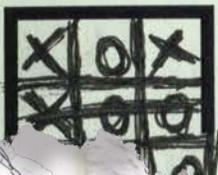


no suitable candidate to follow my will

1

VOTE SOIT

SPECIAL ISSUE



~~FEDERAL ELECTION~~ EDITION - WK 12, S1 2022



ADAM BANDT, B Law II
 Nominator: Mary-Billy Jane, Arts DX
 Seconder: Milly N Cones, Pharma IV
CURRICULUM VITAE:
 Students' Representative Council:
 Representative 1982-83
 Officer 1982-83

Liberal L00zers Association
 Scott Morrison, B Law MCCXXII
 Nominator: Evan J. Lickle, B Buss I
 Seconder: Beau Ternback, B Phil V

ANTHONY ALBANESE, B.Ec. III
 Nominator: Marijke Conrade, Arts III
 Seconder: Kathryn Grusarin, Arts II
CURRICULUM VITAE:
 Students' Representative Council:
 SRC Representative 1982-83
 Ethnic Affairs Officer 1982-83
 Convenor, SRC Political Economy Coll-
 ective 1983
 Education Collective Member 1981-83
 Member, Finance Committee 1982-83
 Member, Standing Legal Committee 1982-
 83
 Member, Electoral Rules Revision Comm-
 ittee 1982-83
Clubs and Societies:
 Member, ALP Club 1981-83
 Delegate, National Council of ALP Stud-
 ents 1982-83
 Member, S.U. Disarmament Group
 Member, Political Economy Collective
Other Interests:
 Member, Australian Labor Party, Camper-
 down 1980
 Delegate, Annual Conference to ALP
 (NSW Branch) 1983
 Delegate, State Council of ALP (NSW
 Branch) 1983
 President, Sydney Young Labor
 Association, 1981-82
 Secretary, Sydney Young Labor Ass-
 ociation, 1982
 Delegate to NSW Young Labor Council,
 1981-82
 NSW Young Labor Council, Unemploy-
 ment and Industrial Policy
 Campaign Committee,

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
83 ANNUAL ELECTIONS
 25th - 28th JULY

POLLING BOOTHS

	MONDAY 25th	TUESDAY 26th	WEDNESDAY 27th	THURSDAY 28th
Fisher	10 - 4	10 - 8	10 - 8	10 - 4
Holme	12 - 2	12 - 2	12 - 2	12 - 2
Manning	11 - 3	11 - 3	11 - 3	11 - 3
Wentworth	10 - 2	10 - 2	10 - 2	10 - 2
Merewether		10 - 2	10 - 2	10 - 2
Law School		11 - 2	11 - 2	11 - 2
P.N.R.		11 - 2	11 - 2	
Bosch	9 - 12	10 - 2	12 - 3:30	
Madsen		12 - 2	12 - 2	
Mills			12 - 2	
Camden			12 - 2	
RNS			2 - 4	
Westmead			12 - 2	
Dental Hospital				10 - 1
J.D. Stewart				
Architecture	11:30 - 2			

MICHAEL SILVERS, Electoral Officer

STUDENTS VOTE:

- Meddling Murdoch - p.6
- Unpacking the NDIS - p.8
- Is the ALP viable? - p.9
- Debt alarmism bad - p.7
- Social media:
- Regional cities - p.10
- Somo Vs Albo - p.7
- Building better cities - p.11

USYD ON STRIKE!

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.

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EDITORS

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

WRITERS

Carmeli Argana, Luke Cass, Valerie Chidiac, Felix Faber, Ethan Floyd, Sharaf Fozdar, Vivienne Guo, Ariana Haghighi, Amelia Koen, Lauren Lancaster, Tiger Perkins, Sam Randle, Fabian Robertson, Aceda Rose, Ellie

Stephenson, Khanh Tran, Tom Wark, Zara Zadro.

ARTISTS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

Maxim Adams, Amelia Koen, Sam Randle, Thomas Sargeant, Ellie Stephenson, Fabian Robertson.

COVER ARTIST

Amelia Koen, Ellie Stephenson, Roisin Murphy.

BACK COVER ARTIST

Thomas Sargeant.

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.



EDITORIAL

Honi Soit Editors

For many of us, one concept that we should all be familiar with is that of democracy. It is the shape of Australia's political system and government, supposedly characterised by universal adult suffrage, civil liberties, and free and fair elections. It is also often defined as a principle in and of itself; an ethos. In its simplest form, democracy can be understood as 'rule by the people'.

Many of us here at USyd are no stranger to this principle in action. Our student representatives are chosen via elections, such as the recent USU Board elections that saw five new Board Directors voted in last Friday. But as a University that is home to the most vibrant campus of student activism in the country, democracy is present in more than just electoral processes. Sydney's great union leaders, the Jack Mundey's of the world, would speak a lot about "everyday democracy". As the last week has shown us, some of the most visible sites of democracy occur in extra-institutional contexts — on the streets, within a crowd, screaming out with one voice. USyd students were witness to this sort of everyday democracy last week when the NTEU went on strike for 48-hours, after years of USyd management refusing to engage in meaningful negotiation.

Democracy in this form exists beyond our campus, and the NTEU's 48-hour strike also exists within a broader context of increasing industrial action across our public sector, as well as mass action for social issues. Our news spread on pages 4 and 5 are full of

these reports. We've seen many public sector workers take to the streets and demand more support for better working conditions from our government, including transport staff, nurses and teachers. Activists have also ramped up the pressure on governments to act on the climate crisis and refugee rights.

Something is wrong.

Whilst these cases of mass action and the exercise of our civil liberties are certainly one of the more visible aspects of our democracy, we cannot discount the power of institutions — the institutions which control the health and wellbeing of some of the community's most vulnerable. And presently, our Government is full of shit.

The official theme of this edition is 'Elections'. But it is also the edition of disruption, of change, of daring to fight for the future we want and deserve. This year, young people aged 18-29 make up almost 20 per cent of the electorate. As university students, it is clear that we hold immense power in determining the outcome of this election.

In the third edition of Honi Soit in 1963, the editors told students it is "blatantly obvious that the attitude of the Administration to the students of the University is exactly the same as the attitude of a school headmaster to his pupils... We're so well protected we never get a chance to prove that we're grown up. All we can do is yell, and yell loudly."

Having a voice is a great privilege. Yell loudly.

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<https://linktr.ee/honisoit>



Letters

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

Lauren Lancaster: Alcohol policy

Over the years, left and right-wing candidates alike have run policies that take aim at the alcohol policy of the University - hoping to run longer happy hours, offer cheaper shots, cocktails or beers. This is premised on a bolstering of campus vibes, or, in a bizarre act of mental gymnastics, said to make campus safer.

Doesn't work: These have rarely played out if they succeed in getting elected, because the USU, despite serving alcohol at their venues, does not have control over the policy decisions of the University nor alcohol laws in NSW generally. Indeed, the beer towers at Hermanns have recently mysteriously disappeared. Sad!

Pushing consumption off campus: Those bemoaning the (not at all) shit selection of bevs on campus say that without these campaign promises and cheap alcohol on campus, drinking is pushed off campus to venues they claim are less safe. First, let's be quite clear: it is not difficult to source alcohol on campus at the University... The price and availability of drinks on campus also has no bearing on how safe its venues are. Alcohol prices everywhere are extremely high, and you can, unfortunately, be harassed literally anywhere in Sydney... We should be radically protesting SASH and demanding better leisure culture on and off campus, while supplementing on-campus activities in better ways.

Cultural insensitivity: Alcohol policy-points incorrectly predicate a vibrant campus culture partially on the extraordinary availability of drinks (which we have already established

exists in a perfectly acceptable way as is). This panders to a specific, vocal group of students on campus who drink socially and probably in excess. It excludes those who don't drink for religious, cultural, health or personal choice reasons....

It is also an argument that wilfully ignores the sad truth of alcohol consumption in Australia. Australians are hopelessly addicted to alcohol. We spend more time drunk than any other nation and are triply more likely to seek emergency care for problematic drinking habits (3.9% compared with the global average of 1.2%)... People become more aggressive, less inhibited and make poor decisions when drinking in excess... While we know alcohol restrictions are not a catchall for SASH and interpersonal violence responses by any means, it is also irresponsible to ignore the influence of alcohol on SASH risk... Sexual assault can and obviously does occur without alcohol consumption by the perpetrator or victim, but the presence of alcohol is a positive risk factor that increases a person's susceptibility to experiencing a sexual assault. SASH demands radical, culture-wide responses, and alcohol policy doesn't cut it. However, it is sad for the left to buy into an uncritical defense of the single most addictive and culturally damaging substance in Australia or worse, argue that more alcohol on campus will somehow positively impact SASH / student safety. For that to occur we would have to massively correct our entire nation's relationship with the substance...

Do better?: These policies are invariably spruiked by stupor hopefuls as the key to levelling up campus leisure. If we are primarily concerned about campus being safe and inclusive (thus motivating people to be here for... why are we looking to alcohol, a substance that increases

aggression or blurs decision-making skills in people (and is a proven risk multiplier in assaults, incidents of sexual violence and road accidents) to do the heavy lifting? This just absolves candidates of producing more creative, imaginative and inclusive policy content to make campus a truly more exciting place...

Lauren Lancaster, Econ/Law III

Patrick McKenzie: PULP Corrections!

Dear 'Esteemed' Editors, While it is always a privilege to grace the pages of your venerated publication — be it by way of byline or gossip section — I take great issue with the content of your Week 10 Sex & the City Rd column, namely the glaring omission of our beloved sixth prospective PULP editorial team member Bonnie Huang! Bonnie is an absolute bestie, an indispensable component of our sextet, without whom we would be nothing.

While none of us are strangers to the machinations of ticket formation, we all know the importance of getting your facts straight (figuratively speaking). I urge you to triple-check your research next time!

'Newly re-frankensteined PULP' seems like an amazing opportunity. I for one would do anything to be paid an almost semi-livable wage for the privilege of basking in the withering cold of the long shadows cast by the editors of years past!

I will now exclusively be reading your far better and more factual sister publication: The End Times.

Yours in good f*ith, Patrick McKenzie, MECO V

Marlow Hurst: Miscing it up

Dear Honi Editors, It was to my shock and dismay to see

that you had elected to remove the Misc category from the website's front page and navigation bar, relegating it to a single word of text at the very bottom of the site.

This is a desecration of everything that Honi can and should stand for! Our dear student newspaper finds meaning in the inbetween, in the cracks and crevices of understanding, in the unloved and the uncategorised. To disrespect Misc is to disrespect Honi's almost 100 year commitment to esoterica!

But Misc isn't just for esoterica. Every Misc article represents a moment in time where one or more Honi editors decided that categorising a piece was simply beyond them. Whether that be the result of a mental block, an editorial debate, or just sheer laziness. While Misc may be a testament to the brilliance of our student newspaper, it should also stand as a reminder of the editors' humanity.

So while looking back, one might think many of Misc's best articles (Ibis babies and the like) might belong in categories like University, it's important to not lose sight of what Misc is all about! It's a place where everything and anything can appear - and with the number of increasingly specific categories on the rise, maybe that's a good thing.

Sincerely yours, Marlow Hurst, A man of misc, MECO ?

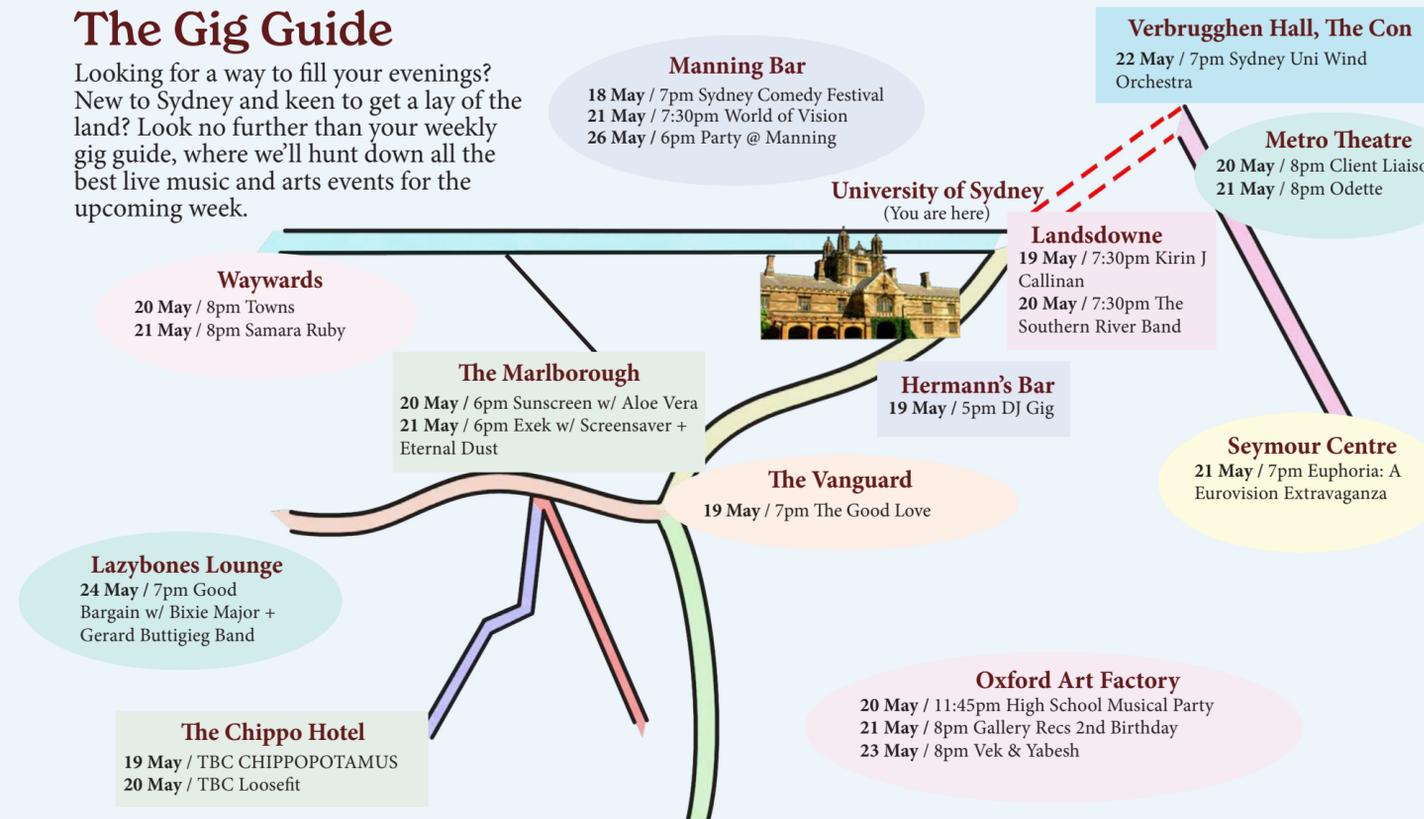
The Michael Spence Column for Disagreeing Well*



Scott Morrison is a cunt.

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.



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UTS and WSU staff to take industrial action after USyd 48-hour strike

Carmeli Argana reports.

Staff at two Sydney universities have taken steps towards industrial action just days after the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) USyd Branch participated in a 48-hour strike. These are the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and Western Sydney University (WSU).

The WSU NTEU branch voted on Friday to take strike action in three weeks time, while NTEU members at UTS applied for a protected action ballot order with the Fair Work Commission on Saturday. A protected action ballot

is a secret ballot that allows employees to vote on whether to initiate protected industrial action, such as a strike.

“At both WSU and UTS, our members have been negotiating for new enterprise agreements for over nine months. At UTS, management have failed to meet our claims around job security, limits to workplace restructuring, protections against over-work and a fair pay rise, so NTEU members have applied for the right to take protected industrial action,” NTEU NSW Secretary Damien Cahill said.

“At WSU, while negotiations have been progressing well, management have given an unacceptable low pay offer of

2% [per annum] and have not agreed to enforceable decasualisation provisions. NTEU members have therefore voted to take strike action,” said Cahill.

Students have also lent their support for staff. In a statement to Honi, UTS Students’ Association President Anna Thieben said: “The UTSSA completely supports the UTS NTEU’s unanimous decision to apply for a protected action ballot. Their fight for job security and improved working conditions is our fight too as it will directly improve the quality of our education.”

This comes off the back of a historic cross-campus 48-hour strike

at the University of Sydney, which saw staff at the traditionally conservative Conservatorium of Music (a USyd satellite campus) join the action for the first time.

“Last week’s 48-hour strike at the University of Sydney is likely to be the first of many over the coming year if uni managements around the country continue to ignore the voices of their staff,” said Cahill.

“Rampant managerialism is corroding universities, undermining staff working conditions, and student working conditions. Staff have had enough and they are ready to take action.”

USU CEO Andrew Mills repudiates USU Board’s call to support staff strikes

Khanh Tran reports.

The University of Sydney Union (USU) CEO Andrew Mills has distanced the organisation’s operations from the Board’s support of staff industrial action that is set to take place on Thursday 11 and Friday 12 May.

This comes despite a unanimous vote by the USU Board to close down the student Union and support the strike action on both days. The strike action called by the NTEU is focused on pay and working conditions ahead of EBA negotiations, with particular frustrations against casualisation and failure to protect paid research time.

“The Board has passed a motion to support the NTEU’s right to act, however we want to stress that this is the stance of

“Staff should not be coerced to perform any work.”

the Board, not the USU as an operation,” Mills said in the email.

“We have duly considered what the right course of action [is] for USU as an organisation, considering experience from past strikes and the impact this has had on our staff and the business itself,”

he said.

“However, HostCo do have an event taking place on these days which cannot be postponed and so will be going ahead.”

In a statement, SRC Education Officers Lia Perkins and Deaglan Godwin condemned USU management’s decision, calling for the organisation to cease all operations for the duration of the strike.

“The email from Andrew Mills is scabbing on workers and students at the university who are fighting against wage theft and for secure jobs,” Perkins and Godwin said.

“Staff should not be coerced to perform any work and events should

not be catered for by the USU. If the USU remains open in any way on May 11, 12 and 24 it completely erodes any semblance of “union” left in the institution.”

Further, Mills notified staff who support the strike must take the period “as annual leave or leave without pay” in clear signals that USU management does not endorse the industrial action.

Mill’s email will likely embolden long-standing criticism from the Left that the USU is a corporate entity more beholden to industry stakeholders and profits rather than student interests. Mills was appointed CEO last year with a background in managing charitable organisations.

‘Support refugees at the ballot’: Refugee Action Coalition Forum urges political change

Faye Tang reports.

The Refugee Action Coalition (RAC) hosted a forum in Surry Hills on Monday discussing how refugees have been repeatedly used as a political scapegoat, the implications of the upcoming Federal Election for refugees, and what activists and the general public can do to support them.

The panel of speakers included Zaki Haidari, an Afghan Hazara refugee on temporary visa, Behrouz Boochani, a journalist and former Manus refugee from New Zealand, and Matilda Fay, an activist for the RAC and UTS staff.

Haidari, who is on the Safe Haven Enterprise visa and has lived in Australia for ten years in separation from his family and with no guaranteed future stability, began by describing the “dire situation” of the refugee crisis.

“The power that [authorities] use and the way they use it is just inhuman,” he said.

Haidari argued that refugees alone cannot stand against institutions of authority, having been “dehumanised into very small things”.

He emphasised Australia’s recent history of harsh refugee treatment, such as the Bridging Visas in 2013 that denied refugees working rights and access to formal education, the Turn Back Policy

in 2014 that forced Indonesian refugees in boats to turn back despite personal dangers, and the Morrison government’s 2020 cuts to the humanitarian intake from 18,750 places to 13,750.

Haidari encouraged attendees to take action and “use your power” in this upcoming election, because “power gives hope, and these people need hope to move forward”.

“All the refugees ask for is a safe, permanent home, and to be reunited with their families,” he said.

Boochani, meanwhile, emphasised Australia’s marginalisation and inhumane treatment of refugees.

“30,000 people are in the [refugee] community, and they have been under torture. The system always chases them,” Boochani said.

“[Even after] they are free, the system tortures them. Sometimes this torture is just by sending a simple letter, threatening deportation or threatening that they will never get a permanent visa.”

Boochani reflected on the 2019 election when thousands of refugees on Manus Island “thought that Labor would win, and that change would be effected”.

“But that never happened. That was a dark day. I myself, probably for the first time, lost hope when the Liberals won the

election... I was thinking, these people cannot stay in this situation for another three years,” he said.

Boochani concluded by emphasising that although “refugees’ lives get affected by politics more than anyone [else], they do not have voter’s rights”, and they are thus stuck in a “cycle of hope and disillusionment”.

“We need to really fight – this time, the people of Australia must do something for human rights,” he said.

Fay reiterated the need for public action: “It’s important that when we hear people’s stories we don’t just sit and listen, but get involved.”

She discussed the RAC’s approach, which will extend beyond the upcoming election. “What actually drives RAC is campaigns, rallies, protests. We need to continue to build a movement that any government can’t ignore.”

Fay reiterated the RAC’s apprehensive position on the New Zealand deal struck in March, that would guarantee 450 refugees’ resettlement in New Zealand over the next few years.

“450 people isn’t enough.

“We need to fight to dismantle offshore detention entirely. What’s going to win these changes is the same thing that has gotten us to where we are now: consistent campaigning, consistent

public pressure,” she said.

An attendee from the floor challenged the panel’s “reluctance to criticise the ALP”, pointing out that “there are people on the conservative side that support refugees”. He said that the “refugee issue” shouldn’t become “a partisan issue”.

Haidari agreed that the refugee crisis “is not an issue only for Leftists; it’s an issue of human rights,” and that “we should reach out to the wider community.”

However, Behrouz maintained that the Liberal party has not adequately handled the issue. “[The Liberal party] established their campaign on ‘national security’; they have been torturing people because of what they claim to be ‘national security’... [whenever] anything wrong happen[s] in Australia, they blame it on refugees, because refugees are dehumanised, marginalised, and people don’t hear them. We have to challenge this mechanism.”

“If we don’t create political change, they will continue to do this. This government has shown that they are capable [of doing] any kind of inhumane policy,” Behrouz said.

The Panel encouraged attendees to support refugees at the ballot boxes. The Federal Election is on 21 May.

USU election loophole allows voter fraud

Riley Vaughan reports.

The University of Sydney Union Board Election was subject to a serious flaw on the first day of electronic voting which allowed potential attackers to vote on behalf of other electors.

The exploit was a rather simple one, owing itself to the lack of voter verification measures implemented by the USU and their vendor, BigPulse. I detected and disclosed it to the USU’s Electoral Officer last night, and it was patched early this morning. So how did it work?

All that any curious voter needed to do was: one, click on their own personalised link; two, copy the link it took them to into a new window; and then three, input a different USU number. Then you could vote on that person’s behalf! No passwords or identifiers needed.

So how do you obtain a valid USU number? Well, any society executive probably has a Google Sheet with

a wealth of such student data. Any computer science student could probably write a quick script to brute-force all the possible permutations of USU numbers. It wouldn’t have been complicated to vote on every USU member’s behalf for the same candidate. I thought it would be more fun guessing numbers for a while.

I took the liberty of guessing some random numbers in the form “19XXXXX”. In two minutes of typing in random numbers, I was able to log in to a random member’s account without their personalised link. I then realised the USU’s Director of People and Culture attached her number to the email, so I tried to sign in as her. It worked! I did not vote for either of them, and as soon as I realised that this devious behaviour was possible, I alerted the USU.

No process is totally secure, and online processes are even less so. Despite this fact, online elections can be designed securely, and have been for both the USU and SRC. The contract between the USU and BigPulse is

May SRC Meeting Recap

Ellie Stephenson reports.

Hiring and firing

As we reported last meeting, Maddie Clark has resigned as Women’s Officer. Her replacement, Dashie Prasad, was provisionally elected last night. They told the meeting that: “The role should always have anti-colonial and activist politics attached to it” and highlighted the significance of having a non-binary Women’s Officer during a time of escalating transphobia.

The SRC has also finally found an Indigenous Officer in Jaime Stanley, who was also elected last night, along with new Queer Officer Ella Pash, who is replacing Will Stano and Ira Patole.

Strategies: activist, electoral, more

As usual, contestations over left-wing strategy abounded throughout the meeting.

The discourse started when SAIt regular Owen Marsden-Readford asked Lancaster whether the SRC will be supporting the National Union of Students’ (NUS) “cretinous” ‘It’s Time for Change’ campaign, which he claimed was a veiled campaign for the Labor Party. Lancaster replied that the SRC had supported the NUS’ campaign to lower the age of independence, but that “I think that we are all fairly capable of thinking critically about the demands the NUS put out.”

Education activists argued that students should be prioritising organising for the NTEU strikes.

The USU copped further flak later in the meeting, on a motion proposed by Tiger Perkins calling on the University and the USU to divest from fossil fuels. Several speakers, including NLS’ Mikaela Pappou and President Lauren Lancaster took aim at the USU’s lack of transparency, consumption of SSAF funding, and continued lack of structural change despite several progressives on the Board,

“Why are you running for USU then?” clamoured SAIt, on the USU Board Elections that have dominated Facebook feeds and Courtyard cafe in recent weeks.

“I’m not”, replied Lauren. While technically true, Lauren did authorise and manage Onor Nottle’s Board run.

Awesomely, Oscar “postgraduate” Chaffey, who had arrived at the meeting for unspecified reasons, decides to deliver a grand speech in defence of electoralism – complete with quoted paragraphs from Red Flag’s defence of the Victorian Socialists.

This, of course, relaunched a separate debate about whether the Left should run in USU Board Elections.

Consultation v Chinese New Year

Michael Grenier, who ran on Libdependent ticket Wave but insists he votes Green, proposed a motion that called for people proposing SRC motions to consider consulting students before doing so. The motion also levelled criticism at a motion passed earlier last year which renamed ‘Lunar New Year’ to ‘Chinese New Year’ in SRC communications.

However, some saw the motion’s opposition to alienating any students as an attempt to silence the Left on campus. SAIt pointed out that almost any political motion would inevitably alienate at least some students, so the function of the motion was to condemn controversial, yet valid, proposals.

“Next time propose a motion that means something,” advised General Secretary Alana Ramshaw (Switch) as it was voted down.

Nakba Rally discussion gets heated

The Council spent at least 40 minutes debating a motion, proposed by Sophie Haslam (SAIt), encouraging students to attend a rally commemorating the Nakba. SAIt speakers discussed the brutality of the Israeli occupation of Palestine and urged the Council to oppose it, but Ben “BenJo” Jorgensen (Liberal) proposed a supposedly “common-sense” amendment to condemn ‘terrorism and violence’ on any side.

This amendment was not amenable to SAIt.

If the debate was already unproductive,

probably worth a considerable amount of our money. It would be interesting to know why the error was allowed to occur.

The USU has now added a password to this login page, which remains unknown. They are adamant in BigPulse’s analysis that this flaw wasn’t abused by anyone. Can they know that for sure? I don’t think so. Are they right? Probably.

USU President Prudence Wilkins-Wheat told *Honi*, “The University of Sydney Union has been using BigPulse as a secure platform for its nominations and elections for the past 11 years and is currently running the 2022 USU Elections for over 30,000 students on our system.”

“Yesterday we became aware of a misconfiguration in the system which allowed unauthorised activity to occur on a small number of voting accounts (less than 10). This was rectified immediately, and re-voting rights have been assigned to these accounts.”

it levelled up when Gabi Stricker-Phelps, who was conspicuously absent for her Report of the Undergraduate Senate Fellow, materialised in the Zoom. “This Council is no stranger to my views on this subject... The rhetoric used in this sort of motion is extremely divisive... there’s dangerous misinformation going on here,” Stricker-Phelps opined.

Lia Perkins contested Stricker-Phelps’ framing of Jewish students’ perspectives on Israel, arguing: “I speak as a Jewish student who does not feel represented by AUJS... I support the people of Palestine in fighting for their rights”.

The Council moved to a vote, which passed, despite Stricker-Phelps’ erroneous attempts to vote against it (as a non-Councillor, she does not actually have a vote). Grenier and the Liberals opposed, with BenJo insisting his dissent was noted.

What did people agree on?

A number of issues more or less united the Council.

Support for strikes, including a boycott of communications with University management, unanimously passed. “Management don’t just do bad things because they’re bad people... they do what they do because the University is run like a corporation”, Deaglan Godwin argued.

Pleasingly, a motion opposing attacks on abortion rights in the US passed without contestation.

Grace Lagan observed that it is the most vulnerable people who are harmed by restrictions on abortion and who are at the forefront of the pro-choice movement, thanking the Women’s Collective along with her co-Officer Bearer Alana Ramshaw for their activism on the issue.

A motion calling for the establishment of an autonomous disabilities space following an Honi investigation into the absence of one also passed unanimously. “Disabled students really deserve to have a space that they can comfortably just exist in,” SRC Welfare Officer Grace Wallman argued.

USU Board election 2022 results announced

Five new Board Directors have been provisionally elected to the 2022 University of Sydney Union (USU) Board. Onor Nottle (Switch), Madhullikaa Singh (Switch), Naz Sharifi (Independent), Nicholas Dower (ModLib) and Alexander Poirier (Independent) were elected to the Board. All candidates bar K Philips were elected, with Onor Nottle scoring the highest primary vote.

Nottle, Singh, Sharifi and Dower were elected on the first count, with 657, 645, 642 and 603 votes respectively. Although Poirier received the lowest primary vote of 253, preferences flowing from Onor Nottle allowed him to edge out K Philips’ 316 primary votes.

They will be joining current Board Directors Isla Mowbray (Switch), Telita Goile (Switch), Du Du (Independent), David Zhu (Libdependent) and Nicholas Comino (Libdependent).

K Philips campaigned with newly-formed faction INTERPOL, which perhaps lacked the factional support and institutional knowledge of their competitors.

The result also means that only three international students will be sitting on the Board, with Singh joining Du Du and David Zhu, in a sign of waning participation from international student-oriented factions such as Penta and Phoenix in student politics.

This result sees the Left consolidate their bloc on Board, with another two Directors hailing from Switch. Nicholas Dower will contribute another Liberal to the Board, while Naz Sharifi and Alexander Poirier are unaligned. Their votes will likely be highly sought after in the upcoming Executive election, which will decide the President, Vice President, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary of the Union.

Sharifi self-described as progressive, but has received support from current SULC-aligned Directors Ben Hines and David Zhu. Despite Poirier’s stint in Unity, he seems poised to work with the Left having received preferences from Switch’s Onor Nottle and described himself as ‘anti-capitalist’ in his *Honi* interview.



Meddling Murdoch: How *The Australian* poisons Federal Election coverage

Zara Zadro reads the Murdoch news so you don't have to.

Every three years, media coverage controls and constructs the narrative around our Federal Election. It is no secret that Australia has one of the most concentrated landscapes of media ownership in the world. News Corp, owned by Rupert Murdoch, controls 59 per cent of our metropolitan and national print media markets by readership according to a 2021 GetUp report, a ubiquity that is unprecedented in liberal democracies globally. The report emphasises how Murdoch media erodes democracy in countries like Australia, evidenced perhaps most pervasively by our public discussions around climate change. News Corp climate misinformation has "hindered climate policy, encouraged negative sentiments towards climate action, and actively driven a political wedge into our public debate", it observes.

Considering this, it's crucial that we interrogate News Corp's election coverage if the 2022 Federal Election is to unfold in the context of a vibrant and functioning democracy.

The Murdoch-LNP alliance

Throughout this election, Murdoch newspapers have splashed anti-Labor, pro-Liberal, anti-Teal Independents sentiment across their front pages – from the PM's swipes at Albanese's 5.1 per cent wage increase promise on the front page of *The Australian* ("PM warns of 'vandal' Albanese"), to puff-pieces about threatened Liberal candidates like Josh Frydenberg and Katherine Deves in the *Daily Telegraph* and *Herald Sun*.

The Australians for Murdoch Royal Commission, an organisation campaigning against Murdoch's media monopoly founded after Kevin Rudd's 2020 ePetition, tracked the daily coverage bias of the 2022 Federal Election across all Australian Murdoch newspapers from 5 May to 11 May (*The Australian*, *The Advertiser*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Courier Mail*, and *The Herald Sun*). On average, it found that 38 articles per day across all papers contained pro-LNP sentiment, 32 were 'neutral', and just 11 were pro-ALP. On the worst day, 5 May, a 35 article gap divided pro-LNP and pro-ALP article-counts on the bias tracker.

"[Murdoch media is] a particular type of propaganda that steals the semiotics of journalism -- the look and feel of the news -- and shapes it for virality in the social media age," writes Christopher Warren for *Crikey*.

Naturally, the true reach of Murdoch media is difficult to measure in the digital news era. Media analysts have long suggested that the global decline of print media is blunting News Corp's influence. In its Annual Report 2021, NewsCorp

"It's crucial that we interrogate News Corp's election coverage if the 2022 Federal Election is to unfold in the context of vibrant and functioning democracy."

said it reached 5.5 million Australians on average every week through its print newspapers in 2020, compared to its 810,000 aggregate closing number of online subscribers as of June 30, 2021. Nonetheless, according to UNSW Associate professor David McKnight, newspapers still play a major agenda setting role because they have the biggest newsrooms in the country, and originate the raw material for more news stories than any other news medium.

Further, reach is not necessarily commensurate with successful influence

when one considers the increasingly partisan perspectives it platforms. The Australian consistently campaigns against the ABC, the ALP, and most left-wing causes, populated by conservative writers like Peter Van Onselen and Chris Kenny. Its support for the Liberal National Party is generally consistent with Murdoch's empire of media outlets, and its approach to this Federal Election is no exception.

"Of the 39 articles [from 7-14 May] specifically written about the LNP and Scott Morrison's election campaign, 26 are explicitly pro-Somo or the LNP."

By comparison, of the 39 articles specifically written about the LNP and Scott Morrison's election campaign, 26 are explicitly pro-Somo or the LNP. Unlike articles concerning Albanese, Somo is painted in a sympathetic and heroic light by the language of *The Australian*. 'Mum by Scott's side in enemy territory,' reads one article headline from 8 May. 'For Scott the Underdog, a week is indeed a long time in politics' announces another on 14 May. Following another week of poor Newpoll ratings, this article's byline stretches so far as to argue a redemption arc is still possible for the PM: 'His personal image has only worsened. But starting with his campaign launch, the PM still can produce another miracle,' it states. Articles such as 'Bulldozer Morrison ready to rebuild' (14 May) and 'Lib candidates still in it to win it: Howard' (12 May) extrapolate on this image of Morrison as capable of transformation and rebuilding.

The Teal Independents were the only other runners in the election mentioned multiple times, eight of the total nine articles characterising them as sly and deceptive (e.g. 'Deception key to teals' quest for power' [7 May] and 'The teal peril: power without responsibility' [11 May]).

Of the 13 articles that contain what is considerably negative sentiment towards the LNP, only 3 are genuine critiques of policy ('Libs caught in absurd climate trap' (14 May), 'Put up or pay up, PM warned on wages' [12 May], and 'Morrison's promise to change too little, too late?' [13 May]). The others comprise reporting on slip-ups (e.g. 'LNP candidate faces AFP fraud probe [8 May]) and negative public sentiment (e.g. 'Coalition under fire both North and South' [11 May]).

Notably, there were exactly zero articles about the Greens over this last week of election reporting on *The Australian*.

What does this mean for the election?

Readers of *The Australian* and Murdoch media more broadly are inundated with pro-LNP and anti-ALP sentiment. Only by spreading awareness of such bias and boycotting these publications can Murdoch's nefarious influence over Australian democracy be stifled – the boycott of Murdoch's *The Sun* in England provides a roadmap to follow.

Further, if the mogul's preferred leadership candidate, the LNP, is toppled in this Federal Election, as the polls are currently predicting, the Royal Commission into Murdoch media that Kevin Rudd and the left have incessantly campaigned for since 2020 will hopefully come to fruition.



ELECTION REPORTING ANALYSIS

I filtered through the past week's Federal Election reporting on *The Australian* online, specifically the period of Saturday 7 May – Saturday 14 May. On the website, this content is categorised under 'Politics'.

The total number of articles whose main subject was the ALP in this period was 39. Of these, 34 contained explicit critique of the party and/or Anthony Albanese, achieved via three main characterisations; federal budget 'overspending' and economic ineptitude – the most prolific (17), the coyness, clumsiness and sleaziness of its members (10), and a general inadequacy for leadership role (2). ALP election policy subject to the most attack included Albanese's backing of a national average wage increase last week (15), and Labor's \$1 billion boost to medicare (e.g. 'Labor's \$1 billion dollar Medicare splurge' [14 May] and 'Close to universal free childcare? You must be kidding' [13 May]).

Articles about the ALP leader himself are calculated to ridicule, delegitimise and vilify, including 'The Albo Experiment', 'Albo coy on politicians social grillings', and 'Fumbling Albo takes a knock'.

Social media showdown: ScoMo vs. Albo

Valerie Chidiac scrolls.

The Great Debate on May 8 saw discussions on the cost of living, rising interest rates, debt and housing, aged care crisis, treatment of women and gender equality, and national security issues, particularly the Asia-Pacific.

However, not all students and voters enjoy the debate format, nor grown men talking over one another, battling to have the final say. Instead, many look to social media posts for a snapshot of election priorities and promises.

Both current Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese have utilised their

social media platforms to impart their election aspirations to as many audiences as possible. Here, I analyse both leaders' social media campaigns will focus on Instagram as it is used by 30.1% of 18-24 year olds, the age bracket containing most university students, per the Global State of Digital 2022 report. For the duration of 9 April to 9 May 2022, Instagram posts were categorised to produce data on the relative frequency of these themes across profiles. These data are presented in Figure 1. Note that posts may be subject to overlap and only the frequency of each phrase in the captions are compared, not imagery or videos.

The 'economy & future' buzzword has been excluded from the chart, as it

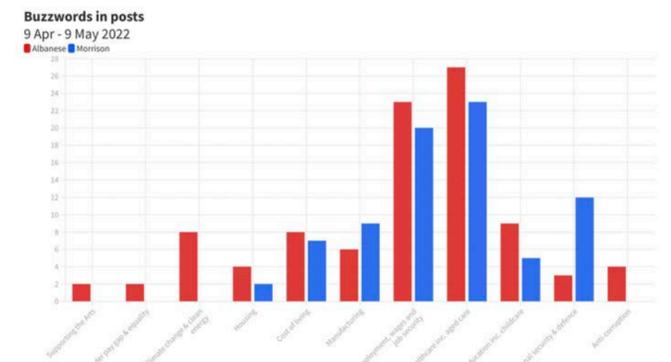
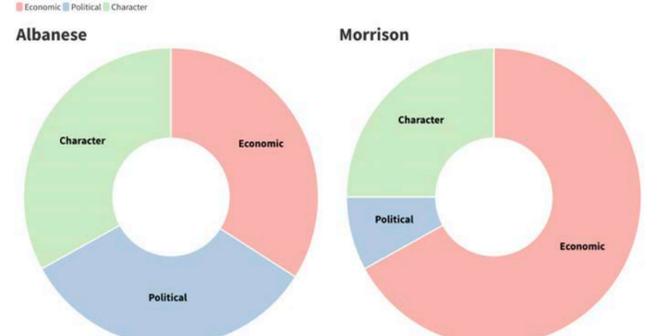


Figure 1

10 most recent instagram posts



Figures 2 and 3

Debt alarmism is bad, think employment instead

Sam Randle reminds us why the debt doesn't fucking matter this election.

Do not let discussions of debt management sway your vote this weekend. It really doesn't matter as much as you think. We have seen Albanese scold the Coalition for letting the nominal debt double since coming to power in 2013. Likewise, Morrison regularly attacks the Labor Party for being poor economic managers and can't help but assert that: "Labor knows how to start spending, but they never know how to stop." This rhetoric is fundamentally misguided from both sides. Debt alarmism is a scare tactic, and debt levels are shockingly irrelevant compared to other economic indicators like unemployment and underemployment.

First, let's look at some numbers to get a picture of the current situation. Yes, as of August 2021 Australian national debt stood at \$623 billion which is the highest number it has ever climbed to. It's also true that forecasts indicate a rise to \$1.2 trillion by 2024-2025. While large, it's important to remember economists do not use these figures in isolation. Debt is almost always compared to the size of the economy - or GDP. The debt-to-GDP ratio currently sits at 39.5% which is lower than what it was for most of 1917-1954. Keep this in mind when any politician employs a 'big number scary

tactic. At a fixed ratio, the number should go up.

When compared to other high performing economies, these debt levels are still quite low. Japan's debt-to-GDP ratio is 221%, Singapore's is 155%, the USA stands at 119%, the UK at 104%, and France at 93%, - I could go on. All these countries have functioning economies with no clear signs of armageddon on the horizon. So, what effects could high debt actually have?

You may have heard Morrison frequently tout the importance of maintaining Australia's AAA credit rating. A credit rating is an indicator of a government's potential ability to pay its debt back. The higher it is, the lower the interest rates will supposedly be. It's true that a country like Japan has a lower A+ credit rating, but despite Singapore's enormous debt-to-GDP ratio they still hold a AAA credit rating. Research from the University of South Australia found that while a low credit rating tended to increase interest rates for some countries, it didn't for a specific kind of economy - the monetary sovereign.

Australia is a monetary sovereign. That means that we issue and collect

is an outlier by a large margin (ScoMo's 104 mentions to Albo's 37), dominating Morrison's captions and emphasising the Liberal Party's priorities. Posts began with captions "Why I love Australia" until "We're keeping Australians safe", as he hopes to continue in an additional term as Prime Minister based on his performance and 'better the devil you know' catchphrase. From Figure 1 we see his captions frequently focused on 'employment,' healthcare,' 'national security and defence,' and 'manufacturing.'

Based on this data analysis, Liberals are proving less willing to address key concerns that plague Australia today, and will continue to avoid them in the immediate future. Morrison's campaign accurately recaptures the policy of the Liberal/National Coalition over the last decade or so, and is not moving forwards in areas beyond the business, defence and economic sectors.

Noticeably missing in comparison to Albanese and Labor, were 'supporting the arts,' 'gender pay gap and equality,' 'climate change and clean energy,' and 'anti-corruption.' These are all crucial issues concerning our generation, and future generations. The lack of any mention of 'anti-corruption' reinforce Morrison's own dubious claim that he has not witnessed corruption in the Liberal Party on his watch.

As such, there is an overt difference between the two leaders. Morrison ignores criticism of his previous policies and statements, demonstrating a stagnant approach in his leadership. Albanese, based on his usage of the key phrases, is more responsive to the concerns of the Australian public such as the increased cost of living and the climate.

Albanese's posts begin at "A better future for all Australians" ending at "Only Labor has a plan to lift wages". Contrary to popular belief, Albanese has had the economy and future as one of his main talking points even while many criticise his ability to drive the economy. Unsurprisingly, the Liberals have once more adopted this as a key critique of their opponent. Excluding the word 'future,' 'healthcare' is the top focus, followed by 'employment, wages and job security,' as well as 'climate change and clean energy,' and 'cost of living.'

Common posts for both included visiting electoral areas, religious

ceremonies, regional communities, the debates, and slogans of encouragement to vote for their respective campaigns. Not to mention Anthony Albanese's dog, and his affinity for the South Sydney Rabbitohs, as well as Scott Morrison's dedication to the Cronulla Sharks, homemade curries, and his wife Jenny's 'common-sense' advice.

Additionally, I have analysed the last 10 posts as of 9 May around three broad foci: economic, political, and personal character. Posts were sorted according to the dominant focus to simplify the results. For example, while defence and security can relate to the 'political,' in Morrison's case it is more applicable to the 'economic' category as it focuses on employment and investment, or his image of Perth's landscape, captioned with the intention to outline economic plans, also counts as 'economic.' Figure 2 and Figure 3 clearly demonstrate that Morrison embodies the Liberal emphasis on economic recovery, whilst Albanese has equal focus on projecting an individual image capable of being Prime Minister and highlighting Labor's overall political stances, such as a focus on improving Medicare and a higher minimum wage.

Overall, both leaders' content has been very similar, attempting to answer the main questions dominating electoral discourse: personal character, political decision-making and/or regarding their respective political parties and proposed plans for the economy. However, Albanese has emphasised several key areas completely neglected by Morrison and the Liberal Party. His mentions of the climate, gender pay equality, and anti-corruption help explain the greater focus on the non-economic political priorities of Labor. However, the economy will be on the minds of many students as they enter the workforce with higher debt, fewer jobs, and a higher cost of living.

Based on this analysis and the focus of the Labor campaign, Albanese is more concerned with addressing issues like healthcare, low wages, and climate change. Whilst many may feel like they do not know Albanese as a politician adequately, one third posts are dedicated towards bridging this gap of unfamiliarity for voters. We do not just need policy from a leader, but vision and morale-building too. Morrison's social media presence is offering the same as what we usually get from the Liberals. If you think it's time for something new, then the data above speak for themselves.

taxes, borrow money in our own currency and that our currency is not tied to the value of gold or some other currency. You might have heard the term 'money printer go brrrr.' If we take on debt, we can print the money required to settle any debt, including any interest repayments. So, at least when it comes to credit ratings, lenders don't think debt is much of a problem - they love Aussie debt. If debt doesn't matter for all the reasons it's supposed to, what does?

The keen eyed may be starting to think "well, if the Australian government can just print as much money as it wants, doesn't that make the currency worthless?" This is where my assertion that other economic indicators are more important comes in. The big one is economic productivity. Australian dollars are primarily used to purchase goods and services and pay taxes. So long as there is faith that the Australian economy offers desirable goods and services and the government collects taxes, people will want Australian dollars.

When we have a greater employment level we have more goods and services being produced. The assumption with capitalist economies is that they will always grow so there will always be a

reason to hold Australian dollars. It's only when our offerings decrease relative to those on the world stage that people get concerned about its usefulness.

So to combat the decrease in usefulness we should do what seems unintuitive to the so-called debt hawks - spend more. There are over 560,000 unemployed people in this country and 880,000 who would like more hours. This is a tremendous waste of human potential that could be addressed with well-paying public sector jobs. If these jobs are created in strategic areas that will fortify the sustainability of our economy, then investors will always purchase Australian debt. We won't default because we can print our way out and we won't collapse as an economy because we can always make productive contributions to the global capitalist economy.

So, the next time Labor lambasts the Coalition for blowing out the debt, remember the point is moot. And when the Coalition complains about a Labor government that can't stop spending, remember it's that increased employment and infrastructure that means Australia will always have something to offer.

The NDIS needs better investment not cost alarmism

Khanh Tran critiques the major parties' investment in the health of disabled communities.

As the federal election heats up towards polling day next week on 21 May, media attention is currently fixated on Peter Dutton's security farm mongering and the Prime Minister's apparent about-face when it comes to his leadership style. While understandable as every politician vies to grab a slice of the voters' attention, this leaves less sensationalist but vital issues such as the costs debate around the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) largely unnoticed.

The NDIS passed with bipartisan support in 2013 during the last months of Julia Gillard's government, reforming disability care from the previous grant-based model under the National Disability Agreement (NDA). As part of the NDA, Canberra was only responsible for employment services and compliance funding for state governments. The NDIS is not means-tested and akin to Medicare, is uncapped and driven by demand. Today, it is administered jointly between the federal, state and territory governments as a unified system.

However, the nine years that followed were characterised by political wrangling over the scheme, particularly between the federal and state governments over the implementation of the NDIS.

With the ongoing Disability Royal Commission having already unveiled systemic underpayment of disabled workers in Australian Disability Enterprises and allegations of violence and neglect by NDIS providers looming in the background, the debate over the NDIS is one that will hold significant implications for hundreds of thousands of disabled Australians for the years to come.

Most recently, NDIS Minister Linda Reynolds warned that the NDIS was financially unsustainable following the NDIA's forecasts that the scheme

could cost \$40.5 billion by 2025. This prediction, however, overlooks the returns that the scheme has in increasing workforce participation of both disabled people and carers, and reductions in reliance on residential care or aids schemes. According to the think tank Per Capita, the broader economic benefits of the NDIS will continue to outweigh additional costs with the organisation estimating this to exceed \$50 billion annually.

In March, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) - the agency tasked with implementing the NDIS - was spending tens of millions in expensive litigation to battle tribunal complaints over NDIS plans. It was also revealed in the same month in the NDIS's last quarterly report that the average plan size for recipients fell by four per cent between 2020 and 2021. This fall was condemned as cuts by stealth as the reduction targeted individual plans instead of the overall budget allocated for the scheme by the federal government.

So far, the debate on the NDIS by the two major parties has been slow, although the ALP's platform on the NDIS in this election is better than the Liberals' manifesto for the scheme.

Being one of the notable absences from the Liberal manifesto, the NDIS received barely any attention beyond Reynolds' casting doubt on the ALP's promise to recruit an additional 380 staff for the agency in an attempt to cast Labor as economically untrustworthy. However, last year, the government proposed controversial ideas such as independent assessment, powers for NDIA CEO to vary individual plans and power for the NDIS Minister to determine eligibility requirements - controversial because they were perceived as paternalistic attempts to vary individual plans without

consultations with participants or reduce the number of Australians eligible to partake in the scheme.

These policies ended up being shelved following fierce opposition from disability advocates and the numbers not being there in Parliament. Should the Coalition seize victory, it is not inconceivable that these ideas may receive momentum and be revived in Parliament. Should this occur, it will represent a setback for the disabled community as it will likely mean an increase in conflicts between NDIS participants and NDIA bureaucracy.

“NDIS spending should be viewed as a greater investment for the common good rather than targeted for budget cuts.”

On the other hand, the ALP's platform under Anthony Albanese and Shadow NDIS Minister Bill Shorten is promising further reviews into the NDIS, increased disabled representation on the NDIA Board and Executive, publication of data and an officer dedicated to regional NDIS delivery among other policies. Some of these are long overdue recommendations from past reviews, with data transparency being urged by the Productivity Commission's report in 2017.

Although the ALP's proposal of a co-designed review of the NDIS, meaning that disabled Australians will be included among reviewers, is a positive sign, the party's platform remains disproportionately focused on costs instead of autonomy for NDIS recipients. Any review should focus on

addressing this erosion of autonomy

In view of the coming election, NDIS spending should be viewed as a greater investment for the common good rather than targeted for budget cuts. The rhetoric surrounding the NDIS being an overly expensive scheme, chiefly due to an increase in the number of expected participants, suggests that both sides of politics may be underestimating the proportion of disabled individuals requiring “reasonable and necessary” support in the first place. At present, nearly two per cent of the Australian population or 449,900 people are NDIS participants - a low number compared to the 1.4 million the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare identified as requiring substantial accommodation. The scheme should be structured to reflect the country as a whole, rather than the structural underestimation of the disabled community.

Further, the major parties must place trust in disabled communities instead of espousing a paternalistic view of disability support. Indeed, the 2020 Tune Review of the scheme revealed “frustrations, dissatisfaction and sometimes anger” at the byzantine architecture of the NDIS. As such, a focus on autonomy means increasing freedom for NDIS recipients to decide how their plan is managed and what support is needed for each person. This in turn gets the level of support correct and reduces the risk of NDIS plans being appealed. The latter being the chief culprit for why legal costs associated with the scheme are ballooning to begin with.

Otherwise, frustrations among the disabled community towards the federal government will only escalate on what is a sound scheme that has so far served to enhance the experience of disabled people.

It's time for a wealth tax: Even 0.2% will do

Sam Randle finds change under the proverbial economic couch.

Recovering from COVID, addressing wealth inequality, and meeting the aims of the Green New Deal (or Real Deal in the Australian context) are all challenges our future government will inevitably face. If you, like most Aussies, haven't swallowed the whole ‘debt doesn't really matter’ pill as I have, but care for progressive projects, then you might be wondering how we can finance them. Electoral politics is about compromise so while the debt-debate rages on, I present you with an alternative that should satisfy conservative debt hawks and progressive voters: the gross wealth tax.

Most conceptions of the wealth tax take the form of a net rather than gross wealth tax. A net wealth tax essentially ignores an individual's financial liabilities. So if you have \$100,000 in savings but a \$500,000 mortgage, your net position is negative \$400,000 and have no positive taxable wealth. In contrast, your gross position is actually positive \$600,000 - now we have something to work with.

We should adopt a gross wealth tax because the rich use debt to offset their tax liability. Furthermore, they can go deeper into debt than the average person because they have assets to leverage. The average person might be granted a mortgage because they have income and some savings. The rich secure loans on large businesses which they can use to expand their business to take out more loans. In other words, they use debt to finance more debt. Counterintuitively, the political and economic power of the rich comes not from what they have but from what they owe.

Now let's apply the gross wealth tax to see its potential. Our current debt sits at \$623 billion and the gross wealth held by Australians is approximately \$26.8 trillion, according to research from the University of Sydney. At a conservative 3% interest rate on public debt, we would need a mere 0.07% wealth tax to meet all interest repayments. Meeting interest repayments is important for debt sustainability because if the interest rate

is greater than the repayment rate we would see the debt balloon.

A wealth tax that is scaled to our national debt would free up income from other taxes to pay back the loan (minus interest), build infrastructure, create jobs, and care for the most disadvantaged.

One might then ask, what kind of wealth tax might be required to sustainably finance the green transition as part of the Green New Deal. Research at Stanford University found that a complete energy transition in Australia could cost anywhere up to \$820 billion. They also found that if publicly owned, the money generated from energy sales would repay that amount. Therefore, to manage the interest repayments we would need a tax rate of just 0.09%. We could manage our current debt and this new debt with just a 0.16% wealth tax.

These amounts are insignificant compared to the income tax rates - tax rates often avoided by CEOs who pay themselves in other ways. They are also far lower than the rate at which wealth

is growing in this country. Specifically, net wealth in Australia grows at 5.99% per year which will likely outstrip any tax rate that we would adopt, but the upper limit would need to be determined.

Finally, there is another reason we should consider a wealth tax that I previously hinted at - wealth inequality is bad. I believe a moral society limits wealth inequality for its own sake but empirical evidence suggests more unequal societies have less entrepreneurship, poorer educational attainment, and the redirection of labour to making luxury rather than essential goods, for example. Wealth inequality does not motivate others to work harder as the conservative mainstream would have you believe. A wealth tax is therefore a first step in taking back power from the rich.

So, the next time you make demands for a more equitable world, feel confident that there is a method of taxation that can support those demands - demands you should make irrespective of this election's outcome.

Does the Labor Party offer a viable path to change?

Tiger Perkins, an anarchist, a greenie, and a labor student walk into a bar.

Aware that inviting an anarchist, a Greenie and a Labor student to a pub tends invariably to lead to shouting, I decided instead to run separate zoom calls with each. What came out of these calls was a series of surprisingly honest discussions about the nature of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) and its viability as a path to change. With the intention of problematising this idea, I conducted three interviews that catch a broad cross-section of ideological belief, experience and parliamentary engagement: Mikaela Stella Pappou, a USyd student and member of National Labor Students (Labor Left); Tim Livingstone, a USyd student and member of the anarchist communist organisation Black Flag; and Jim Casey, a firefighter, socialist and member of the Greens who ran against Anthony Albanese in Grayndler in 2016 and 2019.

Ideological introductions and theories of change

Livingstone summarised ‘free socialism’, the core idea of anarcho-communism, as the removal of the upper echelon of socio-economic class in society, and then a reversal of society's power structures. This entails the absence of an organised state as it currently exists, in contrast to the socialist model of broad centralised government and economic planning. We can imagine the class structure of society as a simplified triangle: constituting a broad base of workers at the bottom; small business owners and others who have a socio-financial stake in the continuation of capitalism in the middle; and the rich or ruling class at the top. Anti-capitalist ideologies such as anarchism and socialism would have us remove the latter two and then flip the triangle so that workers run society, because it is “workers who make society run”, Livingstone notes. This looks like profits going back to workers (rather than being directed to CEOs and shareholders) and these groups having full, democratic control over the direction that their institutions take. Central to this redistribution of wealth and power are ideas of social justice, the elimination of hierarchy, climate action, and workers' rights.

In terms of how we would get there, otherwise known as a ‘theory of change’, Casey agreed that the main focus should be on community organising through unions and other movements for workers' rights, like we have seen with the recent NTEU staff strikes. Pappou also agreed with the importance of union power when it comes to making change, citing the ALP's historical affiliation to the unions and basis in the labour movement. She stressed that if the unions tomorrow decided that they would rather affiliate wholly with the Greens instead of their current affiliation to the Labor Party, she too would do so. She sees her ALP membership less as that of a political party and more as taking her cues from the unions, who still make up 50% (down from 60% in 2003) of the delegates at state party conferences, which decide policy. Some suggest however, that the relationship between the ALP and the unions is overstated in the modern day. Since 1901, the number of federal ALP members who are former union officials has fallen by 35%. The number of these officials who have come up through the ranks of their respective unions has also greatly declined. On top of this, almost

20% of these former union members now in federal parliament come from the Shop, Distributive and Allied Industries Union (SDA), which has a reputation of being strike-averse, apolitical and boss-friendly.

Labor Party Policy

Tim Livingstone described Labor's approach to change as “sluggish”, with the goal of winning Government and enacting limited, unambitious legislation. However, it cannot be denied that they have implemented many great policies over the years. Universal healthcare was consolidated by the ALP Hawke government through Medicare in 1984, as it was expanded and renamed from the original Medibank. Disability support was also legislated by the ALP in 2013 under the The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), to name a couple. Greater childcare subsidies and an overhaul of the aged care system are some of the stronger

affordable. Unlike the ALP who supported the Liberals' recent amendments to the Roads and Crimes Legislation Act (RCLA) that introduced maximum penalties of 2 years in jail and/or a \$22,000 fine for an unregistered disruption of a road or major facility, the Greens condemned it as an “anti-protest bil”. Although Pappou didn't support this policy as “any regulation of activism is reprehensible”, she noted that Labor had passed amendments to enshrine protected union action.

However, Pappou, Casey and Livingstone were all in agreement that Labor has shifted distinctly to the right in recent years, most drastically in the lead up to this year's Federal election. They have introduced and supported a number of policies to this effect. They have voiced support for the construction of 114 new coal and gas projects and have weak emissions reductions targets of 43% by 2030. In comparison, the Greens propose a more ambitious phase out of coal and gas,

supports...offshore processing, regional resettlement and boat turnbacks” alongside her tweet that read “Labor supports cost recovery from people in immigration detention.”

“For years I voted Labor with no illusions,” Casey noted, “but I started voting Green because it was too hard to stomach supporting a party that was prepared to be a part of torturing refugees and still doesn't support the right to strike.”

Disagreeing with all of the above policies, Pappou reiterated that one can engage in ‘critical support’ of the ALP. She suggested that she sees her role as growing the size and the power of left factions within the party to influence policy, as “everyone who is a member has a voice”, referring to the party's democratic structure, and that it is simply “the best vehicle for change on offer.” Pappou however, could not point to the proverbial line she would draw in the sand with regards to something that the ALP could do policy-wise that would render them unsupportable. Livingstone and Casey were able to draw clearer political lines, the former mentioning anti-capitalism as well as a broader disbelief in parliamentary politics to effect socially necessary change. Casey represents in some ways the combination of the two, noting that he was very sympathetic to extra-parliamentary struggle. Within the context of low union density and class consciousness, however, he would describe parliament as an important secondary battleground and “site of struggle”, the power and profile of which one could wield to champion workers' rights as well as return power to union and social movements.

Voting and the Election

Questioned on the concept of lesser evilism - the idea that when faced with two bad choices, we should opt for the less bad one, rather than opt out - Livingstone noted that he did in fact draw important distinctions between the ALP and the Liberals and would be voting to kick the Liberals out. The latter, he argued, are “the party of the capitalists and the bourgeoisie.” Casey noted also that some of his staunchest comrades were members of the ALP, something that could absolutely not be said of the Liberal party. He stressed the importance of understanding the preferential voting system we have that sees votes flow to your next preference if your first preference is not elected, meaning that you don't have to vote strategically in order not to waste votes, as you do in other countries.

When asked the ultimatum of whether the Australian Labor Party did in fact provide a viable path to change, there were various answers. Very simply, Pappou answered “yes” and Livingstone “no”. Casey argued that, throughout history, Labor had proven capable of enacting change but we had to question what that change might look like. Irrespective of parliamentary engagement and the outcome of the coming election, democratic and extra-parliamentary union organising remains key to implementing change, they all agreed.

Ultimately, each voter must make up their own mind as to whether Labor provides a path to change but also ask themselves the question - is it the change that we want?



She Screamed ‘Me Too’ and no one heard

Aceda Rose writes.

On Friday 25 March, 21-year-old Mackenzie Anderson was murdered by her ex-boyfriend in Sydney's northwest. This case moved me: firstly because of its sheer brutality, but then with further searching of Mackenzie's social media, seeing that her cries for help could not save her.

Her story led me to think more about the systemic problems that allow these incidents to keep occurring, and why, even amid bustling election discourse filled with political narratives wishing to make important reforms, steps to reducing domestic violence recidivism are nowhere to be seen. Many Australian policies and interventions surrounding domestic violence are aimed to support the victim after an incident, however there appears to be a missing focus on prevention, as tragically highlighted in Mackenzie's story.

Mackenzie was the fifteenth woman to be lost to domestic violence in Australia so far this year. The #metoo movement built momentum for

conversations on domestic violence and sexual assault but evidently, it has not fixed the problem. Instead, attention has shifted to highlight a system that has failed to create subsequent laws and processes to protect these victims.

Mackenzie made numerous videos speaking out and showing photos and videos of the violence she endured, some reaching over 100,000 likes, yet she bled to death at the hands of a system that muted her cries for help. Her tragic case speaks volumes to the fact that awareness simply isn't enough.

The issue of sexual assault and violence echoes throughout every nook and cranny of our society, from households to workplaces to universities. The sickening statistics found in the newly released National Student Safety Survey show that 1 in 20 students have experienced sexual assault in their time at university, with 1 in 4 of them reporting a formal complaint.

Ideally, this number should be 4 out

of 4, but when reaching out so often leads to a dead end, why would you bother? By this, the system enables these horrible occurrences.

Throughout this election period, there should be a spotlight on such an endemic issue. But the topic of domestic violence remains in the shadows of campaign announcements, suggesting a continued absence of legal reform.

According to a GoFundMe set up by her family, Mackenzie lodged a domestic violence order against the perpetrator which led to a maximum nine months imprisonment. He was given parole after four and was released 16 days before her murder. She was not informed of his freedom. And this is a case where action was taken, an experience many assault victims are unlikely to share.

It's painful to view Mackenzie's social media posts with the benefit of hindsight, knowing that she was let down. How is it that a woman who speaks out and files for protection that leads to a sentence

still becomes a victim? If that fails, how can there be any hope for those who feel unable to speak out or don't have the means or evidence to seek protection orders?

How many more lives must we lose for the justice system to wake up to the issue of domestic violence? This issue is far too prevalent to be left in the rubble of this case.

I believe the answer lies in how the justice system responds to victims' voices. That is where the issue lies, and why this issue is still, to a great extent, left in the dark. Awareness alone cannot prevent events like this from happening if it is not supported in the justice system itself. It takes more than expecting the victim to speak up. Mackenzie spoke up, she said "me too", and no one heard. The continued silence in the upcoming election on domestic violence only perpetuates the problem.

A tale of two cities: Wollongong's industrial past and future

Ellie Stephenson does a deep dive.

Earlier this year, Port Kembla, along with Newcastle and Brisbane, was announced as a location for a nuclear submarine base to house the nuclear submarines purchased under the controversial AUKUS deal. Liberal Senator Concetta Ferravanti-Wells, who grew up in Port Kembla, described Wollongong as "the obvious choice" for the base.

The announcement is hardly definite — a location has not been finalised and the government has been reluctant to enter into precise details about the deal.

All the same, some Wollongong residents have already made their opposition clear.

Secretary of the South Coast Labor Council, Arthur Rorris, told the Illawarra Mercury that: "We will fight tooth and nail to prevent a nuclear target on our city."

Wollongong has a longstanding opposition to militarism and nuclear proliferation. In 1938, workers at Port Kembla went on strike to protest the shipping of pig iron to fascist Japan, knowing it would be used in their invasion of China. In 1980, Wollongong Council voted to become a nuclear-free city, although that commitment is largely symbolic.

Greens candidate for Cunningham in the upcoming Federal election, Dylan Green, was decisive in his opposition to the proposal in a statement to Honi: "The case for this submarine base is extremely weak."

In particular, Green condemned the lack of consultation of the Wollongong community before the announcement, telling *Honi*, "There has been no consultation with the local community in developing this proposal. I wonder if the Morrison government has simply named a few possible sites for the base and is now waiting to see which community hates the proposal least."

He expressed concern about the military escalation the base could

entail, suggesting that superpowers like the US and the UK would treat it as their own, a consequence of the purported "interoperability" of the base. "I do not want my community getting caught up in an arms race," Green said.

The Labor Party has broadly supported the AUKUS deal, with their critiques largely focusing on demands for the submarines to be manufactured in Australia and, in the case of Cunningham candidate Alison Byrnes, the lack of consultation of the community. Byrnes did not respond to a request for comment in time for print publication, but told ABC News earlier this year that Wollongong deserves "to have all the details."

Although it is impossible to gauge the level of community support for the proposal at this time, it is clearly a fraught prospect. The justification for the plan seems largely to sit within its potential for job creation, with proponents claiming that 7,000 new jobs will be generated by the base.

This raises broader questions about the ways our elected representatives engage with Wollongong's changing economy.

Port Kembla has long been a hub of industrial activity. Anecdotally, growing up in Wollongong, it was rare for a friend not to have a relative who had been employed in the Port Kembla Steelworks. The Steelworks was a central destination for post-war migration and provided education, employment and upwards mobility to thousands, like my grandpa.

In 1980, the Steelworks, either directly or indirectly, accounted for around 70% of economic activity within the region, with over 20,000 employees on the BHP books. Now, BlueScope Steel employs around 3,000 people directly and 10,000 indirectly, of a total population of around 300,000.

An outline of the Steelworks — with its chimney stacks topped by glowing flames and plumes of steam — has been a fixture of the horizon of my

childhood. I watched the demolition of the iconic Port Kembla copper smoke stack out of the window of my Year 9 history classroom. Visiting BlueScope Steel was a standout primary school excursion. These elements of Wollongong's industrial past are ubiquitous, yet distant. Evidence of the shrinking of the city's industrial workforce is ever-present, not least in the 11.7% youth unemployment rate within the Illawarra and Shoalhaven region.

This is not to romanticise the Steelworks. In their heyday they caused indisputable damage to the local environment and people's health. All the same, deindustrialisation of the region has offered an uneven and insecure future for many.

It makes sense, then, that 7,000 prospective jobs may appeal to many in the community.



ART BY ELLIE STEPHENSON

Why are Australian cities inequitable and boring? Because we're not aspiring to better ones.

Luke Cass and Gough Whitlam walk into a bar (in Glebe). Uren for a good article.

The day before Labor lost the 2013 federal election, then Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese, penned an opinion piece, writing "our cities are too important to ignore". Yet, for almost the entirety of Australia's post-war history, they have been ignored - or at least neglected. The idea of ambitious federal urban policy serves to remind us of what we have lost, the willingness to reimagine society in equitable but radical ways.

The idea of a federal urban policy framework has long affected Australian politics. Amidst a worldwide wave of interest in urban affairs, Gough Whitlam established the Department of Urban and Regional Development (DURD) upon his election in 1972. DURD was bestowed with an array of responsibilities in relation to cities: stabilising rapidly rising house prices, urban transport, and financing suburban amenities amongst others. Whitlam's urban policy was driven by the desire to reduce spatial inequality within cities. It was a vision preoccupied by social justice, with Tom Uren heading the Ministry from 1972-75. One of Uren's greatest legacies was saving Glebe from being demolished for a highway project in 1974. Instead, 700 dwellings were purchased from the Anglican Church and converted into low-income housing. In 1979, the Royal Australian Planning Journal described the Glebe project as being a "refreshing and humane contrast to the insane excesses of the commercial redevelopment ... and as a remarkable symbol of official concern for community values rather than developers' balance sheets".

Since then, most leaders have had a go at urban policy, but none have reached the aspirationalism of Whitlam and Uren. The most interesting developments have come recently - both the Gillard and Turnbull governments created national urban policy statements. The latter even appointed a Minister for Cities (who only lasted for 99 days). In the absence of federal interest, and in light of constitutional delegation of authority for planning laws, states and local governments have been tasked with the day-to-day maintenance of city policy. This naturally entertains tension between the different levels of

government, with different voter bases to please, consequently impeding the consistency and effectiveness of urban policy in Australia.

No matter at what level urban policy is implemented, Australia suffers from a failure to properly conceive of the purpose of urban policy, to create cities with a uniformly high quality of life. Ever since the Whitlam years, urban policy has been conceived as an instrument of economic reform. This has been seen in the framing of changes to lockout and licensing laws and pedestrianisation efforts as being good for businesses, rather than conducive to agreeable urban environments. It has further been seen in the national preoccupation with infrastructure.

“Instead of this myopic focus, the concern of town planners should be to view cities in terms of how they are inhabited, how they are perceived, used and remade.”

Infrastructure has been long viewed as the primary mechanism of dealing with urban problems, including a rapidly growing population and growing spatial wealth disparity. Its construction is viewed as a vehicle of economic growth, more than a means of improving quality of life. Malcolm Turnbull said in announcing his Government's national urban policy in 2016 that "an efficient city, a liveable city, is absolutely critical to the growth of our economy." His framing of the utility of a liveable city based on its contribution to economic growth is a bizarre distortion of the purpose of government. This misunderstanding has real impacts on policy implementation.

State and federal governments tend to further silo urban policy. Zoning is dealt with

separately to transport, which is dealt separately to water supply. The problem with this is that cities are at the intersection of a vast array of policy areas: urban policy is welfare policy, is economic policy, is arts policy, and so on. To tackle climate change in an urban setting is not only to plant lots of trees and put solar panels on roofs - it is to decrease travel times by intensifying housing and improving transport. It is to reduce car usage to cut carbon emissions and make cities more flood proof. Not only are traditional areas of urban policy linked, but all policy is interlinked when viewed from an urban lens.

A lack of access to health services or education isn't merely a problem with the health or education system, it is a problem which exacerbates and entrenches inequality between different parts of our cities. The health and education systems (amongst others) do not only operate in cities, but they reshape our experiences of urban environments. Urban sociology explains why this is the case because cities cannot be reduced to merely their physical properties - the height of their buildings or the number of platforms at their train stations. Instead of this myopic focus, the concern of town planners should be to view cities in terms of how they are inhabited, how they are perceived, used and remade. Not since Whitlam have politicians realised this fact and the culture of urban policy has suffered as a result.

Changing urban policy means assessing the success of all government policies and programs on their impact on our lived experiences of cities, not just the success of their procedural application. If this principle is to be applied more generally, it means not treating abstract policy goals such as a 'strong economy' as an end within themselves. Rather, they should function to enhance our experience of the world around us.

The Liberal Party at this election is a case in point of the mistakes to avoid. A search of 'urban policy' reveals their plan for infrastructure, which talks of "supporting jobs"

in an area "vital to our plan for a stronger economy". The Greens' plan for 'planning and infrastructure' is framed in a similarly limited way. However, their policies to centre environmental justice and democratic processes indicate a willingness to place people and the environment at the heart of urban policy. The Labor Party's offerings in this area are promising. Their six-point plan includes developing a national urban policy framework and an annual state of the cities report to inform policy. If implemented well, these policies could mark a significant change in the way urban policy is conceived and implemented, but the lack of attention paid to this area on the campaign trail again shows hesitancy to fully embrace the importance of urban policy.

In this election of such subdued urban policy ambition, no party has expressed a strong willingness to imagine cities as existing to improve social justice. Urban policy needs to care for people, for places and for the environment. In the face of an urban crisis, characterised by the threat of climate change and unaffordable housing, young people, diverse communities and people from a low-SES background are most affected by urban policy. It is our responsibility to radically reimagine urban policy so that it is centred upon community building. Doing so means retaking our right to a living and breathing city; the collective freedom to remake our cities, and therefore ourselves, in line with the values we seek to hold.

ART BY ELLIE STEPHENSON



WHOSE UNIVERSITY?

DAY 1: USyd a ghost town

Hundreds of staff and students mobilised to shut down the University of Sydney's operations last Wednesday as part of a 48-hour cross-campus strike organised by the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) for better working conditions. Strikers formed picket lines blockading entrances to Camperdown campus and the Conservatorium from 7am to 1pm.

The majority of classes were cancelled in advance of the strike, with some held online instead. Picketers prevented individuals on foot and in vehicles from entering campus, with NSW Police intervening to turn several motorists away.

Nick Riemer, President of the NTEU's USyd Branch, positioned the strike as a fight "for a more democratic, less overworked and more secure university."

"We're striking to get the working conditions that will benefit students," Riemer said.

The strike was organised in response to USyd management's failure to meet the NTEU's demands in the ongoing Enterprise Bargaining process, and called after 96% of branch members voted to take protected industrial action. The NTEU's key demands include protection against forced redundancies, an end to exploitative casualisation, a fair pay increase, better working loads, improved parental-leave rights, and enforceable targets for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment.

Strikers congregated at seven entryways to Camperdown Campus: City Road at Eastern Avenue and Barff Road, Carillon Avenue at Western Avenue, Parramatta Road at the Ross Street Gate and Footbridge Theatre, and the Quadrangle entrance via Victoria Park.

Activists also engaged students attempting to enter campus in discourse regarding the importance of unified student support of strikes, and how crossing the picket would undermine the weight of the industrial action. *Honi* understands that of the few students who travelled to campus, the vast majority were convinced by picketers to return home.

Police intervene as motorists attempt to break pickets

Two to four NSW Police officers were stationed at all of the pickets but Victoria Park. At least 18 officers were witnessed on campus.

Several motorists attempted to enter campus via Western Avenue, the Ross Street Gate and Barff Road but were confronted by a line of picketers. While many turned around after speaking to picketers, some motorists attempted to force their way through.

At the Ross Street Gate, a motorist in a dark four-wheel drive inched beyond the picket border and came into contact with multiple strikers who held the line by pushing against the advancing vehicle.

In all situations where motorists refused to comply, police officers approached drivers and instructed them to turn around. One officer was overheard saying "the line won't move".

Aside from turning away vehicles, police officers adopted a passive supervisory approach to the picketing, with many

simply looking on from a distance.

In 2020, riot police officers chased, assaulted, and fined USyd students on Parramatta Rd and Eastern Ave amidst protests against the Federal Government's Higher Education Bill. In 2021, police brutality on Broadway disrupted USyd's participation in the Global Climate Strikes.

School excursion supports strike, UniSport AGM breaks picket

A high school excursion attempted to enter campus via Victoria Park, where picketers explained the importance of holding the picket line. The visiting students and their supervising teachers consequently joined the picket.

Honi also received reports from multiple pickets of members of the public joining the strike after speaking to activists.

Meanwhile, UniSport, Australia's central body for university sporting organisations, coincidentally held their Annual General Meeting during the strikes at the Refectory in the Holme Building. Attendees crossed the picket despite discouragement from



"The Coalition government has been waging war on universities ever since it was elected."

strikers, and the meeting was interrupted by a contingent of activists.

Greens Party politicians arrive to picket

NSW members of the Greens Party joined activists and union members throughout the day in solidarity with the NTEU on strike.

"I'm here today joining the picket because I believe that workers and people in our community deserve the right to strike," said Jenny Leong, Member for Newtown.

"We deserve our universities to be properly funded. We want our university academics and our administrative staff to be paid properly, but we also need to reduce the pressure on staff and the amount of extra work they're doing that they're not getting paid for," Leong said.

"We also need to recognise that casualisation is a real problem and students' education suffers, and our society suffers if we don't have a high quality, free public education system."

Greens Party Senate candidate David Shoebridge and Senator Mehreen Faruqi

Carmeli Argana and Fabian Robertson report.

were also present in support of the strike.

The Australian Services Union (ASU), also joined NTEU members at the rally.

Conservatorium bands together with strikers

Students and staff at the Conservatorium of Music (Con) formed their own picket lines in support of the NTEU.

Senior lecturer Dr James Humberstone said that this was the first time the Con, a traditionally conservative campus, would be participating in such strike action.

"We should be here bringing joy to the world, making amazing music and doing incredible world-class performances and representing Australia on the world stage," Humberstone said.

"We just can't do that work when we're having more and more stuff shovelled on us from the managerial class at the university."

Chris Coady, a permanent lecturer in musicology, commended striking staff and students.

Pickets congregate for City Road rally

Activists from all pickets rallied in front of the Michael Spence Building at the strike's conclusion.

"This strike is not just for the University, but for higher education across the country," Nick Riemer said.

NSW NTEU Secretary Damien Cahill called the strike "one of the best strikes we've had at the University of Sydney".

"First, we need a properly funded system of higher education. The Coalition government has been waging war on universities ever since it was elected," Cahill said.

"In 2013, it cut funding to universities in real terms by 2.5 per cent. When the pandemic hit, it shamefully went out of its way to deny Jobkeeper to universities not once, not twice, but three times.

The crowd also heard from SRC Education Officers Lia Perkins and Deaglan Godwin.

"What we're doing today is learning. We're on the picket lines. We're learning way fucking more than we could be learning in class today," said Perkins.

"We should be fighting for our education every single day."

Godwin echoed Perkins' sentiments: "The people up there - Mark Scott on his \$1.15 million salary, Annamarie Jagose and the other senior management - who have no interest but in rationalising our University and making it more profitable.

"They might run the University. But staff are the ones who do everything. They're the ones who teach the classes, who answer the emails, who mark the essays, who run the administration system. Staff make this university run," said Godwin.

The crowd also heard from permanent and casual staff who have been affected by casualisation and the University's course cuts.

"Our department was the only Department of Writing Studies in Australia, and it's now been abolished," said Associate Professor Susan Thomas.

"[Permanent staff] have so many rights and freedoms that other [casual employees] don't have. To be paid one hour for every 4500 words I mark is just unreasonable," she said.

Gender and Cultural Studies casual Finola Laughren affirmed this: "Casual tutors aren't paid to reply to emails from students... to attend lectures... for doing pastoral care, which we know is such an important component of education.

"Casuals do so much unpaid labour precisely because we cannot deliver to students the quality of education that they deserve on the basis of paid hours that we're given by our formal contracts," Laughren said.

Riemer concluded by bolstering support day 2 of the strike: "This, today, feels good, but it's not always going to feel like this. We have had a fantastic day but we need to hold our nerve.

"I look forward to seeing you back here at 7am tomorrow," he said.

OUR UNIVERSITY!

DAY 2: Campus shut-down escalates

For a second consecutive day, despite unrelenting wind and rain, over 500 students and staff from the University of Sydney persevered with a historic 48-hour strike in protest of poor staff working conditions.

Hard pickets reformed at City Road at Eastern Avenue and Barff Road, Carillon Avenue at Western Avenue, Parramatta Road at the Ross Street Gate and Footbridge Theatre, and the Quadrangle entrance via Victoria Park.

Morale remained high despite increased efforts to break the picket lines compared to Day 1 of striking. Roaming pickets disrupted 'scab' classes and lectures which proceeded in defiance of strikers both in person and over Zoom throughout the day. 'Scab' is a term historically used to describe individuals who break the strike and undermine collective action for personal gain.

The strike aimed to disrupt 'business as usual' for the University to draw attention to the mistreatment of staff - 52% of whom are employed under precarious casual contracts, and many experiencing wage-theft.

Nick Riemer, President of the NTEU USyd Branch, described the strikes as a "stupendous success, we've shut the University down."

"We've seen an extraordinary mobilisation from staff and students... I think the University's attempt to say striking will make no difference to them just shows exactly how disrespectful and contemptuous they are," Riemer told *Honi*.

Pickets successfully intercepted numerous cars and people attempting to enter campus, with students holding hard pickets, arms linked. Both students and staff could be seen singing and dancing on the picket lines, chanting "When worker's rights are under attack, what do we do? Stand up, fight back!" and "No one in, no one out, shut the Uni down!".

At the Ross Street Gate students and staff sang anti-fascist anthems such as 'Bella Ciao' and 'The Internationale' with accompaniment from Associate Professor Ron Clark on the french horn.

Speaking to the 40/40/20 model, Clark told *Honi* that he was striking because "over the years, things have got worse and worse at the University... I'm passionate about my research, I want to be doing my research".

1. An end to forced redundancies
2. Enforceable workload controls
3. Preservation of 40/40/20
4. Enforceable targets for First Nations employment
5. End to long-term casualisation
6. Work-from-home rights
7. Gender affirmation leave
8. Fair pay increase

A strong police presence could be seen at various picket locations; in particular, a group of riot squad officers were seen aiding scab efforts in breaking the picket line at the Ross Street Gate. On multiple occasions, police officers were witnessed escorting individuals through the picket in both directions. A number of short-lived scuffles broke out between picketers and police, and between picketing students and scabbing students.

Giving an impassioned speech at Ross Street Gate, Riemer spoke to the Union's demands for Indigenous employment; "When [the NTEU] say: Give us a number! Give us a number of the First Nations teachers you're going to employ by the end of the next agreement, suddenly, [University management] go dumb.

"Suddenly their managerial technobabble disappears and they're like this [blows a raspberry]."

Riemer also highlighted the Union's demands for "serious gender affirmation leave for our transgender and non-binary staff.

"Let's just think, what a massive contribution it would be to Australian politics if at the University of Sydney... we achieved a serious win for transgender people who find themselves at the brunt of every shameful political attack."

At the Victoria Park picket, staff were arm-in-arm turning away students attempting to enter the grounds. Jimmy, a Gender and Cultural Studies casual picketing at the park, told *Honi* "I believe that when we take collective action and when we fight, we can win."

Signs at the picket read: 'Real pay rise', 'Camperdown is a union town', 'Put the bureaucrats in the bin! Action not admin!', and 'Professors over profit'.

Additionally, members of the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) were present in union solidarity at several pickets - and helped run the vital midday sausage-sizzle on Eastern Avenue.

Erima Dall, an MUA member, told *Honi* that their union "always supports workers that are fighting for their rights and fighting for better conditions because those conditions flow-on to the entire workforce".

"The casualisation at Sydney Uni is a massive problem both for the casuals that work here, but it also helps suppress wages across the whole economy - the MUA is no stranger to casualisation," said Dall.

Amelia Koen and Vivenne Guo report.

A number of other union members were also present from the Rail, Tram & Bus Union (RTBU) and the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU).

The majority of pickets concluded at 1:00pm, as contingents from various locations across campus converged on Eastern Avenue for a final speak-out to wrap up the day.

The open-mic began with Hannah, a Gender and Cultural Studies student, speaking to the state of disability support services at the University: "...they are shockingly poor, I have countless friends forced out of their degrees because of the lack of understanding and support they received from a system that crushes us with red tape."

Yells of "Shame!" broke-out across the crowd.

"I am standing here today in support of all tutors and lecturers doing the real work at this University," they said.

Member of the USyd NTEU Branch Committee, Alma Torlakovic spoke next: "When we all walk back into work tomorrow, we need to hold out so high because it is our cause that is righteous, we are in the moral right today."

In reference to scabs, Torlakovic said "Do you know what an offence it is to cross picket lines? When workers are losing wages, when some of our [NTEU] members will go starving?"

The SRC President, Lauren Lancaster, then gave a speech outlining the success of the pickets and outlining their motivation: "We are here to defend a vision of radical, democratic, accessible education..."

"You are here because worker's power can be used to fight back against injustice... we strike to resist and shatter this system of disempowerment, to speak up for collective interests."

"I want all staff here to know that students are with you every step of the way because we fight and we win," Lancaster concluded.

USyd SRC Education Officer, Deaglan Godwin, told *Honi* that the success of the strikes can be put "down to the hard and relentless work of rank and file activists in the NTEU and student activists from the Education Action Group" and that "students were vitally important in bringing energy and militancy to the picket lines".

Finally, Riemer told *Honi* that "...the student mobilisation was fantastic, both days and the strike overall have just been an unmitigated success."

There is a USyd NTEU bargaining meeting next Tuesday with University management and, according to Riemer, "[the NTEU] is very interested to hear what they have to say, and if we don't get the movement we need, which is what we anticipate, our members have voted to go out on strike [again]."

At this stage, unless there is sufficient progress made at the bargaining table, strikes are set to continue in Week 13 on 24 May; and on the evening of the strike, the NTEU members at UTS have applied for a Protected Action Ballot order to initiate industrial action.



Photography by Thomas Sargeant and Amelia Koen.

Why Grammarly is not the answer

Writing's not that easy, but Grammarly can help. This sentence is grammatically correct, but it deviates in style, so it's hard to read. The cultural jargon undermines the tone and the word choice is not standardised. Grammarly's cutting-edge technology helps you craft sterile sentences that are perfect for a business environment under late-stage capitalism. Much better.

As one of the University of Sydney's many cost-cutting initiatives, the Writing Studies faculty will soon unceremoniously merge with the English department. The Writing Studies department's offerings were inimitable – namely, courses that taught students *how to write* in a university setting. 2021 also saw the heavily-mourned death of the University of Sydney Learning Centre, a bolthole for students who relied upon essay-writing and academic writing style resources otherwise inaccessible to them.

It's fairly easy to journey through all of high school without ever learning how to write an essay, arriving at the front doorstep of university unsure how to skillfully string words together. This is especially the case for students who are first in their family to attend university, or for whom English is their second language. The Australian curriculum neglects instruction on writing, often leaving students to their own devices; teachers encourage formulaic exam-driven exercises such as rote memorisation of essay templates, worsening our relationship with writing practice.

A horde of students hungry for fundamental teaching at their doorstep is never a welcome sight for University management. Fortunately, academics aloft in the ivory tower stumbled upon a glimmering solution – to encourage usage of the automated written corrective feedback software, Grammarly. Grammarly's advertisements portray a utopia where the software is a kind

and perceptive friend, removing clunky adjectives and inverting syntax so the writer can achieve acclaim. But Grammarly is a poor replacement of writing facilities – it does not *teach* writing, it corrects.

“But Grammarly is a poor replacement of writing facilities – it does not teach writing, it corrects.”

Surely university teaching staff know better than anyone that skills cannot be gained by having them done for you, rather than learning them yourself and making them your own. But that is at its best – and there are countless examples of Grammarly providing plainly incorrect suggestions due to the limitations of its technological code and inability to read context.

I spoke to Toyah Webb, an English tutor at the University of Sydney. She explained the dichotomy of “descriptive” versus “prescriptive” grammar: linguists focus on ‘descriptive’ grammar, the study of the origins of language and its standard and nonstandard varieties. The latter approach formulates a set of grammatical norms and rules that is applied to writing to evaluate its accuracy. Where the ‘descriptive’ approach is observational, ‘prescriptive’ is imposing. Grammarly relies upon prescription as a linguistic approach. Webb explains this is “at odds with how language works”, given linguistic evolution shapes language development, an understanding which is fundamentally different between descriptive and prescriptive approaches. To set strict rules governing language is to suffocate it, and to stunt its growth in the most harmful of ways.

These correction methods also promote the conception of ‘good writing’. We uphold a binary of ‘good writing’ and ‘bad writing’ in literary discourse, despite there being no existence of a standardised

English. This is distinct from other languages such as Arabic, wherein there is a formalised, standardised language consistent through extensive periods of history. Whereas, there have only ever been “Englishes” due to English’s use as a *lingua franca*; its beauty is that inherent to English is a constant evolution, a reflection of the people and communities which it occupies. Aspects of ‘good’ or ‘bad’ writing are thus subjective, and unsurprisingly run on racial and class lines.

Asian-American writer Amy Tan broaches the concept of standardised English in her work, *Mother Tongue*, centering the concept of ‘broken’ English. The adjective ‘broken’ insinuates the existence of ‘whole’ English, furthering the fallacy of a standardised English, a concept which, unsurprisingly, most often comes up when it is being used as an oppressive tool. Connotations of damage contribute to the perception of correct and incorrect English, instilling shame in linguistic diversity.

The imposition of linguistic prescription harmonises with imperialism, as the English dialect spoken by the powerful is the one that prevails.

“The imposition of linguistic prescription harmonises with imperialism, as the English dialect spoken by the powerful is the one that prevails.”

As language controls us and governs how we think, linguistic hegemony is one of the strongest ways to maintain power. The subjugation of linguistic minorities is achieved through the manufacture of a mass belief in the correctness of a dominant English, even if this belief is unfounded. The dominant form of English is also well-suited for the propagation of capitalism: the subject-verb-object

structure establishes the primacy of the subject, often I, promoting individualism; perhaps this is best proven through the success rate of American political campaigns using the structure.

In a world afraid of ‘bad writing’, Grammarly polices linguistic experimentation and prevents play. Play is radical, especially when in the hands of marginalised communities for whom traditional literary institutions are inaccessible. In order to observe how Grammarly would interact with undeniably well-written works of literature, I inserted fragments into Grammarly Premium, which claims to cleverly comment on tone and voice.

For excerpts of Ocean Vuong’s *On Earth We Are Briefly Gorgeous*, Grammarly mostly takes issue with Vuong’s use of truncated syntax, as he omits verbs for a poetic descriptive flow. Maaza Mengiste’s *The Shadow King* is criticised for her sparse use of commas, an intentional structural choice to toy with time and movement. Grammarly suggests to Salman Rushdie that he should cut some of his grand sentences in *Midnight’s Children* in half, and advises Jonathan Safran Foer to remove some conjunctions in his depiction of overwhelming 9/11 trauma for clarity in *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*.

Obviously, Grammarly is unfit to edit creative works – but more broadly, Grammarly was designed mostly to be used in business rather than academic contexts, proving its service as a colonial project targeted to the teleology of late-stage capitalism.

I pasted the contents of my article into Grammarly for good measure. I’ve used the passive voice; I’ve used wordy phrasing. I’ve split some infinitives. Whether this is to rebelliously diverge from the constrained concept of ‘good writing’, or is just pure laziness and bad prose, I’ll let you decide.

Fabian Robertson follows the money.

How USyd funds gunboats, attack helicopters, heat-seeking missiles for US military

USyd’s \$3.41 billion investment portfolio is shrouded in secrecy, protected by a web of bureaucracy and only accessible through Freedom of Information legislation. So, what is the University hiding?

Well, even after *Honi* acquired access to the portfolio, the answer to that question was not immediately clear. USyd’s investments are scattered across various privately managed funds around the world, the contents

of which are not always publicly disclosed. *Honi* previously uncovered that multiple funds in the portfolio had millions invested in fossil fuel companies. Now, *Honi* can reveal that two funds in the portfolio, as of 30 November 2021, invested in manufacturers of military equipment.

Gunboats

USyd had \$22.4 million invested in HarbourVest Partners, one of the largest private equity funds in the world and responsible for \$75 billion in assets. Part of HarbourVest’s investment strategy is purchasing companies, growing them, and then selling them for profit.

In 2010, HarbourVest acquired SafeBoats International, an American manufacturer of military boats and primary supplier of combat vessels to the US Navy. Since October of last year, HarbourVest has been contracted by the US Navy for \$166.1 million for the production of 8 combat-ready Mk VI Patrol Boats. In September last year, SafeBoats was awarded a foreign defence contract worth up to \$864.5 million for 16 Mk VI’s to be supplied to the Ukrainian Navy. SafeBoats has also produced boats for the Iraqi Navy, Mexican Navy, and Gibraltar law enforcement. SafeBoats previous company motto was ‘God, Country and Fast Boats’.

Missiles, attack helicopters, drones

In 2019, HarbourVest acquired Hermetic Solutions Group, a manufacturer of crucial electronics mechanisms for missile, radar, surveillance, and warfare systems. Hermetic provides design support, products, and materials for a number of defence

programs for the US military. These include the F-35 fighter planes, Patriot missile systems, Apache helicopters, Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, and heat-seeking Javelin rocket launchers.

“TF-35 fighter planes, Patriot missile systems, Apache helicopters, Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, and heat-seeking Javelin rocket launchers.”

Armoured military vehicles

USyd had \$42.6 million invested in THB Asset Management, an investment fund with \$440 million in assets. 5.4% of THB’s funds are held in TPI Composites Incorporated. While predominantly a manufacturer of blades for wind turbines, TPI also develops materials and designs for armoured military vehicles. In 2010, TPI announced that its All Composite Military Vehicle (ACMV) passed testing for use by the US Military.

Sportswashing scourge: How Lionel Messi legitimises human rights abuses

Tom Wark on the phenomenon of sportswashing.

Lionel Messi was announced last week as Saudi Arabia’s newest tourism ambassador, and has begun promoting the nation with the hashtag #visitsaudi. Saudi Arabia regularly ranks among the worst nations for its human rights record. Homosexuality, for example, is punishable by death under law, while individuals face systemic discrimination on the basis of religion, gender and migration status.

As one of the most recognisable people in the world and the best football player of all time, Messi’s partnership with Saudi Arabia marks a significant milestone in the despotism nation’s attempts to improve its global public image.

Yet professional sport has long been used by dubious regimes to legitimise authority over a nation’s affairs. One of the earliest modern examples is ‘Hitler’s Games’, with the 1936 Berlin Olympics, and its associated propaganda campaign, seeking to normalise and establish the burgeoning Nazi regime on the world stage.

However, authoritarian countries are now expanding their reach from international spectacles to individual teams and even athletes as part of the growing phenomena of ‘sportswashing’.

The term sportswashing entered popular usage after Amnesty International defined it in 2017 as “states guilty of human rights abuses investing in sports clubs and events in order to rehabilitate their reputations”.

With human rights violations currently a dime a dozen, and amoral sporting entities eager for injections of funds from wealthy foreign governments, it is no surprise that sportswashing has been on the increase.

Yet there are some preliminary signs that some

organisations may be finally starting to push back.

“Yet professional sport has long been used by dubious regimes to legitimise authority over a nation’s affairs.”

The All-England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, the predictably pompous institution in charge of the Wimbledon tennis championships, recently announced its decision to ban all Russian and Belarusian players from the 2022 event in the wake of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and Belarus’ support of the conflict.

This unprecedented step was largely believed to have been taken to prevent the possibility of a Russian triumph at arguably the world’s biggest tennis tournament.

And it wasn’t an unlikely scenario.

The ban will stop men’s world number two Daniil Medvedev, as well as number seven Andrey Rublev and women’s number eight Aryna Sabalenka from competing at the grand slam.

For many, the banning of individuals who happen to hail from a country guilty of human rights abuses is a step too far, but some in academia, including Princeton’s Professor of Politics and Human Values Anna Stilz, argues otherwise, “What happens if we treat state crimes as totally detached from individual citizens? Terrible things”.

The reason that many in political academia are keen for the stamping out of sportswashing is that it is so useful for leaders such as Putin to embolden coercive foreign policy.

Anyone with even a passing interest in

sport in the last ten years could not have failed to notice that Russia has held some of the world’s biggest sporting events, including the 2014 Winter Olympics, 2018 FIFA World Cup and was due to hold this year’s UEFA Champions League Final.

Putin’s personal affinity for physical activity is also common knowledge, in particular those classic sports of shirtless horse riding and frozen lake swimming being an integral part of his cult of personality.

For Putin and other wealthy tyrants, sport became a way of securing victory. By hosting large events, Putin could prove that Russia was above the scrutiny of insignificant foreign nations due to its physical prowess, even if they were largely chemically enhanced. Beyond actual performance in these spectacles, simply hosting and participating is an effective means of normalising a nation in the public eye, of shaping perceptions of it in the global consciousness. Indeed, we’re less likely to openly condemn a country when its athletes compete alongside our own, when it is represented by likeable sportspeople at the top of their game.

While the condemnation of Russia in the sporting world has been immediate and widespread, with ban on Russian clubs in football, basketball and volleyball as well as Russian owners of overseas clubs like Chelsea FC, other regimes have so far managed to escape the ire of the global sporting community.

Arguably the kings, or perhaps crown princes, of sportswashing are the Saudi Arabian royal family, who have used their vast oil wealth to pursue image rehabilitation through professional sport.

In the last decade alone, Saudi Arabia has relentlessly sought to host global events in Formula One, tennis, golf, boxing and even WWE wrestling in an attempt to

rebrand itself as a cosmopolitan modern society.

In addition to recruiting Messi to clean its image, Saudi Arabia has taken two big swings in the last 12 months that could critically undermine the moral integrity of two of the world’s largest sports.

First, the purchase of fabled English Premier League club Newcastle United has tied English football with some of the few despotism practices it had thus far managed to avoid.

Second, the Saudi Golf League spearheaded by Australia’s own Greg Norman threatens to tear apart the established professional golf circuit for the lure of international legitimacy.

Sportswashing has grown significantly in popularity in the last ten years, but as its prevalence has increased so has its condemnation.

Unfortunately, stopping nations like Russia and Saudi Arabia from influencing global sport is unlikely to bring an immediate end to atrocities.

However, global displays of unity are becoming fewer and further between in the 21st century, and what better forum to show our collective rejection of human rights abuse than the theatre of sport.

The great allure of sport has always been that it teaches everyone from young children to the rusted-on elderly fans that teamwork and collective action is the pathway to success.

Surely if sport has taught us anything, it is that anything can be defeated if you show a united front.

Though we may not find fault with some of the individuals forced to play for this repressive opposition, it is the crushing defeat of the team that matters most of all.

make the cut? This is perhaps best explained by looking at the resumé of our esteemed

Hutchinson’s leadership over USyd, then, is a symbolic and practical barrier to any meaningful divestment from military manufacturing. As Chancellor, Hutchinson also Chairs the very Senate that governs USyd’s investment practices – a clear conflict of interest if the Investment Committee was to reconsider military links.

From an ideological

blocking of meaningful reform to investment strategy only compounds the reality that her Chancellorship is untenable.

“There is only one way that USyd can progress: Belinda Hutchinson must be fired.”

Both problems lay squarely at the feet of Hutchinson, and both problems can only be solved by her removal.

In 2021, RMIT and the University of Newcastle forced out their Chancellors for holding Chairperson positions in gambling and mining companies respectively. As a purported leader in tertiary education, there is only one way that USyd can progress: Hutchinson must be fired.

viewpoint, Hutchinson’s high-ranking association with munitions undermines the social, educational and humanitarian ideals that underpin the operation of a university for the betterment of society; for the public good. Hutchinson’s



2022 Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prizes: life and colour

Amelia Koen and Thomas Sargeant review the finalists. Photography by Thomas Sargeant.

The Art Gallery of NSW has awarded Dhungatti artist Blak Douglas the 2022 Archibald prize and \$100,000 for his work *Moby Dickens* — the largest painting in this year's exhibition. Sydney-based artist Claus Stangl's work *Taika Waititi* was announced as the 2022 winner of the Packing Room Prize, with his portrait of the titular Aotearoa New Zealand filmmaker, actor and comedian, taking out the coveted award.

Douglas is a six-time Archibald finalist and a 2009 Wynne Prize finalist, renowned for his portraiture of First Nations people. "I'm making up for lost ground in the failure to memorialise First Nations people," the artist who lives and works on Bundjalung Country in Lismore has said.

In his acceptance speech, Douglas highlighted that "this is incredibly historic given that I'm the first Koori to paint a Koori to win the Archibald Prize."

"This painting represents 20 years of taking the risk of pursuing a dream," Douglas said.

The Archibald regularly consists of celebrity-subjects; the portrait prize finalists tend to be rather star-studded with sitters who have often made social or political waves in the previous year. It is worthwhile to consider that celebrity or recognisable portrait sitters are central to the public appeal of the exhibition. Celebrities and cultural personalities who are sitters in this year's Archibald include Hugh Jackman, Laura Tingle, Dylan Alcott, Peter Garrett and Deborah Conway.

Honi was eagerly expecting the 2022 AWS to deliver works reflective of the current socio-political climate both globally and in Australia. Undeniably, the past couple of years have seen some of the greatest challenges facing humanity in recent decades — what, if not the nation's largest art competition, is better situated to display this?

The Archibald Finalists

This year's winning portrait depicts Wiradjuri woman and artist Karla Dickens, knee-deep in muddy flood waters. According to Dickens, *Moby Dickens* is a homage to each person who has similarly found themselves "deep in mud, physically, emotionally, mentally, and financially after the natural disaster that has destroyed so many lives in the Northern Rivers of NSW



Blak Douglas, *Moby Dickens*. Image courtesy AGNSW, © the artist.



Artist Claus Stangl and Head Packer Brett Cuthbertson shake hands in front of the Packing Room Prize winning work.

and beyond".

The monumental work blends elements of realism and graphic styles to create a unique aesthetic. Muddy waters and dark storm clouds extend into the background almost indefinitely, and the daring eyes of Dickens reflect a deep defiance in anger while looking at the face of climate disaster in this country.

The graphic 'flat-bottomed' clouds in the painting's sky are a recurring political motif in Douglas' work. Their flat bases represent what Douglas describes as the "false ceiling of government." Additionally, the 14 clouds represent the number of days the rains and floods devastated the Northern Rivers area. Water leaks through the ineffectual buckets in the hands of Dickens, serving as an allegorical representation of the climate crisis slipping through our hands and the nearly insurmountable challenges it poses to communities.



Another overtly political sitter in this year's finalists can be found in Joanna Braithwaite's stunning large-scale portrait of Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) Secretary Sally McManus. An appropriately election-relevant piece, the portrait depicts the prominent union figure in a suit made of newspaper headlines referring to her work — various Murdoch rags stitched together and worn proudly. In regards to her choice of subject, Braithwaite chose McManus "because I was impressed by her unwavering pursuit of fairness, and the way she is unafraid to fight for what she believes in — gender equality, fair pay and workers' rights, with the focus of uniting people for the common good."

Another significant finalist is Mostafa Azimitabar and his work *KNS088 (self-portrait)*. The work was created using the only tools available to Azimitabar while held as a refugee in detention for over eight years on Manus Island and Melbourne hotels: coffee and acrylic paint applied with a toothbrush. The Kurdish artist was only

freed on 21 January of this year, "On Manus Island, I was surrounded by chaos and trauma. Art helped me find tranquillity," he said of his work.

The captivating self-portrait embodies the lived suffering experienced by Azimitabar, while also being emblematic of every refugee who has suffered under the cruelty of consecutive Australian governments. Staring down the viewer, the artwork exudes defiance and resilience. While the brown, dripping background is evocative of the dark struggles in his past, the vibrant rainbow of colours which build his facial structures reflect a hopeful outlook. Symbolically, the work is a painterly indictment on the dehumanising treatment of refugees across the world — "I chose the title KNS088 because for eight years I was called by this number instead of a name," said Azimitabar.



Packing Room Prize

The Packing Room Prize is selected not by a panel of judges or a board, but by the Art Gallery staff who receive and unpack Archibald submissions. With Head Packer Brett Cuthbertson holding 52% of the vote, it tends to reflect his own interest in realist portraits of popular celebrities.

Packing Room Prize winner Claus Stangl thanked the Gallery and the Packing Room team for the award, "as an emerging artist it's a massive honour to share wall space with some of my favourite Aussie artists." He also thanked Taika for sitting for the portrait, "I really couldn't believe it when he said I could paint him." The sitting took place while Waititi was in Sydney to film *Thor: Love and Thunder*.

The artwork itself is painted in an anaglyph 3D-style, with slightly shifted blue and red versions of the subject extending from either side. "I wanted to create a portrait that captured Taika's sense of humour and to execute it in a

playful cinematic style, reminiscent of the movies of the seventies and eighties that were popular when he was a child," said Stangl.

The Packing Room Prize was established in 1991 by Brett Cuthbertson alongside former Head Packer Steve Peters. Cuthbertson says that the prize "started as a joke" after a reporter asked the pair who they thought would win the Archibald, and they pointed to a portrait of Labor MP Gareth Evans — "Well, we reckon this is the best one." Newspapers then reported that very portrait as having received 'The Packer's Prize', and the Gallery went on to make the prize official the next year.

Cuthbertson also used the Prize announcement to announce his own retirement after working at the Gallery for 41 years.

Cuthbertson spoke to how much he has enjoyed his many years at AGNSW, saying that one of the things he will miss about working at the Gallery is the annual drop-off of artworks for the AWS Prizes. "It's the people, the artists," he said. "I love it. And there's the whole parade of them bringing the works in, and seeing them again every year... It's like a big family get-together."

Cuthbertson has held the position of Head Packer for the past five years. His replacement for the position is yet to be announced.

The Wynne Prize Finalists

This year the Wynne Prize had 601 entry submissions and 34 finalists, half of whom were first time finalists and 18 of whom were First Nations artists. The \$50,000 prize is the oldest art prize in Australia, established in 1897 following a bequest from Richard Wynne, it is dedicated to watercolour or oil paint landscape artworks of Australian scenery and figurative sculpture.

Indigenous, Torres Strait Islander and First Nations artists were at the fore of the prize exhibition this year, following in the footsteps of last year's winner entitled Garak — night sky by Nyapanypa Yunupingu. In recent years, nearly half of all finalists of the Wynne Prize have been by First Nations artists — notably, every winner since 2016 has been a FN artist or collective. It is gratifying to see Indigenous artistic methodologies and means of representing Eora landscapes being given this platform; in a prize whose winners of its early decades consisted exclusively of rolling colonial hills and Western depictions of bushland.

On display, and catching Honi's eye, this year are Aboriginal artist Betty Muffler's work *Ngangkari Ngura (Healing Country)* and *Winga (tidal movement/waves)* by Alison Puruntatameri. Muffler's work is representative of 'ngangkari' (traditional healing practices) which take place on Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands in South Australia, depicting the life-supporting watering holes within. Further, Puruntatameri's artwork considers surging tidal waters on the Tiwi Islands, which are a part of the Northern Territory.

The \$50,000 Wynne Prize was this year awarded to Nicholas Harding for his work *Eora* — who exclaimed that it was "quite marvellous and unexpected."

Harding is a 19-time Archibald finalist (winning in 2001), a 9-time Wynne finalist and a 3-time Sulman finalist; this year,

his winning work is an oil paint landscape in dominating hues of green and earthy browns. The work's leafy imagery is a teeming amalgamation of plant life from the Northern Beaches area and Narrabeen Lakes. Investigating the ways nature has been shaped by colonisation and the impacts of industry land-clearing, Harding's work holds a clear message and is a deserved winner of the prize.

"*Eora* stands as a memorial to how extraordinary the landscape must have been before white people got here and



invaded the place and encroached on the landscape itself," Harding has said of his work.

The Sulman Prize finalists

The Sulman Prize is centred around genre and subject painting or a mural work, with an award of \$40,000 for the winner. First awarded in 1936, each year the trustees of AGNSW select a guest artist to judge the finalists — this year's judge is 2021 Archibald finalist, Joan Ross. Generally seeing the more abstract and modern styles of art, the Sulman Prize is a glistering juxtaposition to the works in the other prize exhibitions which regularly lean into hyperreal painterly styles. This year's collection of finalists did not disappoint.

Claire Healy and Sean Cordeiro are the 2022 winners of the \$40,000 Sulman Prize for their work *Raiko and Shuten-dōji*.

Healy and Cordeiro's winning work is a reimagining of the Japanese folk story of the fight between the warrior Raiko and the

Met Gala 2022: Entering the New Gilded Age

Tyler Dane Wingco looks beyond the MET steps.

Happy First Monday in May to those that observe! The Met Costume Institute's Met Gala returned this year with the theme 'Gilded Glamour', posed by Anna Wintour to celebrate the opening of Andrew Bolton's exhibition, *In America: An Anthology of Fashion*. 'Gilded Glamour' is the second part to 2021's 'American Independence', and stirred fervent anticipation among those following for the potential fashions that would grace the Met steps. Whether one is a well-versed fashion enthusiast or scrolling through their Instagram feed in sweatpants, it's always a spectacle that unites discussions over the question: "Did they follow the theme?"

The night's theme referenced the Gilded Age, a period in American history spanning 1870 to the early-1900s. This era saw the rise of *nouveau riche* (new-money) families that dominated the railroad, oil, steel, and banking industries, and rapid economic growth for the upper echelons of New York society after the Civil War. Nonetheless, the Gilded Age was characterised by an eroding society under this thin veil of gold. The *laissez-faire* economy that made industrious business owners obscenely wealthy meant unsafe working conditions and exceedingly low pay for the working class, and the exploitation of migrant workers seeking a better life in the US.

THE NEW GILDED AGE

To select a Gilded Age theme that would deliver subversive messaging and challenge the mainstream historical narrative would be a naïve expectation to have of one of the world's most elite events. Rather, it was selected for its 'easy' access for designers to interpret and reference the period's historical dress and opulence. There is no hidden message in 'Gilded Glamour,' although it offers a poignant reflection of the zeitgeist.

In its larger thematic sense, nothing could feel more aptly familiar amidst the world's inflating costs of living, social upheaval than the glorious excess that was the Gilded Age. Further, inequality is the highest it's been since the actual Gilded Age; the Forbes 400 report found America's 400 richest individuals saw their collective fortune increase by 40%

in 2021, to US\$4.5 trillion. And with Elon Musk in attendance, and Instagram (Meta) sponsoring the event, it's a peacock display of performative wealth that completely dismisses the social crises happening beyond the Met steps.



INSTAGRAM: MAKING THE INACCESSIBLE ACCESSIBLE

Curator Andrew Bolton's exhibit, *In America: An Anthology of Fashion*, is premised on defining nineteenth- and twentieth-century American fashion through nine installations of storytelling vignettes set in the Met's American period rooms. The project is a collaboration with film directors Sofia Coppola, Martin Scorsese, Chloé Zhao, and Tom Ford, among other auteurs. The "storytelling" of American fashion was a particular touchpoint for Instagram's sponsorship of the exhibit and gala; Instagram's director of fashion partnerships Eva Chen, said: "The theme of American storytelling and the sharing of untold stories felt apt [for the sponsorship]". (Because what is Instagram but the main storytelling medium of today?)

Yet Instagram sponsoring this year's event also could not feel more appropriate for representing how we consume fashion today. That is, a context where the prospect (and perhaps the threat) of it being transformed into spectacle — via photograph, video, and social media post

demon Shuten-dōji. Materiality is perhaps this work's most notable aspect, painted on the fuselage — the main body of an aircraft — of a Vietnam War-era helicopter. Further, the work has pinned threads of jute that extend across the work from a single plait like a web, creating a visually interesting and dimensional facade.

The prize was judged by artist Joan Ross, who said of the collaborative duo's work that she "immediately felt the dynamism of this work, its curved metal surface, its physical quality and beauty, its conceptual nature".

Three works which embody the contemporary vibrancy of the Sulman Prize are Victoria Atkinson's *Angel Mum Noel Humphrey*, Wendy Sharpe's *Witches with green light* and Sophie Victoria's three-dimensional work *The Spectacle*. Though vastly different in use and technique, both Atkinson and Sharpe's works feature bright swathes of neon colours and abstracted forms. Atkinson's acrylic and

LED work embodies her mother and Sharpe depicts interpretations of witches from Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. *The Spectacle*, however, takes a sculptural turn, with its cellophane-like iridescent surface creating different surfaces and colours as viewers move around the work.

Despite the celebrity status and media circus that surrounds the AWS Prizes, the exhibition is well worth seeing in its own right. Each prize has a wealth of works to be viewed and talked about, from the avant-garde Sulman to the beautiful depth of the Wynne landscapes and sculptures, and of course the ever-present and engaging Archibald Prize finalists.

Finalist works of the Archibald, Wynne, and Sulman Prizes will be exhibited at the Art Gallery of New South Wales from 14 May to 28 August. An alternative selection of Archibald Prize works will be exhibited at SH Ervin Gallery as part of the Salon des Refusés from 14 May to 24 July.

— is ever-present.

Established in 1948 as a fundraiser for the newly-founded Costume Institute, the Met Gala has only grown in spectacle since invitations were extended to celebrities in the 1980s. With its rumoured "no phones inside" rule for gala attendees, the event has only recently started live-streaming the red carpet on social platforms like Instagram. Attendees now share 'get-ready-with-me' videos, and the lauded bathroom selfie or disposable camera shots from inside, all shared, documented and anticipated for on Instagram. (Kaia Gerber brought her Contax for some 'what i see' Brooklyn Beckham-esque shots — *point-and-shoot it like Beckham*, I say).

The inaccessibility of the gala, which has made it a cultural phenomenon for celebrity culture, is further fetishised and exploited through social media — with viewers wanting (and receiving) access to every step leading up to the Met steps.

Indeed, pomp and circumstance may have changed, but our collective hunger for all things that glitter has not since the Gilded Age.

WHO WAS MOST GILDED?

Interpretation of the Met Gala theme is always subjective to the designer dressing their assigned attendee. Though not following the theme is nothing new, 'Gilded Glamour' was relatively easy given the clear sartorial narrative of the period — what is American about Gilded Age fashion if not trans-Atlantic, trickled down Victorian fashion? But those most successful at interpreting the theme (period accurate, that is) made for contemporary interpretations of the Gilded Age.

One of the lesser talked-about looks of the night was Carey Mulligan's custom Schiaparelli dress by Daniel Roseberry, of a black wool crepe column and resplendent gold chevron embroidery, taken from the spring-summer 2022 couture collection. Although deceptively simple, the dress features a subtle bustle that achieved its fullness not through wiring or whale-boning (as was traditional in the period), but by fabric alone.

This was an innovation during the mid to late-1930s, where couturiers like

Elsa Schiaparelli, Cristóbal Balenciaga, and Madeleine Vionnet translated styles of the Gilded Age to create softer and elegant, but less voluptuous, silhouettes — subtly accommodating the natural form for a 1930s BBL. Roseberry was able to translate Schiaparelli's design history, his own sensibilities of the black and gold (his hallmark contribution to Schiaparelli's surrealist history), and, of course, the theme, for a contemporary take on the Gilded Age — Tom Ford eat your heart out.



The consumption of fashion and the gala today is a far cry from the intimacy it once guarded pre-social media. And, as the more galas follow, we will continue to demand more access to the gala's completely inaccessible opulence, brushing it off as mere escapism. However, the 'Gilded Glamour' theme is a poignant reflection of our 21st century cultural zeitgeist of social media spectacle, celebrity, and performative opulence, counterposed against burgeoning social and humanitarian issues. We are the media vultures that 'morally demand' access to the inaccessible. Unable to tear our teeth away from the glittery feast, yet making sure we bite hard enough to leave a lasting mark on those we prey on in this media frenzy.

Review: Womn's Revue at the Sydney Comedy Festival

Ariana Haghighi reviews what was an outstanding night.

University revues never die – their unique themes and unforgettable sketches endure past closing night. Womn's Revue 2021 refused being consigned to history, returning for only one fateful night this year at the Sydney Comedy Festival. A testament to its success last year, and the widespread appetite for student-led sketch comedy, the Factory Theatre was overflowing with attendees.

The Prince '1999' opening was a psychedelic punch, immediately drawing the audience in with spirited choreography and garish costumes. The cast sustained their infectious energy throughout the hour-long show, never faltering whilst capering across the stage – I imagine they slept soundly that night. Although the 1990s theme was not weaved strongly throughout the sketches – not necessarily a flaw – the nooghties motif manifested best in the throwback tunes that demanded the audience grove.

The revue's writing was masterful. Sketches rarely relied on tired tropes, experimenting with archetypal sketch design. 'Breaking the fourth wall' was repurposed to inform the audience of a sketch's context, as Sarah Doyle's Christopher Walken impression invoked the conspiracy around Natalie Wood's death. Later in the show, an audience member called onto stage was not only momentarily embarrassed, but fully incorporated into a scene featuring an HSC drama performance that benefitted from her very bewilderment.

The sketches were as diverse as they were ingeniously written. Toying with the run-time of each scene, sketches often closed in a surprising manner – with interruptions, song changes or even just sudden endings, such as Ochre Pastro's quip, "I can't come tonight, I have the runs. The VOCAL runs!". The writing struck a balance between absurdity and

subtle commentary, the key ingredient to an effective identity revue. Sketches broached issues such as harassment with a careful mix of levity and gravitas – often transformed into songs, such as upbeat lyrics which mocked sleazy men and Scott Morrison. Commentary sketches dovetailed well with those that were truly devoid of meaning, such as when the actors broke into an Irish jig to avoid a cockroach.

The show adapted to 2022, breathing life into 2021's most fan-feted sketches such as the fare evasion 412 piece, a parody of the possibly over-played "212", as well as creating timely scenes that responded to the federal election. Certain sketches from last year took new meaning in 2022's context, such as Ochre Pastro's entertaining rap portrayal of a Young Liberal. At times, some sketches seemed like Labor Party vehicles – perhaps there was scope for more nuanced criticism to be cast.

It would be remiss not to mention every cast member's thrilling acting skill. The ensemble adopted the wildest of accents without hesitation, their conviction as humorous as the sketch's content. Leah Bruce's impersonation of Jennifer Lawrence's forced friendliness, and Roisin Murphy's imitation of a van Tiktoker with veiled anti-vax beliefs were so alive that the imitations strode beyond caricatures. I left the theatre with so many of the sketches' punchlines, choreography and tunes playing in my head due to each scene's unique vivacity. I imagine the curtain will not close on my mental images for quite some time.

My night concluded with a long queue for the women's bathroom. I suppose some jokes will never expire.

'Energetic, feral, and unhinged': This is Queer Revue 2022

Ethan Floyd reviews the Knights of Campelot's soldout performance.

Rife with salacious imagery, unexpected nuduity, and no small measure of phallic allusions, Queer Revue 2022 explores identity, community, and belonging through a raunchy and hilarious retelling of the story of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. On a quest to pull the fabled sword 'Sexcalibur' from the stone, Hannah Mackay's King Arthur meets the sultry sorceress Merlin and learns the lessons of responsibility and duty, earning the right to Sexcalibur (albeit possessing an underwhelming length) and discovering the value of friendship.

The principal storyline was not without a catchy tune or two, with classics such as Cindy Lauper's 'Girls Just Want to Have Fun', Air Supply's 'I'm All Out of Love', and Kenny Loggins' 'Footloose' hilariously rewritten to drive the plot forward in a lighthearted way.

Speaking of musical numbers, Queer Revue 2022 was filled with other clever renditions of popular songs which left the audience in fits of laughter and appreciation of the writers' wit. Notably, a forbidden romance between leafy greens spinach and rocket was told in the hilarious love ballad "I'm a Rocket, Man" (

a spin on the Elton John classic).

Queer Revue 2022 featured some truly outstanding sketches, writing, acting, score, and choreography. Some notable mentions include skits about a pair of testes and their journey towards self-acceptance and body positivity, a ballad about one woman's desire for a gay best friend, and a feature about actively transphobic board games, like Monopoly – "you do not pass, go".

The audience saw troubled family dynamics and verbal misunderstandings play out in a sketch titled 'Good Cop, Dad Cop'. Josh Mortimer shines as a confused detective employing unorthodox interrogation tactics involving bad jokes and an awkward sex talk.

Perhaps the most well-received sketch of the evening involved Sophie Kuijper's performance as a circus clown in an OB-GYN's office. "Ok, first let's remove your tampon" the gyno announces, before pulling out an endless colourful handkerchief to raucous laughter from the audience.

In speaking with some crew members

from the creative team, it becomes apparent that this year's Queer Revue was no easy feat. Riss Li and Lorenzo Aggio from the stage management team detail their experience in coordinating such a spectacle of theatre.

"Shows like this have lots of moving parts, so we need to have people coming on and off the stage at the right time, props need to be reshuffled correctly and everyone needs to know their cues," Li explains.

Aggio elaborates, "In the queer theatre community, it's all or nothing. You either love the people you work with, or you absolutely hate them. I can safely say I've loved every second of working with this incredibly talented cast this year".

This year's directing team, consisting of Queer Revue veterans Caitriona Lunn, Josephine Massingham and Peter Mackenzie-Hutton, summarise the theme of the is year's show as 'community'.

"It's important that we are able to find a sense of belonging in a loving and supportive community" says Lunn, "That's what this year's Revue was all

about".

Mackenzie-Hutton echoes this: "This year we wanted to focus on this idea of taking responsibility within your community. We wanted to move away from that familiar storyline of 'found family' and towards something more self-driven".

Josephine shares a personal anecdote of the importance of Queer Revue and the sense of belonging it brings., "For myself, I came out and began transitioning during a Queer Revue [show], and I'm not the only one who has a story similar to that. So when we say creating and nurturing that community was at the forefront of our minds, that's why".

Queer Revue 2022 plays to a sold out Reginald Theatre for the next two nights, closing on the 14th of May. It is tradition that the Queer Revue directing team consists of cast members from the previous year. If this continues to be observed, it is safe to say that Queer Revue 2023 is in good hands with a cohort of vibrant, talented and passionate students.

Review: Ruby Blinkhorn's Wisdom Teeth

Lauren Lancaster reviews.

Deep in the labyrinthine backrooms of the Enmore Theatre, an intimate room seating about 40 people was transformed into the wildest dentist's office in history. Ruby Blinkhorn's Wisdom Teeth is her comedic solo debut, and third appearance at the Sydney Comedy Festival following the critical success of duo act 'Deep Heat' last year with fellow comedian Kate Bubalo.

The one-woman show opens with an original musical number, in which Blinkhorn frets over the state of her wisdom teeth, and whether it signals the impending end of her childhood: "my wisdom teeth are broken, I'm stupider than ever...". We follow her on the miniscule stage to the dentist's office, expertly constructed through a combination of pre-recorded 'receptionist' voiceovers and the innovative use of a mini torch. The pre-appointment form proves particularly triggering, with Blinkhorn agonising over the 'Occupation' box in a tongue-in-cheek

dig at stand-up comedians. Once in the check-up chair, a sleazy, disembodied dentist (Blinkhorn's own voice too) sends her off to sleep to examine her teeth, and the fun really begins.

The lights come up and we are thrust from pitch darkness into Ruby's mouth. Guided by the voice of her Inner Child, Blinkhorn 'meets' a number of wacky characters (her in hats, shirts and with minimal props) in a quest to gain clarity on her vague quarter-life crisis. A combination of burlesque song and dance numbers, sketch pieces and frank monologuing effortlessly fill the 50-minute act.

Blinkhorn came up through comedy ensembles and the Sydney Uni Revue and Drama Society scene, and her comfort and self-awareness as a performer shows. She easily bridges any gap that exists between herself and the audience, handing out crystals and Dave Sharma MP propaganda

as Jane ('that's pronounced Jah-n') the Binaural Beats Meditation practitioner, telling us all to fuck off with 'PC cult-cha' as Ulcer the problematic male comedian, and assuring us that she had always been a very mature 5-year-old as Inner Child. Every character earns whoops and snorts from the audience, with a particular crowd favourite being the racy Biblical climax burlesque that ends in her sheepishly asking her own grandmother, seated in the second row, for a tissue to clean up.

The performance is nuanced, witty and balanced, undulating between side-splitting cracks at the fickle misogyny of the comedy world or the ridiculousness of childhood pop-star love fantasies, and more authentic ruminations on the uncertainty of our 20s in a very weird and fractured world. The recorded voice-overs with whom Blinkhorn converses give the performance a savvy edge, while her facial expressions are extraordinarily diverse and

helpful, teetering on caricatures without becoming hackneyed. I find myself wishing for a slightly larger (and air conditioned) space, but her innovative use of the stage expands what is a very small area into one exploding with gargantuan creative opportunity. I'd say go get tickets, but she sold out a week ago – well-deserved.

This tumultuous visit to the dentist ends up to all be for naught, as she comes to and is told – to her shock – that her wisdom teeth don't need to be removed. The musical refrain from the beginning returns in a progressed format: "my wisdom teeth aren't broken, I'm stupid but still clever". As my friends and I spill out into the evening throng of Enmore Road and the night's plans that await us, my spirit is buoyed by one of her final lines: "being young and being clueless, what an awful pleasure".

A socially-distanced animal: Why is social isolation so difficult?

Sharaf Fozdar delve into the clash between our instincts and the loneliness of the past years' lockdowns.

On 23 July 2021, thousands of people in Sydney defied strict lockdown orders and protested against having to stay at home and not socialise. Those demonstrating felt so strongly that they couldn't comply with social distancing guidelines to the extent that they were willing to risk spreading COVID further to make their anger known. More protests followed, and over the next few months images of police clashing with lockdown protesters became part of our lives.

There were many reasons for their anger, but the protests also tapped into a wider frustration at not being able to socialise with one another.

But why? Is simply staying at home and not meeting people in person really that hard? On the face of it, just sitting at home doesn't seem like much of an ask. And yet, as the pandemic has shown, not seeing one another in person is difficult.

How important socialising is to us has been thrown into focus over the past couple of years. Chatting, gossiping, and arguing with one another are universal, and part of what makes us human. That most people find social isolation difficult is indicative of the fact that being social is intrinsic to human nature. Humans have been called the tool-making animal and the intelligent animal, but it is equally true that we are the socialising animal.

Part of our collective memory of the pandemic will be the long periods of social isolation. If you had trouble during lockdown, it's not altogether surprising, given that we are being deprived of something which is fundamental to us as a species.

Socialising: the driving force behind human evolution

There is a Pond Beast in the Victoria Park Pond, and I have seen him

Felix Faber dives into waters of Lake Northam.

There is a pond beast in the Victoria Park pond. I know this because I have seen him, and spoken to him too. He looks a bit like the creature from the Black Lagoon, or the thing from *The Shape of Water*. I tried telling him this but he hadn't seen the movies, mostly due to the fact that there are no cinemas or DVD players in the Victoria Park pond. The pond beast's name is Glarr,

which I thought was a bit on the nose. I asked him, isn't that a bit cheap, to name a pond beast Glarr? A bit of a hand-wave on the naming thing? And he just shrugged and said that it's what his brood mother named him. I asked Glarr if his brood mother lived in the pond with him and he shook his head that she didn't. It turns out that pond beasts are a migratory species, and he and his fellow broodlings all hatched in the Sydney Park pond, and upon reaching maturity, spread out across the various ponds and stormwater drains and estuaries of Sydney. I asked if that wasn't difficult, hiking across Sydney out of the water, all dripping and looking the way Glarr did? I mean surely someone

There are several theories about why humans got to have such large brains.

One theory that attempts to explain our intensely social nature is called the ecological dominance-social competition model. In basic terms, it suggests that by living in tribes and cooperating to find food and evade predators, humans became so successful that we were no longer limited by the same factors as other animals. What is usually important when it comes to evolution just doesn't matter as much when you have a large social group to support you. We get to depend on our relationships to provide us with what we need.

By living in tribes, humans began to divide labour so that no one was completely responsible for their own survival. Because we grew more reliant on our relationships to provide us with everything we need, physical characteristics which previously made mankind successful, like speed and strength, became less important in driving our evolution.

As such, our ability to form relationships and where we sat in the social hierarchy became more relevant. Being good at forming relationships, cooperating, influencing, and deceiving are far more helpful to an individual's chances of success in life than being able to catch fish or run away from a lion. Thus, the focus of human evolution shifted to our ability to communicate and be social.

Living in large social groups requires us to understand a complex web of relationships, which also requires a lot of brain power. Being able to remember what your relationships are in a social group, and understanding how they affect you, is vital to our success as individuals.

In order to cope, our brains have increased in size a great deal over the past two million years. Now, they devote as much energy to managing our social relationships as they do to other survival skills.

If the driving force behind our evolution over two million years has been improving our ability to socialise with one another, suddenly forcing people to isolate deprives them of something which has become fundamentally human. It's not surprising that people become stressed when socially isolated; our survival depends on being connected to the wider tribe.

Our brains are literally hungry for social contact

Whether you agree with the theory or not, you can't argue with what we've ended up with: a brain which devotes a lot of energy to communication and social bonding. This explains why social isolation feels so wrong.

For millions of years we have grown ever more dependent on our fellow humans for pretty much everything we need. It's therefore unsurprising that we feel an emotional dependence as well. Alongside our evolution towards more complex and interdependent social groups, psychological needs have also developed, needs which drive us to connect with people.

This is why we found lockdown hard: our brains are hard-wired to socialise.

There are chemicals in our brain which function purely to enhance our relationships. There is, for instance, a hormone in our brain called oxytocin (also known as the 'cuddle hormone'), which impacts and enhances bonding behaviour

and the creation of social memories. There are also emotions themselves, like guilt and embarrassment, which only make sense when you take other people's reactions and viewpoints into account.

A recent study at MIT found that the brains of people isolated for just 10 hours react to the sight of other people having fun together the same way a hungry person does when shown a plate of pasta. The longing for social contact during isolation shares a neural basis with what we feel when we crave food. So as we can become hungry for food, we can also become hungry for social interaction.

This explains why in prisons solitary confinement is one of the cruellest punishments. Although it may not seem like much of a punishment to sit alone in a cell for a few hours, psychologists have deemed it a literal form of torture. Our brains are simply not meant to be deprived of social contact for extended periods of time.

COVID is transmitted person to person, meaning the most effective way to combat its spread is not coming into contact with one another. This is not ideal for a species which has been described as 'hyper-social.' It is, however, important to remember that if social isolation will be your strongest memory of the pandemic, you're comparatively lucky. Millions of people have lost their lives to the virus, and millions more have lost loved ones. Our socially hard-wired brains mean that being socially isolated can be very difficult, but in the case of COVID, staying inside and not socialising to protect other members of the wider tribe became the most socially conscious action.

interest of politeness I kept that to myself.

Around then I realised my bus was almost there and so I said goodbye to him. Every now and then I'll see him as I walk through Victoria Park and I'll wave to him, and he to me, but I haven't spoken much to him since as I think he's busy hatching his own brood and someday soon they will be old enough to leave his pond and writhe, dripping, through the streets of Sydney to their new homes.

ART BY MAXIM ADAMS



President

Lauren Lancaster.

The semester is nearly at a close and it's been a big one.

THE FEDERAL ELECTION IS THIS WEEKEND: VOTE TO KICK THE LIBS. OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT (AND MASS ACTION).

Last week we had the 48hr strike action which, despite torrential rain and an intense police presence on campus, was a relative success.

The beginning of the week was taken up with last minute building, a productive EAG meeting and pre-strike briefing and banner paint outside Carslaw. Wednesday and Thursday saw student activists and unionists from across the university

and beyond out on the pickets from 7am, with comrades from the Maritime Union Australia treating us to a much-appreciated sausage sizzle on day 2.

The pickets at Ross St, Carillon Avenue and Eastern proved to be the most contested, with scabs attempting to both enter and exit the university. There were a number of honestly horrifying instances of violence from scab students in particular, most notably a group of SUSF elite athletes, one of whom was arrested at the scene for wildly punching at student picketers. Despite these events, the overwhelming feeling amongst participants was a deep seated sense of solidarity with staff. We were peaceful and effective. We had many

great speakers from the NTEU, EAG (biggest props to Lia and Deaglan our Education Officers) and other unions clarify the demands of the NTEU in their EBA negotiations, while Damien Cahill, NTEU Branch Secretary, incorporated a wider point about the need to kick the Liberals out if we are to see any legislative gains for higher education in the medium to long term. It also brought into clear focus the extraordinary repression of union action through industrial relation and protest laws in this state, as staff discussed with frustration the bureaucratic gymnastics needed to undertake a protected industrial action at the university in the first place.

I was disgusted by the presence of riot police and Strike force ODIN on campus, who have previously used extreme violence on USYD students during education protests in 2020 and 2021. Their presence at the strike was totally unjustified. They manhandled students and staff alike and had really inappropriate interactions with picketers.

Looking forward, we have another 24 hour strike coming up on the 24th of May. It is important that just as students did last week, that they again do not attend class and join us on the picket lines. I'll also be wrapping up some SSAF reallocation this week and organising us internally for Chitra's approaching departure!

Education

Lia Perkins and Deaglan Godwin.

Congratulations to all staff and students for a successful two days of striking at USyd! It is clear that staff are determined to win their demands, and they have the complete support of students. Students and staff are fighting against the corporate university for secure jobs, a pay rise, ending the crisis of casualisation, for Indigenous staffing targets and for gender affirmation leave, among other critical demands. Thank you to everyone who came out today to show solidarity and support.

On both Wednesday and Thursday campus was shut down from 7am, and picketers were not determined by the rain. USyd was a strike town, and the main streets of campus which are usually filled with thousands of people were dead.

Management sent an email to students shamefully stating that picketers were violent while ignoring the violence of police and scabs trying to cross picket lines. We condemn management's framing of the situation

and urge students to understand the importance of not participating in any university activities or entering campus while staff are on strike. Hundreds of students have convinced, chanted, sung, stood, and rallied in solidarity with staff over the past two days.

The NTEU has sent a clear message to management by withdrawing their labour for two days, and made it clear that it can make it again. Join the Student Contingent to the Strike and Picket on TUESDAY 24TH MAY 7AM. STAND WITH

STAFF AND STUDENTS TO FIGHT FOR BETTER EDUCATION. DON'T CROSS THE PICKET LINE.

UPCOMING EAG EVENTS (can all be found on our Facebook Pages)

Tue 17th 3pm EAG meeting: Preparing for the Week 13 Strike & Picket

Tue 24th 7am to 1pm STRIKE AND PICKET

Tue 31st 3pm EAG meeting: Why we strike: Fighting the Corporate University

Women

Dashie Prasad and Monica Lee.

The main focus of the last fortnight has been showing solidarity with the NTEU and giving support to the SRC and Education officers in the build up to the 48-hour strike and picket by USyd workers. It was very encouraging to see WOCO members be involved in the building process, heading up contingents of their faculties, lecture bashing and stalling.

Women's Officers were also involved in seeking cross union support for the NTEU strike, securing endorsements and messages of solidarity from many unions. We were also involved in finding

media coverage for the strike, which was covered by 7 News, 9 News, SMH, ABC's The Drum as well as our very own Honi Soit team who did an in-depth coverage of the industrial action.

Congratulations to the Union, the SRC and community members who maintained the pickets with strong militancy. The Women's Collective sends their undying solidarity with staff in their struggle against university management. The Women's Collective will continue to support building efforts ahead of a potential second strike on the 24th of May.

On Tuesday the 10th of May, the collective, along with the EAG and feminist activist on campus, organised a speak out against the potential supreme court overturning of abortion rights for people across The United States of America. With the conservative appointment of Judges in the Supreme court (which has a stronger precedence setting/law making capacity in the USA than it does in Australia) could see the overturning of Roe V Wade, which would take away privacy and autonomy of people's decision over their own bodies regarding their pregnancies.

Many students gathered out the front of Fisher Library to share anger, stories and solidarity with the many women and trans folk in the USA that will suffer if this goes ahead. The fight for a free and accessible abortion as health care in Australia is a long one yet, and jabs from right wing politicians against legal abortion are a continuous threat to women's right still. WOCO will continue its fight for abortion rights into the year, so get involved if this is an issue you care about!

Ethnocultural

Misbah Ansari, Ashrika Paruthi and Anya Doan.

The Autonomous Collective Against Racism has been working tirelessly on increasing cross-collective collaborations. Our ongoing reading groups that aim to illustrate the essence of environmental sovereignty to POC, conducted in collaboration with the USYD Enviro Collective, have been a huge success so far- with a tremendous turnout. Further to this, the movie night,

which was held collaboratively with the USU's Queer of Colours Collective, also went smoothly, and had a good turnout.

Additionally, after weeks of incessant planning and editing of the pitches that were submitted, the much awaited ACAR Honi was released this week. We have tried our best to make it as representative, radical and expressive as possible, with

pieces written in diverse languages and art commissioned from artists belonging to different ethnocultural backgrounds, aimed at highlighting the nuances of various cultures from around the world.

Most importantly, we are relentlessly making efforts to encourage as many students as possible to join the pickets and support the NTEU Strikes being held

on campus by the USYD Staff. We will continue endorsing the NTEU Strikes and showing solidarity with the participating staff and students in week 13. We would also like to reiterate our solidarity with the continuing Climate Actions of the Enviro Collective.

Indigenous

Jamie Stanley did not submit a report.

Residential Colleges

Charlotte Ainsworth, Alexis Bundy, Nancy Qiao and Jiawen Li did not submit a report.

International

Ashrika Paruthi, Alice (BoAo) Guo, Jenna (Xujie) Wu and Cony (MeiLin) Jin did not submit a report.

Tenancy: Get your bond back when you leave a rental



Before you move in

You can maximise the likelihood of getting your bond back when you move out by doing some forward planning before you move in. Complete the condition report if you have one, noting absolutely every single dirty or broken thing in the house, and email yourself and the landlord clear photos of each of these. Whatever isn't noted on the condition report will become your responsibility, regardless of whether you broke or dirtied it. If you don't get a condition report, it is even more important to send those photos. Keep a receipt of any money you have paid including a bond or deposit.

During your stay

Email (written) your landlord about any

repairs. The NSW Tenant's Union has a factsheet outlining your rights and responsibilities around repairs. You are allowed "fair wear and tear" so don't be scared to report things.

When you move out

You need to leave the home in the same condition, minus fair wear and tear, as when you moved in. You will not be considered as having moved out, until the landlord gets the keys back. When the landlord inspects the property, they may note damage, that was not in the incoming condition report, or cleaning that you will be responsible for paying for. If you believe you have not been treated fairly, contact an SRC Caseworker to find out what your options are.

For more information, short videos & links see: srcusyd.net.au/src-help/accommodation-issues/accommodation-guide/



Studying Through A Pandemic - SRC Student Survey!

The last couple of years have been rather challenging and have brought about many big changes. The SRC would like to know how covid affected your experience as a student, and how you have found navigating uni processes. Survey responses are anonymous, and will get you entry to a draw for one of five \$100 gift vouchers.

Have your voice heard, head to: bit.ly/36VVdfx

ANSWER 5 QUICK QUESTIONS

WIN 1 OF 5 \$100 GIFT CARDS

Ask Abe

SRC caseworker help Q&A

Discontinue Fail



Dear Abe,

My semester started really well, but then things started piling up, and I stopped submitting assessments for one of my units so I could focus on passing the others. I think I'm going to fail this unit, and I'm worried about what that means for my WAM. My friend told me it's too late to withdraw from a unit, is that true? Is there anything I can do about this?

Snowed Under

Dear Snowed Under,

If you withdraw from the unit now your grade will be DF – Discontinue Fail. You still have to pay fees, and it will count as a fail on your transcript. This may affect your academic progression status and in a few courses will affect

your Weighted Average Mark (WAM). For some domestic students this may impact your Commonwealth Supported place, and you should discuss this with a caseworker as soon as possible.

If you are an international student, you will need to apply for a reduced study load and provide the necessary supporting documents. It may affect your visa, so check with the SRC's visa solicitor.

If you dropping the subject makes you a part time student, talk to an SRC Caseworker about how this will affect your Centrelink payment or your concession status for the Opal Card. Call 9660 5222 to make an appointment, or send your details to help@src.usyd.edu.au.

Regards,
Abe

For more information, short videos & links see: srcusyd.net.au/src-help/academic-issues/withdrawing-discontinuing/



SRC CASEWORKER PHONE OR ZOOM APPOINTMENTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Do you need help with **CENTRELINK?**

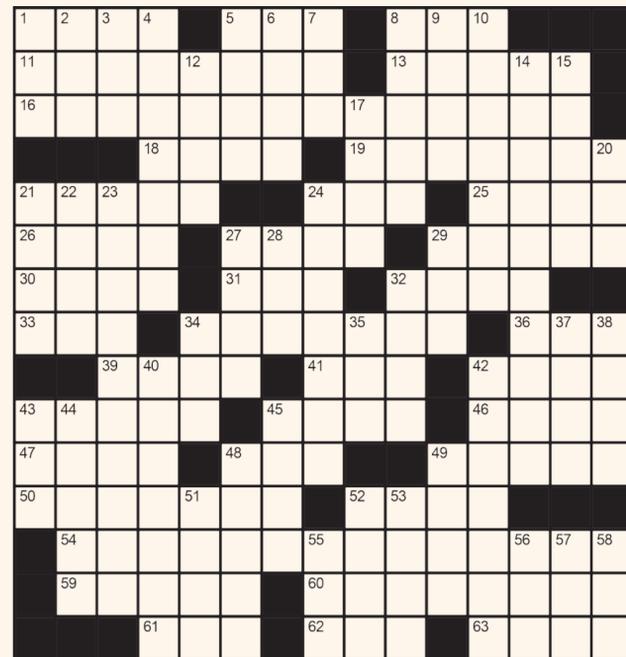
Ask the SRC!

The SRC has qualified caseworkers who can assist Sydney University undergraduates with Centrelink questions and issues, including: your income, parents' income, qualifying as independent, relationships, over-payments and more.

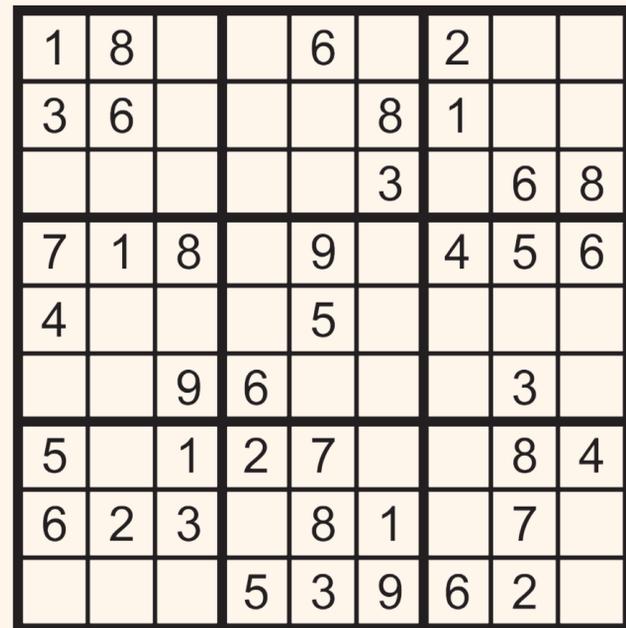
Check out the Centelink articles on our website or book an appointment if you need more help.

srcusyd.net.au/src-help

American Crossword



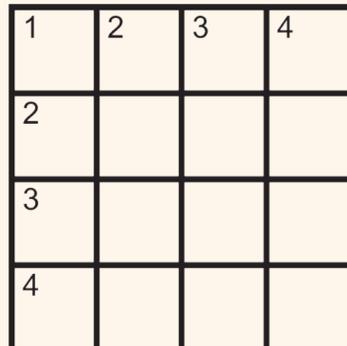
Sudoku



T.W.A.T

Answers across and down are the same.

1. Type of cable
2. First word of a letter
3. What to call the Queen (following Your Majesty)
4. Grese, Gobb, or Vep



Puzzles by Tournesol

Across

1. Adjoin
5. Mountain pass
8. Beer
11. 1966 film: The ... Are Coming, the ... Are Coming
13. Longs for something absent
16. Poker machine
18. Knocks, as on a door, say
19. Stimulates erotically
21. Sap produced by 13 Across
24. Simon and Garfunkel: Paul and ...
25. Move one foot forward
26. Pre-lapsarian paradise
27. Hospital wing
29. Phyllopteryx taeniolatus: ... sea dragon
30. Taj Mahal location
31. That man's
32. Word that can follow greeting, opal, or red
33. Hawaiian garland
34. Cocktail of cognac, orange liqueur, lemon
36. Provide voice over for a movie character
39. Open-mouthed in shock
41. Neither's partner
42. Hairstyle
43. Tummy
45. Sonny & Cher hit: I Got You ...
46. Option to avoid
47. Italian oil
48. Mate
49. Type of duck, commonly used for down
50. After a period of fighting
52. Falls behind
54. Describing the conservative, aspirational lower middle class
59. Decree from above
60. Keep safe for the future
61. Heavens
62. Gossip
63. Detail (slang)

Down

1. Leader of the Volturi
2. Bread roll, often sweetened
3. Employ
4. Female ruler of 11 Across
5. Susan Sontag essay: Notes on ...
6. Kiddies: little ...
7. Hallucinogenic drug
8. Not together
9. Plasticky floor covering
10. Eventual consumer of a product
12. Asian country
14. Music festival
15. Horse
17. Shakespeare
20. Guessing game: I ...
21. True, actual
22. Rim
23. Broken into parts for publishing or broadcasting
24. London based football club
27. Old British political party
28. Assistance
29. What comes before 50 Across
32. Plush toy range: ... Bears
34. Vegan milk option
35. Ear of corn, once shucked
37. Sudden desire
38. Brute
40. Part of the throat
42. Liquorice flavour
43. Great song to dance to
44. Run away to be wed
45. Stingray's stinger
48. Meat formation in a hamburger
49. Boil, fry, poach, or scramble them
51. Where to light a candle
52. Attract
53. General location
55. Select
56. Rock containing metal
57. I have
58. Between game and match

Quiz

1. London's Stamford Bridge Stadium is home to which football club founded in 1905?
2. The Federation of Australia occurred on which date?
3. Which country produced the world's first full-length feature film?
4. Mohammed Abdul Karim was the last person to view the body of which historical figure in 1901?
5. J. M. Barrie invented which girls' name for a character in his 1904 play?
6. Which bronze sculpture is remembered for saying 'boom, boom, firepower!' in *Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian*?

Answers



Answers available at honisoit.com/puzzle-answers

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*Incoherent.
Always.*

The End Times



Wed May 18 Vol. 420 + 12 Cheaper and more available than toilet paper! The only newspaper. Proudly Murdoch. Pro-News. Anti-Truth. People's Republic of USyd. \$4.20

NEW BACTERIA DISCOVERED ON FIRST YEAR STRIKE BREAKER'S KNEE

First year student Little Tommy Brown has been subject to scientific examination after a new bacteria, *scabbamarie jagosii*, was discovered gaining sentience on his knee.

The unprecedented medical issue came to light when the bacteria began submitting its first book 'The Biopolitics of the Left Trouser Leg' for publishing.

The scab has displayed a host of unusual behaviours including compelling nearby tissue to complete work without pay. It also resisted examination by the medical staff at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, suggesting that their horror at the infection represented "an

incursion of biopower encapsulated in the sterile institution of the hospital via surveillance into the realm of the subjective, the bodily and embodied."

"What really does it mean to be infected? How can we deconstruct the liminal and hermeneutically suspicious divides between external and internal organic matter? Who are we to bestow labels like 'pathogen'?"

Brown sustained the injury after taking a rough fall as he tried to cross the picket line of last week's NTEU strikes. Ironically, he had insisted he needed to cross the picket to attend a biology lab and check on his petri dishes. Prevented from doing so, he decided to become a petri dish.



Doomed	Destined
Columns	Pay rise
Scabs	Cold weather
Bao Buns	Stefania
Bacteria	Vitamin C
Kaido	Luffy
Raw Korma	Pastizzis
Maze Runner	Duplicitousness
Politics	Novelty

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Why you should respect the flag: it's very large and very red.
- Greg Dogwin

Every USU voter meets for a quiet beer at Courtyard
- Cam Payne

Liberal candidate campaigns to same POC voter thrice
- Marge Innaal-Seete

*Fifth year insists *this* is their final jokerfication*
- Livina Society

Engineer develops top secret project to cross picket line
- Bridget Beame

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RACIAL BIAS TEST BEFORE VOTING REDUCES USU ELECTION TURNOUT TO 6.9

INTRODUCING: PLIBERSLAY

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Tanya Plibersek has been reintroduced to the public as Tanyass Pliberslay, taking inspiration from the glow up of ALP leader Anthony Albanese.

Local Labor twink Conmas Lianick assisted in the project as part of his staffer job, providing Plibersek with some modern makeup tips.

"Queeeeee," Lianick told *The End Times*, adding that the politician's new eyebrow look "is just soooo lifting."

Plibersek's team of staffers was spotted pasting a print out of her new look over her now-outdated conrluffs. "We're on a mission to make parliament parliaWOMENT!" they insisted.

Pliberslay addressed the press to

debut her new look, glancing nervously at a slip of paper handed to her by Lianick.

"I'm running to make parliament a place for the girls, the gays and the theys! Uh, I want to boots the House down!"





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