

Honi Soit.

WEEK 10, SEM 1 2022

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY - FREE STUDENT NEWSPAPER - NEWS, CULTURE & ANALYSIS

Est. 1929



Duty of care: cultivating a court for our climate

By Zara Zadro

In early March of this year, the full bench of the Federal Court unanimously ruled that Australia's Minister for the Environment, Sussan Ley, did not have a duty of care to protect young people from the harms of climate change. The decision quashed the landmark victory of eight highschool students that established this duty in May last year, specifically with regards to Ley's approval of the

Vickery coal mine extension in NSW.

The novel duty of care was a mammoth achievement for the climate movement, despite the extension going ahead. It was the first time climate science was accepted uncontested in the Federal Court in a case concerning a particular class of individuals (young people under 18).

Continued on page 12.

Farewelling Frankie's: Between a rock and a hard place

It's Thursday, early afternoon. A bar feigning as a pizza shop turns on its neon sign and 'Frankie's Pizza' lights up the CBD. Seccies stand and chat at the door, faces aglow with red fluorescence. Outside the enclave of peeling posters and red carpet, commuters drip past...

Elizabeth Pike writes - p. 14

ALSO IN THIS EDITION:

USU Candidate Interviews

- p. 6-7

Education in a changing climate - p. 11

Poetry on the 2022 Stella Lineup - p. 15

The struggle for the Italian Forum - p. 19

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Honi Soit is published on the stolen land of the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation. Sovereignty was never ceded; the invasion of this land was, and still is, a process of immense violence, destruction, and theft.

The Editors of *Honi* acknowledge the suffering caused by ongoing colonial structures and commit to confronting the political, economic, legal and social systems which continue to oppress First Nations people.

As a collective, we acknowledge that we are each living, writing, and working on stolen Gadigal, Dharawal and Darug land. Further, the university which we attend is an inherently colonial institution, one which upholds the systems of knowledge and power that have caused deep harm and pain on this continent.

As a student newspaper which operates and distributes within such an institution, we have a responsibility to remain conscious of, and actively

combat, complicity in colonisation.

It is important to recognise that First Nations people have, since 1788, resisted and survived colonial violence. Our newspaper needs to platform the voices of this ongoing resistance, truly valuing and heeding Indigenous knowledge and perspectives.

Honi has stood on stolen land since its inception 93 years ago; embedded in the history of this paper is the tireless resistance to oppressive, colonial structures within society by

First Nations writers, contributors and editors — it is our duty to uphold their legacy, champion their voices, and continue to fight for First Nations justice.

We pay our deepest respect to Elders both past and present, and extend that respect to all First Nations students, staff, and readers of *Honi Soit*.

Always was, and always will be Aboriginal land.

IN THIS EDITION

- 4 News
- 6 USU Election
- 10 Analysis
- 12 Feature
- 14 Culture

- 16 Reviews
- 17 Italiano
- 20 OB Reports
- 22 Puzzles
- 23 Comedy

EDITOR IN-CHIEF
Zara Zadro

EDITORS
Carmeli Argana, Christian Holman, Amelia Koen, Roisin Murphy, Sam Randle, Fabian Robertson, Thomas Sargeant, Ellie Stephenson, Khanh Tran, Zara Zadro.

WRITERS
Misbah Ansari, Chiara Bragato, Calvin Embleton, Bella Gerardi, Vivienne Goodes, Christian Holman, Amelia Koen, Christine Lai, Mae Milne, Eamonn Murphy, Roisin Murphy,

Nicholas Osiowy, Tiger Perkins, Elizabeth Pike, Alana Ramshaw, Fabian Robertson, Grace Roodenrys, Ellie Stephenson, Ramneek Thind, Khanh Tran, Zara Zadro.

ARTISTS
Calvin Embleton, Amelia Koen, Kritika Rathore, Ellie Stephenson, Khanh Tran, Zara Zadro.

COVER ARTIST
Caroline Huang

BACK COVER ARTIST
Thomas Sargeant

EDITORIAL

Zara Zadro

There is always a moment when everything breaks. “Things fall apart, the centre cannot hold,” as Yeats says, and so on. For me, that moment happened at the start of this semester.

The unshakeable stamina that carried me through uni and social life, COVID lockdowns, and an *Honi* campaign, collapsed for the first time in my life. My doctor told me I’d been anxious and over-exhausted for a long time, and my body was finally telling me to stop. Well, I thought, *aren’t we all?* If all my friends can do it, *why can’t I?* I’d been through burn-outs before, but never of this debilitating magnitude.

Despite writing for *Honi* since my first year – and being well into my fourth now – I never imagined that I would hold the coveted mantle of editor. I always pictured myself as a writer growing up, but it wasn’t the sort of ambition I waved around. *Writer* did not conjure the clear mental image that *astronaut* or *doctor* did; I never viewed writing as something with a strict, practicable *function*. I wrote because I wanted to make pictures, but was too lazy to draw. I wrote because I had words in my head that would not go away. I wrote to know how I felt; to talk to myself, even if I was not the subject.

I considered making the theme of this edition ‘healing’, or something equally as soothing and non-

melodramatic. But really, I don’t want to gloss over how terrible and defeated I have often felt this year, any more than I want to write about world peace or the prevention of climate change as utopic inevitabilities in earth’s future. Writing has always been the way I make sense of life, so indulging the optimistic mantra of *we will find a way, we always do*, seemed utterly beside the point.

Because sometimes we don’t. Sometimes, things explode and nothing can stop them. We are often too afraid to talk about the worst case scenario because of that childish apprehension that, by naming our fears, we attract them.

So ‘crisis’ was the word I inevitably settled on. I think that talking about the very worst thing, slipping into the deep end and wading through the details, can exorcise it of its power, provide us with coordinates to adjust, and, eventually, make practical changes. Because writing is the one thing that can fight off a fear of the unknown – the one tool that makes things knowable.

This edition of *Honi* tries to do some of that. I hope the stories between these pages provide you with starting points for thought and action. But more importantly, I hope we can realise that sometimes, to start, we must first fall apart.

Letters



Please send us letters! We love contention, critique, compliments, etc. You can send them through to editors@honisoit.com

Sex & the City Rd



It’s not about how hard you hit. It’s about how hard you get hit and can get back up and run for Pulp.

Legends of the leaky tap have been caught running, gushing that ex-Drip members Ariana Haghighi, Pat McKenzie, Rhea Thomas, Nandini Dhir and Harry Gay had dreams of joining Marlow Hurst in editing recently newly re-frankensteined PULP magazine.

However, a second squadron of StuJo hopefuls stand in the way of a happy ending to Drip’s wet dream, with Gaby Wong, Adam Fiertl, Anika Blackwell and Nalin Mastou also circling the drain for the top jobs in gutter journalism.

The Michael Spence Column for Disagreeing Well*

Fabian Robertson: People that remove mufflers from their cars should be executed.

A car muffler is an important functional piece of your car, nay, an important functional piece of our society. Not only do they filter out gases from your exhaust, they reduce the noise your engine emits and thus make our world slightly more peaceful, one vehicle at a time.

Shockingly, there is a small sector of society that pays good money to remove

mufflers. These individuals, undeniably, should be executed. In fact, I argue that the moral reprehensibility of removing mufflers is perfectly balanced by the moral permissibility of removing these individuals from the Earth.

Picture a brisk Sunday morning in suburbia. It’s 2am, and you’ve just gotten home from a heavy night on the circuit. Your head, spinning, is providing substantial resistance to the will of your drooping eyelids and exhausted body. Finally, you drift off to sleep; thank fuck, you might just appear mildly put-together at your family brunch.

Think again. The guttural mechanic roar of a de-muffled car rips you from your soju-induced coma. Your blinds rattle, the whole room shakes in the noise-polluting wake of this degenerate motorhead, possibly on his way to pick up nangs for kickons, possibly on his way to a night shift, possibly speeding to save his burning home. It doesn’t matter; the reason is immaterial. There is no justification for this thunderous driveby.

Your head resumes rotating on its alcohol-slanted axis, and a headache begins to surface. Though you didn’t see the car, you can picture it. White Subaru, spoiler, gold rims, and, of course, no muffler.

This man and his peers should be executed. The world would be a better place for it.

Let us embark on a psychological voyage, a deep dive into the depraved mind of an individual so shit they not only think removing mufflers is a good idea but go one step further and incur a financial loss to enact it.

Ostensibly, muffler-removers are motivated by a desire to hear their engine in its true loud and unadulterated

state. By consequence, they are aware of subjecting every individual in the vicinity of their car to also hear this. Individuals that wilfully do this, that wilfully pollute the very space they operate in with cacophonous mechanic growling, that wilfully disturb their fellow citizen, perhaps going for a stroll, perhaps enjoying a coffee, perhaps working, perhaps trying to sleep after a big night, are morally corrupt. The prioritisation of their vehicular fetishisation over the mental wellbeing and general peace of their surroundings is utterly putrid.

This selfishness for something as vain and inane as the sound of their car is reflective of a general lack of respect for other people, a tendency to forgo any social responsibility at the drop of a hat. How can anyone who makes this decision also be a good citizen? A good friend? A good parent? In fact, a Venn diagram of people who de-muffle their cars, people who litter, people that push in at the front of queues, and people that tax evade, would no doubt have significant overlap.

Executing de-mufflers, then, would not only depollute our society of noise disturbances, but likely depollute our society of all the disrespecting amoral individuals that plague the world more broadly. I have no doubt that if these people were rounded up and shot, public transport systems, public parks, retail shopping, the hospitality industry and even fucking democracy would flourish. Indeed, if these people were shot, we’d probably be enjoying free university degrees in a pleasantly egalitarian social democracy that would make the most diehard Scandinavian political theorist smile.

With that, I rest my case: people that remove the mufflers from the car should be executed.

Special Considerations is still inhumane #2

Perhaps the most egregious part of USyd is the mistreatment of the most vulnerable members of our student body by our Special Considerations system. In 2021, a subject head told their students to avoid Special Considerations at all costs: “It’s simply inhumane,” they said. This column will highlight aspects of the system that need reform until it’s fixed.

The Special Cons system is failing students who have COVID-19. One student was in isolation after contracting COVID-19, experiencing headaches, fever, body aches, and extreme fatigue. Their Special Cons application was rejected; their symptoms were deemed “not severe” enough. The student provided extensive medical evidence of their illness, and Special Cons did not doubt the veracity of their claims. Rather, Special Cons held that the student still should have completed their assignment while in isolation; their illness did not preclude them from study.

Yet this student’s case is not an anomaly. *Honi* has received multiple reports of students suffering from COVID-19 that have been denied Special Cons. Unfortunately, this denial of assistance for ill students is also merely representative of a broader trend in Special Cons. Students whose circumstances don’t fit the narrow scope of eligible ailments are often excluded on technicalities. This all stems from a lack of discretion in the decision-making process. Any reasonable individual would agree that a student suffering COVID-19 deserves assistance, but the restrictive and crude nature of the current system simply does not allow for any reasonable exercise of discretion. This rigidity is central to the inhumanity of the system, and must be reformed.

GET IN TOUCH

Have you got a tip for a story? An angry letter to the editors? An article pitch?

Email us at editors@honisoit.com.

Scan the QR code to use our anonymous tip form.

Send mail to Honi Soit Editors at PO Box 974 Broadway NSW 2007.



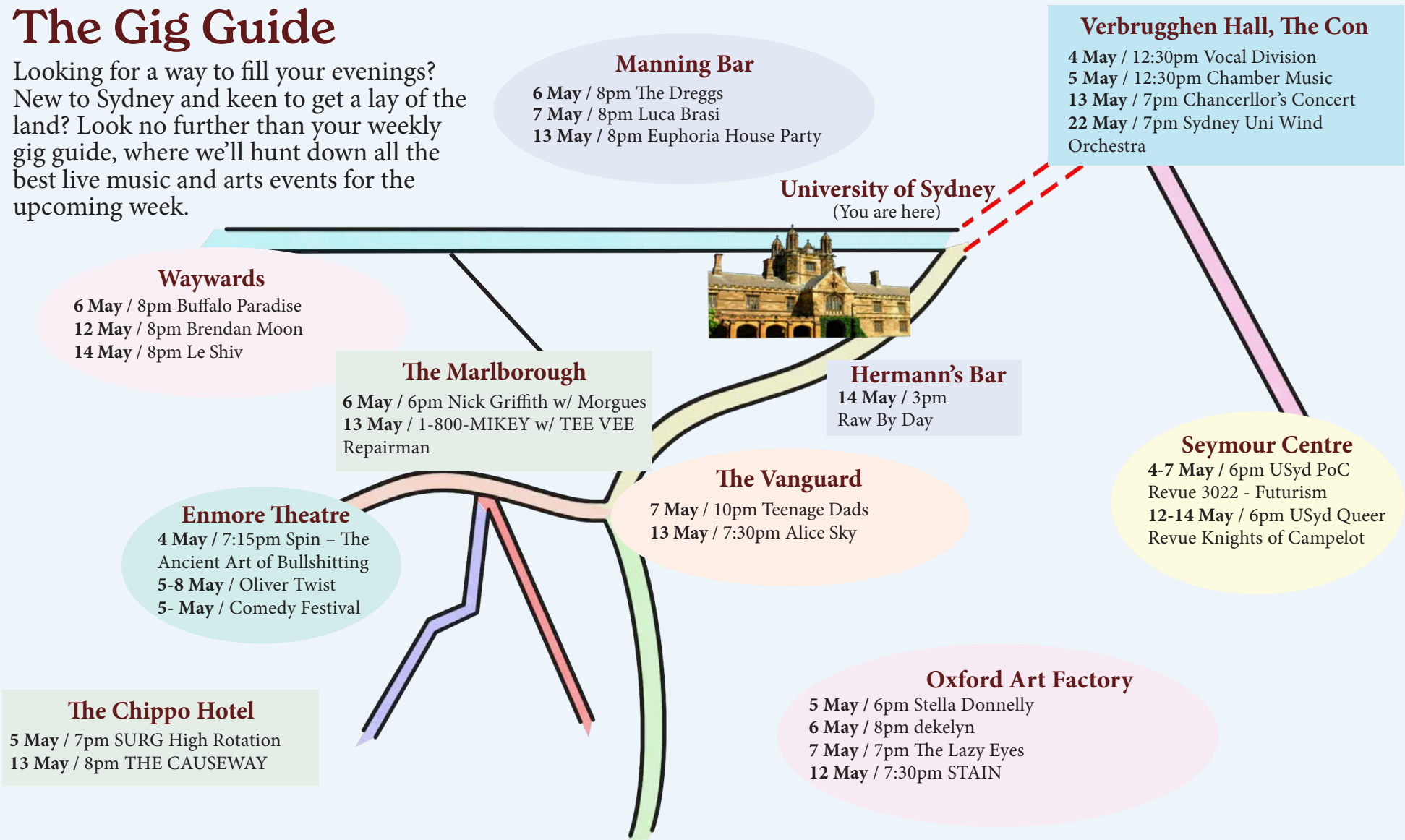
facebook.com/honisoitsydney
instagram.com/honi_soit
@honi_soit
twitter.com/honi_soit
youtube.com/honisoitau
https://linktr.ee/honisoit

Disclaimer: *Honi Soit* is published by the Students’ Representative Council, University of Sydney, Level 1 Wentworth Building, City Road, University of Sydney NSW 2006. The SRC’s operation costs, space and administrative support are financed by the University of Sydney. *Honi Soit* is printed under the auspices of the SRC’s Directors of Student Publications (DSP): Emily Mackay, Jinhui (Candace) Lu, Mahmoud Al Rifai, Sara Kie, Lily Wei, Cooper Gannon. All expressions are published on the basis that they are not to be regarded as the opinions of the SRC unless specifically stated. The Council accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any of the opinions or information contained within this newspaper, nor does it endorse any of the advertisements and insertions. Please direct all advertising inquiries to publications.manager@src.usyd.edu.au.

This edition published on 3 May 2022. ISSN: 2207-5593.

The Gig Guide

Looking for a way to fill your evenings? New to Sydney and keen to get a lay of the land? Look no further than your weekly gig guide, where we’ll hunt down all the best live music and arts events for the upcoming week.



Nursing staff and students speak out on ‘effed’ working conditions

Ramneek Thind reports.

Students and NSW Health sector workers gathered at the Susan Wakil building for the Nursing Power forum yesterday to discuss public health and nursing workplace challenges.

The forum was dominated by criticism of the state of healthcare in Western Sydney. All panel members agreed that the healthcare needs of Western Sydney communities are not being met.

Eliza Wright, a mental health nurse from Western Sydney, stated that chronic health issues in Western Sydney get “swept under the rug.”

She later revealed that “in Western Sydney, there’s 10 beds” belonging to a “high-dependency” unit – a type of in-patient, mental-health ward that provides increased levels of intervention. Such conditions, according to Wright, are not enough given the “high socio-economic disparity” in Western Sydney which is tied to an increased risk of mental health problems.

Wright also observed that doctors coming from “privileged backgrounds”

working in Western Sydney hospitals “don’t tend to respect [these] patients”.

Helen Dick, a former nurse educator and registered nurse, also highlighted a “lack of homegrown doctors” being an issue within many lower socioeconomic areas, with an audience member identifying that this was a symptom of “inequity within education”.

Dick also said that one of the biggest issues they’ve faced is determining whether patients from the area can afford the best treatment.

The panel members also believed that there are more effective ways the state government can invest and improve healthcare services.

NSW Nurses and Midwives Association (NSWNMA) representative Michael Whaites, criticised the government for failing to address the structural issues facing hospitals despite promises to provide material assistance.

“The number one issue is the ratios question,” Whaites said, in reference to the smaller nurse-to-patient ratio of 1:4 (one nurse to four patients).

Whilst Wright stated that many

new facilities are being built, they are not tailored to the needs of health practitioners and patients, and often go unused as there are not enough nurses to supervise their use by patients. “[It’s] a bandaid solution.”

“We’ve got a 30 bed ward...with four nurses on night shift...you have two patients that need one-to-one nursing and you’re kinda just effed,” Wright said, on the need for better staffing ratios.

Dick noted the stark contrast to Victoria, which has had ratios since 2015.

“In Victoria... there were always experienced nurses who ran the shift and could support younger nurses... It wasn’t a nurse fresh out of uni making [major] decisions,” they said.

Nurses and midwives have been on strike twice this year, rallying for better staffing ratios, safer working conditions and wage increases.

Attendees also expressed concern over the lack of training and support that assistant nurses receive from hospitals and universities.

Wright observed that there were often not enough registered nurses to teach

students or newly graduated nurses at their hospital: “The poor educator tries to find at least one RN [registered nurse] so it’s legal.”

A student also shared how a peer sustained a back injury whilst on a nursing placement, and is now unable to stand upright for more than two hours. The student mentioned that their peer did not receive any financial compensation from the University and is essentially being “kicked out” of their degree as they could no longer complete their placements.

Wright and Whaites both cautioned against underestimating the toll that nursing can have on mental health and encouraged building strong social support networks.

Dick also revealed that in nursing, there’s the expectation from the government and within workplace culture to overwork yourself out of “goodwill”.

Whaites emphasises that students should know that they have the “right to say no” and the “only way” we can see improvements in the health system and education, is if students become comfortable with “using [their] voices.”

regime.

“For the Palestinians in 1948, it’s Al-Nakba The Catastrophe. For Eelam Tamils, 1948 also marks the beginning of national oppression and the growth of singular Buddhist chauvinist ideology imposed on Eelam Tamils,” she said.

Global Solidarity Officer Jasmine Al-Rawi criticised heightened Israeli security measures and the state’s efforts to intimidate Palestine into submission. Al-Rawi denounced Scott Morrison’s “no country is perfect” response to Israel’s apartheid state, arguing that his nonchalance undermined the years of dispossession and displacement of entire Palestinian communities.

Inpakumar emphasised the strength of Palestinians and Tamil Eelams in the collective fight against “media silence, the capitalist class and chauvinist governments.”

“When I remember the fight for Tamil Eelam and the fight for Palestine it’s this: this is our land, the land in which we were born, the land which bears the footprints

for striking staff to be paid for the period of an industrial action. However, individual staff members are under no legal obligation to inform an employer of an intention to strike, contrary to what Jagose’s email may suggest.

USyd SRC Education Officer Deaglan Godwin called the email “outrageous” and emphasised the importance of students supporting staff throughout the industrial action period.

“This email is nothing but blatant intimidation by university management,” Godwin said. “They are attempting to

of our forefathers, the land in which our culture and history are rooted. Palestine is your land. Tamil Eelam is my land,” she said.

The rally ended with protesters chanting, “Free free Palestine, Free free Gaza”, and “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!”

The Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound – Islam’s third holiest site – has been the centre of days of violence this month, including an attack on 15 April where hundreds of Palestinians were arrested and over 100 wounded. Israeli police raided the compound, wounding at least 57 Palestinians using stun grenades and firing rubber bullets during prayer on Friday.

In solidarity with the Eelam Tamils and Palestinians, who have endured generations of dispossession and violence not recognised by their colonial-settlers, Israel or Sri Lanka, students are encouraged to attend upcoming rallies for both groups next month.

USyd issued fifth Fire Safety Order, three other buildings under investigation for flammability

Khanh Tran reports.

The University was ordered to remove flammable Aluminium Composite Panels (ACP) on the Charles Perkins Centre by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment on 30 March 2022.

This marks the fifth building at the University to be issued a Fire Safety Order since last year. Others with active orders requiring cladding removal include the F10 New Law Building and the Business School’s H69 Codrington Building.

“The owners [USyd] are required to replace the ACP with a non-combustible product and provide an inspection report issued by an accredited certifier,” the Order said.

“The owners are required to develop and implement fire safety measures to reduce the fire safety risks associated with the cladding until the rectification work is complete.”

When approached by *Honi*, the University said that it has implemented “a range [of] fire safety measures” to reduce fire risks until cladding replacement work on the Charles Perkins Centre and other buildings are completed.

Honi understands that three university buildings remain under investigation for cladding fire risk as of November 2021, some featuring “minor” cladding and others more significant. The buildings that are awaiting an investigation are: H70 - University of Sydney Business School, USF’s Noel Martin Sports & Aquatic Centre and the Brain & Mind Centre.

Meanwhile, designs for cladding replacement are currently being implemented for J12 - School of Information Technologies, the USU’s Holme Building and the Nanoscience Hub, following past fire safety orders put on these buildings in 2021.

In a statement, a University spokesperson said that: “All buildings have been assessed and deemed safe to occupy, with additional interim measures in place.”

When pressed on whether the University chose to use ACP due to financial considerations, USyd claimed pricing “was not a primary factor in its selection” because “the benefits of it being lightweight, flexible and aesthetically appealing” were more important factors. This leaves open the possibility that the University and its contractor may have considered lower costs when opting for the ACP panels.

Considered in context, the factors the University cited bears some resemblance to those that were at play in the cladding of Grenfell Tower, namely the focus on the cladding’s aesthetic appeal. The Grenfell Tower Fire in London in 2017 claimed 72 lives

“It is almost comical that this kind of infrastructural and student safety failing is so ubiquitous across campus.”

and the high death toll was strongly attributed to faulty combustible plastic-backed ACP cladding.

In 2018, Arconic Director Ray Bailey gave evidence to the ongoing Grenfell Inquiry stating that aesthetic appeal and costs were key factors in the combustible material being selected: “I believe the factors which influenced the decision came down to budget, aesthetics and thermal performance”.

The ongoing 5-year long Grenfell Inquiry revealed that London’s Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea saved over £300,000 when it opted for ACP cladding compared to more costly non-combustible counterparts.

Honi can also reveal that the University took two years to begin replacing the New Law Annexe’s cladding. An internal staff news article provided by USyd states that a portion of ACP cladding on the building was recommended for “removal and replacement” in December 2019. It was not until November 2021 that the panels were finally removed.

Responding to these revelations, SRC President Lauren Lancaster criticised USyd’s infrastructure delays and called for urgent repairs to buildings — including the SRC’s home in the Wentworth Building.

“It is almost comical that this kind of infrastructural and student safety failing is so ubiquitous across campus, it speaks to a pervasive failure by the University to provide adequately maintained buildings for students,” she said.

“Not least dealing once and for all with the SRC’s very own persistent mould problem, flooding or PNR’s horrendous sewerage failures.”

The NSW Government banned the use of Aluminium Composite Panels in August 2018 following Grenfell. Under the ban, any person or corporation that does not comply are liable to face substantial fines. Corporations can be expected to pay up to \$1.1 million whereas individuals can be fined up to \$220,000.

Composed of polyethylene (PE), mineral fibre or both, ACP is notorious for being highly combustible and was a contributing factor to 2014’s Lacrosse and 2019’s Spencer St incidents in Melbourne.

USyd is not the only university in NSW to receive fire safety orders from the State Government, several notable buildings at UNSW and UTS were issued similar mandates. This includes UTS’ iconic ‘Cheesegrater’ Building 11, UNSW’s Ainsworth Building, Wallace Wurth, Tyree, the Material Science & Engineering Building and the Lowy Cancer Research Centre.

SRC and USU to shut down in solidarity with staff strikes

Ellie Stephenson reports.

Both the University of Sydney Union (USU) and the USyd SRC have voted to shut down in solidarity with NTEU strikes being held on Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 May.

The NTEU voted earlier this month to strike for 48 hours as part of the enterprise bargaining process with the University. The strike demands a series of improvements to pay and working conditions, taking particular aim at casualisation and protecting staff’s paid research time.

The USU passed two motions in their meeting this afternoon regarding the strikes. The first expressed support for the staff strikes, while the second endorsed the USU closing its outlets for the duration of the strikes.

In the meeting, USU President Prudence Wilkins-Wheat argued that the USU should be conscious of the importance of staff working rights for students’ experience at university. “We are students, and we are a student union. We have to care about our staff,” Wilkins-Wheat told the meeting. “Student life begins in the classroom.”

The motion received the unanimous support of the Board.

The SRC has also passed a motion supporting the strikes and will shut down in solidarity. Additionally, the SRC is calling on its members to attend the picket line.

SRC President Lauren Lancaster told *Honi*: “The SRC practises solidarity with staff not only in the motions we pass on Council and in our organising efforts but also in the way that our organisation runs. That’s why it is necessary to close the SRC in solidarity with the NTEU. We will all be on the picket lines and we encourage all students to join us there, because as we all know, their working conditions are our learning conditions. This industrial action is long overdue and much needed.”

The USU’s willingness to shut down is an improvement from the last set of strikes in 2017, when the Board voted against shutting down in support of staff. The 2017 USU President Courtney Thompson explained the move with reference to the potential financial loss the shutdown could cause, while progressive Board alumni condemned the decision as undermining the strikes.

“Useless scab union”, tweeted former Board Director Tom Raue at the time.

DVC Scabbamarie lays down the law before staff strike

Roisin Murphy reports.

Deputy Vice Chancellor Annamarie Jagose sent an email today to all staff members of the University of Sydney warning them of the rules required around industrial action. The email is in relation to the upcoming staff strikes, planned for 11 and 12 May.

“Given that we have fortnightly meetings scheduled through until July... we are disappointed that the NTEU has chosen to take this premature action,” the email reads.

Honi understands that throughout the negotiation process, the University has chosen not to engage in a number of the requests made in the NTEU’s log of claims.

Jagose also made it clear that any staff who are not members of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) will not be permitted to strike.

She also requested that NTEU members participating in the strikes notify the University of their absence.

Under the Fair Work Act, it is unlawful

No.	Building	Status
1	F10A New law Annexe	Remediation works complete.
2	F10 New Law	FSO in place.
3	D17 Charles Perkins Centre	FSO in place.
4	H69 Business School Codrington Building	FSO in place.
5	H70 University of Sydney Business School	Under assessment with the Authorities.
6	H71 Abercrombie Student Accommodation	Remediation works complete.
7	C26C Clinical School – Nepean	Remediation works complete.
8	C37F Boundary Lane Children's Centre	Remediation works complete.
9	F19 Eastern Avenue Auditorium & Theatre Complex	Remediation works are complete.
10	M03 Queen Mary Building	The cladding on QMB is not a banned product as defined by the Building Products (Safety) Act 2017. Only very minor works required.
11	A09 Holme Building	Remediation scope agreed with the Authorities. Design underway for the cladding replacement.
12	A31 Nanoscience	Remediation scope agreed with the Authorities. Design underway for the cladding replacement.
13	G02 JFR	Only very minor works required. Remediation scope agreed with the Authorities. Design underway for the cladding replacement.
14	G09 Noel Martin Sports & Aquatic Centre	Under assessment with the Authorities.
15	J14 Gordon Yu-Hoi Chiu Building	Investigations confirmed there is no ACP present on the building.
16	M02F Building F Brain & Mind	Under assessment with the Authorities.
17	J12 SIT Building	Remediation scope agreed with the Authorities. Design underway for the cladding replacement.
18	F07 Carslaw Building	Minor works to the ground floor courtyard underway.

Figure 1. Status of eighteen buildings that were subject to a cladding safety investigation by the NSW Government.

MEET YOUR USU ELECTION CANDIDATES:

Disclaimer: Zara Zadro is a current member of Switch and is not involved in coverage of the 2022 USU Board Elections.

Following the withdrawal of Jayfel Tulabing, Maia Edge and Aydin Varol from the race, there are only six candidates fighting for five seats on the USU board. The five who are elected will have a vote in the governing body of USyd's most wealthy student organisation.

Out of those six candidates, not one of them managed to score over 70 per cent on the quiz, and all of them struggled with basic questions on USU policy in interviews. It seems that despite what many had hoped, it's official — the stupol hustle is dead. *Honi* has a clear message to all candidates and managers: please have a long, hard think about how seriously you actually care about student representation, given you couldn't even study for a basic quiz on student governance. Nonetheless, there was some promise from a small number of candidates. Read the profiles on this page to see this - it might take some digging.

Half of this year's prospective directors outright failed the quiz. Even the highest performance, sitting at 67 per cent, is the lowest top score since the USU Board Quiz of 2018.

Key weaknesses in knowledge included being unable to estimate Youth Allowance or Opal Fares, a total lack of knowledge about *PULP*, and limited

comprehension of education activism.

Many of the policies being proposed this election cycle are similar to those that have frequently been run on in the past: more consultation, better sustainability policy, cheaper food and drinks, and a revived campus life.

This election is marked by the notable absence of international student factions Penta or Phoenix, along with Labor factions NLS and Unity. However, it does see an abundance of independent candidates along with newcomer grouping INTERPOL.

The inability of any candidate, including those in supposedly left-wing faction Switch, to name leadership figures in the NTEU or describe key EBA demands is worrying. Relatedly, the hesitance of both Switch candidates to support the abolition of residential colleges will likely revive long-standing grievances among the campus Left about Switch's participation in the USU Board Elections.

These six nominees, if elected, will gain access to a multi-million dollar student organisation, which is integral in making decisions about campus life. You can read through the full profiles and candidate analysis on our website, and view the footage of their interviews.

Voting in the USU Board Election opens on Monday 9 May and is open to all USU members and USyd students.

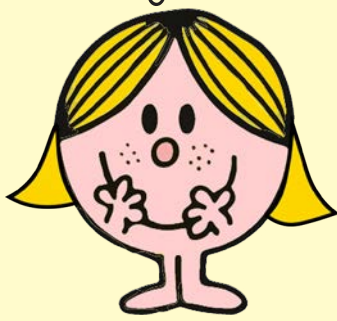


CAN YOU PASS THE HONI BOARD QUIZ?

Here are the questions we asked
your 2022 candidates.

1. List the 2021 and 2022 USU Board Executives. (2 marks)
2. Name the Senate Appointed Directors who sit on Board. (1 mark)
3. Name two non-student USU staff members and their roles. (1 mark)
4. Name the current Presidents of SULS, SASS, SUEUA and SciSoc (2 marks)
5. How is the USU's Director of Debates appointed? (1 mark)
6. Name three former editors of Pulp media. (1 mark)
7. How much does USU Rewards cost annually? (1 mark)
8. Name the Directors of this year's Womn's Revue. (1 mark)
9. Name the current SRC Education Officers. (1 mark)
10. Where did Foodhub operate out of? (1 mark)
11. Who is the current NUS President? What faction are they from? (2 marks)
12. Define VSU. (1 mark)
13. Which Prime Minister implemented VSU? (1 mark)
14. Who is the current Branch President of the NTEU and who is the NTEU NSW Secretary? (1 mark)
15. To the nearest \$10,000, how much SSAF was allocated to SUPRA in 2020? (1 mark)
16. What does the 40/40/20 model describe? (1 mark)
17. Who is the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health? (1 mark)
18. In what year will the next USyd student senate fellow elections be held? (1 mark)
19. Who is the Federal Minister for Education? (1 mark)
20. To the nearest \$10, what is the maximum amount a student over the age of 18 living away from home would receive in Youth Allowance? (1 mark)
21. Name four of the food or drink venues that the USU operates. (2 marks)
22. How much does the pasta of the day cost at Courtyard Cafe? (1 marks)
23. What is the weekly maximum fee for a Concession Opal? An adult Opal? (2 marks)

Little Miss
Progressive



ONOR NOTTLE
Faction: Switch

QUIZ
RESULT: **67%**

Nottle cinched the top score in the Election Quiz this year, however, given the broadly low scores among candidates, this isn't as much of a claim as it may have been in previous years. She boasts C&S experience, being SULS' Social Director in 2021 and Campus Director this year. She has also been involved with Law Revue, the SRC, and Academic Board.

Her quiz results show gaps in knowledge on student activism and campus unionism. Nottle failed to identify basic knowledge about staff conditions, such as the 40/40/20 model and USyd's NTEU branch leadership. Unlike the current crop of Switch Board Directors, Nottle appears to bear minimal experience in activist organising.

Nottle stressed the need for greater accessibility on campus, criticising the University's failure to provide dedicated disability spaces, although was unable to explain how she would go about implementing this beyond consultation with C&S disabilities officers, and "taking responsibility for this policy".

She is proposing policies that aim to make campus a safer place for women and non-cis men. In contrast to WoCo activists, however, she prioritised reformist strategies that would improve the safety of college students over abolition. She said that "regardless of what the final destination is in terms of burning down the Colleges, in terms of affordable housing... the most important thing is ensuring that students and women are protected right now."

Nottle's interview and her policy claimed a focus on decolonisation, citing the campaign to rename Wentworth and better consultation with the Gadigal Centre. However, her explanations of these issues were lacking.

When given the opportunity to address allegations regarding use of racist language, Nottle called them "unequivocally false". She added that those allegations "provided an opportunity to start the conversation about how the USU and the University needs to be decolonised", although *Honi* is unsure how such "rumours" would actually advance anti-racism and anti-colonial causes.

Nottle clearly stated that she would vote in favour of divestment from fossil fuels if given the opportunity.

Overall, Nottle's campaign broadly runs along the same paths previous Switch campaigns have traversed, yet she seems to have a worse grip of activist politics than the candidates have typically offered.

Little Miss
Performing Arts



MADHULLIKAA SINGH
Faction: Switch

QUIZ
RESULT: **62%**

Having been in Switch for only two months, Singh ranked second only behind her factional compatriot Onor Nottle in the quiz, demonstrating a relatively sound grasp of the USU and campus institutional knowledge. Singh boasts extensive involvement in USyd's performing arts scene, being a director of the upcoming POC Revue.

Singh wants to re-expand the USU's Revue scene, promising to revive the International Student Revue and start new ones such as a Disability Revue. Albeit a positive endeavour, Singh struggled to concretely address how to create sufficient student demand for her proposed revues in order to outweigh any financial burden. As such, she may underestimate these structural obstacles to implement her promises.

On transparency, Singh was one of the few candidates who expressed a willingness to breach the USU Board's notorious confidentiality requirements should an issue of sufficient public interest arise and be kept secret. "If I do have to breach fiduciary duty and reveal something to the public that could risk my time as a Board member, I will do it," she said.

Singh also proposed that the USU create a dedicated C&S program for Indigenous students. Although having proposed "spaces for Indigenous students on campus", it is unclear what form the policy will take as she did not elaborate on how her policy differs from the existing Gadigal Centre. She stressed a need to consult Indigenous students, not impose any policy upon USyd's First Nations community and that ultimately, these policies "have to come from Indigenous students".

Singh is committed in a personal capacity to divestment. However, she states that given the number of students "who have a completely different view", her preference is for the issue to be put to a general student poll rather than just a vote between Board Directors.

While critiquing the colleges' endemic rape culture, she prefers dialogue to abolition, Singh questioned whether efforts to dismantle residential colleges are ever effective, "Do we really think that we can dismantle the colleges because I've been part of that institution and it is frighteningly colonial and powerful?".

All up, Singh will appeal to progressive and arts circles, but it remains to be seen whether she can implement left-wing policies that have previously fallen by the wayside.

Little Miss
Law



NAZ SHARIFI
Faction: Independent

QUIZ
RESULT: **52%**

One of the late applicants for the USU Board race this year, Sharifi is an independent candidate and relative newcomer to the stupol scene. She cited her experience as the previous Secretary and the current President of the Afghan Society, as well as being the SULS Vice President (Social Justice). Having been on the executive for both small and large clubs and societies, Sharifi claims that she is in a good position to understand the USU's impact.

Sharifi's quiz results show a sound understanding of USU institutional knowledge and student life, however there were a lot of concerning gaps in her knowledge of broader University issues and student activism. She was unable to identify the SRC's current Education Officers or key NTEU leadership figures, nor could she explain what the 40/40/20 model described.

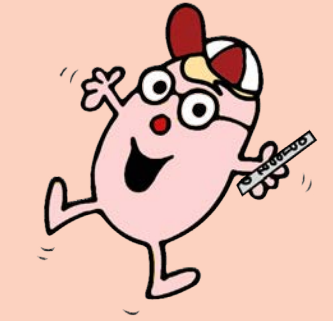
Sharifi describes much of her approach to policy as "practical" and "pragmatic", with a focus on consultation with students. She noted a need to increase student representation from marginalised communities "at all levels", including in C&S executives as well as in events, such as hosting information sessions for students in different languages.

On the issue of USyd's lack of disability spaces recently reported by *Honi*, Sharifi called the issue "heartbreaking" and stressed the need for urgent action rather than passing the responsibility onto others. To address the issue, she stressed the importance of collaboration with relevant student bodies, although could only point to the "many spaces" on campus that could potentially be converted into an accessible disability space.

Improving campus life and events was another common policy point across the candidates, and Sharifi is no different. Where her policies differ from others, however, is her emphasis on "culturally sensitive" events that would accommodate students from different backgrounds. She suggested hosting alcohol-free events and catering to students who lived far away from uni.

As an independent, Sharifi acknowledged that she did not have the same access to factional support as some of her fellow candidates, although seemed confident in her ability to garner support from "the student body as a whole". She did not express any preference or aversion for working with any particular candidates, emphasising that she would work with whoever "aligns with my own values and ideals".

Little Mr
Conservatorium



ALEXANDER POIRIER
Faction: Independent

QUIZ
RESULT: **44%**

Alexander Poirier is one of three candidates who failed *Honi's* Election Quiz. He is running for student leadership positions on a platform of promoting the apparently under-represented interests of the Con. As one of the USU's Welcome Fest Coordinators and President of Sydney University Chinese Orchestra (SUCO), Poirier boasts a substantive level of engagement with the USU, taking credit in his interview for ensuring that the Con received its own Welcome Week events in 2022.

Poirier was at pains to distinguish himself from Student Unity (the Labor Right faction he is a member of) stating that he is representing the Conservatorium's interests in this election. However, he was also keen to assert that he was not representing Ignite (a Conservatorium students faction, of which he is also a member of). He struggled to articulate his political views, putting himself broadly as "quite left-leaning", citing the importance of de-colonisation, commitment to "diverse peoples", and a broad opposition to capitalism.

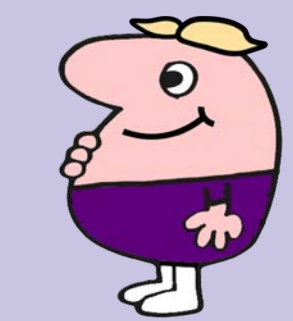
He was unable to justify a link between his self-described progressive politics and his membership of Student Unity, saying he would likely align himself more with NLS or Grassroots.

On the question of freedom of speech and USU club registration for right-wing groups such as LifeChoice, Poirier struggled to find an answer, ultimately concluding that "it's best if they [LifeChoice] have a club within the USU system because that means they are bound to the rules". "Here are the guidelines, if you break the guidelines, then you don't get to be [registered], in conclusion, they [pro-life clubs] shouldn't be registered," Poirier said, further muddling his position. Although he named CathSoc's ableist A-frame last year as an example of unacceptable behaviour, he did not elaborate on where he drew the line of politicised clubs more broadly.

Despite having experience in USU bureaucracy as Welcome Fest Coordinator, his knowledge on the companies that the USU engages with is minimal. When quizzed about the types of companies he would not work with, Poirier was not able to name any, aside from pointing to those "that have anything to do with furthering the climate emergency".

Overall, Poirier's candidacy is almost exclusively confined to the Con's interests, while a laudable aim, questions remains on whether he can meaningfully represent those on the main campus and beyond.

Little Mr
"Mainstream"



NICK DOWER
Faction: ModLib

QUIZ
RESULT: **34%**

Dower is a Liberal running on a platform of cost of living, transparency, and the environment. His campaign aims to give a shot to the arm of campus life after two years of disruptions, with policies focused on expanding accessible food and drink options, and increasing outreach. He is currently the Vice-President of USyd's Conservative Club and Secretary of the Freedom Club.

Dower's quiz score placed him fifth out of six of the candidates, and showcased bare-bones knowledge of the personalities and institutional operations of immediate relevance to the USU.

He was unable to name the Deans or Presidents of societies outside of the humanities and was unfamiliar with many concessions and support services available to students including the USU's embattled FoodHub program.

Dower claimed to represent a more "mainstream" voice on campus, citing "consistently low turnout" in SRC and USU elections. Last year saw the largest number of votes cast in an SRC election, and the 2019 USU election was the largest number of votes in any student ballot at USyd, contesting his suggestion that more moderate candidates are essential to higher engagement.

Dower broadly supported divestment, describing it as "a massive cultural issue for our generation." Specifically, he is in favour of direct divestment and divestment from funds with fossil fuel ties and a move to funds with ESG (environment, social and corporate governance) portfolios.

Dower holds positions typical of USU candidates, but offers little when it comes to the mechanisms of implementing many of them. He stated he would like to see more non-college students attend the Palladian Cup (huh?), but detailed no pathway to this end. His support for transparency was limited to "cultural change" within the Board.

Dower is currently a resident at St Paul's College and likened the stated aims of the USU to those of the colleges. He explained a desire to see college residents engage more with campus life. *Honi* is unsure how Dower's plan for more on-campus college events is of interest to the 34,000 undergraduate USyd students he aims to represent.

Overall, Dower is running on a fairly populist Moderate Liberal platform, with a clear college bent. Whether this strategy will enjoy the success that mentor Nicholas Comino achieved last year remains to be seen.

Little Mr
Apolitical



K PHILIPS
Faction: INTERPOL

QUIZ
RESULT: **30%**

Having recently made their debut in stupol by founding INTERPOL, a new faction which purports to represent international students, K Philips explained that INTERPOL is "an international student faction and social club" that is "more neutral" politically. Philips was at pains to distance INTERPOL from "real life politics", which makes it difficult to predict how they would navigate political dilemmas facing the Board.

Philips' answers fit within a long-standing mould of apolitical Board candidates, reflective of a lack of interest in political issues and an overarchingly centrist ethos. Hailing from Canada, when queried as to whether they would be open to voting for the Canadian Conservative Party, Philips answered in the affirmative: "If there are good policies then I'm willing to give any party a chance because they also switch up regularly".

In addition to receiving the worst score in our quiz, Philips struggled to identify challenges facing international students beyond an "isolating experience" and visa working hour limits. They failed to name issues such as a lack of access to Medicare and the lifting of working hour limits for international students. Their apparent weak grasp on these challenges is concerning, especially considering their claim to advocate for international students.

Revealingly, Philips was equivocal on the issue of divestment, characterising the USU's questionable investment records as a "grey area". When pressed, Philips demonstrated not only a vague grasp on the issues with the USU's investments, but also hesitance towards supporting immediate divestment from fossil fuel-friendly investment holdings. To justify this, they claimed divestment could risk adversely "affecting people's [USU Staff] jobs and livelihood", even though a Board vote for divestment would have no effect on USU staff, as their salaries come from the USU's sales, membership and SSAF allocation.

They also defended their campaign manager Michael Grenier, a Liberal SRC Councillor who attracted criticism in February's SRC Council meeting when he voted against a motion calling for a boycott of the Sydney Festival in support of the pro-Palestine BDS movement.

Overall, Philips is worryingly unprepared to be a Board Director, with limited knowledge of the USU and an unfortunate lack of clarity about their politics.

USU First Look: Campaign graphics analysis

Thomas Sargeant launches Photoshop and closes Canva.

The USU hustle is dead. What happened to the grindset of years past? To dual Instagram and Facebook pages launched at midnight? To voters waking up to countless page invitations and factions fully mobilised for likes and followers?

Regardless, factional BNOCs and independent *whos* alike have now launched their campaigns across social media, and *Honi* is here to provide all of the cutting-edge brand analysis you could ever hope for.

Alexander Poirier

Poirier has yet to launch his campaign. ‘Progress with Poirier’ currently exists in the form of a blank Facebook page with 5 likes, and an Insta with 3 followers. This lends credibility to his claim of not being a Student Unity candidate, as they would never let this happen. Alex will be running on Maroon.

Note: since initial publication, Poirier’s social media campaign has launched.

K Phillips

Phillips is running on ‘K for Clubs’ - but you wouldn’t be blamed for not knowing. Despite uploading a profile picture on Saturday, Phillips only launched their page on Sunday afternoon, 40 hours after online campaigning opened. There is as of yet no sign of an Instagram page. Again, where is the grind?

Phillips has utilised a pastel yellow campaign colour and a glowing neon effect for their initial branding - watch out Switch, lest you lose your coveted monopoly on the colour. The feature of pixel art hearts on their profile picture

is hopefully a tease for a pixel art campaign, which would certainly be a unique style for a Stupol campaign. If there are more profile pictures to come, the campaign should work on their kerning (the deliberate spacing between letters)

Whilst Phillips clearly has a wealth of C&S experience and likeable club-related policies, getting on board has required, at least up until now, campaigning to people beyond your own Facebook friends.

Madhullikaa Singh - Madhu for You

Singh is running with a primarily black colour palette, featuring light lilac text - directly reminiscent of 2021’s ‘Trust in Telita’. It seems that Switch is hoping to make a tradition out of their dual candidate strategy. A welcome addition to her branding is an iridescent graphic, an eye-catching and unique variation that’s sure to pop on social media feeds.

Distinctive, clean and historically vote-winning, a black design is sure to stand out on Eastern Ave during in-person campaigning. Singh’s campaign has also launched with a photoshoot, with professional-quality photos across her social media - a level of marketing organisation that is to be expected of a former SUDS executive.

On Sunday evening, Singh uploaded an impressive campaign video full of graphics, movement, and policy. Can the videographer and editor please report to the Honi Soit office post-haste.

Naz Sharifi - Naz is Needed

Masters of branding, Sharifi’s campaign

has kept its supporters on their toes by employing three distinctly different graphics and fonts across a single Facebook page. Her Instagram page is similarly confused, a unique blend of off-centre graphics (not in a cute asymmetrical way) and various colours - light/dark blues, yellow drop-shadow, purple shapes, and black and white speech bubbles. If any of Sharifi’s graphic design team is reading this: you clearly disagree on graphics... but the square speech bubble is your best option.

With a wealth of SULS support behind her, it is impressive that not a single law student proofread the Instagram handle closely enough to see the two words formed by ‘@nazisneeded’ - rectified on Sunday afternoon by adding full stops to the username. A search for the candidate’s TikTok only leads to a redirect from Tiktok itself to the World Jewish Council’s page for facts about the Holocaust. This sort of oversight shows, if nothing else, a sincere lack of planning. At least Naz’s team should have no shortage of graphics to choose from for a rebrand.

Nicholas Dower - Dower Power

Dower, impressively, is the only candidate to launch their campaign with a day one video. It’s just a shame that this hustle is being used for a conservative Liberal. ‘Dower Power’ is running on purple branding that recalls college liberal campaigns of recent years such as Nicholas Comino and Josie Jakovac. The campaign logo is near-identical to 2021’s ‘Comeback with Comino’, albeit with a slightly different font.

Dower’s campaign has also launched

USU Board Recap: Strikes, Student Life and \$\$\$

Ellie Stephenson explains what happened at this month’s USU Board meeting.

On the eve of USU Board Election campaign launches last Friday, I sank into a seat in Holme Building’s Cullen Room to keep an eye on your current Board Directors at their April meeting. Here’s what took place:

Staff strikes

One prominent topic in the meeting was the upcoming NTEU strikes, which will be held on Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 May.

In good news for student-staff solidarity, the USU passed two motions expressing their support for staff strikes and committing to shutting USU outlets during the strike period.

President Prudence Wilkins-Wheat argued in the meeting that the USU ought to care about the quality of students’ learning conditions, saying “student life begins in the classroom.”

This marks an improvement to the USU’s previous record on solidarity with university staff; the organisation was condemned as a ‘scab union’ in 2017 when it refused to close its outlets during strikes due to financial concerns. While CEO Andrew Mills flagged the strikes would likely impact the Union’s April-May earnings, the meeting nonetheless supported the strikes unanimously.

However, the Board declined to call on its members to attend the picket line — a step the SRC has taken — Wilkins-Wheat

said that joining the picket line is a matter for personal choice but that she would be attending.

Student life

Another big point of discussion stemmed from the various student-life initiatives the USU is implementing.

In her report, Honorary Secretary Belinda Thomas noted that the USU’s reimagined *PULP magazine* will be starting up soon, congratulating recently-appointed Senior Editor Marlow Hurst on receiving the role. The magazine will get underway once the full team of six Editors is appointed.

PULP magazine represents a reimagined version of the Union’s publication; after several years as an online news site it will be returning to print, with a focus on culture writing. Although initial discussions of the plan suggested a ‘people’s vote’ would be held to inform the final editorial team, it seems that plan has not eventuated, at least for now.

Various reports drew attention to a marked uptick in campus life, with various well attended Manning gigs (read our reviews here) and a steady increase in visitors to Verge Gallery.

Ben Hines, who sits on the Debates Committee, congratulated USU debaters on their performance at the Australian Intervarsity Debating Championships (a.k.a ‘Easters’) earlier this month.

All this was very glowing! Though, one initiative that was less fantastic is the uptake of Student Leader sessions run by the Office of Student Life, which provide courses in Mental Health First Aid and RSA, among other skills. The SSAF-funded courses have a score of empty spaces, with Board Directors suggesting that the marketing and timing of the courses needs work.

Asked about the progress of the upcoming USU Board Elections, Wilkins-Wheat told *Honi* she is “super proud” of the candidates — to some chuckles from the rest of the Board. The nominees have apparently also received resilience training, which frankly might come in handy when they see the results of the *Honi* quiz (see pages 6 and 7).

\$\$\$

If there was one take-away message from the meeting, it is that the Union is fucking rolling in it.

Finance Director Rebecca Sahni told the Board of the USU’s better-than-expected February-March revenue, with the organisation reforecasting its budget thanks to the bonanza on events. In particular, the USU hit a jackpot in Sydney’s queer community, with Manning’s Heaps Gay event raking in money. It pays to slay!

Andrew Mills walked us through the performance of the USU’s outlets, which also got a boost from graduation season. Describing the surplus of money sitting in

with a photoshoot of the candidate himself and a number of campaigners in white shirts in front of the Quadrangle. Again, this is nearly identical to Jakovac and Comino’s campaigns. It seems that the visual language for a Liberal college candidate has been firmly established.

Onor Nottle - On Board with Onor

Nottle’s campaign is using a slightly desaturated version of Switch’s patented yellow, owning her factional support. Her value branding of ‘Environmental, Passionate, Feminist’ recalls fellow Switch members Isla Mobray and Telita Goile’s campaigns from last year. You can’t blame them for not wanting to deviate from a winning formula, but it would be good to get a unique indication of how the candidate plans to execute those values.

Nottle’s logo is a 1920’s ‘rubber hose’-style Sun character who wouldn’t be out of place on a juice box - time will tell if her campaign can maintain this sunny disposition. The Switch machine has clearly been mobilised for graphic design, with an impressively slick and trendy design that is consistent across logos, cover photos, and profile picture.

With in-person campaigning set to begin on Monday, USU season has well and truly begun. Some candidates have hit a running start, with others left in the dust. Assuming that all candidates last until the final hurdle of voting days, it’s anyone’s guess who will be the lone candidate left unelected.

the Union’s coffers, Mills complained “we are victims of our own success.” A hard spot to be in, truly.

Honorary Treasurer Ben Hines’ report focused on this profusion of disposable income. “The money we have cash-on-hand has essentially doubled over our time on Board,” he contextualised, arguing that the USU should increase expenditure on its members.

Naturally, given Hines’ position as SULS President, his suggestion was “conflict of interest pending, more money to C&S.”

SRC President Lauren Lancaster, who was an observer at the meeting, asked why the glut of spending money wasn’t being spent on restarting FoodHub, a joint initiative between the USU and SRC which lapsed this Semester after admin problems. Wilkins-Wheat indicated that the USU is broadly supportive of the program but needs to reforecast its budget to fund FoodHub before it can restart.

Honi asked the Board whether they intended to pursue divestment, following recent coverage of the USU’s investments, in the fossil fuel industry. The Board could not make a commitment to doing so, instead waiting for the recommendations of their investment review before they take action.

With the open portion of the meeting over, the Board moved in *camera* to discuss tenancy arrangements and nominations for USU Life Membership.

Capturing catastrophe: USyd Tin Sheds’ Art & Activism in the Nuclear Age

Amelia Koen attends the Sheds’ latest on-campus exhibition.

Following in the footsteps of exhibitions past, the Tin Sheds’ current showing entitled *Art & Activism in the Nuclear Age* is a striking display of politically charged, captivating works of art. Ranging from screen-prints to manga and paintings to installation, the exhibition encompasses artistic responses and criticisms of the Nuclear Age, investigating ways to overcome and progress “in the search for peace and total nuclear disarmament.”

The exhibition is curated by Dr Yasuko Claremont, author of critical texts such as *Legacies of the Asia-Pacific War* and honorary senior lecturer of Japanese language and literature at the University. Taking place more than 75 years after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States, Claremont’s exhibition brings together generations of artists from Japan to Australia — including artists who witnessed the nuclear attacks, and others who lived to faced the consequences.

“There is no greater hell than people killing people.”

Three salient themes ran throughout the exhibition space: representation, recognition and resistance. In a world where there are estimated to be over 13,000 nuclear weapons, it would be easy to criticise the efficacy of ‘representing’ nuclear disaster through art as a means to dismantle it. However, what this exhibition makes clear is that artistic representation of horrific violence and disaster achieves what mere words and documentary photography often can’t: the emotional dimensions of humanity in crisis.

Contextualising what’s to come, the exhibition opens with a metres-long timeline of the nuclear age, consisting of 40 disasters and developments occurring over the last 80 years. It begins in 1941 with the Japanese bombing of Pearl

Harbour and ends on 20 January of this year when the Doomsday clock stood at 100 seconds to midnight (for the third year in a row). The expansive timeline serves as both a monolith and a warning as it overlooks the gallery space — a constant reminder of the histories from which the artworks grew.

Courtesy of the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, Fukami Noritaka’s 1946 work *Storm over Kiyō — Tale of Nagasaki* is displayed as a panning video of the 11 metre watercolour shoji scroll. Not displayed to the public until the 1980s due to censorship imposed by US, British and Australian Occupation Forces, Noritaka’s picture scroll depicts the horrors of Nagasaki. Possessing a raw, entrancing

class people and the resilience of the body. Representative of the persisting spirit of the time, the work heralds the strength of love between the two subjects, depicting two people embracing during the fire-flash of Nagasaki. The tragic aftermath is evident in the charred black of the ink.

The exhibition’s centrepiece *Fire* (1950) by Iri and Toshi Maruki is a graphic yet stunning amalgamation of red flames and burnt bodies. “There is no greater hell than people killing people,” Iri said, regarding the work. The eight panels on display are reproductions, yet the contortions of charcoal and limbs remain powerful tools that depict the terrors of the pair witnessed in the aftermath of Hiroshima.



‘Fire’ (1950), Iri and Toshi Maruki. Courtesy Maruki Gallery, Saitama, Japan.

quality that draws viewers into the tragedy of the scene, the work is a direct product of Noritaka’s own experiences rescuing people from the city just three hours after the explosion.

The subsequent work from 1963 entitled *Ikinokori (Surviving)* by Ueno Makoto is a monochrome woodcut from post-war Japan. The woodcut print-media movement centred itself around working-

Standing in contrast to these works is the bright rainbow of hanging paper cranes that comprise the exhibition’s standalone installation work. The vibrant folded cranes were made by visitors and school children who attended the *Black Mist Burnt Country: Testing the Bomb — Maralinga and Australian Art* exhibition which toured Australia across 2016-2019. Created in honour of Sadako Sasaki,

Truth will out — Researchers protest climate inaction

Chiara Bragato analyses how academics are standing up to the climate crisis.

We know this to be true; the facts speak for themselves. Yet its current and ongoing impact on the world remains contested. Australians have become familiar with a slew of ‘once in a hundred years’ events within the past few years. However, the government continues to support the coal industry, relies on a ‘sham’ carbon credits system, and the Environment Minister has denied having a responsibility to protect the community from the effects of climate change.

In the face of this denial and inaction, scientists continue to push the facts and bring attention to the situation. The release of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report in 2021 was an urgent call to action that attracted significant media attention, but has had little impact on the political scale. Despite climate science experts constantly expressing the urgency of these issues, they are often overlooked by politicians and media alike. The report evaluated the extent of action taken to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, accordingly with the Paris target, and (spoiler alert) found that we’re failing.

On 7 April, in response to the IPCC report, more than 1000 scientists

across the globe engaged in acts of civil disobedience in a further attempt to ensure that governments and companies could no longer refuse substantial action. Many scientists chained themselves to doors, blocked bridges and occupied government spaces, to visually challenge the apathy of our decision-makers.

Scientists also took aim at the IPCC, claiming it has used weaker wording as a result of political pressure to avoid creating tension.

The scientists, who took action on multiple continents, rallied under the cry “1.5 is dead, climate revolution now!” Many participants publicly expressed their fear and apprehension for the coming years. Their desperation and terror was expressed not only for their families and future generations, but for humanity. One climate scientist, Peter Kalmus, described the situation as “the eleventh hour in terms of Earth’s breakdown”, and expressed incredulity at how people who understand the situation are still not taking action.

These calls were not only directed to companies, banks, and private groups that profit from the massive oil and gas industry, but were also made directly to federal

governments. Activists in Washington DC chained themselves to the White House fence to directly challenge President Biden to declare a climate emergency, which would allow the US to take actions currently not available to them, actions such as ending oil exports and investing more in green energies. Similarly, more than 50 scientists were arrested in Madrid for painting the steps of the Congress of Deputies red.

“Scientists chained themselves to doors, blocked bridges and occupied government spaces, to visually challenge the apathy of our decision-makers.”

Despite these actions, very few major newspapers covered the story. The majority of attention was produced by the scientists’ own use of social media and articles that they fought for publication on various news sites.

a child who developed and ultimately died from leukaemia after Hiroshima, the cranes represent the child’s own effort to fold 1000 cranes — which according to Japanese legend would allow her wish to be granted. At the end of the exhibition, the cranes will be sent to the Children’s Peace Monument in Hiroshima.

The theme of nuclear imperialism was highlighted by the exhibition in the Australian context, most notably the British testing of nuclear bombs between 1952 and 1963 in Maralinga and ‘remote’ First Nations land. The gallery-wall of works entitled *Life Lifted into the Sky* (2016), created by a collective of three generations of Yalata women, is a powerful display and indictment of this nuclear testing. The works depict the damage inflicted on local Indigenous communities surrounding the testing sites, and highlight the role of the British in conducting forced removals in 1951 prior to the testing.

Showcasing protest of nuclear testing in the South-Pacific, the exhibition displays the screenprint works *15 More Years Testing in the Pacific?* (1984) and *No Nukes in the Pacific* (1984) by Pam Debenham — both created at the Tin Sheds workshops among USyd’s activist art collectives of the 1980s.

Though not made explicit through a given artwork, when experiencing the exhibition it was impossible to overlook the current nuclear threat within Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. It was only on the 24 February this year when Russian military forces entered the Chernobyl Nuclear Exclusion Zone in Ukraine, causing a spike in radiation levels and increasing the risk of a nuclear accident in the area.

Setting out with the intention to “highlight the consequences for humanity of a nuclearised world,” the exhibition unquestionably achieves its goals.

The exhibition is open until May 14 at the Tin Sheds Gallery — 148 City Road, Darlington.

Political triangulation is corrosive and ineffective: Labor would be better off avoiding it

Aidan Elwig Pollock opines.

On the face of it, triangulation appears to be an attractive strategy for any party that has spent years in the political wilderness. The process, predominantly pursued by social-democratic parties after the triumph of neoliberalism from the late-1970s onwards, involves adopting softer versions of a political opposition's ideology, values, and policy platforms. This has proven a vote winner in key elections in the past - think Bill Clinton in 1992, following years of presidential domination by Reagan-Bush Republicans, or Tony Blair in 1997, following the total political superiority of the Conservative party from Margaret Thatcher's election in 1979. Closer to home, the 1983 election of Bob Hawke in Australia involved a decent measure of triangulation.

So why not triangulate in every election? These elections represented significant watershed moments that involved historic landslide victories and produced iconic governments. Not only that, but these elections represented a springboard-like departure from decades-long stints in opposition for parties of the Left.

But there is a dark side to triangulation. Not only is it a short-sighted strategy, it ultimately proves so corrosive that it is dangerous for any political party to embark upon. Writer George Monbiot goes as far to say that triangulation "like yeast in a barrel of beer, [...] generate[s] the toxic conditions that eventually kills [political parties that employ it]".

Howso? Well, in pursuing triangulation, a political party sheds its traditional values and becomes a pale imitation of the vision they were attempting to provide an alternative to.

Can electoral politics fix our broken drug policy?

Ellie Stephenson analyses the landscape of drug policies in the context of the Federal Election.

Drug use is a fairly routine activity for many young people. It's a casual thought — the stuff of a night out, or a gig, or an overdue assignment. The stigma attached to illicit drugs has faded substantially, at least for the kinds of drug use most commonly engaged in by middle and upper class university students. Drugs are a ubiquitous cultural reference, an easy joke. Those of us who do not use drugs are increasingly likely to approach them with a sense of acceptance. In this context, it feels pretty incongruous that the wider socio-political approach to drugs remains hostile, punitive and counterproductive.

Young people are not unfamiliar with the sense that national politics is out of step with our interests. The disillusionment with mainstream climate policy is a clear example of where young people's attitude for change clearly outpaces our political elders. Yet the dissonance does raise the question: what would it take to make progressive drug policy an election issue?

To answer this, we need to take a look at the parties' drug policy at present.

The Liberal Party's record on drug policy is, reliably, cooked. Their policy platform's only mention of drugs is in the context of having "sent drug offenders packing" by refusing their visas. Their history on the issue is intensely punitive, having several times tried to mandate random drug testing for welfare recipients. Their rhetoric on the issue is reliably condemnatory, emotive, and centres law enforcement as the natural solution to drug issues.

The Labor Party's national platform treats the issue better, framing it as a health

Short term electoral gains may be made at the expense of governments that have worn out their welcome — if these governments continue to be ineffectual in opposition, as the Liberal Party so often was in the Hawke-Keating years, these gains may be sustained for some time.

But ultimately, triangulation condemns any political party that attempts it to a disastrous decline not in the ever-ephemeral and sought after swing voters, but in the core of their base. In order to understand this, we have to remember that what really matters in politics is not policy, but values and narratives. Elections may ultimately be decided by swing voters, but this modus operandi is only enabled by the fact that a majority of the voting public are rusted on to voting patterns they have maintained for as long as a lifetime, if not generations.

Intrinsic to this loyalty are the values of political parties and the narratives that they construct. Triangulation throws the old values and narratives out the window, replacing them with a watered-down, "pick me" version of the status quo maintained by their opposition, usually an ageing conservative government. Whilst triangulation may win landslide elections by recruiting traditional voters from the other side who are sick of as many as two decades of stale government, it ultimately alienates the traditional core of a political party. They no longer see their values reflected in the party they have always voted for.

This is a far more dangerous and far longer-term voting dynamic than swing voters. It played out quite clearly in the 2019 Australian election. One of the key problems

issue and supporting "harm minimisation principles" and better funding for health services. At a state level, Labor governments have been key (although inconsistent) supporters of medically supervised injection rooms, despite conservative opposition. In the ACT, the Labor Party proposed the Territory's cannabis decriminalisation legislation. Nonetheless, it is clearly not a focus of the party, nor do they support more radical measures that would truly end the war on drugs and provide agency to users.

The Greens have a distinctly more drug-friendly approach: their platform openly supports decriminalisation and harm minimisation, and Greens politicians have been vocal public supporters of ending drug policing.

David Shoebridge, former NSW Greens MP and current Senate candidate, founded Sniff Off in 2011 to oppose the use of drug dogs by police. He expressed frustration with the major parties' approach to drug use, telling Honi, "Compassion and common sense are lacking in the major parties' responses to drug use. Criminalising drug use harms drug users and empowers organised crime, everybody knows this, but the Coalition and Labor are addicted to law and order politics."

If the conventional responses to drug issues are broken, can we expect electoral politics to fix them?

Public attitudes towards drug use are clearly shifting fast. Support for the legalisation of cannabis has doubled in Australia since 2013. Decriminalisation is even supported by the Uniting Church, although it's admittedly a very progressive

highlighted in Labor's 2019 campaign was a perception that the party was caught between two bases - the so-called "inner-city" types, who generally clamour for decisive climate action, and more regional, traditionally blue-collar voters, who allegedly are more apprehensive. The ALP attempted to hedge their bets, defending the export of some types of coal and failing to rule out new coal projects. This failed to woo regional voters - a misperception that Labor was joined at the hip with the Greens was a factor in torpedoing the Party's chances in the regional electorates that they aimed to win, particularly in Queensland. All the while, climate-conscious Labor voters continued to be alienated by a party who were seemingly ill-equipped to tackle global warming. In this case triangulatory policies not only hurt Labor's long term prospects, but actually failed to secure even a victory in the short term.

However, the ALP's conclusions were troubling. Instead of recognising the need for a coherent set of progressive values and visionary narratives, the report advocated that the Labor Party cease any "divisive rhetoric, including references to 'the big end of town' [...] [and focus on] drawing upon and expanding on its past economic reforms". Regardless of outcomes of Hawke-Keating neoliberalisation, a continuation of economic policy that attempts to mirror what is apparently the ideology of the LNP will not win votes.

Instead, it involves the dilution of Labor values, the caving-in of the Labor narrative, and ultimately the alienation of core supporters, both in apparently safe city

religious institution.

Shoebridge suggested that demographic changes will likely feed into change on drug policy, arguing "as the Tik-Tok and Instagram generation starts voting and taking political power from 2GB listeners the tide will turn even more sharply."

Cursory consultation with my peers (read: Instagram mutuals) suggested there is indeed an appetite for change. Several people told me that drug policy was a main concern in assessing parties' policy platforms, with key demands being pill testing and decriminalisation.

One student told me "It's more the vibe the candidate gives on drug policy that matters to me. I'm more inclined to vote for a party that has laws involving rehabilitative politics for drug use, but I feel like that's mostly because a party that has that kind of drug policy will have other economic/social policies that I agree with."

Funnily enough, the Young Liberals I spoke to (anonymous for obvious reasons) told me they disagreed with their party on drug issues.

But is this popular support sufficient to change parties' tracks on drug policy?

One anonymous (for obvious reasons) source suggested to me that, despite the Liberals lagging behind on the issue, there has been some gradual progress. Notably, Parliamentary Committee 6 in the NSW Legislative Council has referred a Bill exempting THC from roadside drug testing, which "will very likely pass [the Legislative Council] as long as the ALP supports it."

seats (where the Greens are gaining ground), and the regional seats that the Party is more worried about (where voters are perhaps more likely to switch to less progressive alternatives).

A better alternative to triangulation involves longer term vision: a more appropriate strategy, as raised by Monbiot, would be to articulate core principles around which coherent narratives can be formed.

Rather than attempting to mirror the government, opposition parties should advertise their status as a viable alternative with a genuinely different vision. Only this can prevent the rot visible in most democracies around the globe and begin to end the social democratic crisis.

Fortunately, there has been some improvement: the ALP platform for the upcoming election involves genuine differentiation on a number of key issues, including a federal ICAC, education, aged care, health, and the environment. However, there remains in play small-target, triangulation adjacent strategies - such as an inhumane refugee policy or the dumping of franking credit reform. That may well be enough to win this election against a decade old, scandal-ridden Coalition government but whether such strategies will remain an obstacle to party longevity and relevance is yet to be seen.

But one thing is for sure: any party that engages in triangulation is condemning itself to a long, painful decline into perpetual opposition.

The same source suggested that MPs privately expressed to them that "should a cannabis decrim bill get presented, ... it could have the potential [of] passing on a conscience vote."

Perhaps then, as public opinion evolves, the reforms will pick up pace.

One clear barrier to change is that — faced with a host of policy issues ranging from climate

change to cost of living — voters' preferences on drug issues fall by the wayside. It's ultimately a relatively marginal issue. Additionally, with the bulk of direct drug policy occurring at a state level, although a bold national platform can impact the direction of drug policy, reforms are unlikely to be simple and nationwide.

Shoebridge was clear that "even with a surge in support for politicians who understand the evidence for drug law reform, these policies will only be won with a powerful on the ground campaign."

On the ground campaigns are undoubtedly vital. The fundamental flaw of the drug war is that it wilfully ignores the actual realities of drug use — it refuses to admit that drugs are fun, that people have strategies to minimise harm, and that there are structural issues that create drug abuse. These are all lessons that simply including drug users in policy processes can provide; ultimately, top-down policy from political parties will never be sufficient without providing actual drug users with the right to self-determination.

'Buildings were lost, our school wasn't': Education in a changing climate

Tiger Perkins explores how schools in disaster-affected communities have managed challenging circumstances.

The Lismore floods have devastated the entire community, with their impacts extending not just to every individual but also to the institutions at the heart of the Lismore community. One such institution is the Living School, a not-for-profit, progressive, independent school established in 2020. Earlier this year the school was completely flooded, with harrowing images on their website showing the second storey of the school poking its head above a sea of water.

The school's small campus was originally intended to push students out into the community as part of their philosophical approach to community-based learning. Even before the floods, classes were held at the nearby TAFE, in the library, in galleries and on a houseboat, purpose-bought to float maths and science students down the river as they learned. However, with the campus rendered unusable by water damage, they were forced to relocate first to the Lennox Head Rugby Clubhouse, then to the nearby farm of Principal John Stewart, before finally settling on the grounds of the Southern Cross University Campus.

The floods have forced the school and its community to conduct a conceptual reassessment of what school and community mean. Jonny Wouters, a teacher at the Living

School noted that, "assumptions I had made about life that I thought were stable were suddenly washed away and I had to regain a sense of the landscape because the landscape was different internally and externally." Another teacher, Ant Lewry, reflected on the isolating experience of his home going underwater, "I was on my own. I couldn't reach anybody. I had never experienced anything like this before. I had never been more scared than in those moments, on that day, in those hours. I had never felt more alone. The fear that I felt then, as someone who has experienced a fair bit of trauma in my life - nothing compared to that day." With characteristically inadequate support from the government, the community supported itself, "It felt like the most obvious and only thing to do - be there for one another". Jonny described the experience of teachers forced to appropriate the role of SES workers and rescue their neighbours and friends, as he did for Ant. "Our dear friend who lives up the road, we went to go get him - on a kayak - as the road wasn't drivable. His terrified face along with all of the terrified faces we passed. We kept each other sane."

Unbelievably, alongside these accounts, is the story that the school, not as a campus but as a place of learning, was only closed for five days. Moving between their various

classrooms in the Rugby Club, on the farm and at the University over the subsequent weeks, it becomes clear that a school is not just the building that springs to mind when we hear the word. Rather, it is a concept. It is a spirit, a philosophy and an environment, an idea that is perhaps more acutely felt in communities such as Lismore.

Sandringham Primary School 15km outside of Melbourne, which was largely destroyed by a fire in early 2020, reflects a similar approach to learning and community. Principal Lousie Neave noted that "In our communication with families we were mindful to refrain from saying 'our school is lost' or 'we need to rebuild our school', because a school is more than buildings. School is community and people, it's familiar faces, classmates and amazing teachers. And we didn't lose that. Buildings were lost, our school wasn't."

An understanding has emerged from these two communities of what schools are. Ant notes he is "not grateful for the pain but for the growth and for the love and connection that has come from it." Ultimately, although inspiring, these communities should not be forced to rely upon themselves in such ways. With tokenistic emissions reductions targets, our government denies the science and existence of climate change that contributes

to extreme events such as the Lismore floods. It then fails to provide adequate support and relief, perhaps most appallingly encapsulated by MP Peter Dutton's GoFundMe for flood victims in his electorate of Dickson. Matthew Wade, writer for The Conversation, decried such a passing around of the hat suggesting that, "For many, Dutton's campaign reflected a wider lack of planning and urgency to mitigate extreme weather events, but it also reveals the everyday normalisation of crowdfunding. What does it say about the role of government, the reciprocal duties of citizens, and how we can best support each other in difficult times, when no less than the federal defence minister turns to crowdfunding?"

Continually asking communities to show resilience is "not ok for anybody. It's not good modelling. It's hurtful...I think we are sometimes expected to be resilient in an unhealthy way," says Ant. While the floods have forced positive reconceptualisations and understandings of learning, community and support, we must stop hoping that people are resilient and start planning for a future fraught with climate disasters.

The case for colourful cities

Nicholas Osiowy explores how schools in disaster-affected communities have managed challenging circumstances.

The city is probably the single greatest expression of humanity in existence. It has been the beginning and end of civilisations, the shelter of scientists and artists. When aliens attack, we imagine their ships poised over our grandest capitals. But there has been a change. For nearly a century, the West has gradually succumbed to the greyscale, building cities of cookie-cutter concrete and painting our architectural heritage black.

"The evening is spread out against the sky like a patient etherised upon a table," TS Eliot bemoaned in his inert persona of Prufrock.

"The colourful loveliness of a summer's day"

His simile seems less tired now. Just replace 'etherised' with 'sanitised.' Bushfires, pandemic, war, and climate catastrophe. These are enough to make anyone look at a city with gloom. But to add the tranquiliser of our own urban failure, our paralysis of design, creativity, vibrancy and diversity; this can only make it worse.

The case for colourful cities begins with aesthetics. The modernist aspirations behind the greyscale were certainly admirable. After a century of ornamentation, it promised to reinvigorate cities, to make them clean, planned, ideal, and new. Yet few could object that when done ad nauseam, like anything else, it feels less clean and more empty; less planned and more systematised. One monochrome house is interesting; a row of them is a wall.

This is not to say that the greyscale has no place, but it must be one colour among many. We naturally find our sense of beauty in nature. Since living among trees doesn't support our lifestyle, the only solution is to mimic the natural world in our cities. The push by many councils towards increasing

canopy coverage is one factor, but just as nature is incomplete without flowers, so too is a city without colours.

There is science behind this too. A 2018 study by QUT researcher Sofie Pringle identified colour as being closely associated with individuals' perceived happiness in a city. Meanwhile, a different study from Canada's University of Waterloo identified that "spaces with a colourful, community-driven urban intervention were associated with higher levels of happiness, trust, stewardship and attraction to the sites."

This points to a particularly relevant concern for Australia's cities; colour's relationship with urban diversity and culture. There are few places where the phenomenon of greyscale has been more prevalent, or more destructive, than in the gentrification of Australia's inner-cities. When the phenomenon began in the late 1990s, it promised the preservation of our architectural heritage. Frightened by the memory of uber-modernist architect Harry Seidler, we were all too happy to see the inner-city cleaner and safer.

What we did not understand was that these words represented destruction, not rejuvenation. They represented displacement; of the poor, the working class, artists, minorities, and First Nations people. The greyscale became more than fashion; applying it marked its owner a member of this nouveau-gentry — and eventually, its omission marked one as being other. The colour of the inner-city had not simply been a cultural quirk. It represented the presence of a genuine urban village, and all the richness and vibrancy that comes with it.

In her book, The Life and Death of Great American Cities (1961), urbanist Jane Jacobs underlines this tendency towards "supposedly cosy, inward-turned city neighbourhoods," and emphasises that in cities, where many people do not know one another, this effort can be disastrous. Though it may be convenient to plan a city by parcelling it up into districts, one

for the rich, poor, black, or white, this only ruins the city's capacity to use its greatest asset; throwing its inhabitants together unpredictably. In Australia, our unique tragedy has been that our inner-cities once supported such spaces; intimate, warm and full of potential, now lost to the memory of films like Gillian Armstrong's The Last Days of Chez Nous. This plan, descended from the modernists, has offered only the opportunity to commodify, decolour, and ultimately disintegrate our cities.

monument. Now only the occasional unpleasantness of its former presence breaks the students' commute. And down Eaveleigh Street, where children once played soccer in front of the Aboriginal flag, the last Victorian terraces have been painted grey.

Undeniably, this Great Greying marks a choice for us. To continue, to submit to this alienating force to push us apart and under. Or to agitate and build a city worthy of humanity's splendid diversity that we might compare to the colourful loveliness of a summer's day.

There are a host of examples here in Sydney, culminating in the housing tragedy of The Block. Once a colourful and vibrant centre for First Nations People, it marked Redfern as perhaps the last case of genuine urban diversity in Sydney, where beau monde, bo-ho, and bogan mixed with students and the oldest First Nations settlement in Australia. Eventually destroyed in 2019, its replacement stands as a concrete



DUTY OF CARE: CULTIVATING A COURT FOR OUR CLIMATE

Zara Zadro on the proper response to *Sharma v Minister for the Environment*, and climate litigation as a tool for justice.

In early March of this year, the full bench of the Federal Court unanimously ruled that Australia’s Minister for the Environment, Sussan Ley, did not have a duty of care to protect young people from the harms of climate change. The decision quashed the landmark victory of eight highschool students that established this duty in May last year, specifically with regards to Ley’s approval of the Vickery coal mine extension in NSW.

The novel duty of care was a mammoth achievement for the climate movement, despite the extension going ahead. It was the first time climate science was accepted uncontested in the Federal Court in a case concerning a particular class of individuals (young people under 18). In Ley’s appeal of the duty, Chief Justice Allsop accepted that “by and large, the nature of the risks and the dangers from global warming, including the possible catastrophe that may engulf the world and humanity, was not in dispute.”

With this in mind, the sweeping success of Ley’s appeal *should* have sounded alarm bells throughout our nation.

Instead, over a month on, and with a federal election looming, it has slipped off the agendas of news outlets and policy makers. It has deftly undercut Australia’s rich history of climate litigation, which stretches back two decades, and contains the second largest number of cases globally.

But Anjali Sharma, the seventeen-year-old lead plaintiff of the *Sharma v Minister for the Environment* case, is still fired up.

“I just find it so abhorrent that the Australian government could use taxpayer money to take eight children to court. And then, the fact that the ruling was in favour of them just makes me so angry,” she tells me on a balmy day in mid-April.

Sharma says that witnessing India, the country where she was born and her family is from, be “constantly battered by natural disaster” is what pushed her to join the climate movement through School Strike 4 Climate. She and the seven other plaintiffs were connected to the case online through the organisation, when Varsha Yajman, a University of Sydney climate activist and paralegal for the law firm involved, posted a callout for participants back in 2020.

As a non-law student, the grounds on which Ley’s appeal could have succeeded completely mystified me. It stands to reason that the proper role, indeed the only role, of the individual paid to be responsible for our land, skies, seas, and the elaborate ecosystems they support, should be one entrenched in the protection and restoration of the environment itself. Further, it should be a role that centralises Australia’s Indigenous people and their practices of land management in policy-making. The Minister for the Environment ought to vouch for all of us, but particularly those most vulnerable to climate change, in the halls of parliament.

Yet despite the UN recognising that the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a *human* right last year, Sussan Ley and our judiciary clearly do not.

“It was the first time climate science was accepted uncontested by the Federal Court in a case concerning a particular class of people.”

“More than a tool to protect the environment, the law is the tool that facilitates the destruction of the environment, and the disempowerment of communities everywhere,” says Sue Higginson, a public interest environmental lawyer with over three decades of experience fighting environmental destruction.

Higginson was a frontline forest activist in the ‘90s, and has been involved in some of the highest-profile climate litigation in the country, such as the watershed 2018 Rocky Hill decision that refused consent to a proposed coal mine in Gloucester, NSW.

“I can tell you hand on heart: I am a marginalised lawyer... I know that I am presenting what is considered, and shouldn’t be, the marginalised views of how the law should work, does work, or should be effective.

“On one hand, as a lawyer, absolutely she [Sussan Ley] has the right and the technical avenue to appeal. But what is it, when we talk about the technicalities, the legal system, and our rights, compared to our obligations, our duties, and our moral compulsions?”

“I have to say that she shouldn’t have done it. She was wrong,” says Higginson.

Despite being the first case of its character, the treatment of scientific evidence by the courts in *Sharma* is consistent with that of the Rocky Hill decision, which relied heavily on scientific expert testimony in the final judgement to refuse the mine. So too did the Bushfire Survivors for Climate Activism’s case in 2020, successfully compelling the EPA to develop objectives and guidelines that would ensure the environment’s protection from extreme weather events worsened by climate change.

“The Minister for the Environment ought to vouch for all of us, but particularly those most vulnerable to climate change, in the halls of parliament.”

“They [the court] have certainly closed the door to the very important

notion that a Commonwealth Minister of the Crown has a duty of care above and beyond her statutory powers and obligations,” says Higginson. “I think that’s a tragedy, really.”

In April, the *Sharma* litigants and their representative, 88-year old Sister Marie Brigid Arthur, announced that they would not challenge Ley’s appeal. Yajman and Sharma both believe the case has run its course, and holds greater ‘symbolic value’ than they ever could have hoped for.

But I can only wonder: *where to now?*

The horrifying future we face if we stick to a ‘business-as-usual’ trajectory was highlighted in the scientific evidence presented to the court in the first instance. One million Australian children alive today are expected to suffer at least one heat-stress episode serious enough to require acute care in a hospital. Many thousands more will suffer premature death from either heat-stress or bushfire smoke. In our middle age, the Great Barrier Reef and eucalypt forests will likely cease to exist.

This evidence was not contested in Ley’s successful appeal.

And so I ask — as someone who, like many Australians, does not study law, but believes in climate justice as a moral imperative — how could last year’s duty of care ruling be so brutally struck down by the courts, in the face of ever-mounting pleas from climate scientists and intensifying extreme weather events? What of — as Higginson says — our duties, our obligations, our moral compulsions?

Surely these must be the centrepiece of our climate laws and legal judgments, if the law’s ultimate goal is guiding us to do what is right.

“What of — as Higginson says — our duties, our obligations, or moral compulsions?”

Reasoning behind the Sharma case

To answer these questions, we must start by looking at the reasoning behind the *Sharma* case. There are slight variations between the three judges for rescinding the Minister’s duty of care, but a few main points arise.

First of all, the litigant class (young people under 18) was deemed too vast and indefinite to determine the minister’s liability in the context of climate change-related harm. The court ruled that the students were not specifically vulnerable to the wide-reaching effects of climate change. “The Children are in the same position as everyone in the world who is or will be alive at the future times at which the harm is posited,” stated Allsop CJ in the judgement. This is despite the fact that most young people will live longer than adults in power right now, and thus be worse affected by any contribution to climate change harm made by them.

Additionally, the CO2 contribution of the Vickery mine extension project

to global temperature rise was found to be too “tiny” to be responsible for the “reasonably- foreseeable” harm of climate change. Allsop CJ noted: “the relevant concept of control [for the minister] is control over the harm [of climate change], not control over the tiny increase in the risk.”

Further, the court did not find that Ley acted outside her statutory decision-making obligations as Minister for the Environment in approving the mine extension, inferred by the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999). This is the primary act in Australia for providing “a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places”.

The statutory purpose of the EPBC Act was held to be confined to protecting certain endangered species and land features at risk from the mine extension, not the interests and safety of humans in the environment impacted by fossil fuels, nor the sacred sites the project would impinge upon. Thus, the wording of the Act did not infer a relationship between the Minister and the Children that would facilitate a novel duty of care (nor a breach of that care).

Finally, and perhaps most pressing, the court found that the existence of such a duty of care in the first instance calls into question the proper policy response to climate change, a matter it deemed inappropriate for determination by the judicial system. Allsop CJ stated: “we all rely on an elected government to develop and implement wise policy ... That is not the foundation of the law of torts”.

The proper response to the Sharma case

The unanimous success of Ley’s appeal highlights that the common law is not adapting to modern environmental challenges fast enough, with climate change still viewed as a highly-politicised, fringe issue.

Despite the powerful precedent established by last year’s novel duty of care ruling, Sharma laments “the fact that a legal technicality can outweigh the moral argument and imperative to act on climate change.”

Climate litigation targeted at more specific scenarios could see greater success. In his *Sharma* judgement, Justice Beach J noted that “conventional duties of care are usually concerned with a finite set of physical consequences flowing from an act or omission.”

He cited the upcoming *Pabai Pabai v Commonwealth* case in the Federal Court, brought by two Torres Strait native title holders. It will seek to establish a much narrower and direct duty of care. Importantly, it argues that reasonably-foreseeable damage to the Torres Strait’s marine environment has already occurred, a key distinguishing factor from *Sharma*.

But the very nature and difficulty of climate change is that it’s not caused by a singular, temporally-fixed, ‘tiny’ action. It is not one symptom of aggravation, or

even a cluster, but a diagnosis of planetary malaise engendered by multiple generations of humans. We cannot file a negligence claim against Sussan Ley, or anyone for that matter, once the apocalypse has already happened.

“When the entire world is reduced to rubble because of climate change, you’re not going to point at the Vickery extension project and say ‘that was the one’, but what are you going to point at then?” states Sharma. “You can’t just wait for that one mine to come along where you’re like, ‘oh yeah, maybe this is the one that will actually finally kill us.’”

“We cannot file a negligence claim against Sussan Ley, or anyone for that matter, once the apocalypse has already happened.”

In the judgement, Beach J emphasised the need for the High Court to “engineer new seed varieties for sustainable duties of care, modifying concepts such as ‘sufficient closeness and directness’ and indeterminacy to address the accelerating complexity, multiple links and cross-links of causal relations.”

He notes that: “such concepts in their present form may have reached their shelf life, particularly where one is dealing with acts or omissions that have wide-scale consequences that transcend confined temporal boundaries and geographic ranges, and where more than direct mechanistic causal pathways are involved.”

The *Sharma* ruling means we must argue harder now for legislative reform that includes specific duties and responsibilities for ministerial roles to the public.

“Parliaments make laws, and courts interpret and deliver the laws,” says Higginson. “There is now a compelling case to go back and draft the laws, particularly the EPBC, to amend that Act immediately and impose duties on the minister that when she’s exercising her power, she has to take into account the fact that young people are owed a duty of care.”

The EPBC Act gives the Minister power to approve coal projects, even if they’ll have harmful effects. A 2020 independent review into the Act found that it “is ineffective and not fit for current or future environmental challenges, and reform is long overdue”; “does not facilitate maintenance or restoration of the environment”, and “has failed to fulfil its objectives as they relate to the role of Indigenous Australians.”

Overall, the Act’s 1121 pages uphold the deeply colonial, Anthropocentric belief that buttresses our entire system; that the fate of humans and the environment are not utterly intertwined — indeed that humans are not themselves part of the natural world — but divided along lines of ‘civilised’ and ‘natural’;

‘human’ and ‘non-human’, where the latter is of secondary importance.

“We could do that really simply [reform the Act], and it would prove that our democracy is functioning, mature, and capable of responding to the greatest challenges of our time,” says Higginson. “But no, we’ve got a... ridiculous, recalcitrant government that doesn’t know how to function as the arm of the institution of democracy within the broader democratic framework, and that is our predicament.”

Additionally, the lack of representation for those most vulnerable to the harms of climate change in our courts and government is one of the largest systemic issues preventing structural change. Yajman says this particularly includes young people, people of colour, and Indigenous people.

Simultaneously, the onus should not be on any minority to raise massive amounts of money in order to walk into court and demand basic human rights.

“Realistically, we have Members of Parliament who are getting paid by the public pools to do this work every day,” says Higginson. “They have staff who are onboarded to do this. We have an entire parliamentary liaison council that drafts legislation. It’s built to do this work.”

Ultimately, the biggest hindrance of cases like *Sharma* is the separation between government powers and tort law issues, particularly given the court’s

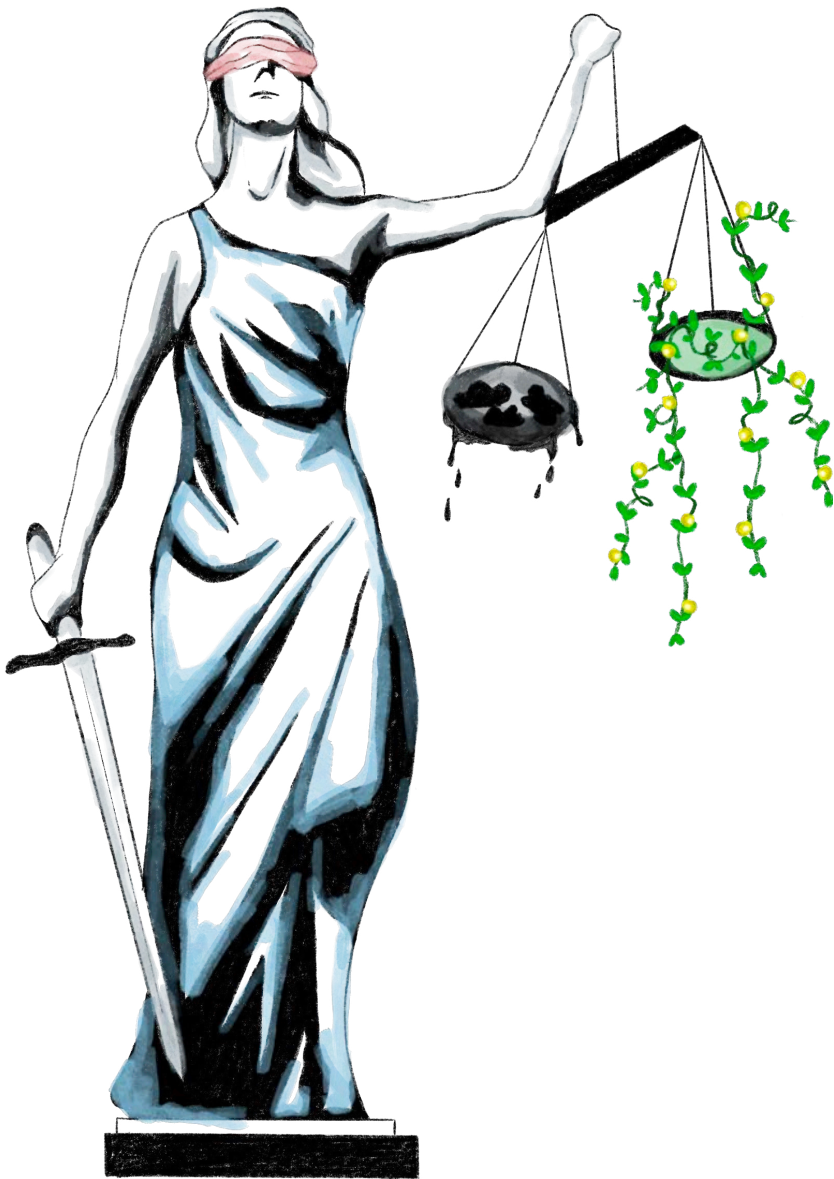
acceptance of climate science, and Beach J’s comment that current legislative concepts “may have reached their shelf life.”

“You can’t just wait for that one mine to come along where you’re like, ‘oh yeah, maybe this is the one that will actually finally kill us.’”

Of course, climate litigation is just one arm of the fight for climate justice; activist organising, civil disobedience, community education, and a strong media backing will all also contribute to the movement’s success.

But the individuals calling the shots are ultimately those in the seats of parliament. Going into this federal election, we must carefully consider which government will facilitate a constructive response to watershed cases like Sharma, in order to shake Australia’s climate policy out of its coal-laden stupor, and confront the greatest challenge of our time. And to me, first and foremost, this means that we must not forget our outrage.

The *Sharma* case may indeed have run its course, but it cannot end here.



ART BY AMELIA KOEN

FAREWELLING FRANKIE'S: BETWEEN ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

Elizabeth Pike and Christian Holman share a slice of Sydney.

It's Thursday, early afternoon. A bar feigning as a pizza shop turns on its neon sign and 'Frankie's Pizza' lights up the CBD. Seccies stand and chat at the door, faces aglow with red fluorescence. Outside the enclave of peeling posters and red carpet, commuters drip past, pushed on by the autumn downpour and promises of a hinted post-work pub endeavour.

It's just another day of business as usual, but it might be one of the last. Frankie's is set to be demolished this year to make way for the NSW Government's Sydney Metro Station. The plan, valued at \$26.6 billion and counting, will involve the underground destruction of Hunter Street and, with it, the bar that made a mundane city project the subject of widespread public bereavement.

After all, this ending feels unfairly premature. When word of the bar's impending closure went public last year, the outpouring of protest that followed felt justified. In just ten years of service, Frankie's has death-circled, crowd-surfed, and stage-climbed its way to becoming a landmark on Sydney's nightlife scene. From the New York pizza slices to the evolving line-up of craft beers, or simply the penchant for all things loud, rock, rogue, and unpretentious, Frankie's has built a reputation for itself that feels decades old, with a unique brand of notoriety unrivalled by the most iconic dives in the city. Clearly, its closure will come too soon.

“In just ten years of service, Frankie’s has death-circled, crowd-surfed, and stage-climbed its way to becoming a landmark on Sydney’s nightlife scene.”

Yet for all the doom and gloom on a dreary Thursday, the bar staff aren't wearing black because they're in mourning. Characters quietly move around, rolling kegs across the floor, and fixing fallen fairy lights. In the daytime you can see even more expletives on the wall, if it were possible, and the staff disappear in and out of doors plastered with graffitied band posters. There's no sadness, only work to do and another big night to prepare for.

Jordan, we're told, is the guy to speak to. He pulls a round of beer, shakes off the rain from running to re-park his car and settles into a round booth, someone lights a candle. "No one's really feeling it's a sinking ship. It's more like a pride thing, riding it out to the end." Jordan's seen the most of Frankie's colourful ten years. Questions of favourite nights or music acts quickly merge into 'eras,' defined first by the intoxicating days of the opening years, followed by a steady maturity, then COVID, and now a return to "that weird, surreal, drunk place" of yesteryear.

As owner, Jordan gives the final say on all the urban myths we ask him to validate. Yes, the Foo Fighters did take over the 'secret' speakeasy bathroom. No, David Grohl was only pouring Don Julio shots for people who happened to wander in there. And the bar's origin story? "The entire concept was for it to feel lived in...something a little more romantic than the fact that it was just a total shithole."



Legend has it that 'Frankie' opens a family pizza joint, and when his nephew takes over he sets up a grunge bar in the back. The nostalgia is constructed, only partly. The posters are twenty layers deep, all plastered up when the bar opened in 2012. Yet there's no denying that Frankie's has become an unceremonious gallery of sorts. Every square inch has steadily been taken over by the public, featuring an ever-changing collection of graphic poetry, drunk advice, crude cartoons, and the occasional 'was here' – for now.

Bar manager Em points to the walls behind the booth: "I've definitely written some pretty explicit things up on these walls," she smiles, without going into any more detail.

What she is happy to talk about are the people: "You get the suits and the students, the queers, the freaks, the hippies. Metalheads and crust punks. Yeah, there's not many places that are such a melting pot." Clearly, the bar seems ripe for culture clash. Yet Em insists that beneath the tough exterior and all the tattoos, Frankie's has been a space for people "that don't really have a place in the world."

It's a tough point to argue against. On any given day you'll find corporate types shoulder-to-shoulder with hardcore punks and diehard fans next to first-timers that have no clue who the band is. "It's an island of misfit toys," explains Callum, a bartender keen to take photos with the wax man behind the bar, sunnies perched between melted eyes. "I don't even fucking know you guys but I'm sure you can feel this. I've never gone somewhere and been like, 'Oh, I feel comfortable' straight away."

This acceptance of anyone (and anything) makes events like Freak Flag possible. "That was a fucking hit man," laughs James, resident barback turned bartender and decided 'character' according to the staff. "It's kind of like a celebration of alternative culture, a lot of weird things," he treads cautiously, mindful to give a reasonably printable description of the event that happens once every month on an unspecified Sunday.



Another round of watermelon beer and the early crowd wanders in. It's an assortment of backpacks, piercings, collared shirts and unruly, shoulder-length hair. Between more unmentionable stories about Freak Flag, which everyone provides plenty of, the lights dim and the music becomes characteristically loud. Everyone's welcome, and according to Callum there are only two rules: "Just drink what you like and listen to what you like, it's simple."

That 'simplicity' will be hard to recapture when the bar closes this year, if government plans go ahead. Jordan



describes their Hunter Street site as a "rare fucking beast," thanks to its 24-hour license, coveted underground set-up, and capacity for large crowds, "I'm not positive it would translate to another space, but if an appropriate space did pop up, we'd leap all over it."

“Everyone huddled around in a big circle... Then it was like, alright, we’ve really got to make this count.”

News about final dates are also unclear, thanks to unsurprising delays in city scheduling. Jordan's eyes wander around the room. "I'd love to know when it was going to end so we could plan for it...You know, bring back Prince from the dead." For now the bar is staying open beyond its initial demolition date, previously set for mid-2022. There are plenty of uncertainties, but the staff are optimistic.

Em talks bittersweetly about when the news broke out, becoming unusually reverent. "Everyone came together and had this little crew meeting, and everyone huddled around in a big circle... Then it was like, alright, we've really got to make this count." As conversation turns from the past to the future, it becomes clear that for the staff, there is a lot more to lose than just work.

"I am a little bit upset that my kid won't see it," Jordan says, "I was really looking forward to her growing up and knowing this was her bar or whatever, but it won't be."

For James, Frankie's closure will signal the end of an important chapter. He met his girlfriend and band members here, played their first gig on the hallowed Frankie's stage, and got to feature with the long-admired house band. Callum started off as a regular too until an old manager promised him a job. "He said you seem like you make a fuck ton of money, but you hate what you do...if you're that unhappy quit your job and I'll make it work." Three years later, he shows us around the secret speakeasy, recounting the "exact moment when [each staff member] helped and changed me personally. And I couldn't repay them for it."

It's hard not to feel a little heartbreak, wondering what kind of chapter will close when the boards go up.

Yet if you wandered in from the street, lured by the glowing red pizza sign, you wouldn't even know that Frankie's is halfway to memory. One dollar pizza slices for happy hour, a jam-packed setlist for the months ahead, and by the sounds of things, a legendary send-off for when the curtain finally closes.

Before the night kicks off, we ask Em to give us her eulogy for Frankie's. She doesn't disappoint.

"I guess it inspired and shaped a lot of people and not many venues do that. Not many venues have a true cultural impact aside from being cool places to just hang out. They don't inspire the scene." Em smiles at a poster somewhere across the bar.

"If you were there you were there...It was a place in time, and you really just had to experience it."

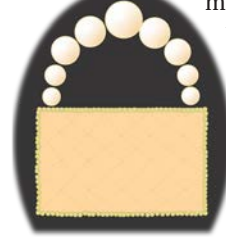


Oh, how you contort me: Regencycore and the corset question

Misbah Ansari laces up.

Amidst the increasing, repetitive attempo of a quadrille, the twirling of muslin, taffeta and satin gown hems catch us swooningly. In the swishing steps of bodies moving fluidly to the ball music renditions by Kris Bowers and Vitamin String Quartet, the dancing bodies hold an element of corset stiffness. The Regency Era (around 1810-1837) is attracting contemporary appeal owing to the dilemmatic, deeply adorned romantic tropes combined with the elegant high society fashion described by Jane Austen, Julia Quinn (of *Bridgerton* fame), Maria Edgeworth and Susan Ferrier. 2022 has seen the appeal of regency aesthetics, popularly called 'Regencycore', skyrocket due to the raging popularity of the period drama *Bridgerton* and the trickle-down effect of other aesthetics like cottagecore, princesscore, fairycore, and grandmacore.

While the boundaries of these trends are blurry due to their shared intrinsic romanticisation of a rural past free from machines and modern tackiness, the corsets remain emblematic of the Regency Era fashion. Corsets or stays, female undergarments made of whalebone, were usually used to maintain a tiny waist for women and accentuate their tight-waisted dresses. A fashionable item



that continued till the mid-20th century, the impact of corsets on women's bodies has been a matter of historical and sociological thought.



The everlasting fandom of Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and *Emma* has embraced Quinn's *Bridgerton*, as period drama fans recreate the iconic styles with a moreish ardour for the looks. Despite the raging romanticisation, *Bridgerton* shows the inconvenient and constraining nature of the corsets in a growing woman's life. An obvious example that comes to mind occurs in season one, when one of the Featherington ladies attempts to reduce her waist to the optimal size of "an orange and a half". Similarly, the debilitating effects of a corset are shown on season one protagonist Daphne Bridgerton's bruised back when she stands romantically yearning after a night-long social ball in Season 1 Episode 1.

Corsets have long been criticised for deforming the spine, displacing intestines, and causing asphyxiation and blood clots. In addition to the garters, stockings, pearl accessories and gloves, corsets, worn as outerwear rather than innerwear, have become the new fashion today, often made of flexible cotton

and synthetic materials. Despite these shifts, all the symbolism and the physical significance attached to this clothing, the bioarchaeology — the study of human remnants through archaeological knowhows — of corsets that wear bodies, remain at the heart of changing fashions.

Rebecca Gibson, a professor of anthropology specialising in corsets and skeletal biology, studied museum exhibits of corset-impacted skeletons to ponder upon the relationship between the viewer and the wearer of corsets. Gibson's broader works explain the technicalities of corsets over their changing styles, however, its health aspects are not the focus here. What is it about the peculiarity of corsets that makes them so easily accepted by the modern, comfort-driven clothing market?

"The new corsetry was a counter-rebellion" with newly defined forms of femininity, says Gibson. Regencycore's love for corsets comes not sheerly from the sultry, fashionable high cut stays enhancing one's bosoms, but due to the neutral, non-agentive of the corset as the softer materials make the corsets unable to mould a woman's body. The in-between nature of modern stays carries the glorious remnants of the regency fashion trope, but for women who visit the world of their fandom for a limited time. All the same, the image of a corset is still sculptural, modified and one that non-hysterical women wore in the past. The ignominy of female hysteria further



ART BY KRITIKA RATHORE

Rage and Repair: Poetry on the 2022 Stella Lineup

Grace Roodenrys peruses Evelyn Araluen and Eunice Andrada's illuminating poetry collections.

When called to explain the value of poetry, it's easy to assume a defensive stance. "Ever since poets were banished from Plato's republic," writes poet and critic Sarah Holland-Batt, "poets have been playing defence, writing manifestos about how poetry alone can reveal universal truths, transform the imagination and grapple with the sublime."

It's true that lovers of poetry can see ourselves as last defenders of the form, which god knows is an increasingly marginal one in our institutions and literary cultures. But I suspect it's risky to play the defence in this way, to argue a bigger space for poetry in Australia by making sweeping claims about what *poetry alone* can do. Better to look directly to the complex, formally inventive, and unashamedly political work being produced by our poets today – work that is both proving and reconfiguring our ideas about poetic forms's power.

Bundjalung poet and critic Evelyn Araluen's *Dropbear* (UQP 2020) taking out the 2022 Stella Prize last week is a brilliant testament to poetry's relevance to our moment, as is this collection itself, whose experiments in voice and form reckon with various interlocking forms of colonial violence. This is the first year poets have been eligible for the Stella, Australia's richest prize for women and non-binary authors, and Araluen is joined on the shortlist by Illongo poet Eunice Andrada's gorgeous second collection *Take Care* (Giramondo 2020).

Dropbear is unrelenting in interrogating what it means to be complicit in colonial violence, whose

regimes are always both material and discursive, real and symbolic. Much of the work engages directly with settler colonial literature and its continuing displacement of Aboriginal sovereignty. Poems such as 'Mrs Kookaburra Addresses the Natives' and 'Fern up Your Own Gully' riff off May Gibbs' *Snugglepot and Cuddlepie* or Bill Kroyer's *Fern Gully* to satirise what 'Playing in the Pastoral' coins "the settler move to innocence," the kitschy gumnut aesthetics by which settler culture has sought to paper over the anxieties of its presence on stolen land.

Araluen is fiercely intelligent as a critic of coloniality – *Dropbear* is clearly the result of years of thinking about colonial aesthetics – but she is also simply a brilliant poet, and one of my favourite things about *Dropbear* is how assuredly her address balances irony with seriousness, playfulness with genuine rage. 'Mrs Kookaburra Addresses the Natives' has fun ventriloquising the settler's move to innocence, "Humans! Please be kind/ to all Bush Creatures™/ and don't pull flowers up by the roots," but by the time we reach the poem's end the very real violence of this discursive regime is clear: "the wicked Banksia men" are "godless fiends" their language for land "a foul old word/ we don't say here."

Andrada is similarly invested in critiquing the real and symbolic violence of colonial modernity. Her poems recover and remember the bodies of women of colour lost to recorded history: wartime "comfort women" enslaved and raped in the Philippines, Filipino "diving girls" sent pearl hunting by the state. These invisible and disposable bodies are not only recovered from history, however,

as the 'care' of Andrada's title refers to contemporary structures of gendered labour by which women of colour are exploited under racial capitalism. Filipino women "comprise a third of all COVID fatalities in the US healthcare industry," we are reminded in 'Pipeline Polyptych,' their labour "export-ready," while poems like 'Subtle Asian Traits' and 'Vengeance Sequence' document the disproportionate sexual violence suffered by Filipino women in Australia and the US. But care, for Andrada, is also praxis, the habits of tenderness and relation by which women of colour find resistance in their daily lives, and these double-meanings frame the collection as it rages against colonial systems while gently restoring agency to the bodies they violate.

“One of my favourite things about Dropbear is how assuredly her address balances irony with seriousness, playfulness with genuine rage.”

Andrada has a particular talent for the language of embodiment, for evoking what Aracelis Grima calls, in the epigraph to the book's fourth section, "the kingdom of touching... [of] things." Time and time again the poems

goes deep into the bioarchaeological analysis of corsets as the skulls and waists of non-corseted bodies digressed from those of corseted bodies (hinting at fatness and mental instability).

Bioarchaeological understanding of corseted bodies contextualises the deep-rooted history of corsets in the way its contortions are seen in buried skeletons. The visceral nature of scrutinizing women's bruised, changed skeletons long after their death hints at the long-lived nature of corsets. It has become immortalised today – revived through fast fashion under the garb of regency fashion as people today wear it as an act of time travelling through past literary eras. The relationship of this clothing becomes difficult to grasp as ephemeral trends make clothing a matter of frivolity and fast fashion. The change in materials and use of corsets from an underwear to an outerwear creates important speculation about what the bodies will look like after the corsets of today. In frills, square quadrille formations, soft stays, and pearls of expressing the regency craze through screens, the future awaits digital archaeology to look at contemporary corseted bodies.

ART BY KRITIKA RATHORE

access the temporality of the body to counter state epistemologies that would render it variously invisible/inviolable depending on the 'I' to whom it belongs. In one of the collection's most beautiful poems, 'The Yield,' Andrada's speaker imagines the 170 sex workers enslaved as farm labourers in Manila in 1918 and "wonders about the small protests": "if they sang under their breath while they worked," "if they held hands, or prayed," if they "slashed open the mouths of green coconuts and drank the juice in croaking afternoons."

There are poems, too, about pleasure in these texts, about love and sex and beauty. But such privacies are never taken for granted, as privileges unavailable to some and only tenuously available to many. In *Take Care*'s titular poem, the speaker "lets [her]self rest" in "her temporary room," while Araluen's speaker in 'Bread' longs for an afternoon with a lover in "a city park uncompromised by state violence." But "it's only a matter of time for the bush the bar/ for every external to collapse into privacy," she reminds us, and always, somewhere, there is "a pipeline splitting sovereign soil." *Poetry alone* cannot do the work of undoing colony and capital; only political organising can do that. These collections are as sensitive to the limits of language as any work I've read. In Andrada's 'Etymology of Care,' the speaker watches "strangers walk to their lovers" at her window, or "reach[ing] up/ for the ivory bloom/ in [her] neighbour's front yard." But "looming beyond the leaves/ are what we must destroy."

"Meet me with tenderness," she calls, "on the grass."

On beauty and on truth

There is a moment in Claire Keegan’s *Small Things Like These* (2022), where a father fills hot water bottles for his daughters. It is Christmastime in County Wexford, and it is snowing. Keegan writes of how Bill Furlong, the father, “pushes the air from each out in a rubbery little wheeze, before twisting the caps on tight.” He has just made their supper, “slabs of soda bread... which the girls buttered and spread with Marmite or lemon curd.” He is about to read their letters to the North Pole.

On the surface, *Small Things Like These* is a thing of beauty. Keegan tells Furlong’s story with an enchanting lilt, as he brings coal to the homes of his little town. The novel flows between tender family scenes, recollections of Furlong’s own childhood, and glimpses of the wintry Irish countryside. When Furlong’s daughter spots the “big, fat” Santa Claus at a street festival, and begins to cry, he assures her: “There’s no harm... ‘Tis just a man like myself, only in costume.” Thinking of Christmas as a young boy, Furlong remembers asking for a “jigsaw puzzle of a farm in five

hundred pieces,” only to receive a nail brush and a bar of soap. Amidst these moments, Keegan writes of the “long November winds... that stripped the trees bare,” and “yews and evergreens dusted in frost.” The book is a fairy tale, and Keegan’s prose entrances the reader.

Once the reader is entranced, Keegan then reveals the truth; this is where *Small Things Like These* shines. Beneath the magical façade of New Ross, Furlong discovers the hidden abuse that plagues his hometown. The novel, set in 1985, enters the genre of historical fiction, and deftly sheds light on Ireland’s Magdalen Laundries: institutions funded by the Irish State and the Catholic Church, where “fallen” women and their children were enslaved into forced labour. In a twentieth century Ireland, “fallen” was defined broadly — if a woman was “sexually promiscuous”, pregnant out of wedlock, mentally ill, or deemed a burden to her family, the Laundries were an appropriate solution. There, iron gates would keep her apart from society. Authoritarian nuns hurled verbal abuse at the “wayward” prisoners,

Emonn Murphy on Claire Keegan’s novel, *Small Things Like These* (2022).

and subjected them to intense physical toil. I am appalled as I read that the final Laundry closed in 1996.

In a recent interview, Keegan proposed that *Small Things Like These* wasn’t wholly “about” the Magdalen Laundries. Rather, the institution “overshadows the community Bill Furlong lives in. It’s his atmosphere. It’s the environment.” The beautiful telling of family connection, the “small” acts of kindness and caring, come first; the tragic revelation completes the novel.

As Keegan paints suffering, the beauty of her language is not lost. Where a girl at the Laundry begs him to take her home, Furlong shows his “open, empty hands”; the image quietly reveals the helplessness of Irish communities, dwarfed by the monolithic Church and State. In another scene, Furlong finds a young mother locked in a coal shed, and as he places his woollen coat over her shoulders, she tells him of the infant son she seldom sees. Keegan does not shy away from representing atrocities, but approaches them with emotional sensitivity.

There are those who will deride *Small Things Like These* as sentimental. I feel that it tells the truth with subtlety, and accurately portrays the family-oriented warmth of Celtic culture. Keegan avoids the melodrama that pervades Kenneth Branagh’s *Belfast* (2021), where Catholic suffering is shown in epic skirmishes, and love in grand gestures; similarly, she avoids the hyperrealism of Douglas Stuart’s *Shuggie Bain* (2020), where the social ills of Glaswegian society are detailed through graphic abuse and trauma. Keegan’s style in *Small Things Like These* is restrained, allowing the novel a delicate beauty that shimmers throughout.

Often, beautiful language can veil powerful meaning, touching the reader in a way that dry rhetoric cannot. Claire Keegan writes a tale as gorgeous as the snow-dusted evergreens of the little country town, and through this beauty, she uncovers what is real. As Keats noted, after all, beauty is truth, truth beauty.

Ellie Stephenson chortles.

bars are perennially relatable, the team’s obvious writing skill was at its best when they tackled less well-trodden material. A delightfully queer-coded sketch about the ubiquitous but deluded intimacy of exchanges of ‘babe’ between customer and server felt fresh and very funny.

Similarly, while energetically performed by the very talented Eilish Wilkinson, a musical number about voting for the Greens elicited smiles of recognition but could have been a little more cutting, given the context of a Federal Election. All the same, these are pedantic critiques — even the less novel sketches were executed to perfection.

Perhaps the overarching triumph of Womn’s Revue lay in the charisma of the cast, who were able to motivate continued audience engagement throughout the show. Georgia Lavercombe’s emotionally volatile personal trainer even managed

to entice two audience members to participate in an on-stage workout. An audio-visual sketch consisting of a terrifying USyd Love Letter directed at one hapless front-row viewer elicited cackles from the surrounding audience.

Best of all, Gladys and Ruth’s patisserie — a callback sketch featuring two oddly realistic old ladies running an innuendo-filled bakery played by Lara Newman and Izzy Donaghue — foisted cake boxes containing, allegedly, asymmetrical breasts and an uncut penis on sheepish onlookers. I found myself waiting eagerly for each new Gladys and Ruth appearance.

All up, Womn’s Revue’s indefatigable capacity to elicit giggles, chortles, and wry smiles shows that the tradition of fantastic autonomous comedy at USyd is alive and well.

Calvin Embleton reviews.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY CALVIN EMBLETON

‘PUT BACK OUR ARCHES’

LA LOTTA PER IL FORUM ITALIANO

Mae Milne scrive.

Vivace, dinamico e italiano.” Ecco gli aggettivi che vent’anni fa definivano meglio il Forum Italiano a Leichhardt. Nascosto su Norton St, il Forum è ispirato a una piazza italiana, ed era il cuore del quartiere italiano. Con logge, ristoranti e negozi italiani, sembrava veramente parte del Bel Paese.

Tuttavia, sin dalla sua concezione nel 1988, il Forum ha dovuto affrontare vari problemi. Sebbene la maggior parte del terreno del Forum fosse donato dal Premier di NSW, Neville Wran, la comunità italiana ha dovuto aspettare tre anni prima di trovare un developer adatto. Poi, quando il Forum è stato aperto nel 1999, certi membri della comunità italiana si lamentavano che l’edificio fosse troppo superficiale e che non rappresentasse la vera esperienza degli italo-australiani. Cosa faceva nel mezzo di Sydney una piazza toscana del XVI secolo?

Ciononostante, all’inizio il Forum ha raggiunto un grande successo commerciale. Con 22 negozi, 12 ristoranti, ed una grande piazza centrale, tutti ci venivano per immergersi nella cultura italiana. Poi, quando il sole tramontava, la piazza si riempiva di gente che visitava i ristoranti italiani e si godeva quest’atmosfera magica. Durante la settimana, ci venivano anche gruppi di scuola per imparare della migrazione italiana a Sydney. Il Forum era davvero un nesso bellissimo tra la cultura italiana e quella australiana.

Tuttavia, oggi giorno il Forum ha assunto un colore diverso. I negozi si sono svuotati, e sono stati sostituiti da uffici. I ristoranti hanno chiuso, il traffico perdonale è sempre basso e, per completare il tutto, recentemente (dopo tre anni di discussioni) hanno tolto gli archi del Forum, cambiando drasticamente la faccia dell’edificio e facendo arrabbiare sia residenti che negozianti.

Gli archi, li hanno tolti perché erano fatti di polistirolo, un materiale infiammabile. Però, ci dice Maria Saraceno, la fiera proprietaria del negozio “The Merchant of Venice”, sono stati tolti senza alcun piano di rimmetterli a posto, e adesso l’amministrazione vuole ammodernare l’edificio.

“Si renderebbe più moderno il Colosseo? Si renderebbe più moderno il teatro dell’opera?” risponde Maria a questa proposta. “Questo non è una modernizzazione, è una demolizione. Hanno distrutto l’edificio e l’hanno dipinto come una trapunta patchwork... Io sono qui di 21 anni, sono la proprietaria di due negozi, e non sono stata mai chiesta se gli archi dovessero

essere rimossi... Chiedo soltanto di avere una voce”.

“Oltre a ciò, tre anni fa”, continua Maria, “prima della pandemia, i nostri strati sono stati aumentati del 273% per i riparazioni del Forum. Quel denaro non è stato utilizzato. Gli ho dato \$60.000, e dopo due anni della pandemia non hanno fatto niente... Il prossimo mese ci sarà un incontro sul futuro del Forum. Ma io voglio che l’edificio assomigli a quello che ho acquistato”.

Ernesto Meduri, propritario di “Itasport Activewear”, inizialmente aveva lo stesso parere di Maria. Era arrabbiato che questi archi belli fossero stati tolti, e voleva che fossero rimessi ai loro posti. Tuttavia, adesso lui è meno contrario. Ci racconta che il 9 maggio, ci sarà un incontro in cui i



nuovi disegni per il Forum verranno mostrati. “Vediamo i disegni, e poi decidiamo”, ci ha detto.

Tuttavia, entrambi proprietari sono d’accordo col fatto che il problema del Forum non è l’edificio se stesso, ma cosa ci si offre. “Questo luogo dovrebbe essere un centro commerciale con negozi, non ha bisogno di uffici o di negozi chiusi... Non è un centro per uffici,” ha detto Ernesto.

Allora, cosa serve per rinviare il Forum? Secondo Maria, ci vogliono ristoranti. “I ristoranti sono il fattore più importante per ridare a vita il Forum. Questo è la cosa più importante, ed è quella che non comprende il comitato commerciale. Serve soltanto un ristorante con un nome, e il resto seguiranno”.

Con una popolazione italiana in diminuzione, chissà se il Forum riuscirà a tornare ai suoi tempi d’oro. Tuttavia, la passione di negozianti come Ernesto e Maria danno speranza al futuro del Forum.

THE FIGHT FOR THE ITALIAN FORUM

Mae Milne writes.

Twenty years ago, the Italian Forum in Leichhardt was best described as vibrant, dynamic and very Italian. Hidden just off Norton Street, the Forum is a building inspired by an italia “piazza” or town square, and was the heart of the Italian community in Leichhardt. With open galleries, restaurants and Italian shops, it seemed truly part of the “Bel Paese” - the beautiful country.

However, since its conception in 1988, the Forum has been mired by troubles. Even though most of the land was donated by the Premier of NSW, Neville Wran, the Italian community had to wait three years before finding an appropriate developer. Then, when the Forum was finally opened in 1999, it was met with complaints that the building was too superficial, and that it did not represent the true experience of

drastically changing the face of the building and angering both residents and shop-owners.

The arches were taken down because they were made out of polystyrene, a flammable material. However, Maria Saraceno, the proud proprietor of the shop “The Merchant of Venice”, tells us that they were taken down without any plan to put them back, and that now, management is developing plans to modernise the building.

“Would you modernise the Colosseum? Would you modernise the Opera House?”, responds Maria to these proposals. “This is not a modernisation, it is a demolition. They destroyed the building and they have painted it like a patchwork quilt... I have been here for 21 years, I am the owner of two shops here, and I was never asked if the arches should be taken down... All I’m asking for is to have a voice.”

“Three years ago”, continues Maria, “before the pandemic, our strata increased by 273% for reparation work. This money has not been used. I gave them \$60,000, and after 2 years of the pandemic, it is still sitting in the account. Next month there will be a meeting about the modernisation of the Forum. But I just want the building to look like what it did when I bought it.”

Ernesto Meduri, owner of Itasport Activewear, initially shared the same opinions as Maria. He was frustrated that these beautiful arches had been taken down, and wanted them to be replaced. Nowadays, he has a more open mind. He tells us that on the 9th of May, there will be a meeting where designs for the future of the Forum will be shown. “I’ll see the designs, and then I’ll decide,” he says.

Nonetheless, both shop-owners are in agreement over the fact that the problem with the Forum is not the building itself, but rather what it’s got on offer. “This place should be a retail shopping centre, it shouldn’t be filled with offices and closed shops”, says Ernesto.

But if the problem isn’t with the building, what can be done to save the Forum? The most important thing, according to Maria, is reopening restaurants on the ground floor. “Restaurants are the most important factor to bring the Forum back to life. That is the most important thing, and this is what the commercial committee do not understand. There only needs to be one restaurant with a name, and the rest will follow.”

As the Italian population in Leichhardt continues to dwindle, it’s easy to dismiss the future potential of the Italian Forum. However, the passion of shop-owners like Ernesto and Maria give hope to the future of the Forum.

Italo-Australians. What was a Tuscan plaza from the 16th century doing in the centre of Sydney?

Nonetheless, the Forum initially enjoyed great commercial success, with 22 shops, 12 restaurants and a large central piazza. Everyone came from everywhere to immerse themselves in the italian atmosphere. As the sun set, the square filled with people and chatter, alighting the square with a magical energy. The spot was also a popular destination for school excursions, as during the week children came to learn about the history of italian migration. The Forum was truly a beautiful nexus of Italian and Australian cultures.

However, in recent years, the Forum has taken on a different colour. The shops have emptied and been replaced by offices. Restaurants have closed, foot traffic is at an all time low, and, to top it all off, recently (after three years of discussions) management have taken down the Forum’s iconic arches,

PHOTOGRAPHY: THE ITALIAN FORUM, 2000, QUENTIN JONES, SMH.

The fallout of the University’s radiation case

Bella Gerardi goes nuclear on environmental law.

Last week, the University of Sydney was fined \$61,000 for failing to properly dispose of a radioactive source belonging to a decommissioned medical imaging machine. For an institution that claims to have a strong commitment to the environment, conviction of a criminal environmental offence appears at odds with its sustainability strategy.

The source, which contained a sealed radioactive isotope, was found when a truck delivering scrap metals to a recycling yard set off alarms during a routine radiation check.

Identified as belonging to a PET scanner owned by the University, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) charged the University with four individual breaches of the *Radiation Control Act*. The case didn’t go to court as the University pled guilty, and in exchange the EPA dropped two of the four charges.

So, how did this happen?

By accident, the court ruled. The PET scanner was kept in the Brain and Mind Centre before it was decommissioned in 2018, when the University ordered its disposal as part of a refurbishment of the centre.

The University had, in fact, made arrangements for the safe containment of the source in a radiation storage facility at a nearby hospital. Unfortunately, failures in communication led to the PET machine

being approved for disposal before the source had actually been removed. The University contracted a specialist removalist company to deconstruct and dispose of the machine, before it was sent to a scrap metal yard.

The source was only discovered when, upon transfer to a second yard for further processing, it was caught by radiation detection devices.

The contractors who removed the machine were not licensed to handle radioactive material nor was the EPA notified of the disposal of the material – the two breaches of the *Radiation Control Act* with which the University was ultimately convicted.

Incredibly, nobody was injured or exposed to unsafe levels of radiation, nor did the source contaminate the environment. This can be attributed to the fact that the source was sealed and emitted a relatively low amount of radiation. However, the court noted that if the source had not been detected before entry to the second metal recycling yard, environmental contamination would have been “very likely”. In this scenario, the source would have gone on to be reprocessed, a procedure that would involve breaking the seal of the source and dispersing the material into usable metal. It would have ultimately ended up in consumer material, which the court noted has occurred overseas.

Could it happen again?

Aside from submitting its guilty plea late, the University presented itself as a model defendant across these matters. The University expressed “deep regret” and has since drastically reformed its internal safety systems, implementing digital systems tracking all laboratory equipment and new procedures for the transport of regulated material. The University also hired several new staff including a new Chief Health and Safety Officer and Radiation Safety Officer. In light of these changes, the university community can be confident a similar event will not occur again.

It is disappointing, but not surprising, that it took a criminal conviction to reach the safeguards imposed today. Unfortunately, the University’s prior lack of clear procedure is indicative of the broader attitude institutions and corporations hold toward environmental crimes. Environmental crimes are often entangled with accidents, negligence, or oversight, and are often not viewed as holding the same gravity as other offences.

Corporations and institutions are responsible for the majority of environmental harm, yet complex corporate hierarchies make it uncommon for individuals to face repercussions for offences, which in turn promotes a lax attitude toward environmental damage.

Is anything changing?

The NSW Government passed the *Environment Legislation Amendment Act 2022 (NSW)* last month, which broadened the personal liability that executives face if their corporation breaches environmental legislation. If directors financially benefit from a breach of environmental law, they can be criminally prosecuted for that offence, regardless of whether they were personally aware of or involved in the breach.

In bringing a greater threat of personal liability, the new laws will hopefully incentivise directors to take greater care in ensuring company policies uphold environmental laws.

Despite all this, the scope of environmental law as it stands is limited, as most environmental offences relate to waste management or water and air pollution. We are yet to see laws that target fossil fuel production or energy consumption, two of the greatest threats to our future. To see real environmental progress, it is not enough to rely on corporate responsibility; we need a body of enforceable restrictions on corporate and institutional consumption.

NSW has a strong and effective foundation of environmental law; the University felt it firsthand. However, without a strong Government willing to instigate necessary reform to outdated structures, particularly those concerning personal liability, there is only so much the law can do when fighting on the frontlines of real climate action.

In Conversation: The Illusion of Boundaries and the Gift of Multispecies Justice

Vivienne Goodes on Dr Christine Winters’ farewell lecture.

The *Illusion of Boundaries and the Gift of Multispecies Justice*, Dr Christine Winters’ farewell presentation for the Sydney Environment Institute’s Inaugural Postdoctoral Fellowship Lecture shone a spotlight on the importance of Māori and other Indigenous philosophies for academia and environmental activism. Dr Winter — of Anglo-Celtic-Māori heritage — researches the intersection of intergenerational, Indigenous, and environmental justice.

Pepeha (a way of introducing oneself in te reo Māori) propelled her presentation. For Māori, *Pepeha* is a reminder of relationships and responsibilities to the physical environment, to each individual’s ancestral, physical, spiritual, and emotional entanglements with lands and waters. Dr Winter explored *Pepeha* as a lived expression of multispecies justice (MSJ).

MSJ seeks justice for the nonhuman — the natural realm of plants, animals, insects, waters, land, and air. It sounds novel, but it’s not new at all. Outside of Western philosophy’s division between nature and culture, it has existed since time immemorial. Dr Winter focused on MSJ’s parallel with Māori relationality. Because matter and spirit are considered inseparable, Māori philosophical frameworks do not exclude the nonhuman from history, morality, and justice.

Dr Winter made a moving and distinctly personal case for MSJ’s potential to open political theory to diverse epistemologies. She highlighted the pigeonholing of Indigenous thinking about life, knowledge, and justice as ‘just wisdom’ rather than as philosophy. These bodies of thought can be as valuable to

academic research as the Enlightenment tradition of reason that we all know.

I asked Dr Winter whether Māori philosophy resonates in other disciplines. She believes emerging Māori scholars are challenging foundational principles across the physical and social sciences — from biology to land management, and sociology to law.

Māori frameworks encourage a reconsideration of basic principles of business. Māori businesses use relationality in their long-term planning to achieve better community and environmental outcomes.

‘Long-term’ doesn’t mean just 5 to 10 years — it means a timescale of hundreds or thousands of years. The 500-year Te Pae Tawhiti plan has been embedded within companies like Wakatu Incorporation to pursue value over generations.

Imagine what we could aim for with plans that look past financial or election cycles and focus on how to truly care for our world. How can we plan for a period longer than our lifespan, longer even than many of the trees we live with today?

Dr Winter pointed to the Federal Minister for the Environment’s ongoing high court challenge to the idea that its office may have responsibilities to future generations. That sort of thing would be impossible to justify within a Māori philosophical framework.

Speaking with her again after the talk, I asked how Māori philosophy can be significant for environmental activism. “When you start making decisions out of a respect for the past and the future, the nature of the politics of your decision-

making is very different,” she said.

Dr Winter mentioned a recent study of two youth-led environmental activist movements in Aotearoa. A significant portion of participants in the first group were of Māori heritage, protesting a large housing development on a sacred site. The second group were protesting climate change and mainly from a settler background. While the first group were motivated to protect ancestors and future generations, the second approached activism from the perspective of what climate change means for the individual.

“For students educated solely in Western knowledge systems—me included—it can be difficult to know how to learn about Indigenous philosophies respectfully.”

Both movements are valuable. What’s important is recognising how Māori knowledge systems inspire activism motivated by protecting ancestors, their knowledge, community, and future generations. Thinking beyond

the individual is extremely relevant in Australia as well — consider the fight to save the sacred Djab Wurrung trees.

For students educated solely in Western knowledge systems—me included—it can be difficult to know how to learn about Indigenous philosophies respectfully. I asked Dr Winter whether she had any advice on beginning this process.

She stressed that making connections in communities is challenging, and there are risks of exploiting these relationships to extract knowledge — a problem with Western scholarship generally. Dr Winter characterises it as an issue of generosity: respect begins with giving credit to Indigenous thinkers, no matter whether their thoughts are written or spoken.

Dr Winter’s advice is to be generous, read academic work written by Indigenous scholars, and then follow the references. (Try the article *Multispecies justice: theories, challenges, and a research agenda for environmental politics*.)

The *Illusion of Boundaries and the Gift of Multispecies Justice* was an incisive, heartfelt, and thought-provoking presentation. Māori and other Indigenous philosophies have importance for academia and activism that too often goes under-appreciated and unacknowledged.

Dr Winter gave her talk on Wednesday 27 April in association with the Sydney Environment Institute. Dr Winter is leaving the Department of Government & International Relations and Sydney Environment Institute for a new position at Otago University, Aotearoa.

Degrowth Economics: A tale of spaceships and cowboys

Tiger Perkins and Alana Ramshaw delve into the world of ecological economics and argue for ‘la décroissance.’

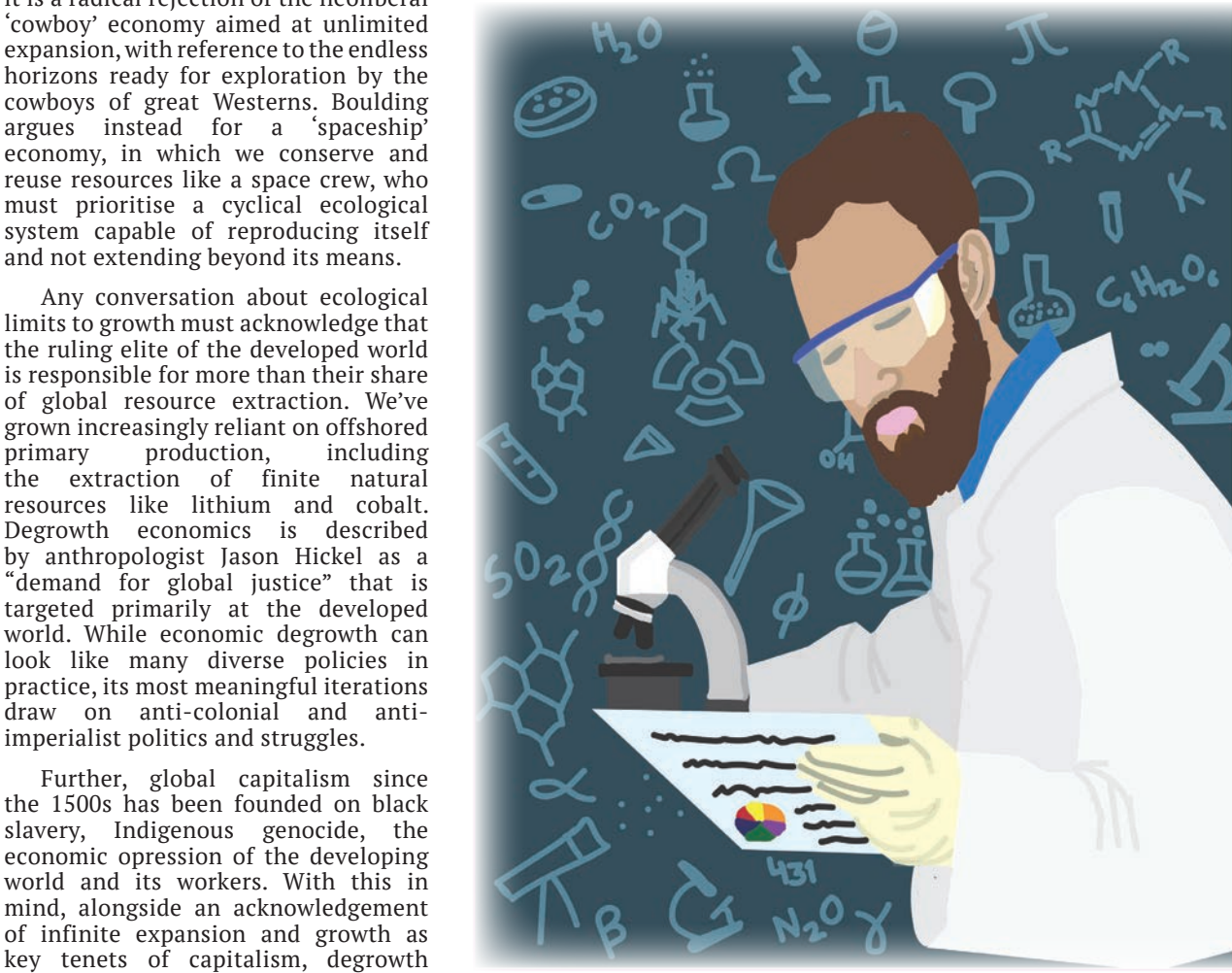
“I am not proposing a return to the Stone Age. My intent is not reactionary, nor even conservative, but simply subversive. It seems that the utopian imagination is trapped, like capitalism, and industrialism, and the human population, in a one-way future consisting only of growth.”

- Ursula Le Guin

Economic growth has long been a talking point and key policy objective of politicians around the world. It cannot be denied that rapid industrialisation and economic growth, where tied to rising wages, has alleviated poverty over the centuries. However, if economic growth is to remain our economic North Star metric, how do we reconcile this with the fact that our resources are subject to scarcity and depletion and the Earth’s natural ecological limitations?

American economist Kenneth E. Boulding quipped, “anyone who believes that exponential growth can go on forever in a finite world is either a madman or an economist.” More seriously, Haydn Washington and Paul Twomey, editors of *A Future Beyond Growth*, suggest that, “the current endless growth economy is thus, at the most fundamental level, a delusion, a very dangerous one that is the key cause of the environmental crisis.” When ecological inputs such as fossil fuels, minerals, forests, and clean water are not replenished at the same rate they are consumed, continuous growth is destructive and impossible. This is the central idea of degrowth economics.

Ecological economist Giorgos Kallis preliminarily describes degrowth as “a critique of the ecological consequences of economic growth”. In practice, it looks like a slow and intentional restructuring of how we approach the production and distribution of resources. On a more conceptual level, it is a radical rejection of the neoliberal ‘cowboy’ economy aimed at unlimited expansion, with reference to the endless horizons ready for exploration by the cowboys of great Westerns. Boulding argues instead for a ‘spaceship’ economy, in which we conserve and reuse resources like a space crew, who must prioritise a cyclical ecological system capable of reproducing itself and not extending beyond its means.



ART BY KRITIKA RATHORE

ought to be anti-capitalist. Socialist economies, while not as definitionally or innately incompatible with degrowth, have also had a tendency towards rapid industrialisation and economic expansion, although they have better distributed the material wealth engendered by this. Any kind of economy, however, that wishes to coexist sustainably with the Earth must learn to respect ecological limits. We should also recognise the potential political value within the process of degrowth: any transitional process towards degrowth has to itself centre social equity and ecological sustainability through the process of a just transition.

The just transition, taken to mean a complete labour transition away from the fossil fuel industry, is necessary to the construction of a steady-state economy. It is, like degrowth itself, not a simple thing nor a singular one. Both are intricate, sprawling mosaics of policies, yet have a strong and shared vision.

The case against growth starts with how it is currently being measured. The standard measure of economic growth is Gross Domestic Product (GDP) - the total monetary or market value of all goods and services produced by a country over a certain time period, typically a year. GDP has come to be used not just as a measure of economic progress but also social progress, with rising GDP invariably a positive, according to politicians. However, things that are conducive to GDP growth are not necessarily good for society. Often they are even negatively correlated. For example, if Australia were to nationalise the electricity grid and make household energy free, that would decrease GDP. Perversely, money spent cleaning up oil spills increases it. Policies implemented to commodify and democratise our daily lives are great

for people, but contribute negatively to GDP.

On the other hand, policies that are bad for workers, such as longer working days, privatisation, higher consumer prices, and even war, are great for GDP. It is clear that a better measure of growth would more closely reflect what is good for the public. We are otherwise left in a limbo in which economic growth is accompanied by social regression. Having acknowledged this relationship, degrowth suddenly seems a less daunting prospect. It simply argues that ‘throughput’, the amount of natural resources incorporated into and flowing through the economy (i.e. production and consumption), must be reduced in line with ecological limitations in order to respect natural scarcity, as social progress is also prioritised. We must learn to live in the ‘spaceship economy’.

While GDP has been loosely linked to increased standards of living, economic growth (as measured by GDP) and social progress are not always so inextricably linked as is suggested by mainstream economists. Further, an infinite increase in production and consumption, infinite growth, is simply not possible on a planet with finite resources. As Kallis summarises, we must learn to “prosper without growth.” We must reimagine what growth looks like in the future we want to see, and we must diligently board the spaceship that will get us there.

Authors’ Note: Regrettably, we did not have the space to deal fully with all of the interesting facets of degrowth, nor its criticisms. The intention of this article was, rather, to serve as an introduction to the topic of degrowth. If your interest has been piqued we would recommend authors mentioned above, who helped introduce us to these topics, as well as ECOP3015 - Political Economy of the Environment!

Field Notes

Khanh Tran walks among the Chò Nâu.



ART BY KHANH TRAN

As I walk down the old *Bach Đằng* Boulevard in Saigon, a twirling bi-winged seed spins its way down towards the concrete pavement. I would kneel down to pick up the plant and gaze towards the sky, knowing that a spectacular performance was about to unfold once again.

These are the humble seeds of the hollong or *Chò Nâu* tree.

Strolling down the breezes of Saigon’s Alexandre de Rhodes, hundreds of helicopter seeds would gently descend and blanket the boulevards, blessing pedestrians on the pavements with an unforgettable green dance. Every year, *Chò Nâu*’s grand performance would remind busy Saigoneers that they still stand amongst us, guarding everyone from the Sun’s punishment. As a child, I would often ask the moped driver (“Uncle Hoang”, to me) on the scooter ride home why they fall down all at once, and he would compare the hollongs’ performance to a traditional Vietnamese poem about the dragonfly:

“*Chuồn Chuồn bay thấp thì mưa
Bay cao thì nắng
Bay vừa thì râm.*”

“*When the dragonfly fly low,
there will be rain
Flying high above, the sun shines
Flying in the middle,
the clouds gather.*”

In other words, *Chò Nâu*’s descent heralds the turning point of seasons as we transit from scorching heat to the gentleness of the monsoon.

Providing an evergreen canopy over Saigon’s major arteries, *Chò Nâu* boasts a vast leaf-filled crown that towers over the sea of mopeds and busy humans below. This is complemented by a sturdy, timeworn greyish-brown coating of bark. Unbeknownst to the vast majority, perched in between this majestic crown are the homes of hundreds of house sparrows (or, *passer domesticus*), pigeons and a variety of urban insects. Their existence is evident only through the evening song created by the hundreds of birds chirping above.

Beyond their beauty, they also provide shade — a crucial element of Saigoneer life. Whether it’s for the sidewalk barbers on the streets, dessert kiosks or the ordinary pedestrian, *Chò Nâu* occupies a special place in our fragile, ever-changing ecosystem.

President

Lauren Lancaster.

This week was largely devoted to strike building, committees and internal admin.

The Undergraduate Studies committee unfortunately confirmed changes to discontinue not fail as a result of the Job Ready Graduates package being implemented at the university. This is a poorly conceived and unnecessarily harsh measure designed to punish students into continuing units from which they may have good reason to want or warrant a drop out. It is further proof that the corporatisation of our education, in terms of limiting time frames and demanding students churn through content on the university's timeline, is

done at the detriment of student welfare. If you have issues related to this, please get in contact with the Caseworkers.

The strike is fast approaching, and I did some flyering and lecture announcements this week alongside members of the EAG. I'm really excited for the picket lines at uni, and everyone should come join from 7am on May 11. This is the first major strike at USYD since before COVID. Particularly off the back of the egregiously misleading email from Annamarie Jagose sent to all staff last week, it's clear management will undermine and undercut staff strike efforts wherever possible. This isn't

political theatre, it's manifest industrial power being flexed on the bosses. Come be a part of history in Week 11.

We also had a film screening organised by the Refugee Rights officers, collective meetings and the preselection of the new Women's Officer, Dashie Prasad, who will be nominated up at council on Wednesday. Congratulations to all involved, I'm excited for where Dashie will take the Collective for the remainder of the year alongside Monica. They bring a wealth of organising experience and staunch politics to the role.

The exec of the SRC have been

Education

Lia Perkins and Deaglan Godwin.

Since our last report, staff have voted to go on strike and the Education Action Group has been increasing our support for the strikes. The upcoming strike dates in week 11 are WEDS MAY 11 AND THURS MAY 12. Please help us get the word out! We encourage everyone reading this to not go to class and attend the pickets. Staff are on strike to end casualisation at USyd, to prevent forced redundancies, protect academic research and for a fair pay rise. Improving staff conditions will make a real difference in the quality of education taught at USyd.

Education activists have been going to classes to pass motions in support of taking strike action. We have over 300 signatures on our petition to support the strikes and many shares on our page 'Students Support Staff Strikes'. We ran out of our zine and have to print more! Our building efforts continue to increase and we are excited for our meeting next week and our pre-strike and picket briefing on Tuesday 10 May at 5pm.

It has been great to see a number of student contingents emerging for the

Women

Madeleine Clark and Monica McNaught-Lee.

Our main focus the past few weeks has been on planning and building for the Nursing Power forum we co-hosted with the Sydney Uni Nursing Society on Wednesday the 27th of April. Health sector and other students heard from a current Western Sydney mental health nurse, a former Nurse Educator who is now a research RN and the Public Health Organising manager of the NSWNMA. The panel covered issues such as the importance of union activism, the dire work conditions faced by nurses and midwives, and how we can fight for

a better healthcare system (for both patients and staff). In the context of upcoming strikes at our own university and in the public school system, the forum was a great way for students to learn from current healthcare workers and understand the power of industrial action.

In the final third of the semester, we will continue to hold weekly meetings, host reading groups, and several other one-off events. We are currently in the process of organising a Responding With

strikes. Including political economy, science, architecture and more. If you are looking for a student contingent or would like to start your own message us on Facebook or send an email (education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au) and we can help you out. Please also email us if you have a class that you would like someone to come make an announcement in (or help making an announcement yourself), as voting to go on strike is a really important way to reach students!

Other activism that we and other EAG

Compassion workshop held by Full Stop Australia for members of the collective to attend. The training will also be open to all other students. We must remember that the action of disclosing an incidence of assault or harassment (whether this is in the context of a family/social group, the workplace, or an academic setting) has the potential to incur additional trauma depending on the response. We hope that by organising this workshop, students will be able to take this training into their personal lives so they can better support anyone who decides to

members have been involved in include WoCo's forum on Nursing Power, the Tamil Refugee Council and SRC Refugee Officers film screening, and attending the May Day rally in the city. In other striking news, teachers are going on strike this Wednesday (possibly the day you're reading this) and we stand alongside them as they demand #morethanthanks, and for a pay rise.

See you on the pickets!

disclose trauma to them.

With the success of our Nursing Power forum, we hope to put on similar panels about union power for students in other areas of study. First up we will be planning a forum for education students!

Last, but not least, love and thank you to Maddie for all she's done as WoCo convener and Women's Officer this year and a big, ginormous welcome to Dashie who will be taking over!

these concerts, they just need to show their student card at the box office.

We're hoping that you'll start seeing the many concerts of the Con's ensembles every week in the Gig Guide that Honi publishes. Alex has compiled a list of the remaining concerts for this semester (which you can find at "What's On at the Con" on Google), so hopefully the editors include it (pls i beg). There's such a large variety of ensembles ranging from large orchestras and choirs, to smaller jazz bands and experimental works. Every student at USyd can come for free to

outside Fisher Library - join us there before we march to join the main event at Town Hall! Following that we will be busy building student support and solidarity for the NTEU Staff Strikes and Pickets on May 11-12. If you'd like to get involved in organising the climate strikes or are otherwise interested in environmental activism, reach out to our Facebook page or get Honi Soit to put you in touch with us!

Environmental

Ishbel Dunsmore, Tiger Perkins and Angus Dermody.

The last month for the Environment Collective has been as busy as ever. Following the March 25 Global Climate Strike that saw students march from USYD to UTS to central and then board the train on our way to Kirribilli House, the Enviro Collective has run a number of contingents as well as collaboration events. There was a reading group with the Autonomous Collective Against Racism for a chapter from Anna Tsing's The Mushroom at the End of the World with

plans to read a second chapter postponed for the coming weeks. Alongside the USU we ran a number of forums for the USU's Enviro Week on the topics of what the law can do about climate change and how environmental activism can effect change. We sent a contingent in solidarity with the Gomerioi people in the court case against Santos who are trying to extinguish their Native Title rights in order to build gas wells on Gomerioi land in the Pilliga. We have also been

Social Justice

Simon Uptis and Martin O'Flynn did not submit a report.



Your EXAM TIMETABLE will be released on Mon 2nd May

If you have a clash or if you need a special arrangement (e.g. a different time zone) contact the exams office as soon as possible.

For more on exams info see: sydney.edu.au/students/exams

Do you have a legal problem? We can help you for FREE!*

Police Matters
Court Appearances
Immigration & Visa Referrals
Student Advocacy
Civil Rights

...and more



Level 1, Wentworth Building (G01),
University of Sydney NSW 2006
PO Box 794 Broadway NSW 2007

p: 02 9660 5222
int: 12871
w: srcusyd.net.au

* this service is available to USYD undergraduate students and cases that meet eligible criteria

Preparing for Exams - Tips for success

Exams can be a stressful part of studying at Uni, but good preparation can help you manage the stress and do well. Start by checking the date, time, and venue of the exam, and any alarms and notifications you've set for these. Missing an exam because you were confused about the time will not get you a replacement exam.

Find out what topics will be covered in your exam, the type of exam and the rules for that particular exam. Do this even if you have attempted the subject before, as things may have changed this semester.

Your unit of study outline might show you the most important topics, or you could ask your lecturer or tutor where you should focus your study. There might also be previous exam questions in the library, for you to use as practice.

If the exam is online, make sure you are familiar with ProctorU, and conduct a test session to ensure that your computer, the space you are working in, and your internet are appropriate for the exam. Alternatively book a room in the library or ask your subject coordinator if you can do the exam on campus. If you experience technical issues during an online exam, document the problems in every way you can (lots of photos, videos, screenshots) and apply for Special Consideration within three working days of the exam. Double check the names of files you are uploading to ensure you are submitting the current document for

your exam. Many exams have ten to fifteen minutes of 'upload time'. Do not use this time to write more; use this time to ensure your files are saved correctly, and upload them with time to spare.

It is also important to be familiar with the University's policy on academic honesty. The University uses a variety of methods to detect academic dishonesty such as plagiarism, or access to unauthorised materials during an exam. If you receive an academic honesty allegation from your Faculty regarding an exam, contact the SRC Caseworkers for confidential advice.

If you are unwell on the date of the exam, or if your performance is impacted by an illness, injury, or misadventure that was unexpected and beyond your control, you can apply for Special Consideration, even if it is a replacement exam. Special Consideration applications must be submitted within three working days of the exam date, and you must provide appropriate supporting documents. See the SRC's website for more information about Special Consideration.

If you think you have been given an incorrect mark for your exam, you have the right to lodge an appeal. See the SRC's website for information about appealing a grade.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask a caseworker. We are happy to help.

For more information and links see: srcusyd.net.au/preparing-for-exams-tips-for-success/

Sydney Uni Exam information:
sydney.edu.au/students/exams



Ask Abe

SRC caseworker help Q&A

Student Income Bank: Earning money while receiving Centrelink payments



Dear Abe,

How much can I work while I'm on Youth Allowance?

Working

Dear Working,

Youth Allowance and Austudy recipients have a **Student Income Bank (SIB)**, which allows you to work while receiving a Centrelink payment. Each

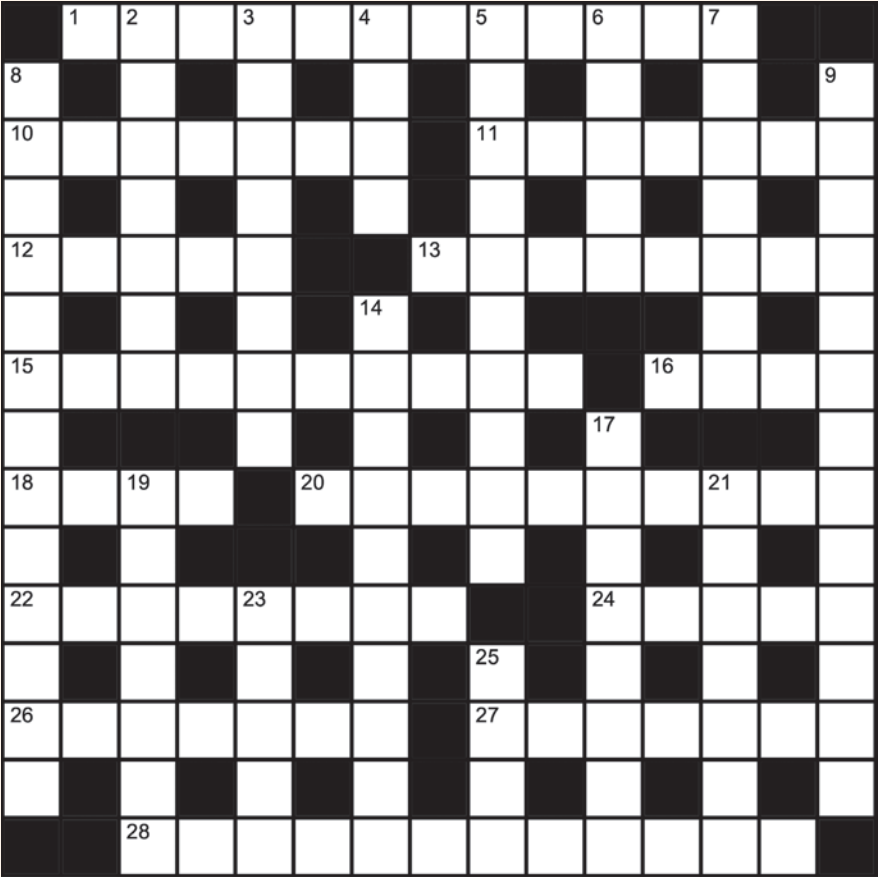
fortnight you are allowed to earn \$452 without any reduction to your payment. If you earn less than \$452 in that fortnight, the remainder is carried over to the next fortnight. This can accumulate to a maximum of \$11,300 a year. If you earn more than your SIB in a fortnight, your Centrelink payment is reduced by 50 cents per dollar for every dollar between \$452 and \$542, then 60 cents per dollar for every dollar afterwards.

Abe.

For more information on Centrelink Payments see: srcusyd.net.au/src-help/centrelink/your-income/



Quick Crossword



- Across
- Down
1. Utterance commonly made at the end of October (5,2,5)

10. Between ads and advertisements, formality- wise (7)

11. Meal opener (7)

12. To monotonously waffle (5)

13. Medical devices intended to replace body- parts (8)

15. Follow-up to 11 (10)

16. One worth emulating (4)

18. Accompaniment to 15 (4)

20. Methodical and systematic (in theory) (10)

22. Drinking venue (8)

24. 80s activewear (5)

26. Paper folding along the lines of 9 (7)

27. Finale of 11, 15 and 18 (7)

28. HDD core (8,4)
- Sudoku
-
- Target
- 5 words: Bad

10 words: Awful

15 words: Shocking

20 words: Egregious
-
- KenKen
-
- This Way And That
-
1. Puss

2. The Great, for short

3. Give up

4. Former lovers
- Quiz
1. Which city hosted the 1924 Summer Olympics, 100 years before it will do so again?

2. Who is the only female character in the A. A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh books?

3. Set in ancient China, which Puccini opera features the aria 'Nessun Dorma'?

4. The first ever demonstration of television featured footage of Stooky Bill. Was Stooky Bill a baby, a dummy, a chimpanzee, or a geyser?

5. American in Paris, Sylvia Beach, owned which still-renowned bookstore?

6. What was superstitiously held to have caused the death of Howard Carter's pet canary?
- Answers
-
- Answers available at honisoit.com/puzzle-answers
- EXCLUSIVE PULLOUT: Ultra-limited interesting Pulp mag article!
- Incoherent.
Always.
- The End Times
-
- Wed Apr 27

Vol. 420 + 9

Cheaper and more available than toilet paper!

The only newspaper. Proudly Murdoch.

Pro-News. Anti-Truth.

People's Republic of USyd.

\$4.20
- LOCAL GENDER STUDIES STUDENT SEEKS MEDICAL ATTENTION, CONCERNED ABOUT DEEP ATTRACTION TO ANNAMARIE JAGOSE
- A local Gender Studies student has approached *The End Times* experiencing deep distress around their attraction to DVC Annamarie ‘Scabbamarie’ Jagose. The student, who wishes to remain anonymous, was eager to stress that they are not a scab and will be the first person on the picket line during the upcoming staff strikes.
- “Something about the email she sent out to staff this week... I know it was scabby to tell them not to strike, but I just want someone to put me in my place like that,” the student explained.
- This follows an uptick in the trend of so called “hate fucks”, which sees individuals with opposite values or beliefs engage
-
- in relationships. “Obviously I wouldn’t go that far,” the student defended. “I just want to know; am I a scab for wanting a powerful butch woman in my life? So sue me!”
- Well, Anonymous Student, sue you they may.
- We at *The End Times* unequivocally reject any suggestion of engagement with the enemy, even if in the deep, far off abstract. The picket is the metaphysical as much as the physical. Don’t forget it.
- Let this be your warning, desperate young lesbians. Go find a butch at birdcage, not in F23.
- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| <i>Doomed</i> | <i>Destined</i> |
| Soul origin | Devil’s advocacy |
| Stonewall | Vinegar |
| Voluntourism | Revue |
| The USU | Lines |
| Scabs | Picket lines |
| Palladian Cup | Sunlight |
| Passive voice | Verbs |
| Men | Mr Men |
- IN THIS ISSUE:
- Pushing into lines saves my revolutionary time*
- How posing with black babies on Instagram ended racism*
- Slay*
- Nationalising Twitter is the only way forward*
- It’s okay to think Liberals are kind of hot*
- PRESENT THIS COUPON TO USU CANDIDATE FOR TWO WEEKS OF FRIENDSHIP*
- HONI EDITIONS RIPPED UP, OFFICE VANDALISED, YOUNG LIBERALS DO WELL AT COVER-UP
- MECO STUDENTS UNIONISE, TO MOVE MOTION FOR AN AUTONOMOUS SRC COLLECTIVE
- THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS JOKE CAMPAIGN. NO, THE IDEAS AREN’T INCOMPATIBLE
- YES, I’M STRAIGHT. YES, I HAVE OPINIONS ON TAYLOR SWIFT. YES, WE EXIST.
- I’ve been in the closet on this one for a while. People assume straight people don’t like Tay Tay but we do. She was and is one of the greatest musicians of our time. She shaped my high school experience too - from country era, to singer songwriter, pop era, dubstep queen and America’s favourite girlboss. I was there for all of it.
- Some may say Carly Rae Jepsen’s *Emotion* (2015) was better than Taylor’s *1989* (2014) and on the surface these claims are valid. ‘Run Away With Me’ is an all time classic, as is ‘I Really Like You’ and the titular ‘Emotion’. But do these songs have the cultural weight of
- ‘Blank Space’, ‘Style’, ‘Shake It Off’, and ‘Bad Blood’. I could go, on but you get the point.
- While I applaud Taylor for taking control of her music through *Red (Taylor’s Version)* (2021), I do miss the less-developed vocals of her youth. The occasional breaks in her voice, unintentional vibrato, and other quirks added depth to her vocal performances and I’ll die on this hill.
- In conclusion, Taylor Swift is a pillar of the straight experience. When I was exploring my heterosexuality as a young man she provided the guidance needed.
- SRC COELIAC OFFICER MURDERED IN WHEAT-PASTE ATTACK
- Convenor of the Autonomus USyd Coeliac Collective Fi Calmatta has been found deceased in the SRC OB room, lying in a semi-dried pool of wheat-paste.
- The unconventional weapon was deployed against the activist in a brutal attack by SRC Social Justice Officer Crystal Structure, who believed that Calmatta was not demonstrating appropriate revolutionary discipline when she shuddered during a lecture on
- the October Revolution’s calls for “Peace, land, bread.”
- IBS Officer Chlo Geddpipe emerged from an hour-long session in the SRC toilet to find the corpse, an experience they described as “deeply distressing. I shit my pants on the spot (I am also gluten free).”
- Wheat-paste has been banned from the SRC Officers in a show of solidarity, although the ban will be lifted ahead of the next campus speak-out.
- USU CANDIDATE REALLY JUST WANTS TO CATCH UP, BABE!
- Hey! How are you? You might not remember me, we did a first year Government tute together. Yeah, we sat across from each other and I looked at you like you were a freak because I didn’t know the name of the school you went to, ahah! Suburbname High School? Classic ahaha! Anyway, I was just wondering if there’s any chance you wanna catch up for a coffee?
- Noo, I totally get it’s like weird to
- “catch up” when we were never really “friends”. But maybe we never got a chance to get to know each other :) Anyway, I’m super interested in your life! Oh, you saw that I’m running for union board? Yeah haha, that’s a little side project. Noo, nothing to do with me reaching out! Just wanna hear about you babe! But since you asked, what are you up to in the third week of May? Oh, not much?

Survival

2022 Honi Soit
Writing Competition

Opens May 16

