts to improve ourselves should not be so self-defeating as to deny us a sense of adequacy, or a shot at happiness.

Now excuse me while I try not to define myself by my CV.

REVELRY IN REVIEW

# My milkshake brings all the boys to Courtyard

Theodora Von Arnim didn't actually review Courtyard

The humble milkshake should have been perfected a long time ago. Its simple concoction which usually requires minimum preparation. Despite this, the quality of milkshake varies wildly across campus. Here are four reviews to help you navigate the minefield.

## PARMA - 4 MILK BOTTLES

Parma La Cucina simultaneously offers both the largest and cheapest (\$4.25 with Access) milkshake on campus, making it a no-brainer for students on a budget. Or students who are just cheap. We'd recommend that owners of normal sized stomachs don't eat too much before attempting to consume one solo. Parma's milkshakes had questionable consistency, producing a thick creamy vanilla flavour, and a milky caramel for the same order. Pairing with a pasta can make for an extremely heavy meal.

## TASTE - 5 MILK BOTTLES

The introduction of milkshakes at Taste is arguably the biggest thing since milkshakes at Parma. Calling it a milkshake is a bit disingenuous; Taste errs on the extravagant side of the milkshake/freakshake spectrum. The Peanut Butter Jelly milkshake does the job, but it's the Nutella milkshake that earns the title of 'Most Boys Brought to Yard' 2k16. Icy Nutella goodness, chocolate sauce, gallons of whipped cream, and salted pretzels to top it off - this shake is a one way trip to diabetes. It's also an expensive trip; the pre-Access price of \$8 (\$6.80 with ACCESS) will make your eyes water. But, with an Access card and a rich father, law students can treat themselves.

## RALPH'S - 3.5 MILK BOTTLES

A classic, old school milkshake from Ralph's will rarely disappoint any traditional milkshake lover. Thick, creamy and sufficiently large, this milkshake should satisfy most students. Full disclosure, the 'officially tested' milkshake was slightly underwhelming, too milky and not enough flavour. However everyone has their off days, and previous efforts have usually been very successful. Ralph's offers the widest selection of flavours, all the classics, plus some interesting options like Lime. It's very similarly priced to Parma (\$4.50, and they don't take Access), so the milkiness (and bizarre absence of lids) doesn't justify the walk to Parma if you're around Eastern Ave.

## POOLSIDE CAFE - 1 MILK BOTTLE

In the name of diversity we ventured to the dark side of City Road, beyond the Wentworth Building and into a desert wasteland. But in the name of privilege we got a bit scared and decided to just review the Poolside Café in the Sydney Uni Aquatic Centre. It takes two servers and a manager to coordinate the milkshake making, which doesn't inspire much confidence. Their opaque Access card system ("the displayed prices ARE the Access prices") also means I pay a rather confused \$4.50 for a regular. It's half the size of one from Ralph's, and about half as good too, so the savvy economics students should get four times as much utility from a Ralph's milkshake. Still, if you spend 25 hours a week on the dark side of campus, it might be the only bright part of your day.



Art: Ann Ding

REVELRY IN REVIEW

# Growing Strong

Courtney Thompson mixed politics with pleasure at the Wom\*n's Collective publication launch

The Growing Strong Launch at 107 Projects on March 22 was not your average soiree. This was a party that gave its attendants the enriching opportunity to bask in the unlimited potential of women and non-binary people in the arts, life, and beyond. The event was in celebration of *Growing Strong*, the annual publication of the University of Sydney Wom\*n's Collective.

The night kicked off in a thought-provoking manner, with Georgia Mantle giving a moving acknowledgement of country, speaking of her Grandmother's strength and resilience as an Indigenous woman. It reminded us of the pervasive impacts of colonisation on land that was, is, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

I fear this review is tainted by the awe and wonder I felt listening to the writers read their pieces from the publication. It is a particularly intimate endeavor exposing your innermost thoughts with strangers, let alone speaking them aloud. The fear of intimidation was perhaps diluted by the audience (made up of predominantly women) having a somewhat shared understanding of what it means to live as a woman under the kyriarchy<sup>1</sup>.

Lane Pitcher, Bridget Harilaou, Siena di Giovanni, Vanessa Song and Ellen O'Brien told stories of struggle, forgiveness, heartbreak, perseverance and love. On the surface these seemed to be universal themes, but their experiences were specific in the way they demonstrated the very personal effects of patriarchy on the everyday lives of people who don't conform.

*"they demonstrated the very personal effects of patriarchy on the everyday lives of people who don't conform"*

The musical acts that rounded out the night were a testament to the largely untapped talent of women in music. Yung Pliny played a set

that sadly didn't have the setting or audience to be fully appreciated. Similarly, Dweeb City - a band that you should take note of now as they are surely set for stardom - were unsurprisingly incredible (this was my third time seeing them live), bringing their signature quirk and enchantment to the stage.

Shout-out must also go to the catering from Ya Habibi. It is perhaps handy to know that if Ya Habibi doesn't cater your party, the party will probably only be half the success it could have been.

Overall, the Growing Strong Launch could have only been improved with more people attending the party (though this was through no fault of the organisers). It's nights like these, one's that center the experiences of women and non-binary people, that should be experienced by a wide range of people to increase the impact of the important messages being shared.

If you haven't yet, get a copy of *Growing Strong* ASAP, you might have missed the party, but you shouldn't miss the chance to read the exceptional stories from some of the University's most talented and inspiring women.

Joanita Wibowo is worth more than her CV

In one of my first tutorials this year, we took turns to talk about what they did during the summer break. Some did internships for hot-shot companies, others went on prestigious exchange programs. One even got the opportunity to shadow Foreign Affairs Minister Julie Bishop on her diplomatic visit to New York.

Then the turn came for Beatrice. She was the unapologetic one in the group - but, that time, even her voice sounded a bit bashful. "Unlike the others, I spent time relaxing with my family this holiday," she said. "I didn't do any resumé-building."

The guilt of not being productive is real. For people like me (and Beatrice), there is always this haunting feeling that we do not spend our time wisely enough; that we're wasting our youth with transient 'fun' instead of building skills for the future, like those high-achievers who would join student council or teach underprivileged children as a pastime. I would often stalk my peers on LinkedIn to read their extensive work experience in awe and envy, and think, *we are the same age and at the same level at university - how could they do so much more than me?*

We have long been exposed to concepts like 'time is money' and 'productive good, idle bad'. Our cultural and educational systems tend to promote only 'résumé virtues' - the values that

portray career success as the ultimate goal, and equate merit with marketable skills. As a result, "we link our behaviour, our performance, our productivity, with our self-worth," says psychotherapist Julie Hanks.

*"But even scoring a job doesn't relieve my anxiety. In fact, it creates a further expectation of development"*

I, too, turn to see each curriculum vitae as evidence of productivity - as an essential tool to measure and validate one's achievement in life.

Hence my run for unpaid internships, executive roles in student organizations, extracurricular activities, and volunteering positions in the hope of adding meat to my resumé, apparently only to be skimmed for six seconds by recruiters before they move on to another one.

<sup>1</sup>Patriarchy, but worse. It's all the intersecting systems of power that cause racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, classism etc.

<sup>2</sup>There's a stack in the Wom\*n's room on the middle level of Manning, or you can get a copy at the front of the SRC, or just message the Wom\*n's Collective page on Facebook to organise a copy!



# The Census Date is Coming

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March is the Census date for semester one. This is the date that the government considers your enrolment at University, and charges you for whatever Units you are enrolled from this day. Check your University records to make sure that you are correctly enrolled in the subjects you want to attempt. If you drop a subject (‘Withdraw – WD’ ) by the Census date there will be no academic or financial\* penalties.

*\*International students may have to pay an administration fee.*

If dropping Units makes you part time (that is with less than 18 credit points) please consider the following:

### CENTRELINK

Part-time students are usually unable to receive Youth Allowance, Austudy, or Abstudy. Some exceptions apply if you are currently unwell or have a disability. Talk to an SRC caseworker before dropping subjects to get advice about this.

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT VISAS

Most student visas require international students to study a full load of 24 credit points. A few exceptions apply. Talk to your SRC caseworker before dropping subjects to get advice about this. The SRC also has a Migration lawyer who can help with visa questions.

*If you drop a subject, Withdraw (WD) by the Census date there will be no academic or financial\* penalties.*

# Ask Abe

### SRC caseworker HELP Q&A

Dear Abe,

I applied for Youth Allowance at the end of December and I still haven’t received any word from Centrelink about granting the payment. I am finding it really difficult to pay my rent and buy food. What should I do?

*Running Out Of Patience*

Dear Running Out Of Patience,

Many people have reported this problem. We have heard that it is a combination of low staff numbers and a new Computer system that is slowing Centrelink’s processing rates. This situation is completely unacceptable. Check with Centrelink to see if they need more information from you or if there is another reason they have not made a decision. If the problem is just the slow processing time that many people are facing we suggest you contact your Federal Member of Parliament or the Commonwealth Ombudsman to make a complaint and see if they can help speed things up for you or everyone too.

As a stopgap measure you can talk to the University’s Financial Assistance Service to see if they will give you an interest free loan.

You might also want to read our SRC Guide to Living on Little Money at <http://srcusyd.net.au/src-help/other/guide-to-living-on-little-money/>

*Abe*

SRC Caseworkers offer advice and support on a range of issues including: Academic Issues, Tenancy issues, Centrelink and more. 9660 5222 or [help@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au)



*I applied for Youth Allowance at the end of December and I still haven’t received any word from Centrelink about granting the payment.*

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Withdrawing from a subject before 31st March SEM 1 August SEM 2 avoids a FAIL on your transcript & HECS\*


*\*International students should seek advice about their fees from the International Office or the SRC.*

**Need help or advice? Your SRC is here to assist you.**

The service is FREE, independent and confidential. Phone for an appointment: (02) 9660 5222

We are located at: Level 1, Wentworth Building (G01)

[help@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au) | [src.usyd.edu.au](http://src.usyd.edu.au) | [facebook.com/src.help](https://www.facebook.com/src.help)



## IN A PICKLE?



### If You Have a Legal Problem, We Can Help for FREE!



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Level 1, Wentworth Bldg, University of Sydney  
p: 02 9660 5222 | w: [src.usyd.edu.au](http://src.usyd.edu.au)  
e: [solicitor@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:solicitor@src.usyd.edu.au)  
ACN 146 653 143 | MARN 1276171



**法律諮詢**  
法律アドバイス

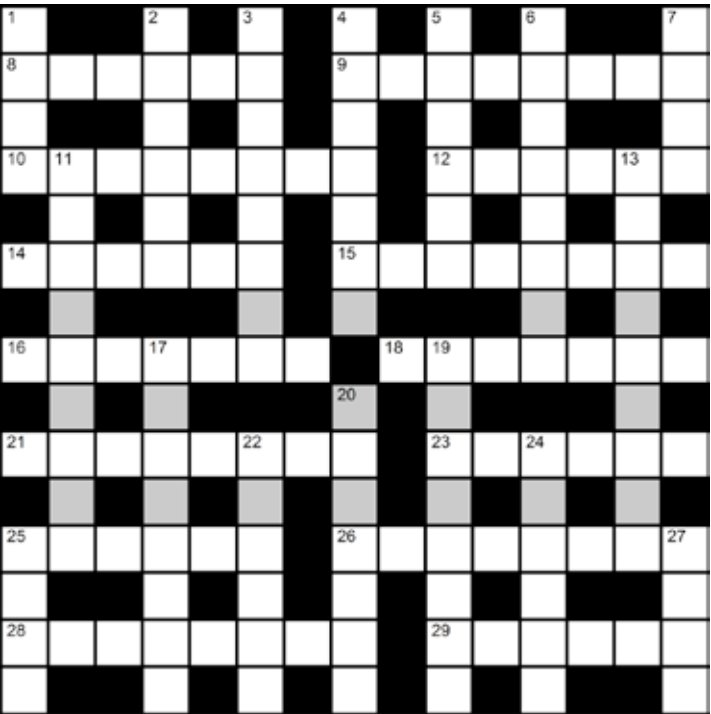
We have a solicitor who speaks Cantonese, Mandarin & Japanese



This service is provided to you by the Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney

# Cryptic

Crosswords by *EN*



**SUMS, CrossSoc and LingSoc** will be running what promises to be another epic **Letters & Numbers** on April 20 from 5-6 pm in the International Students Lounge (Level 4, Wentworth Building). There'll be prizes up for grabs and entry is **FREE**.

### ACROSS

- 8 Reinforced covering designed to provide protection (6)
- 9 Unfaithfulness to spouse (8)
- 10 Nagger (8)
- 12 Boil to extract essence (6)
- 14 Yellow-coloured Australian flower (6)
- 15 Sluggishness (8)
- 16 Unfavourable (7)
- 18 Mollifies (7)
- 21 Snake from South America (8)
- 23 Argentum (6)
- 25 Not horizontally aligned (6)
- 26 Deem something as perfect (8)
- 28 Classical oratory device (8)
- 29 Resolve (6)

### DOWN

- 1 Octothorpe (4)
- 2 Stone, glass, etc. laid into a decorative image (6)
- 3 Sin (8)
- 4 Sum of employees' wages (7)
- 5 One who is an authority on a particular subject (6)
- 6 Composed of abrupt, disjointed elements (8)
- 7 A sac containing fluid (4)
- 11 Non-deliberate occurrences (9)
- 13 Direction or speed-changing toothed wheels (9)
- 17 Lends a magical quality to something (8)
- 19 Incorrectly interprets (8)
- 20 Natural starch derived from cassava (7)
- 22 Groundbreaking scientific journal (6)
- 24 Syringa vulgaris and syringa persica (6)
- 25 Off course (4)
- 27 Checks out (4)

# Target

E	P	I
C	L	A
N	D	L

Go home: 42, Sit in the corner: 84, Not too bad: 111, Jesus Christ: 129

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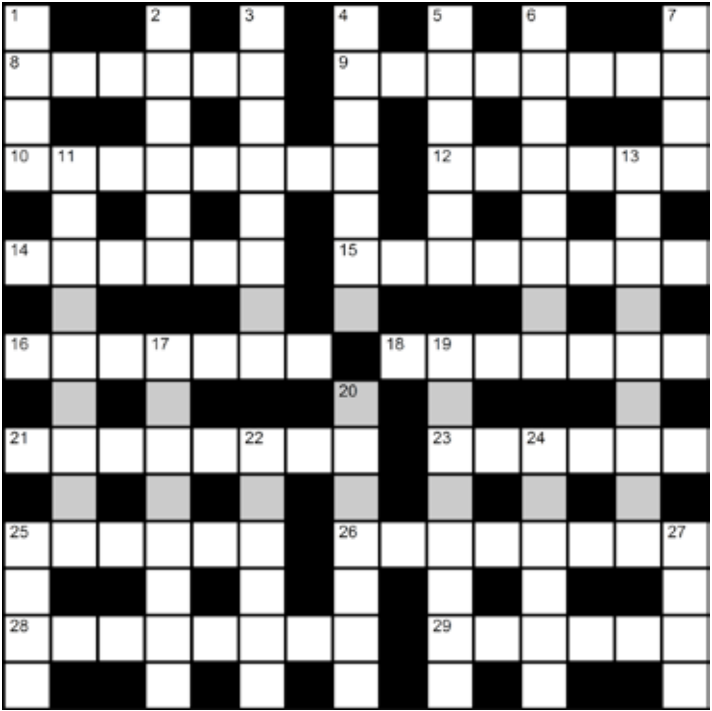
# Sudoku

*Sudoku and Target by Atrus*

5	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	-	2	5	8	-
8	-	*	-	-	-	4	-	-
1	*	3	5	9	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	8	1	-	-	9
*	*	*	-	1	-	2	5	-
-	-	-	-	5	*	-	1	7
*	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	4

**Week 4 quiz solutions:** 1. c) Yo-yo Society 2. A nosebleed 3. Tokyo 4. Mickey Rooney 5. 24 6. Laneway 7. Hungry, Happy, Cheeky, Silly, Sleepy, Grumpy 8. Bronson 9. True 10. No

# Quick



# Quiz

- Which of the following letters does not appear on the top row of a QWERTY keyboard? a) P b) U c) K d) I
- Which NRL team's colours are referred to as the "cardinal and myrtle"?
- Who is the Immediate Past President of the University of Sydney Union?
- Name Kim Kardashian's two children.
- How much is a non-ACCESS nutella donut at Abercrombie Terrace?
- Which is further north, Newport or Rouse Hill?
- What colour is a senior Opal Card?
- Woolworths is to BWS as Coles is to...?
- How many guest tickets does a University of Sydney graduate receive for their ceremony?
- True or false: Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence is an Anglican priest?



President

Chloe Smith

The mid-semester break is over and it's already week 6! Uni might feel like it's getting a bit serious now, so it's probably a good time to remind everyone that our Casework service can help out with a range of academic issues, including academic rights, appeals, special consideration arrangements, course discontinuations, academic dishonesty and misconduct, show cause, and exclusion issues. Fisher Library also has courses for students to learn to better manage study habits, including sessions catered for international students. Whatever you might need help with, the most important thing to remember is not to leave it until the last minute. Make sure you know your rights!

Given the time of year, it's also salient to remember that university is about more than just assessments and exams (and also about more than just eating delicious pidge at Hermann's as well). There is so much happening in Australia right now that affects our education, including two announcements over the break: one by the Federal Government that they want to start collecting HECS debts from students who are deceased (yes, this is a thing), and a recommendation from the Grattan Institute to lower the HECS repayment threshold from around \$54,000 to \$42,000.

Whilst these issues might seem far-removed from where you are now, particularly if you're just beginning your university education, they are policies which could have a major impact on you one day. They could certainly have an impact on your friends and family. Regardless of what you know or how you feel about higher education, you should be interested in how they play out. This week, the National Union of Students will be holding rallies and speak outs on campuses around the country as part of the National Day of Action, talking about what these policies mean for students and the university sector. If you care about your education and the education of future generations, and if you believe that education should be seen not as a commodity but as a right, then you need to be outside Fisher Library at 1pm this Wednesday. If nothing else, it's a break from the textbooks! See you there!

Queer Officers

Evan Jones and Marcus Wong

This month has been extremely eventful and we are pleased to see some really fantastic engagement with the collective this year. Since the last report we marched in Mardi Gras, always a highlight of the year. We were pleased to see the hard work that went into organising was worthwhile. We would like to say thank you to the Australian Queer Students Network and the various universities who contributed to the float. We would also like to extend a special thank you to Dylan Lloyd, for their hard work, and without whom the float would really not have been possible.

It has been delightful to see members of our collective become very involved with activism this year, with representatives at the Fight the Restructure rally on the 16th of March, as well as at two rallies in support of the Safe Schools coalition. Last week was Transgender Day of Visibility where we held a sticker run for the 'We All Need to Pee' campaign, aimed at helping transgender students use the bathroom that they are comfortable with, as well as a photo campaign and chalking along Eastern Avenue. Despite being a peaceful event, we were followed by campus security that seemed unable to provide us with a legitimate reason to why they were tailing us. Overall we have had an incredibly promising start to the year and there will be a strong focus on maintain-

**Note:**  
These pages belong to the Office Bearers of the SRC. They are not altered, edited or changed in any way by the editors of *Honi Soit*

ing the momentum from an incredible group of young queer students. Next week we will also be relaunching our sub-collective Queerkats (autonomous to people who are not cis-men) and hope that it will be met with the same success as QuAC.

We do have a lot of exciting things to look forward to this year, including Pride Week from the 12th-14th of April, and International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) on the 17th of May, and we're pleased to be collaborating with various organisations on campus including SUPRA, the USU and The Ally Network on these events. Queer Collaborations (QC), an annual conference for queer students around the country, is also fast approaching, and will be held in Perth this year from the 4th – 7th of July. This will give our members a great opportunity to meet queer students across the country, and to learn key skills and obtain some wonderful knowledge around activism and queer issues. To prepare we conducted our first bake sale this week, which we are pleased to say was incredibly successful, earning enough to pay for a student's entire registration, including accommodation and food for the week. Thank you to all of those who donated food, money or time to the sale.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved with the Queer Action Collective or Queerkats please email us at [queer.officers@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:queer.officers@src.usyd.edu.au).

International Students

Hannah Elten, Alexander Shu, Jasmine Yu and Anqi Zhao

Last week's announcement of the change of the graduation date for the International Management Master Programme has caused a lot of backlash amongst the international student community, something that has even been picked up by the media. The incidence reflects the University's often inconsiderate attitude towards overseas students and their specific circumstances (such as the fact that family attendance at graduation ceremonies is rather difficult to arrange and requires significant financial commitment). And although we as OBs are currently trying to ensure that this does not happen again in the future, securing awareness the awareness on the side of University administration is something hard to achieve as long as overseas student representation stay as low-key as it currently is.

On a more positive note, there are two major events concerning international students happening this week: The Forum on the Travel Concession Campaign, mainly organized by SUPRA, on Wednesday the 13th, and the first meeting of the International Council to the USU on Thursday the 14th. Concerning the International Council Meeting, all Clubs and Societies Executives should have received an email asking to send an international student Executive member to attend. This is an amazing opportunity to engage with the USU decision-making process, as well as to voice important concerns regarding international students on Campus that the USU might be able to address. We strongly encourage every Club Executive to participate in this.

Another great achievement has been the publication of the first translation of an Honi Soit article into Mandarin just before the break - we hope that this makes the student newspaper slightly more accessible to a large portion of international students on campus, and that there will be future translations of articles centred on international students' issues to come.

The next issue the SRC Overseas Department is going to address is the one of Student Housing, both on and off- Campus. This will include a survey conducted together with the SRC Housing

Officers on the quality of living within the Terraces, and an effort to implement tenancy-rights workshops at the start of each semester for incoming overseas students.

Lastly, we would again like to encourage all international students on Campus to attend our Collective Meetings, held fortnightly on Wednesdays at 5pm. Since the start of the semester, we have continuously grown, and have had many important discussions on how to improve overseas students' welfare on Campus. If you are interested, just contact us under international.officers@src.usyd.edu.au.

Education Officers

Liam Carrigan and Dylan Griffiths

On the 6th of April, Education Action Group members staged a peaceful protest at the Howard Cup upon discovering that Higher Education Minister Simon Birmingham would be in attendance. Previously, Birmingham had confirmed that after being placed on hold fee deregulation remained government policy alongside media reports that a 20% cut to federal funding, a 10% spike in HECS interest, lowering the HECS repayment threshold and collecting the debt of dead students could all also feature in the upcoming budget.

As students, we do not want to let these attacks go unnoticed or stand back silently and let accessible, quality education be destroyed in this country. We converged outside the event at Fisher in solidarity with the marginalized and working class students who would be locked out of education should these horrific policies pass.

Upon being refused entry, we began to chant peacefully and affirmed that while we would not resist anyone entering we believed it essential that we protest the event as is within our rights. Unfortunately the organizers or riot cops – called preemptively to our arrival – did not agree. Within fifteen minutes we were violently removed from the scene by police. Multiple students were pushed, shoved, trampled, lifted by all fours and treated with excessive and cruel force. We had the right to be in our library on our terms and we have the right to mobilize for our rights. It's pretty telling that the state will go to any length to silence students in their fight for a better future.

Maybe it's because we have won before – students united have never been defeated. On our campus we won the fight against the cutting of 300 jobs, stood with staff during the strikes and are currently waging a campaign against the neoliberal restructuring of our University. Nationally, in 2014 and 2015 we beat back fee deregulation through a united student movement and strong leadership from the left that saw thousands mobilize and similar stunts to our protest at Fisher last night.

We have similar fights ahead, that will require a reenergized and militant student movement. The University recently released its 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. Once the bullshit has been waded through it presents itself as little more than a framework for the corporatization and neoliberalisation of our campus and its community over the next four years. There are indications of staff and course cuts, a willingness to allow the private sector to fund our University and degree restructuring that will increase student debt significantly. On a national scale we need similar mobilizations to those seen in 2014. On April 13th NSW will be partaking in the National Day of Action with a student speak out at Fisher Library in anticipation for and to support building a mass student mobilization against the budget in May.

It's never been a better or more essential time to get involved in the fight back against attacks on education. Join the Education Action Group at 2pm on the New Law Lawns – we have proven we can still make a scene!

Global Solidarity Officers

Justine Armin, Pelin Ersoy, Declan Maher and Michelle Picone

Memories of May 68 are being rekindled in France as students and workers have, over recent weeks, taken to the streets to oppose the dismantling of labour protections that would see workers be subject to the whims of their bosses. These reforms will allow bosses to increase working hours over the official 35 a week and give them greater ease to fire workers, amongst other attacks. Strikes, high school pickets and street rallies with participants numbering 450,000 occurred across the country on March 9, against these reforms being pushed by a so called Socialist government. Subsequently on March 31, a national day of strikes and protests involved over a million participants.

Elsewhere, the leak of the Panama papers has revealed the depths of greed and corruption of the global elite - while workers and the poor face austerity worldwide, the parasites at the top of society get richer still. However, the immense power of ordinary people to fight back was shown in Iceland, where their Prime Minister, Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson, who was implicated in the scandal, was forced to resign after a whole 10% of the nation's population came out in protest.

Closer to home, 30,000 people marched to the Australian embassy in Dili in Timor-Leste against Australia's theft of Timor's oil resources. Rallies were also held in several cities in Australia to demand an end to the theft of the resources of one of the world's poorest nations by one of the richest. I attended the demonstration in Melbourne at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. You can find out more about the campaign on the Timor Sea Justice Campaign Facebook page.

As usual, our own government, in tandem with governments around the world, continues to attack education - Liberal minister for education Simon Birmingham has announced that fee deregulation never left the agenda, the threshold for the repayment of HECS debt will be lowered, and that the government will pursue the debt of deceased students. The Global Solidarity Office will be partaking in the speak-out against attacks on education on Wednesday the 13th of April at Fisher Library.

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# The Postgrad Pages

PRESENTED BY 

## The law on abortion in NSW: don't believe all that you read...

### Margaret Kirkby, SUPRA Advice & Advocacy Officer

Avid readers of the Sydney Morning Herald will have seen an article published last year on Sept 28th with the heading: *Abortion laws are outdated, anti-women and dangerous* by Jenny Ejlak, Co-President of the abortion rights group, Reproductive Choice Australia. Whilst this author completely agrees with the title of the article I cannot, however, ever agree with the assertion in the article that “abortion [is] technically a crime in NSW”.

Ms Ejlak had previously made this assertion in her talk at the mid-September 2015 national women's conference organised by Anne Summers and held in Sydney. The conference was to mark the 40th year since the publication of Anne Summers' book *Damned Whores and God's Police* and many women's issues were canvassed and discussed at this conference.

Many participants at the conference were not impressed that such misinformation regarding the law on abortion in this state was presented without any prior notice. This meant that a proper refutation could not be articulated to conference participants. Fortunately, the next speaker after Ms Ejlak, Denele Crozier Executive Officer of the peak body, Women's Health NSW, was able to quickly express disagreement with the assertion that ‘abortion was technically illegal in NSW’.

So what is the law on abortion in NSW?

Sections 82, 83 and 84 of the NSW *Crimes Act 1900* relate to abortion. Interpretation of these sections derive from a Victorian common law ruling known as the Menhennitt ruling from Victoria in 1969 in combination with the subsequent NSW Levine ruling in 1971. These two rulings plus comments made by Justice Kirby in a 1995 medical negligence case [related to a denied abortion] combine to mean that an abortion is legal in NSW where a doctor believes a woman's physical and/or mental health is in serious danger. Social, economic (present and future) and medical factors may be taken into account. And, most importantly, a referral from a doctor is not necessary. Which means you can simply ring a clinic and book yourself in for an appointment.

In terms of number of abortion services in this state – what does the above mean? There are currently in NSW 8 abortion providers, some of which have multiple clinics, and which results in there being 13 clinics located in NSW rural and city locations from Tweed Heads to Macquarie Fields. You can ring Monday to Saturday to make an appointment and there is generally not a long delay in being able to make an appointment for the operation. All NSW providers utilize chemical methods of abortion as well as the suction curettage operation. For information about these providers and their services see the website of the Queensland organization, Children by Choice\*: <http://www.childrenbychoice.org.au/if-youre-pregnant/im-considering-an-abortion/clinics-interstate>

Overall, in terms of standards and practice issues, most NSW abortion providers recognize that provision of the option of speaking with a counsellor prior to the operation is best practice. However, there is a British multinational abortion provider with a presence in Australia (including NSW) which does not agree with the majority.

The provision of this option from the majority of abortion providers is as a result of the long-term feminist input into abortion service delivery in this state.

Equally, NSW abortion providers recognize that provision of comprehensive information [pre and post-operative] results in women having a better understanding of what they may experience during the operation and what they might experience afterwards. This leaves women feeling more in control of their bodies and their lives and ensures that women can identify more quickly if a post-operative issue comes up and they feel confident to call the clinic to discuss the issue.

### *“There are currently 8 abortion providers with 13 clinics located across NSW”*

In addition, there are now abortion services which focus on providing ‘medical’ abortion, meaning the use of drugs to induce a miscarriage.

Many Honi Soit readers will be aware that, in addition to the above clinics, there is the recently created organisation called the Tabbott Foundation (<http://www.tabbot.com.au/>) which provides abortifacient drugs posted out to women after a telephone consultation. The abortifacient drugs can be taken up to 63 days after the start of your last menstrual period and will cause the pregnancy to miscarry. The Tabbott Foundation outlines to women on its’ website the following information:

*“the biggest difference [between surgical and medical termination] is bleeding and pain. With surgical termination, it is a day out of your life but the procedure is over and done within 10 minutes while you are asleep. And pain and bleeding are minimal afterwards ... The period pain is the biggest difference, whilst with surgical you are asleep, the medical might be associated with period pain, intense and immediate, after taking the second course of tablets and may last 2-4 hours. Bleeding can be heavy for 4 hours but then usually subsides to a normal period ... Our advice is to have a surgical procedure if you normally experience significant period pain because the pain with the medical procedure is more intense. But if your periods are normally not a problem, you prefer to have the miscarriage at home, and the pregnancy is early, 5-8 weeks, go for the medical method.”*

So, if this method is of greater interest to you, you will need to be mindful of the greater intensity of period-like pain which can occur after a so-called ‘medical’ abortion.

On another note why do some providers want to delineate themselves from others by saying they are providing ‘medical’ termination as opposed to ‘surgical’? Is this distinction harking back to the ‘backyard’ days? That, somehow, a chemical abortion is ‘better’ than a surgical abortion? They’re both ‘medical’ procedures after all!

But back to the effect of Jenny Ejlak’s statements.

If a woman [or her partner or a friend] only took away, after reading Jenny Ejlak’s article in the

SMH last year, the words: “abortion is technically a crime in NSW”, it could potentially leave them feeling that the mere act of having an abortion will lead to them being arrested and charged. Even if a reader was not considering having a termination but still took away the words: “abortion... technically... a crime in NSW” – it creates doubt in the minds of the public as to what the laws do/ do not say in our state. If a reader happens to be an under-16 year old and wanting to have an abortion or know someone who wants to have an abortion.....and doesn't have much support, or has been kicked out of home, what does this view leave in the mind of a scared 16 year old?

Being astute thinkers, I am sure that readers of Honi Soit, would understand the significance of this difference of approach between feminists when discussing the law on abortion in any state.

If a group is trying to influence public opinion about an issue, there is a responsibility to be mindful of the different ways in which different sections of “the public” can interpret information. There is also a responsibility to be mindful of the fact that there are multiple ways in which comments are interpreted or understood by those who are listening to or reading a spokesperson discussing an issue. The multiple ways in which a comment can be interpreted can depend on a range of factors including, indeed, if one happens to have an unplanned pregnancy and is considering having a termination.

To generate such uncertainty and doubt in the minds of the public is surely ignoring the fact that we are a multi-cultural society and many new migrants or, indeed, tourists or international students or other visitors to NSW may form a completely incorrect view of the law on abortion in NSW from reading such a statement. Could it be argued that this view assists the work of the anti-abortion movement?

You the Honi Soit readers will have to make up your own mind about this....

Footnote: Readers well may wonder why NSW does not have a statewide pregnancy options counselling service similar to Queensland's *Children by Choice* – hmmm...you only need to look to NSW politicians and NSW Health Department bureaucrats. The feminist abortion service, *The Bessie Smyth Foundation* which traded as Australia's first feminist abortion service in Sydney from mid-1977 to 2002, made two submissions during the period 2003-2006 to the then NSW government for ongoing funding to continue their then-statewide *All Options Pregnancy Counselling Service* (established in 2003 by *The Bessie Smyth Foundation* after they sold their abortion service).

Their *All Options Pregnancy Counselling Service* had to cease operating at the end of 2006 due to the fact that the Foundation had exhausted all its' funds and as no state government funding was obtained...they had no other option but to close what was a valuable service for NSW women [and for women in other states too because when you are worried about accessing abortion you will ring any organization which is understanding and helpful]. Fortunately, for Queensland women, respective Queensland governments have continued to provide funding to Children by Choice.

## How will the restructure affect Postgrads?

Ahmed Bin Suhaib & Fatima Rauf,  
SUPRA Co-Education Officers

The dreaded restructure is finally upon us. The University has released its 2016-20 Strategic Plan which contains the details on the changes. To save you the trouble of going through the 63 page document, we've prepared this neat little summary detailing the good and the bad so that you can see how the restructure affects postgrads.

For those of you who are unaware of the restructure, it is basically a plan to drastically alter the University's structure by changing the number of faculties, and cutting degrees and jobs. It has been opposed by students despite the University's claims of having consulted widely before arriving at the decision. This restructure will allow the University to follow in the footsteps of Melbourne University which adopted the Melbourne model in 2008 amid much controversy and opposition.

**Lets start with the Good:** Research students will benefit significantly since the University is placing a lot of focus on Research. It is planning on launching the Sydney Research Excellence Initiative (SREI) in 2016 which by 2020 will triple the current investment of the University on research. The Strategic Plan mentions that ‘The SREI will fund strategic investment in not only researchers but also the research environment in which the work is carried out.’ Efforts to improve the research environment include committing to new, contemporary infrastructure, which many research students have pointed out is quite lacking in some faculties. This improvement to infrastructure includes not only equipment but also technical expertise, in areas of ‘exceptional research performance’ as well as areas, which demonstrate ‘the greatest potential.’

Further, the University plans to increase the number of scholarships available to International students, especially to PhD students. An additional \$10 million annually will be invested in scholarships. The University is also planning to do more research projects with industry, this will provide more funding for international PhD students who are currently paying high fees to do research at University.

**The Bad:** Under the guise of ‘simplification’ and making the University ‘less fragmented’, it has been decided that the number of faculties would be reduced from sixteen to six which will be the Arts and Social Sciences faculty, the Business faculty, the Engineering and Information Technologies faculty, the Science faculty, the Health Sciences faculty and the still unnamed faculty that combines faculty of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Midwifery, and Pharmacy. In addition to these six faculties, there will be three standalone schools: Architecture, Design and Planning, Law and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. These changes are expected from the beginning of 2017 but some of them have started merging from now.

The University claims that the current structure makes ‘navigating the University unnecessarily time-consuming and difficult for staff, students and external stakeholders’ and its solution to these problems is to drastically cut the number of faculties, giving little thought to the number of jobs that will be lost as a result.

Further, the Strategic Plan mentions that improving the efficiency and effectiveness of University procedures, processes and professional services is a ‘pressing’ priority but fails to provide any detail or plan as to how this shall be achieved. In the past the University has tried to achieve this by centralizing the admin, but students have complained that the centralized admin takes too

long to address their problems and most of the times students have to go back to their faculty to get help. Moreover the centralized system makes students feel like a number and less like an important member of the University.

Regarding undergrads, the University claims to have ‘radically rethought’ its approach to undergraduate education. The University will increase 4-year degrees as opposed to the 3-year ones being offered at the moment, which will cost more for students. This move is unnecessary as the honors system is already in place. The proposed bachelors of advanced studies program added to most 3-year degrees is the University's way to make students pay to do free labor.

Another interesting aspect of the Strategic Plan is the fact that it repeatedly asserts that the changes were made after extensive consultation with both staff and students. This appears to be at odds with the general sentiment among student bodies and staff members. Further, there have been assertions that the decision for the restructure was done in a ‘secret meeting’. Many academics have openly opposed the restructure stating that it is not only going to lead to a loss of jobs but is also going to increase the burden on already over-burdened staff. This will lead to a decline in the quality of teaching that is offered at the University. When the Melbourne Model was adopted, it resulted in the loss of many jobs, from admin staff to academics. It appears that the University of Sydney has not learnt from that mistake and in the attempt to chase higher rankings, is following in the same footsteps.

Despite the opposition, the restructure has been approved and will be going ahead. While it does have some benefits as we outlined, ultimately the costs of the restructure far outweigh the benefits. SUPRA will be doing its best to assist students who are negatively affected by the restructure and will continue to campaign against the bad. We urge all postgraduates to get involved in opposing the restructure since it will lead to many job cuts and adversely affect the quality of teaching at the University. With the University restructure and the recent government proposal to defund education, our education is under attack. Now is the time to stand up for the quality of education.

### Notice of Election SUPRA Councillors 2016-17

*Notice is hereby given of the election of 23 ordinary Councillors to the Council of the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association for the 2016-17 term.*

Nominations will open today, the 4th of April, 2016 at 7:00pm and close 7:00pm Monday 18th of April 2016. Nomination forms may be obtained in person at the SUPRA Offices or online. An up to date copy of the electoral regulations may be found in the SUPRA offices and will be emailed to all nominees. All candidate nominations should include a candidate statement. All ticket nominations should include a ticket statement. Nominations will be accepted via the submission of a completed nomination form, which may be emailed to [returning.officer@supra.usyd.edu.au](mailto:returning.officer@supra.usyd.edu.au), faxed to (02) 9351 6400, or posted to:

Returning Officer (SUPRA)  
Level 2, Holme Building A09  
Science Road,  
University of Sydney  
NSW 2006

Any postgraduate student who is also a SUPRA member is eligible to nominate and vote in this election. SUPRA membership is free and available to postgraduate students by subscribing in person at the SUPRA Offices, or online <http://www.supra.usyd.edu.au/subscribe.html>.

Please consult the current SUPRA Electoral Regulations and Constitution for detailed information on the voting procedures and rules.

**NOMINATIONS WILL OPEN:**  
7pm Monday 04 April 2016

**NOMINATIONS WILL CLOSE:**  
7:00 pm Monday 18 April 2016

**POSTAL BALLOTS WILL BE ISSUED:**  
Tuesday 27 April 2016

**POLLS WILL BE OPEN:**  
Thursday 12 and Friday 13 May 2016 11:00 am -7:00 pm

**POLLS WILL CLOSE:**  
7pm Friday 13 may 2016.

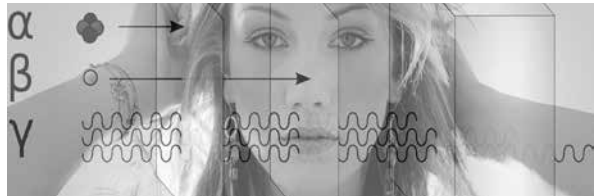
The Returning Officer will declare the result of the election by 16 May 2016

**ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:**  
After the election of SUPRA council members, the new council elects from among itself six office bearers- a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Education Officer and a Director of Student Publications. These are paid a stipend, as of 2016 the rate of that Stipend is \$25.80/ hour. The President is engaged to work thirty five hours a week, the Vice-President and Education Officer twenty one hours a week each, the Secretary and Treasurer fourteen hours a week each and the Director of Student Publications seven hours a week.

Rafael Mazzoldi  
SUPRA Returning Officer, 2016



Alpha, Beta, and Gamma Goodrem: Our sister is a cloned fraud who kept us locked in her basement for years



Emma Balfour no longer has innocent eyes.

Her neighbours are still in shock. "I saw Delta once through a window," said local woman Arielle Masters. "I thought she looked upset or distraught, but of course it must have been one of her sisters. What a terrible case of mistaken identity."

Many will know Delta Goodrem as one of the judges on *The Voice*. Many more remember her as a talented young performer whose hits during the mid-2000s gave hope to piano teachers everywhere.

But now ten years have passed, and the one thing that will last is Delta Goodrem's reputation as a cloning experiment turned sour, and the cruelty she subjected upon her imprisoned clone sisters.

Having escaped from their sister's Woolloomooloo residence last Sunday, Alpha, Beta, and Gamma Goodrem have now released their first statement to the press.

Still traumatised by the trials they suffered while imprisoned in the basement of Delta's Sydney mansion, the sisters spoke up about their lives.

"We were all part of an experiment conducted by a mad pianist," Beta said, talking of the sisters' origins. "Our father didn't perfect the cloning process until the fourth time. Delta's body is stronger than the rest of us put together – that's why she hasn't aged in a decade."

"In childhood he raised us all well, but he doted on Delta the most. When he died, something in her snapped... she would look at photos of him and murmur 'I'm lost without you' every night."

"She kept us locked up in there for around fifteen years," Alpha said. "We were fed very little, and had no sunlight. She just... kept playing the piano for us. It was torture."

"There was no guiding inspiration in a place where dreams were made. There were no dreams. Only nightmares." At this point, Alpha moved away from the microphone in distress.

"All we can do now is move on," Gamma said. "Sometimes you've got to sacrifice the things you like, but we were born to try."

Delta has since been taken into police custody, and could not be reached for comment.

Margaret and David Review 'The Journey'

As told to Jayce Carrano.

The *Journey* is an Australian-made telemovie that follows several Afghan asylum seekers in their quest to reach Australia. It was funded by the Federal Government and is shown in refugee source countries.

MARGARET: I think it has a beautiful nostalgic appeal. A return to the days when media was exclusively used to control the public. Terrific performances made the naïve refugee family surprisingly believable.

DAVID: I'm going to be a grouch. It's not manipulative enough.

MARGARET: Grrrr.

DAVID: I know. I think it's just too subtle. I don't like coping with a patronisingly educational plot unless it's really rammed down the audience's throat.

MARGARET: Come on, David. The tragic ending made the film's purpose abundantly obvious.

DAVID: Yes. Yes. And the use of slow motion footage and fading to black at every single point of narrative significance was masterful. But I would have loved to have seen more suffering to drive the message home. I felt more pain myself because of the lost potential.

MARGARET: I'm giving it three and a half stars.

DAVID: Two from me.

Cereal: Soup or Not Soup?

Ann Ding doesn't know how to write a think piece.

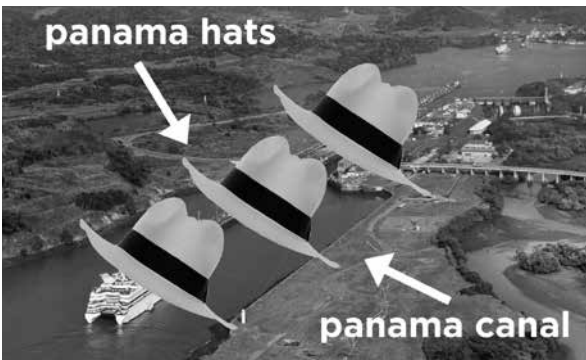
Before you spend an hour contemplating what differentiates a cup from a mug ask yourself this – is cereal soup? Our knee-jerk reaction is to deny outright that cereal can ever be soup. After all, it's served cold; it requires no cooking; it's a breakfast food. And yet we find gazpacho; a summer soup easily made without heat and conversely, heathens who take their cereal warm.

But what of its constituent parts? Soup usually includes meat or vegetables, or both. But consider the humble beer soup, which needs neither, and yet is bestowed the title of soup without hesitation. As for soup's historically savoury nature, I ask you to look to dessert soups that exist in many parts of Asia.

Let's say, then, that cereal is a soup. Is oatmeal a soup? It must be. It satisfies so many of the canonical soup properties. It is warm, and served in a bowl, and eaten with a spoon. Is a smoothie in a bowl soup? It must be. What about smoothies in glasses? After all, soup can be served in a mug, and it is still soup.

So then, at what point does cereal become soup? Is cereal not a soup then? Perhaps it is a salad, and milk is the dressing. Or what if it's a standalone dish, and milk is the garnish? Can garnishes be liquid? Do breakfast foods have garnishes? Is cereal a breakfast-only food? People need answers.

EXCLUSIVE: Everything You Need To Know About #PanamaLeaks



It's panama-ndemonium out here, writes Oliver Moore.

The leaking of some 11.5 million cubic litres of water from the Panama canal this week has resulted in unprecedented levels of flooding in the surrounding area.

Residents have been urged to seek higher ground immediately as the Clayton and Corozal regions have been inundated with water, with many in the City of Knowledge likely to lose their homes. A large number of community buildings have also been destroyed.

Attempts are underway by specially trained teams to plug the leak. They have so far attempted to block the flow of water with a carefully constructed layer of Panama hats.

They believed the supply of naturally occurring hats, with their stiff, fibrous texture, might be the answer to the leak which has withstood a number of other attempts.

Unfortunately, this has not been the case, and the wastage of approximately \$2 million dollars of Panama hats has been criticised by the local authorities.

MIND-BLOWING: This Protest Poster Was Designed By Someone Who Lived Past 2008



@Ellie Rogers

Wrestling Reputation Tarred By Unruly Maniacs For 32nd Year

Aidan Mollins thinks wrestling is REAL.

Scenes of chaos and blood once again overwhelmed what would have otherwise been a respectful sporting event held by Vince McMahon in Arlington Texas last night. McMahon's World Wrestling Entertainment, a family owned business, has been plagued by flagrant rule violations from a set of raging disruptors at their annual "Wrestle Mania" event, for over three decades.

"When we started the event, we called it Wrestle Mania because we thought it would drum up a bit of fun and excitement for Wrestling, a respectable sport with an ancient and honorable history" McMahon says. "However, things quickly got out of hand. Even in our first event, we had men jumping off the ropes to intentionally injure one another." McMahon noted. "This is expressly disallowed under the rules of wrestling."

"However, even with added safety precautions, a grizzly and savage man by the name of Hulk Hogan who signed up to one of the 'Wrestle Mania' events moved to deliver a concussive cranial blow to an innocent in ring referee, in order to win the match. It was a truly vile and horrific move."

Hogan and others set a disturbing precedent which has only attracted more maniacs to the sport, invoking shocking violent displays involving the use of chairs, tables and other brutish instruments.

"Heck, it must be like, every year or something where we've completely lost control of the match and these roughhousers have completely overpowered us. It utterly confuses me." McMahon noted, while snapping his suspender straps to his chest at a recent press conference. "I state very clearly before every event to everyone involved that this will be a dignified and respectful night of sport."



Cro-Magnon Cave Paintings To Be Removed From World Heritage List

Jamie Lowe could draw a better ox tbh.

In a recent bid to reduce the number of world heritage sites, UNESCO has controversially removed the ancient paintings of the French Cro-Magnon cave system from the list of protected areas.

From a recent UNESCO press release: "I could paint a better antelope than that. Just look at it, the head is all weird and tiny. And what the hell is this meant to be? A square cow? Why are the legs so skinny? There were no square-bodied cows with ridiculously skinny legs in prehistoric France."

UNESCO has now set its sights on the Great Barrier Reef, which the organisation says is "basically just a bunch of coloured rocks" and Victoria Falls, described as "a pointless waste of water".

The current Director-General responded to criticism by saying that not only is the World Heritage List too expansive and out of touch, but also "really fucking boring" and in need of update. "Maybe we can add something cool, like that club in Copenhagen that does gaseous vodka shots."

The artists responsible for the paintings could not be reached for comment.

Trending

Streaker internship: be paid in exposure!



USyd to name new four-year degree "Arsty McArtsface"



Student bake sale adjusts price for men who are shit at baking and didn't bake anything for this fucking bake sale again



Star Wars jedis control market forces



+ More Hamilton lyrics u can't rap

tag someone who is



in an urn

@Jayce Carrano

LOAD MORE



# CALLOUT FOR INDIGENOUS HONI SOIT

The third annual edition of *Indigenous Honi Soit* will be published in Week 9. The issue is autonomously managed; however, everyone is welcome to contribute!

If you have ideas, submissions or questions please email: [indigenous.officers@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:indigenous.officers@src.usyd.edu.au) by 18th April 2016. Final drafts will be due in the coming weeks.

