

# Honi Soit

WELCOME WEEK, SEMESTER ONE, 2023

FIRST PRINTED 1929

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# Acknowledgement of Country

*Honi Soit* publishes on the Gadigal land of the Eora nation. Sovereignty was never ceded. All our knowledge is produced on stolen Indigenous lands. The University of Sydney is principally a colonial institution, predicated on the notion that Western ways of thinking and learning are superior to the First Knowledge of Indigenous peoples.

At *Honi Soit*, we rebuke this claim, and maintain our commitment to platforming and empowering the experiences, perspectives and voices of First Nations students. This basis informs our practice as a paper. As a student newspaper, we have a duty to combat the mechanisms of colonisation.

As student journalists, we recognise our responsibility as a radical student newspaper to oppose the inherent racism and exclusivity of mainstream media outlets. We also uphold the struggle of other Indigenous communities worldwide and acknowledge that our resistance is intertwined.

As an editorial team of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage, we are both victims and beneficiaries of colonisation. We are committed to unlearning our colonial premonitions and working to hold current institutions accountable.

We are galvanised by our commitment to Indigenous justice.

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## Editorial

In the first edition of *Honi Soit*, published in May 1929, a group of University of Sydney students wrote that they were publishing “to strip the veneer, to open the cupboard on our skeletons, and those of other people, to tell the truth without fear or favour, and to assist our readers in their search for the Touchstone of philosophy — happiness — these are our aims.” Some ninety-four years later, *Honi Soit* still seeks to embody these ideals.

It is from these foundations that *Honi* developed as USyd’s student newspaper. *Honi* centres the views, experiences and opinions of students like you. Platforming radical left-wing voices, we provide a space for reporters to question the narratives spun by those in power.

In contrast to the corporate spectacle that is Welcome Week, *Honi Soit* is, and always has been, an improbable product of the efforts of un(der)paid students.

Although, you may feel frustrated fighting USyd bureaucracy, or navigating Australia’s predatory housing market, *Honi* has always shown that students are not powerless.

In this week’s feature (p. 14), Ariana Haghighi critiques the consent-education module, that is probably still on your to-do list.

In the rest of this edition, you will find everything from linguistic analysis of

small talk from Nicola Brayan (p. 10), to critical analysis of student unionism from Khanh Tran (p. 16) and Luke Cass (p. 17). We’ve got musings on campus from Science Road (p. 11), all the way to the Anderson Stuart Building (p. 8).

*Honi Soit* is a space for students to explore and question the world around them. Hamish Lewis and Bipasha Chakraborty (both p. 18) explore the ways that students find a home.

We hope that you will find yourself represented on the following pages, and if you don’t, we hope that you’ll write for us this year and change this.

In line with *Honi* tradition, we are writing this at 1am on an iMac in the mouldy basement of the Wentworth Building. We love this paper. If we didn’t, we would be home and already in bed.

We hope that this year, *Honi Soit* can be a space where you find community. Whether that be as a reader, a contributor or a passing puzzle-solver.

As a group of University of Sydney students, we are publishing this to give students a voice. We hope you’ll listen and lend your voice to the call.

# letters only

Dear Shake for Honi,

What happened to the glory days of *Honi* ticket names? Once upon a time, an *Honi* ticket name was a careful craft of double-entendre. Ink for *Honi* in 2001 (and 2008), Press for *Honi* in 2002, even our idols Scoop for *Honi* in 2016 — all these ticket names have a journalistic bent, a loving point to a reality of *Honi* editing. But Shake — i feel like I’m at Karen’s Diner.

We need to do better, Outraged archival devotee

Dear Outraged Archival Devotee,

Even your dear Scoop used food imagery to campaign. Is there a place for double-entendres that are journalistic and more? Perhaps, we will shake up *Honi* this year.

Sincerely, the *Honi* Editors

Dear Editors,

Last year I was dismayed to witness the degradation of the Misc section — removed from the front page and struck from the navigation bar, only to be found in the “From the mines” listings at the bottom of the page.

I wrote a letter to express my displeasure and it was published in week 12 of Semester 1. Sadly, it was not enough to provoke a policy reversal. But I have not given up hope. Now, the power to restore Misc to its former glory rests in your hands. It is a title that has categorised some of *Honi*’s most beloved pieces and given a home to the indescribable and ineffable.

It is my sincere hope that you will do the right thing and restore the full rights and privileges of the Misc category and with it, the many esoteric, arcane, and obtuse articles that it has enabled since time immemorial (2015).

Sincerely yours, Marlow Hurst, a man of misc, MECO IV

To all the pitches rejected before,

There were the pitches that could have been more original. The pitches that could have had a stronger angle. The pitches that someone else was apparently writing about, yet never seemed to pop up in the paper.

At this point, I’ve had — what I hope is — my fair share of rejected pitches.

It always goes like this. You rack your brain to turn what started as just a passing thought into a paragraph, somehow explaining how your article will come together without having written it yet.

And then it comes. The “sorry, this didn’t get upvoted,” or the “we had too many pitches this week,” and you are back to the start. Sometimes, you won’t hear back, and your pitch just disappears into the void. I guess that was a rejection...

You start to see a pattern. If you know how to write the piece, it won’t be accepted. If you don’t know how to write the piece, it has the best chance of being accepted. And then, you’ve got the week to figure out how to write it.

But then, there are the pitches that you don’t hear back on, assuming they were rejected, and yet you see an eerily similar prompt on the art callout. You sit back,

confused, until an editor realises they have forgotten to tell you that it was accepted. This has happened to me twice, which though not a lot, is still weird.

Somehow, even with all of the rejections I have faced, there has been an editor who has promised to keep workshoping my ideas with me, or reminded me that we could pitch something else next week. There has always been next week. If I was persistent enough, soon it became, “Your article has been accepted!”, and on to writing I went.

To all the pitches that were rejected before, it was you.

It wasn’t me.

Sincerely, Veronica Lenard



Want to tell us something? Want to compliment or complain? Write us a letter and send it to [editors@honisoit.com](mailto:editors@honisoit.com)



## Reading the jacaranda leaves

With the campus looking sparse for the holidays, you’d be forgiven for expecting an absence of drama. Except, this time, it looks like you would be wrong.

### Free(ya) her!

Australians can be measly: sparse vegemite on toast, servo sausage rolls, and less political polarisation. These are in no way *Honi*’s beliefs, but a certain Liberal/Crim Law fighter argues for a more polarised political system in their new podcast. She loves free speech so much that she gifts all her speaking time to the co-producer of the show in the first two episodes.

### Who’s in Europe? Certainly not US(U)

Apparently summering in Europe was not enough for our University BNOcs, because our USU execs found themselves on an all-expenses paid winter trip to the UK. Legend has it that they went to learn the nuances of overseas student organisations. It is unclear why this had to happen in person.

### SULS: Sir, U Look Stupid

Our USU board director Naz Sharifi loves wielding her meal card at the humble Courtyard Cafe, but nothing beats the liminality of identity politics in the law office. Sources

inform *Honi* that Sharifi seconded a motion to allow SULS to change their constitution without USU approval. Oh, to be a fly on the wall inside the USU board’s secretive in-camera sessions.

### Ranter, ratted!

Gone are the days when people scuffed collars and crossed swords. Now they play knock and run behind fake profiles. StuPol figures are creating empty Facebook profiles to wage war in the comment sections of USyd Rants 2.0 and regurgitate that one political article they read in Year 9. *Honi* hopes to witness more Eastern Avenue staredowns rather than cowardly fake profiles.

### Du you know when I graduated?

We thought that the Melbourne coffee appreciation was merely Sydney slander, but one of the USU Board directors has demonstrated that USU outlet coffees really can’t compete. *Honi*’s LinkedIn connections suggest that they have finished their Bachelors at USyd and are pursuing postgrad in gloomy Melbourne.

## Whorescopes

Misbah Ansari



**Aries:** No one knows fire as you do, Aries. If Martian fantasies align with your sexual aesthetics, and Mercury is entering Aquarius, why not decorate your pleasure corner in celestial forms and let your kinks flow?



**Taurus:** The Earth is telling you to rest, and maybe your partner wants you to as well. Take a nap in a park with your lover(s) or yourself. Your body needs a break from the slutting out.



**Gemini:** Gemini, use that quick wit of yours for more dirty talk in bed. Do not hide your best qualities in bed because they want you, all of you, deep down under the sheets.



**Cancer:** Time to get those uniquely snarky sex toy collections out there! Self-pleasure is calling for adventure as you dive deeper into your emotionality. If you are going to cry all your fucking life, at least moan a little in the process.



**Leo:** Looking sick in that Route 66 cowboy outfit, Leo. Life-altering sex poses are on the charts for you and you are going to explore numbers beyond 69. Ace-high!



**Virgo:** Love cannot be structured categorically, and the Aquarius in Mercury is steering you towards not despairing at unpredictability. A casual, soft bondage action here and there does not mean your sex life is falling apart - it simply means that pleasure is impulsive (only with consent).



**Libra:** You are the epitome of an air sign, full of sexual fantasies and doodling in the bookshop. It is time for you to share your imaginations - create a zine full of witchy vulvas, gnome-like dicks, fountain nipples, Libra.



**Scorpio:** You are a ride-or-die, impeccably charming and passionate. Go out to spaces outside your bedroom, the realm is yours to navigate and stigmatising your fantasies is not in your nature.



**Sagittarius:** Idealism is important to you, but sometimes people may be put off by your hyper-sexualised conversations and ideas of sex. Maybe have fun in the process, and use this energy to get to know your body better.



**Capricorn:** Capricorn, while being economical is your strong suit, you need not be frugal with your love-making or self-pleasure time. Sometimes your partner wants to kiss for 50 minutes, and that is sometimes a time for you to get to know them better.



**Aquarius:** This is your time to shine and you need to rest your avoidant nature. Sometimes going on bad dates and awkward fucking in the bar toilet is the way to live your life and probably cringe about in the future.



**Pisces:** Well, if you are going to be reserved, might as well use it. Try out characters that emulate the sexy shyness that you so naturally exude. A seductive mermaid or a clumsy teacher, let the psychic inspiration take you over.



## Manning Bar cancels bands with fascist ties

Luke Cass, Veronica Lenard, and Luke Mesterovic

Manning Bar booked bands Taake and Ahklys to play on 3 February 2023 despite their extensive fascist ties. Manning, owned and operated by the University of Sydney Union (USU), has since cancelled the event after dissent from student activists and University staff.

*Honi* has seen extensive information about the use of fascist slogans and symbols, anti-semitic language and Islamophobia by the bands and their members. *Honi* will not reproduce that information to not platform these ideologies.

USU President Scott-Curwood told *Honi*, "The USU was informed of the context surrounding bands Taake and Ahklys who were booked to play at Manning Bar on February 3rd. The USU informed our booking partner that neither Taake nor Ahklys would be playing at Manning Bar. The USU's booking partner is now working to realise our decision."

"For clarity, I was informed at 4pm November 24 of this situation and the decision that neither band would be playing at Manning Bar was made by 9am November 25."

While the USU did not make this booking, the accountability for it is ours. A strategic programming meeting with the USU's booking partner has been set up and we'll be improving the vetting of acts playing at USU venues."

Students' Representative Council (SRC) President Lia Perkins said, "There is no place for bands such as Taake and Ahklys to play on campus. These bands promote hateful, racist political views. Taake, specifically, have an alarming abusive history. I am pleased that the USU immediately responded to our concern, and that these events have been cancelled."

I suggest that the USU and Manning Bar review their bookings policy to ensure student safety."

Taake is still scheduled to play shows in Adelaide, Brisbane, and Melbourne.

Neo-nazi activities have previously surfaced on campus. A 2018 *Honi* investigation revealed the existence of online neo-nazi networks connected with USyd campus. White supremacist propaganda again appeared on campus earlier this year.

## The University of Sydney extends partnership with Thales Australia

Misbah Ansari

On 22 December 2022, the University of Sydney announced the renewal of its partnership with French defence giant Thales.

The extension of the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two organisations aims to focus on "big data, machine learning and artificial intelligence."

The new deal was collectively signed by USyd's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Emma Johnston and Thales Australia and New Zealand CEO Jeff Connolly. It aims to accelerate national security outcomes, embedding staff within each other's organisation.

Thus far, the partnership has heavily involved the Faculty of Engineering, with Thales funding PhD projects and industry placements. It is expected that this will continue in the fields of Aerospace, Mechanical and Mechatronic engineering, as well as Electrical and Informational

Engineering.

USyd Education Officers Yasmine Johnson and Ishbel Dunsmore criticised this development, saying that Australian education is "becoming increasingly geared towards Australian militarism and industry."



"We oppose the further integration into campus life of a company responsible for weapons deployed in brutal wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the militarisation of European borders to prevent refugees from reaching safety, and the oppression of Palestinians," they said.

The arms manufacturer is infamous for suppressing union movements, complying with the war crimes in Yemen, underpaying workers by \$5.4 million and for massive job cuts in their Australian operations. They also have partnerships with Israeli organisations like Elbit Systems, manufacturer of the

Watchkeeper WK450 drone that has been used to support UK's operations in Afghanistan.

Belinda Hutchinson, USyd's Chancellor, is also the Chairperson of Thales Australia's board, having been appointed in 2015. Such a connection has been heavily criticised by staff and students.

A University of Sydney spokesperson mentioned that this partnership has allowed space for development and "academic freedom" for their researchers. "All research must take place in tandem with the university's mission and core values."

"Signed in 2017 and extended in 2022 the agreement has facilitated the hosting of at least 8 students' semester placements (ESIPS) at Thales which has helped our students understand how realistic engineering solutions are applied in industry and assess whether their preferred future employment options lie with the company," said a university spokesperson.

## Leading student organisations call for better protections for students with disabilities

Bipasha Chakraborty

The National Union of Students (NUS), Australian Law Students' Association and the Australian Medical Students' Association released a joint statement in November advocating for immediate reform of the higher education sector to improve accessibility and experience for students with a disability.

The statement illustrates the urgent need for reorganisation within the sector and aims to amplify the lived experiences of disabled staff and students.

The report cites changes previously suggested by the National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education (NCSHE). Recommendations ranging from the dismantling of discrimination within higher education, an increase in student support, and the mitigation of barriers faced by students with disabilities as key areas for targeted change.

In the report, the student organisations call on Australian universities to endorse anti-discrimination legislation, advocate for greater funding, and implement mandatory inclusivity and anti-ableist training for all higher education staff.

The authors of the report state that supporting hybrid forms of education and dismantling physical barriers have "noticeably enhanced accessibility and student wellbeing for disabled students," particularly targeting "those from First Nations, culturally and linguistically diverse ("CALD"), and other intersectional, minoritised, and marginalised backgrounds."

NUS Disabilities Officer Isabella Harding told *Honi* that the statement is "the voice of d/Disabled students and tragically, it paints a grim picture of students' experience of social and legal barriers to equal treatment."

"Any ableism, especially ableism in places of learning, is condemnable and the onus is on higher education providers and regulators to change this culture."

Harding said that, "as of today, I have not received any contact from Higher Education Providers about how to make their campuses, accommodation, and education delivery more accessible to students. Our demands have not been taken seriously by the Department of Education who refuses to implement the changes."

The University of Sydney was the last of the Group of Eight (Go8)

universities to implement their own disabilities space. Khanh Tran, Disabilities Officer, said that "USyd remains far from being disabilities-friendly."

USyd campus remains "riddled with multiple physical barriers to entry and broken promises on implementing tactile routes," Tran said.

"The elite residential colleges must also be abolished in favour of affordable student housing. Their sordid record on elitism, sexual harassment and assault means that they can never be safe spaces for student with disabilities."

Tran said that USyd's own "disability services and the Student Centre must receive far better funding to perform their functions."

"There is next to zero financial support for disabled students, with the much-touted MySydney scholarship ignoring disabled students altogether despite being one of the communities earmarked for increased access by the federal government."

Despite the lack of support from the University of Sydney management itself, the statement was endorsed by various USyd bodies.

## International students to rush back to Australia following Chinese government ban

Christine Lai

The Chinese government's recent snap ban decision on people studying at foreign universities online has pressured students overseas to return to Australia and continue their studies in-person.

China's Ministry of Education announced the end to special Covid pandemic rules on Saturday, which allowed Chinese international students to study online from home in China.

Under the new rules, more than 40,000 Chinese students enrolled at Australian universities must complete their courses face-to-face for their degrees to be recognised.

In the announcement, the Chinese government stated that from the first semester of 2023, they would no longer recognise overseas qualifications gained via remote study.

"According to relevant national policies, cross-border long-distance foreign (overseas) degree certificates and higher education diplomas are not within the scope of our center's certification," part of the statement read.

"To effectively protect the interests of students who receive overseas education and maintain the fairness of education, the Center has decided to abolish the special accreditation rules."

The Chinese Ministry of Education noted face-to-face teaching had resumed across several institutions overseas, adding that "diplomas and degree certificates awarded in the Spring semester of 2023 (Autumn semester in the Southern Hemisphere) and beyond through cross-border online studying" would not be accredited.

Chief Executive Officer at International Education Association of Australia Phil Honeywood said that there were about 40 000 Chinese

students currently offshore.

Last year, the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) set a deadline for all international students who hold an Australian student visa to return by 30 June 2023 in compliance with the National Code.

Universities Australia chief executive Catriona Jackson welcomed the decision, stating that this move would benefit university funding and research as a "significant amount of university research is funded partially by international students."

Jackson added that international students contribute around "\$40 billion every year onto the Australian bottom line."

Approximately 25% of international students studying in Australia come from China.

This shock decision has forced thousands of international students to scramble to return to Australia, amidst increasing flight, accommodation costs and extended visa delays.

Following the news, China's education ministry released another statement on Sunday to clarify that students would be able to seek an exemption from the rule if they were unable to acquire a visa, or could not find a flight or accommodation in time for the commencement of Semester 1 2023.

Students who could not change to face-to-face study and had already enrolled in online classes were also able to seek an exemption.

"For overseas students who are affected by the epidemic and are forced to choose to take some or all courses online, they must meet the requirements of foreign (overseas) universities."

"After the degree conferring conditions are met, the degree obtained can be certified normally. This 'Announcement' only cancels the special practice during the epidemic and restores the original certification rules," the body stated.

Around 3500 students have already arrived in Australia in January in preparation for resuming face-to-face teaching this year.

## In case you missed it: University news from the summer

Curtin University NTEU opposes the university's non-staff agreement

Misbah Ansari

Curtin University proposed a non-staff agreement last week which has been strongly condemned by the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU).

The ballot, set to be held between 10-16 February, offers staff a 2.2% pay increase per annum. Inflation is currently at 8.4% in Western Australia, meaning the proposed agreement would represent a substantial real pay cut for staff.

Curtin staff have demanded a pay increase of 5% per annum to deal with the increased cost of living pressures. There is a cumulative difference of around \$2000 between the pay rise offered by Curtin and what NTEU is asking for.

Fair work commission approves University of Tasmania's new staff agreement

Misbah Ansari

The University of Tasmania's new staff agreement gained approval from the Fair Work Commission earlier this week and will be in action from 6 February until 2025.

In a ballot that was held between 17 to 22 December 2022, 88% of staff voted 'yes' for the proposed agreement. The deal promises a 13.5% pay increase over four years, starting from 4.6% in July 2022 which was already paid to staff. There will be a 3% hike in July 2023, 2.5% in July 2024 and 3.4% in July 2025.

UTAS's Chief People Officer Kristen Derbyshire said that the new union agreement is a result of the "culmination of many months of consultation and collaboration by our colleagues and union representatives."

Read more news as it happens online

Fair work dismisses Charles Darwin University's enterprise agreement due to voting irregularities

Andy Park

The Fair Work Commission has dismissed Charles Darwin University's non-union enterprise agreement application due to voting irregularities in management's non-union ballot.

Last year, on 18 November, academic and professional staff voted to accept the new enterprise agreement with the University. Of the 59% of staff who voted, 62% voted yes.

The win was deemed invalid as the University allowed fixed term contract staff, who were not employed on the days of the ballot, to vote.

"The Commission's decision is a circuit breaker against a plan to cut staff pay in real terms and remove crucial workplace rights," said National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) General Secretary Damien Cahill.

UK Universities set for months of strike action

Luke Cass

The University and College Union (UCU) has announced weeks-long strike action at 150 universities across the United Kingdom.

The UCU announced its decision to strike, demanding that university employers "make substantially improved offers in disputes over pay, working conditions and pension cuts."

The strikes are set to see over 70,000 members of UCU take strike action, in what will be the biggest series of tertiary education strikes in the UK's history.

Between February 1st and March 22nd, there will be between one and three days of strike action each week, bar one.



# UCU RISING



# Enterprise Bargaining at USyd to continue into 2023

Luke Cass

For first years and new students, university can appear to be a place of wonder. As one of the university's taglines, "Leadership for Good," USyd prides itself on nurturing the next generation of movers and shakers.

However, corporate slogans and flashy adverts mask the policies of austerity which cripple the people who run the university — tutors, lecturers and staff. Staff pay and conditions are dependent on an enterprise bargaining process between the University and trade unions which represent them, meaning these negotiations have immense importance for staff and students at the University and, given the importance of USyd in Australia's higher education landscape, beyond.

The University of Sydney, the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU), and the Community and Public Services Union (CPSU) have been engaged in enterprise bargaining since the previous agreement between them expired in 2021. Since then, the parties have met over 29 times for formal bargaining meetings. In that time, there have been six days of staff strikes, supported by students, against University management.

Despite recording a \$1.04B surplus in 2021, university management continues to reject calls for a pay rise over inflation, an end to casualisation, and gender affirmation leave, amongst other staff demands. Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost Annamarie Jagose has blamed extended negotiation period on "the volume of claims made by staff unions" and "union intransigency on

academic matters." Jagose has also described staff claims as "excessive."

On 8 December 2022, Jagose sent an all-staff email providing an update on Enterprise Bargaining between the University, the NTEU and CPSU. That email contained details of preliminary agreements between the parties.

It is clear that the bargaining process will continue into 2023, with more strikes likely. Honi explains what the parties have agreed and what is yet to come.

## 1. Pay

The parties are yet to agree on the pay increase offered to staff. In the all-staff email, Jagose said that "it is not yet possible" for the University to make an offer because it is "waiting for both unions to confirm their wage claims."

The University paid a 2.1% annual pay rise and a one-off payment of \$1000 to staff in July 2022. This payment, substantially below the rate of inflation, would see staff receive a pay cut in real terms.

The USyd Branch Committee of the NTEU has previously endorsed a motion to increase their wage claim to the Cost Price Index (CPI) plus 2.5% annually. This would entail a pay rise substantially above what the University is currently offering, which would fail to assist staff struggling amid the cost of living crisis.

## 2. Casual employees

The University has only agreed to minor improvements for casual workers, as major staff demands remain unanswered. The University will "advertise an additional 300 continuing academic positions over the life of the agreement" according

to Jagose. This equates to less than a hundred additional positions a year across what would be a four-year agreement.

Current staff will only receive priority, rather than being guaranteed these opportunities.

The University will also commit, it has told staff, to take "reasonable steps" to achieve a 20% reduction in the proportion of casual staff over three years.

The University of Sydney employs approximately 10,000 casual staff, meaning that the University's current position would leave thousands of workers on casual contracts. A Senate report in 2021 found that casual employees at Australian universities were victims of "systemic" wage theft. The University of Sydney admitted in 2021 of underpaying casual staff by \$12.75 million between 2014 and

2020.

The proposed agreement set out in Jagose's email staff did not include any remedies for the insecurity of casual work at the University.

## 3. Leave allowances

The University and unions have agreed to small improvements to staff's leave allocations. Barriers to accessing "enhanced" parental leave have been somewhat reduced and menstrual and menopausal leave will now be available without the need for documentation. Small increases to the allocations of natural disaster, compassionate leave, emergency services leave are also included.

The parties' in principle agreement to offer a lump sum of 30 days of gender affirmation leave remains unchanged, despite many staff and students maintaining the need for an annual allocation of 30 days.

## 4. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Staff

Jagose told staff that the proposed agreement will also recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff's cultural obligations. The proposed agreement will also include an increase in ceremonial leave available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and the payment of a language allowance to staff who are asked to use a First Nations language at work.

There is still no agreement on the Unions' claim for an enforceable target of 3% Indigenous staff with Jagose saying that "discussions remain ongoing." Indigenous staff currently compromise less than 1.5% of the University's staff. Only 15% of Indigenous staff members have secure contracts at USyd, compared to 25% of all staff.

## 5. Workload and other changes

Jagose's email said that the parties have agreed to increase the obligations on managers of professional staff to review workloads. A "right to disconnect clause," with "reasonable exceptions" will be inserted into the Enterprise Agreement as things stand, subject to a final agreement.

The University has agreed to require managers to undergo mental health training upon appointment.

The parties have agreed to include a clause in the Agreement "that recognises the lived experience of staff with a disability," Jagose said. Whether more extensive provisions to support disabled staff will be agreed upon remains unclear.

*The USyd Branch, and NSW Division, of the NTEU have been approached for comment.*

# Protestors rally for housing justice

Jordan Anderson and Harrison Brennan

More than one hundred protesters gathered at Town Hall on Saturday to demand housing justice and better living conditions.

The protest, organised by Action for Public Housing, demanded the government end homelessness, abolish no grounds evictions, end public housing demolitions, and implement a rent freeze.

The rally was chaired by a spokesperson for A4PH who spoke to the group's primary demands, noting the "critical link" between the housing crisis and First Nations justice on unceded Gadigal land.

Activist and public housing resident Carolyn Veg Ienna contrasted the

community facilitated by public housing with their poor treatment by housing authorities. "I really love that place, I have friendships with other neighbours, but it is more than that: we rely on each other," they said.

Karen Brown, a public housing tenant and activist, spoke to the government's unrelenting assault on Waterloo public housing.

"They claim that 30% of public housing is the right mix, public housing is only 12% of all housing in Waterloo. There has been a massive increase in housing in Waterloo over the last decade and none of it is public."

The rally foregrounded the imminent state government election, which occasionally overshadowed the speeches of those with lived experience of housing insecurity.

Rose Jackson, the Labor Shadow Minister for Housing and Homelessness, spoke about Labor's intentions to merge three housing bodies into Homes NSW. Jackson said that "Labor acknowledges we are in a housing crisis. Labor have committed to establishing Homes NSW as a central public housing agency in this state."

The Greens Member for Newtown, Jenny Leong said that "this is not a new crisis," describing NSW as a state run by "big developers."

"I say fuck you to your 70-30 split," Leong said, referring to the 70% private housing and 30% social housing built on public land redevelopments.

Rachel Evans, the Socialist Alliance candidate for the NSW legislative assembly and prominent LGBTQ+ activist, said that the state of housing

in NSW had dire effects on long-time residents and in particular, the queer community, amongst other minority groups disproportionately affected by the crisis.

"Because we face bigotry and oppression, the rainbow community experiences a lot of homelessness. Solving our homelessness crisis is a queer issue, a feminist issue, a First Nations justice issue, it is a class issue."

Rachel said that the NSW Labor party's plan, to merge 3 housing agencies into one Homes NSW, and tinker with stamp duty, land tax and first home buyer grants "just isn't going to cut it," arguing that these proposals "are not solutions, these are insults."

The protest served as a reminder of how activism is required to counter attacks on our basic human rights.

# Thales off campus: there's no space for weapons in education

Ishbel Dunsmore and Yasmine Johnson

Thales, one of the world's largest weapons manufacturers, first signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with USyd in 2017, sponsoring eight engineering industry placements and providing funding for PhD research. The recently extended deal (see page 4) will further allow Thales to conduct research into high-tech weaponry and military systems on campus. Agreements like this have no place on campus because they only exist to exploit graduates and researchers into growing and sustaining the military and weapons industry. Universities should be for education, not for expanding Australia's capacity for destruction.

The University's ties with Thales date back to 2015, when USyd's Chancellor Belinda Hutchinson was appointed as the chairperson of Thales Australia's board. It's not Hutchinson's only crime — she and her husband purchased their \$20 million Point Piper house in 2018 with funds obtained from involvement in arms manufacturing, climate destruction, gambling, and other unsavoury industries.

Construction is projected to begin in 2025 and conclude in 2028. Bridge Housing plans to prioritise re-housing those evicted during the nearby Waterloo South redevelopment once construction is complete.

Thales is complicit in a long list of brutal conflicts around the world

and continues to provide arms to major global powers. Their weapons, surveillance systems, and vehicles have been used to wage destruction in places like Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, Yemen, Syria, East Timor, and West Papua. And as one of the largest defence contractors in Australia, every person who has stared down the barrel of an Australian Army gun has seen first-hand the products of Thales. They produce the Australian Army's standard gun — the F88 Austeyer — as well as a range of munitions and powders. They also produce transports to send troops into other countries to commit atrocities, like those detailed in the Brereton report into Australian war crimes in Afghanistan. Reports produced by the World Peace Foundation and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute also reveal that fraud, political lobbying, bribery and sales to repressive regimes are inalienable to the weapons trade.

These are the exact opposite of the values that an educational institution should impart.

Not satisfied with just creating enormous levels of destruction through their role in weapons production, Thales also helps secure borders. The defence giant produces surveillance drones and operates the Eurodac system, a biometric security database that holds information about every asylum seeker in the European Union. This technology not only denies safety to refugees fleeing from war, climate change, and other disasters, but also dehumanises them by encroaching on their privacy.

Thales wants to increasingly integrate itself into university faculties and research teams, promising an expansion

of their insidious presence on campus. University management, not satisfied with last year's \$1 billion surplus, is constantly looking for ways to turn a profit and help gear the University towards what Australian industry, and the military in particular, demand — particularly given rising imperialist tensions. USyd management is clear that increasing the amount of defence research that takes place on campus is a key objective.



"As the collaboration develops," they note, "both parties intend to embed staff within each other's organisation to accelerate the translation of research and development into solutions that bring impact to the community, particularly focusing on national security outcomes."

There are an increasing number of projects on campus explicitly geared towards furthering the ability of the Australian armed forces to wage war. Further, even seemingly harmless coursework, well outside of transparently militaristic projects, may involve training AI or developing some part of a military system for ulterior defence motives.

Our university should play no part in increasing the number of lives lost in murderous wars and armed interventions across the world. Military-funded research and coursework will also be expected to demonstrate military value. When alternative sources of university funding (read: government funding) are crowded out by arms dealers, students and academics are forced to play a part in Australia's increasing push for militarisation. This will fundamentally stifle the ability of students and staff to engage in education as a social good, which should be the institution's primary aim.

As students, we shouldn't be forced to take part in weapons development, or maintain silence while university management gears research towards this destruction. Management cares most about their bottom line and propping up the Australian war machine. On the other hand, we have an interest in free, quality education which is primarily about improving the society we live in.

If we want management to cut ties with Thales, we are going to have to fight for it. The University should tear up its renewed agreement with Thales, get rid of all joint projects, sack Belinda Hutchinson, and redirect money from military partnerships into free, quality education that exists for the good of humanity.

This is why in order to win, we need all the help we can get. Management cheerfully tells us that weapons development helps "make Australia and the world a better place to live". They are not going to change their minds unless we force them to.

# Redfern social housing targets announced

Josh Clay

The NSW Government has announced that community housing provider Bridge Housing will be tasked with a \$230 million housing project at 600-660 Elizabeth Street, Redfern in partnership with developer Capella Capital.

Earlier last week, Bridge Housing announced various housing targets for the site. These include 100 social housing units owned by the NSW Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC), 40 affordable homes for very low to moderate income families, 11 specialist disability homes, and 80 affordable units for key workers.

Additionally, 10% of the units will be made available for First Nation peoples, fulfilling one of the three demands from the Redfern-Waterloo Aboriginal Affordable Housing Campaign.

The development is also projected to include 100 units for private market sale and 39 "additional [...] affordable homes" owned by Bridge Housing.

While the details are subject to change, currently less than one third of the homes will be privately sold.

Existing public housing on the site was demolished in 2013 and has stood as a vacant lot ever since. There have been numerous unsuccessful attempts to approach redevelopment over

the past decade. Most recently and prominently, the build-to-rent method stood as the preferred approach for three years but was revised in 2021 to use the more profitable build-to-sell concept.

The LAHC claims that this method "allows for more homes for people in need."

Jenny Leong, Greens Member for Newtown, publicly commented that the site "should remain 100% public housing [...] like it was a decade ago."

She criticised the "years of incompetence from the NSW Liberal-National government" that caused the project's decade-long delay.



# Anatomy: body, death and scholarship

Katarina Butler puts on her white coat and mask.

Every now and then, you see students don their white coats on the grass in front of the Anderson Stuart Building. Some think it's a weird first-year thing, others don't really care, but ten minutes before each lab is scheduled, students flock to the lawn to put on their PPE before heading into the building. Despite the rising temperatures, the sandstone building stays cool, the air tinged with the chemical smell of ethanol.

In my time studying anatomy, my attitude towards the practical portion of the course has changed

to reveal the great truths of the brain, or digestive system, or something else ridiculously complicated.

Specimens are essential to anatomy students. Lectures are not to be discounted, but it all clicks when you're able to see an organ in its

next of kin consents, USyd may retain their body for up to 8 years with the Department of Health,

Students learn an immense amount about the human body in a very short time, but they are also confronted with the ethics of their learning conditions. In America, where medical students dissect an entire body during their first year of training, it was common to rob graves in the 19th century to provide learning material. Today, instead of desecrating burial sites, medical students rely on the generosity of donors; people who wish to dedicate their body to scientific discovery and



Art by Jun Kwoun

dramatically. In the beginning, the experience was completely foreign. It was shocking to see cadavers laid on stainless steel benches for students to prod at. I still can't stand the smell – mostly chemical – of the lab, and once had to leave a friend waiting at a restaurant post-lab because I caught a whiff of ethanol on my hand. Now, the space is a strange mix of sacred and instructional as I have come to understand the enormous undertaking that is body donation.

Gloves on, phones away, it's sometimes a struggle between my waning motivation and the empty sections of the worksheets we're told to complete each week. Surveying the specimens they've rolled out for the current topic, I try to find one that will reveal the most detail, and provide the best view of the structures I'm required to identify. This is categorically impossible, and much time is spent each week waiting for a demonstrator to check in on me before taking me to a bench with a better view.

During the first lab, I was shocked by the demonstrator's use of a skewer to tease out the different vessels in the upper limb (an anatomists' term for arm), before he pinched the almost string like nerve, pulling it into a triangle as it stretched between one piece of flesh and the other. Now, I poke and prod at specimens, trying

place, as well as all its related structures. Depending on the topic, there are limbs, torsos, individual organs and systems laid out on the tables for study. Most jarring are the viscera (organs), which are locked away in Sistema boxes that could have been used to

## On all specimens, there is evidence of a life lived, and students are taught to grapple with that as they study.

transport cupcakes, or something else inane, but instead contain flesh and its accompanying ethanol juice.

Gloves on, phones away, it's sometimes a struggle between my waning motivation and the empty sections of the worksheets we're told to complete each week.

Body donations are complex, and require much forethought by the donor. There are forms to fill out, and next of kin to be informed. The Anatomy Act (1977) sets out a complex set of rules for donation, designating who can sign off on a donation – interestingly, even if someone expresses their wish to donate their body, if their next of kin does not consent then it's over. Should they die within the Sydney metropolitan area with none of the disqualifying conditions and their

or indeed indefinitely. The families are not allowed to view the body, or any body in the program.

Cremation or burial is offered, but bodies are buried in a private cemetery in Macquarie Park and are therefore unable to be visited. If cremated, ashes are scattered amongst gardens in the Northern Suburbs. Donated bodies are sequestered away for the sole purpose of enriching students.

Specimens are prosected by professional staff within the Anatomy department, and may take weeks or months to prepare. Delicate specimens depicting the precise relationship between the omentum (a fold of connective tissue between the stomach and other abdominal organs) and the intestines seem simple, but require dedicated and precise expertise to create.

Anatomy is one of the truly holistic courses one can take at university.

training. Before even stepping foot in the lab, students are confronted with this knowledge. They learn to use lab time productively, maximising the use of a specimen before moving to the next item on an exhaustive checklist. They wade through the intense jargon, the oppressive smell, and the unfamiliar textures, all for the purpose of better understanding the human body, its structures and ailments.

Often lungs are slightly blackened on the outside – tiny collections of carbon induced by smoking or inhaled pollutants. Sometimes a structure looks completely different depending on the specimen. Vessels surrounding the heart may be excessively muscular due to high cholesterol levels. On all specimens, there is evidence of a life lived, and students are taught to grapple with that as they study.

Despite it all – the smells, the sensations, the tinge of death at the corners of the labs – anatomy remains a strong passion of mine. The opportunity to study cadavers is not something to take lightly, and any discomfort is easily quelled by the gratitude students have for donors.

Today, instead of desecrating burial sites, medical students rely on the generosity of donors; people who wish to dedicate their body to scientific discovery and training.

# Trove is a trailblazing essential service: how can we neglect it as we have?

Aidan Elwig Pollock turns pages.

The National Library of Australia revealed last year that they may be forced to end their Trove online service due to lack of funding. Despite vague promises made by the federal government, this longstanding neglect of the archive digitisation service relied upon by thousands of Australians – groundbreaking in its accessibility and scope – is not necessarily over. The perilous situation Trove finds itself is a direct result of years of fiscal negligence by the previous Coalition government and is indicative of the dire state of the arts in this country.

The Albanese government has pledged to overhaul Australia's arts funding system with initiatives to foster our contemporary music scene, increase employee protections in the industry and foreground First Nations artists and stories. Whilst these are admirable and necessary steps, specific reference to the National Library has been conspicuously absent from the program.

The Prime Minister did acknowledge in January that our cultural institutions – including the National Library – have been “starved of funds” by the

previous government. However, this concern has not translated to concrete policy pledges. The National Library is thus left hoping for the best in the May budget, despite possibly being required to shut down Trove by mid-year.

Trove has been in danger before. The service was seriously threatened by the Turnbull government's “efficiency dividend” in 2016. The “dividend” slashed available funds to six federal institutions, including the National Library, by \$20 million over four years.

A successful #fundTrove campaign forced a federal funding package that saved Trove from imminent destruction in 2016; this funding was supplemented further in 2021. However, it has become clear that this was a short-term, stopgap measure: Trove remains under threat.

The very fact that such a service was threatened in the first place is a serious indictment on the Australian government. Trove is a highly innovative service. The National Library of Australia has been a world leader in digitisation. Many American public libraries, for instance, owe a serious debt to Trove, which formed an exemplary basis for their own digitisation projects.

## The potential loss of Trove is deeply worrying, and the lack of a specific pledge in the current government's newly announced arts package is concerning.

More importantly, the service is essential to a huge number of Australians. Trove is very widely used: according to the National Trust it averages over 70,000 site visits per day. These users, ranging from academics to students to people from all walks of life simply interested in their family or local history, find in Trove an accessible and extensive database of historical material. The loss of Trove would instantly make such research much more difficult, forcing people to go through a variety of smaller institutions – such as local

libraries – or physically attend the National Library.

According to the National Trust, the loss of Trove would place huge pressure on Australia's public library system and reduce the capacity for historical research across the board, including in the area of heritage assessment. As such, the National Trust labels the loss of Trove a “very retrograde step.”

Such a prospect should be of immense concern for students, for whom Trove offers a free and immense collection of primary source information with unparalleled accessibility.

Edward Luca, head of Academic Services at The University of Sydney Library, said “Trove is an important piece of cultural and research infrastructure for Australia, and a powerful resource for students.

“Trove enables access to Australian-focused content, including digitised newspapers, books, images, maps, diaries, letters, biographical information and other archival content, and connects users to digital collections hosted by other institutions.”

As such, the loss of the service would affect university students at every level of their studies. Assignments and theses would become immensely more time consuming and costly, forcing access through paywalled institutions or possibly expensive physical travel.

Third year history student Simone Maddison told Honi that “[Trove is] quite accessible and makes researching my interests at the beginning of a project quite easy [...] particularly when I'm not quite sure exactly what my study will be about.”

The potential loss of Trove is deeply worrying, and the lack of a specific pledge in the current government's newly announced arts package is concerning. What can we, as students, do to contribute to the campaign to save Trove? For a start, a parliamentary petition has been launched to impress upon the Albanese government that for thousands of Australians Trove is an essential service that requires funding. Although the budget consultation submission process has now closed, it is never too late to contact your local member of parliament to call for Trove to receive increased and stable funding.

Ultimately, it is shameful that in Australia we find ourselves in a position where the cessation of a service like Trove is even under consideration. Our public institutions constructed a world leading, accessible and ultimately essential service for digitising and retrieving historical sources: we should not allow it to be threatened by neglect.



IVAN ILYCH COMICS



# No Small Wonder: the big job of small talk

Nicola Brayan explores our awkward habit

As classes go back in-person, we'll each be faced, once again, with one of the most daunting parts of a new semester: walking into a lecture hall and being met with a sea of unfamiliar faces. You'll pick a seat, perhaps next to somebody else who isn't sitting with anyone, and brace yourself. Soon enough, one of you will ask the inevitable: "sorry – what was your name?"

All too often, this will be followed with questions about your major, year of study and even which highschool you went to. When there's a lull: "man, it's so hot. How insane has this weather been?"

I have had countless conversations with people whose names I have been given and promptly forgotten, desk-mates whose summer holidays I have learnt all about in the first five minutes before the tutorial has started, only to never sit next to them again.

I've honed a response to the inevitable "linguistics? Is that like... learning a language?" when I tell people what my major is (for the record, "not really – it's like the science of language"). I'm wentering into my fifth year of university. I work in an office where most of my coworkers are twice my age and have barely anything in common with me. In other words, I'm a veteran of small talk.

When we ascribe a metaphoric size to language, it usually denotes importance. For example, the phrases "big questions" or "big conversations" usually refer to significant or profound instances of their respective categories.

As such, what we deem "small" talk is usually the opposite: insignificant, empty exchanges, spoken to fill silence. The phrase has been used as far back as 1650, as per the Oxford English Dictionary, with almost no change to its meaning. For hundreds of years, we have engaged in unimportant chit-chat.

There is something uniquely painful about small talk. It's awkward, it's hollow, and worst of all, both interlocutors know it. You could sit in silence, although that would be more awkward, or you could talk about something deep, or controversial, which would be unusual and potentially isolating without first knowing where the other person stands. Initiating small talk is the verbal equivalent of pulling someone else's bandaid off: it's unpleasant, but we both know it has to be done at some point. At face value, it's strange that our social expectations have evolved the way they have. Why is it a norm – and an old one at that – to have such meaningless

conversations?

Luckily, as my seatmates could tell you, I happen to study the science of language. And yes, there is an answer – you just have to reconsider how you define "meaningless".

In linguistics, there are two dimensions to constructing a word's meaning. Semantics is the study of the relationship between words and what they refer to, while pragmatics looks at the way those words are used. We very frequently use words and language in ways that do not correlate to what we understand as their face-value, or literal, uses. We ask rhetorical questions, even though questions usually elicit responses, to suggest that the answer is implicit. We use adjectives that refer to tangible properties, like "small", to refer to abstract nouns like "talk" to communicate something metaphorically – in this case, unimportance. This is to say: we use language to make meaning not just through our word choice, but through the way we meet and subvert linguistic expectations.

In this same pragmatic vein, we can look at speech not just as a vessel for semantic meaning, but as an act. In an article from 1925 (which, admittedly, contains outdated descriptors of Indonesian people and language), anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowski coins the term "phatic communication" to describe speech with a social function, such as greetings, rather than an informative one. In 1962, linguist J. L. Austin proposed Speech Act Theory: the idea that the social functions performed by phatic speech are actually actions.

Saying "I do" at the altar, for example, commits you to a marriage. Saying "sorry" can meaningfully shift the way someone perceives your remorse for a wrongful act. When we say things, we are actively making changes to the people and the world around us.

Small talk is an excellent example of speech as action. In the most cynical sense, small talk acts to fill in silence. This may seem basic, but, if silence is uncomfortable, having a routine of uncontroversial pleasantries acts to spare both interlocutors from a more awkward alternative. More charitably, though, small talk is a social act. It indicates that, at some level, both interlocutors care about the other enough to learn a few fun facts about them. Inviting people to share in their experiences and find common ground is a means of strengthening bonds in a non-intimidating way. Even the most lambasted small talk topic – the weather – is deeper than it seems. We all experience the weather, and likely all have opinions and preferences about rain and sunshine.

"More charitably, though, small talk is a social act. It indicates that, at some level, both interlocutors care about the other enough to learn a few fun facts about them."

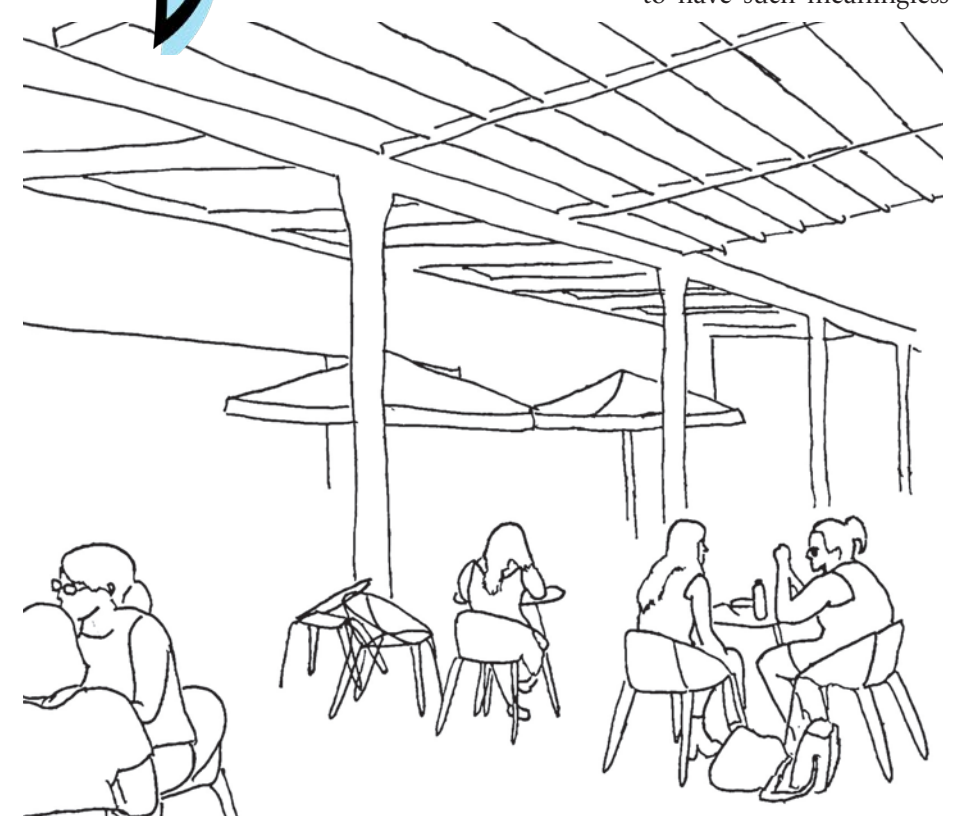
I get polite chuckles from my colleagues every time I excitedly tell them I was able to do washing because of how warm it was, and roll my eyes sympathetically when they lament broken umbrellas and leaky roofs during downpours. When we ask about weekends, holidays, and past schooling, we invite interlocutors onto common ground, giving them easy questions to answer as a way of indicating you care about their perspective. Small talk can be painful, especially if you're introverted, but at its core it's an act of kindness.

I recently caught up with a friend I met in the first year of my degree, who I hadn't seen for years after she had been stuck in China by COVID restrictions.

We reminisced about our years of study: our favourite units, the most infuriating tutors. At one point, I mentioned my dog, and she laughed and recalled how, in the first class we'd taken together in semester two of 2019, I had told her about him when she had asked what had happened in my holidays – he, only a puppy at the time, had eaten a bee, and his little face had ballooned up in a comical way (he was fine, but the photos were funny). Four years and a global pandemic later, she still remembered that tidbit of chit chat in those moments before class. I met some of the best friends I've made at university by sitting next to them and awkwardly asking them their names. When I came back from my travel around Europe this year, my coworkers remembered the plans I'd told them when they'd asked what I was doing over the holidays, and we compared our experiences in the places that we'd both now been to, even if decades apart.

I like small talk. At worst, it's a few minutes of awkward chatter that I'll forget about in a day or two. At best, it acts as the basis of a bond that might just change your life. When you walk into that lecture theatre on the first day of classes, pick a seat next to somebody. Say hello, comment on how humid it is, or how excited you are to be back in person. Explain your major even if they may not care. Talking is part of being human – relish it, even if it's small.

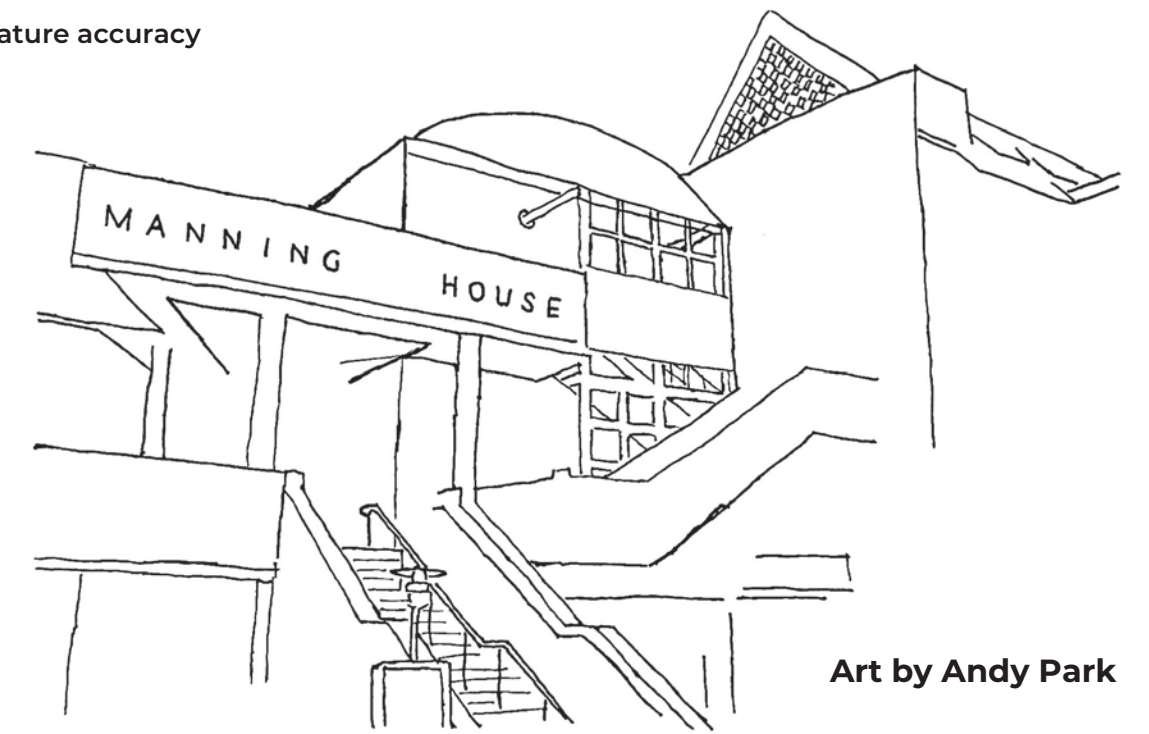
"When we ascribe a metaphoric size to language, it usually denotes importance. For example, the phrases 'big questions' or 'big conversations' usually refer to significant or profound instances of their respective categories."



# What USyd road name is the most accurate?

Marlow Hurst paves the way for road nomenclature accuracy

Have you ever found yourself walking down one of USyd's many roads, streets, places, or avenues and got to thinking: this is all well and good, but where's all the [insert noun in road name which is conspicuously missing from the contents of the road itself]. This thought has struck me down on a number of occasions and I'm confident it's done the same to you too. So, through the power of shaky maths, a website which calculates percentages for you, and a pretty good understanding of University geography, let's figure out which road names are lying and which are complying.



Art by Andy Park

## Manning Road v Fisher Road

Ah, Manning Road and Fisher Road, named after two gentlemen that loom large over the University's early history and their respective legacy buildings. But while their contribution to the development of USyd is undeniable, the roads that bear their names are perhaps fundamentally flawed. Nostalgia factory and aspirational food court Manning House sits on the glittering asphalt shores of none other than Manning Road, but how much of its street adjacent real estate does it actually occupy? Of the approximately 848 metres of curb, a measly 8.6% is engaged by Manning House. If I was Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) and Manning Road was a slab of alleged "beef" mince, it'd be off the shelves before you could say Everyday Rewards Points. Sadly, the amount of Manning in a Manning Road is not as tightly regulated. More's the pity! On the plus side, the small portion of Manning Road that is occupied by the titular Manning House is activated – or at least that's what the USU tells me. Fisher Road fares far worse. Of its 676 metre fronting, a dismal 0% is occupied by building BNOF Fisher Library. The road is not even all that close to Fisher Library. Its one point of redemption is that the OG Fisher Library called Maclaurin Hall its home – certainly a bit closer to the present day road's sphere of influence. Chancellor Manning and Thomas Fisher would be rolling in their graves!

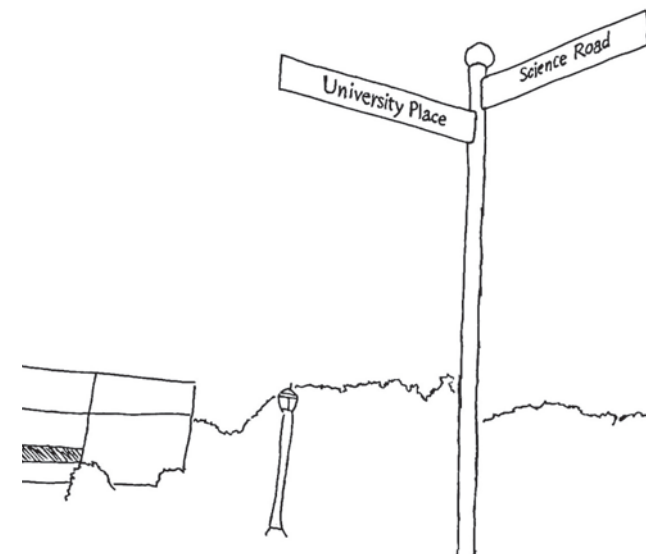
## Physics Road v Science Road

Of the many academic disciplines studied at USyd, these are the only two to have roads named after them. And it begs the question: what about the rest of us? Where's Arts and Advanced Studies Avenue, where's MECO Crescent, where's Law Lane? Not worth the paving costs apparently! The clear road-based bias in favour of STEM aside, the roads themselves are actually quite true to their titles. A whopping 33% of Physics Road is occupied by the Physics Building. Science Road requires some more careful calculation though. It plays host to some classic science buildings, including Macleay, Bank, Pharmacy, Edgeworth David, Heydon Lawrence, and RD Watt – covering the disciplines of pharmacology, agriculture, botany, and much much more. All up, this works out to 29% of Science Road being employed to scientific ends. This jumps by around nine percentage points if you add Badham and the Archaeology Demountable Village to the equation – but only parts of Badham can claim to apply the scientific method and I'd only count the archaeology demountables if they were doing some cutting edge 3D modelling at the time. So let's stick with 29% – a perfectly respectable apportionment by any measure.



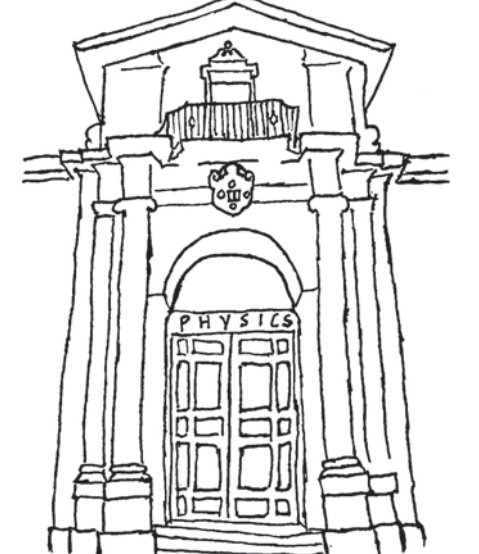
## Eastern Avenue v Western Avenue

The battle of the cardinal directions! One would think the names of these stalwart campus thoroughfares would be safe, but one would think wrong. While Eastern Ave's near superlative nomenclature suggests it's the most eastern road on campus, University Avenue or Barff Road are due that honour (depending on how you feel about curved paths). What's more, Eastern Avenue doesn't even enable egress across the east-west longitudinal axis – rather, it takes students, staff, and random middle-income jogger couples from north to south and vice versa. Damning evidence against one of USyd's most iconic campus landmarks. Western Avenue, certainly the neglected younger sibling of the pair, fairs a bit better. The only competition it has is Orphan School Creek Lane, a vital artery for the veterinary science precinct, yet something of a loser-nobody road in the campus pathing zeitgeist. Similar to its eastern counterpart, it mainly takes people south to north and north to south, yet brief curves around the University Oval to provide the fleeting opportunity for travellers to veer west (even if it's only for a couple of metres). Overall, neither Western or Eastern Avenue are perfect: neither is the most western or the most eastern and both engage in transgressive latitudinal transit.



## University Avenue v University Place

Of USyd's many roads, these two probably have the easiest remit – it's easy to embody the word university when you're quite literally paved onto a university campus. In which case, it becomes an internal battle royale: which of the two is more university? On the one hand, University Place has iconic USyd landmarks like the Quadrangle, Fisher Library, and the building that contains LEGO Pompeii (see: Chau Chak Wing Museum). It's a veritable grand tour of USyd iconography throughout the decades. University Avenue is a little more bare-bones. It has the side of Fisher and the back of Chau Chak, and, who could forget, the lovely Baxter's Lodge. But then again, it is the primary connection between Camperdown Campus and the outside world – it keeps us grounded, bursts the bubble, breaks the seal. But USyd is not so much a university as it is a collection of enchanting buildings, so University Place must take the cake.



## The most accurate USyd road name?

The challengers have been identified and analysed. Now it's time to make the final judgement call. What is the most accurately named USyd road? Well, number crunching and name analysis can only tell you so much. So take this as an opportunity to judge them all yourself. Stroll along every street, amble across all the avenues, and leg it down each and every lane – you might come up with some better names while you're at it.

Note: All measurements are approximations made using the measure distance tool on Google Maps. The author did not roll a trundle wheel across campus.



## Climate change linked to increased risk of cardiovascular disease

Celine Marshall reports.

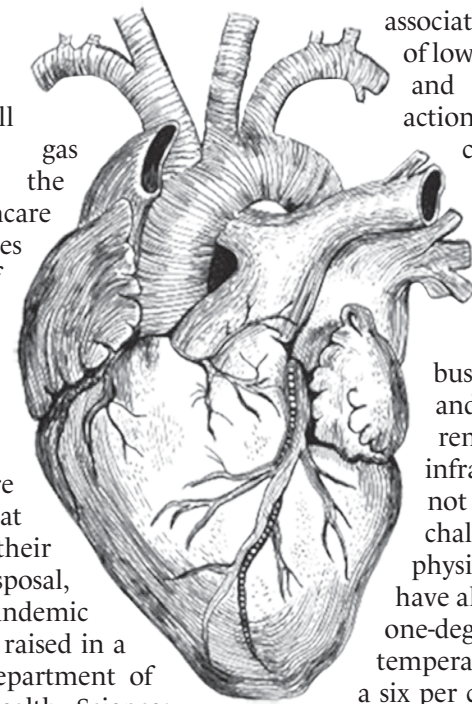
The role of health care systems in mitigating the consequences of environmental change and disasters was highlighted through a Call to Action by the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (CSANZ) Cardiovascular Nursing Council published in December 2022.

Whilst the positive correlation between environmental disasters and the number of patients facing heart-related issues has been widely recognised, health-care systems are yet to recognise their contribution to the issue of anthropogenic climate change.

The Call to Action presents recommendations to help better prepare and adapt nurses to the increasing risks of cardiovascular disease (CVD) that are exacerbated by unstable environmental conditions. It takes into account acute climate hazards like heat, erosion, pollution, drought, bushfires, floods, dust storms, and tropical cyclones, which have recently revealed weaknesses in Australia's health care systems.

Additionally, it points to the need for more "ecologically sound" professional practices that can reduce the sector's carbon footprint. "Global health care generates approximately 4.4% of all greenhouse gas emissions; the Australian healthcare system generates almost 7% of annual national emissions," the report states.

Concerns about excessive use of healthcare materials that pollute, their inadequate disposal, as well as post-pandemic waste have been raised in a study by the Department of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of Jaén. This is a universal problem which can be remedied throughout the healthcare system globally.



First Nations people have proven the most vulnerable to both the effects of climate change and increased risks of cardiovascular disease. This can be associated with systemic issues of low socio-economic status and limited government action that is Indigenous communities in Australia regularly face. Their traditional ways of life are impacted not only by "reduced food and bush tucker resources, and damaged/unstable remote community infrastructure" due to not environmental challenges, but also physical health. Studies have also revealed that "each one-degree Celsius increase in temperature is associated with a six per cent rise in CVD" and related hospitalisations.

With nurses comprising the largest proportion of the health industry in Australia and New Zealand, the Call

to Action places them at the head of paving way for change "to lead necessary interdisciplinary planning and adaptation."

Amongst the key recommendations proposed by the CSANZ for the healthcare industry to consider, is to "harness the power, skill and expertise of the nursing profession who transect acute and primary care to lead change". The report also highlights necessary knowledge for healthcare workers to recognise that "climate hazards and disasters provide acute CVD triggers compounded by social determinants of health."

### First Nations people have sovereignty over their response to climate change.

The proposed strategies which aim to optimise nursing preparation in the face of climate emergencies require an overall merging of the concept of environmental health into human health.

## Activists targeted by new NSW protest laws

Maddie Clark got fined.

Last year, I was fined for leafletting at a protest. The protest was against the International Mining Resources Conference, a meeting place and expo of hundreds of the world's number one polluters and mining bosses. While some of the conference sessions, such as "Powering Mines with Renewable Energy Sources" and "Electrification and Technologies for Decarbonisation" attempted to signal moves towards environmental sustainability, the real underlying message of the 3 day event was that mining has a bright and prominent place in Australia's economic future.

**Australia is the 12th largest producer of gas and the 2nd largest exporter of gas worldwide.**

Mining is one of Australia's most profitable industries and the new Labor government is clearing the path for 114 new projects to be opened, with some commentators even dubbing the current period a new mining boom.

Instead of the radical change we need to combat climate change, our government is focusing on repressing activists who want to call them out.

**In NSW last year, the government passed new laws that, within 48 hours of being introduced, directly targeted activists.**

The new anti-protest laws state that it is illegal for protestors to 'enter, remain on or near, climb, jump from or otherwise trespass on or block entry to any part of a major facility,' and see them facing fines of up to \$22,000 and a two-year prison sentence.

Major facilities could be defined as including railway stations, public transport, facilities, private ports, infrastructure facilities that provide water, sewerage, energy manufacturing or other services, as well as bridges, tunnels or roads (as added by Parliament). The breadth of the legislation could see any protest that is constituted as disruptive, be deemed unlawful and see activists facing these disproportionate penalties.

Violet Coco was the first person to be sentenced on these charges. Her direct action saw just one lane of traffic on the Harbour Bridge shut down for a whole of 25 minutes. For that, she was sentenced to fifteen months jail time and fined \$2500. The comparison with how the Harbour Bridge was shut to

film Ryan Gosling's new movie *Barbie* is stark. For Gosling, the *Barbie* was shut for 8 hours, and the NSW government gave the production company \$14.5 million in subsidies.

The NSW laws are not unique, and mirror laws have passed nationwide. In Victoria, a law passed last year could see a maximum of 12 months in jail or \$21,000 in fines for obstructing or interfering with timber harvesting operations. Laws in Tasmania target protests protecting forests, with a penalty of over \$13,000 or two years in prison for obstructing a forestry site. In Queensland, protestors are facing jail time over a climate protest, in a precedent not seen since the repressive Joh Bjelke Peterson government.

The anti-protest laws have given the police the green light to intimidate our protests. At the IMARC protest, 500 riot cops mobilised around the location of the conference.

**They kicked over our stall, and then fined me over \$400 for leafletting to passersby.**

All of these new laws have seen Australia's civil rights rating to be downgraded, from an "open" freedom rating to a "narrowed" one.

This is not good news for activists. It demonstrates how the government is

increasing authoritarianism to deter activism and protesting. But their targets for repression should tell us something useful. The new laws are targeted towards protestors because protests work. Their specific focus on disruptive protests also convey how protests are powerful when they do interfere with the general day-to-day running of the system.

**We can't be cowed by the efforts of the government to repress us.**

Instead, we need more activists to come out and fight. The way to combat repression is through everyone getting involved. Illegal protests during COVID showed us that when people come out, the police are unable to stop them. More people coming out on the streets will give more support to activists like Violet Coco, staunchly engaging in direct action. We're going to need a whole swathe of tactics if we're going to win demands that address climate change.

I'm going to fight my fines, but I'm also going to be out on the streets for the next climate protest on March 3. I encourage everyone to do the same. We're going to need more people on the streets, to fight back these anti-protest laws and to win a habitable planet for all.

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# Training Matters: Why the University's existing consent module fails students

Ariana Haghighi reports.

At the beginning of first year, I lay on the Law Lawns and finally completed what I'd been putting off. Busy traipsing around Welcome Week stalls, listening to powerful pitches by Club Presidents and stressing about my back-to-back classes, I recalled that I had to complete the Consent Matters and Academic Integrity modules. I wasn't entirely sure when, or what would happen if I didn't complete them, but I had received some advice from a friend. "Just click through it and get it over and done with," they said. "Hover your hand over the arrow button, and constant clicking gets through most of it."

Sexual assaults on campus cannot be described by a word other than epidemic — and management should be treating this crisis with an adequate emergency response. Welcome Week is notoriously the most dangerous week for students, a week in which 1 in 8 annual incidents of sexual violence on campus will occur. It is also the week where most first years will be exposed to their only mandatory training about sexual violence for the rest of their degree.

## USyd's Consent Matters module is a distant memory for most university students.

The module is buried in the haze of a first year Welcome Week, replete with freebies and frightening deadlines. It was introduced in 2018 in response to the Australian Human Rights Commission's damning report on sexual assault on campus. The course was developed by Epigeum, a course-creating business based in Oxford University.

After its introduction, Consent Matters faced significant backlash, which the former Vice Chancellor Michael Spence rebuffed with a statement. It opens with, "The University makes no apology for opening up discussion on consent and trying to help our students navigate this difficult area." Of course, this was not the rationale criticised by the media. Rather, Consent Matters is viewed as an archaic bandaid that makes very few strides towards addressing the underlying issue.

Iggy Boyd, 2023 SRC Women's Officer, added:

"In so far as there is no evidence

that USyd Management's Consent Module project has done anything at all to prevent sexual violence on campus, one could make quite a strong argument indeed that the introduction of mandatory Consent Modules by the USyd brass has done functionally nothing for sexual violence prevention."

USyd's Consent Matters module fails to correctly address its audience, provide comprehensive content, and employ methodology that optimises long-term memory retention.

### 1. Audience

Educating a pool of first year students on sexual assault prevention and management is inevitably difficult. One of the reasons for this is the varied experiences and knowledge of each student. Some students will arrive at university having faced sexual assault, others will have perpetrated it; some will have been exposed to nuanced discussion about sexual assault in high school, others patriarchal "locker-room banter".

How can a one-hour course standardise knowledge across the horde of students, ensuring it is not over-explaining well-known concepts whilst also not omitting key laws and rules?

It's a near-impossible balance to strike, and Consent Matters misses the mark on many levels. Its acronym about consent, FRIES (Freely Given, Reversible, Informed, Enthusiastic, Specific) is condescending and unhelpful, and it fails to give practical tips on topics such as identifying drunkenness, and understanding both verbal and non-verbal clues of vitiated consent.

The module's content also appears tone deaf to its audience, presenting various sexual assault analogies — such as those of tea and bikes — with an excited tone. Considering the widespread rejection of such oversimplified and re-traumatising analogies by young people, the inclusions seem careless.

### 2. Content

USyd's Consent Matters succeeds in expanding the definition of consent beyond sex, encouraging students to seek consent in more aspects of human interaction, such as non-sexual touching and interfering with personal property.

However, even where its content is ideal, the scenarios used to illustrate it are painfully simplified in both tone and content.

One scenario begins as follows:

"Fred wants to have sex with Ted.

Fred asks Ted, shall we go to bed?"

The rhyming scenario feels more Seussical than serious, where conversations about consent are communicated in a childish tone. This does a disservice to all.

The scenario's last line reminds me of a language-learning program for primary schoolers:

"Good job, Fred!"

The scenario does communicate the importance of respecting a partner's desires, but the four-line conversation lacks the ecological validity of a real life situation. This renders these scenarios largely unhelpful, as they are unlikely to crop up in similar form in the student's life.

## The content also assumes that all sexual assaults occur due to misinterpretation of consent being given or vitiated.

This is true in some circumstances, but certainly not many — sexual violence is often driven by a masculine desire for power and domination, with the tangible knowledge of a lack of consent in mind. For those individuals, who believe that people do not have the right to consent, or that consent is unnecessary, the Consent Matters module does very little to address these attitudes stemming from rape culture. The content on bystanderism similarly places a significant burden on students to prevent incidents — whilst community support can be helpful, this neglects the University's obligations to ensure a safer campus and events.

Additionally, the Consent Matters module omits content that could work to rectify a patriarchal sexual culture, such as content on pleasure and forming healthy relationships in realms other than sexual.

### 3. Methodology

A significant issue with Consent Matters' methodology is its occurrence on a one-off basis — much like the readings of a first year course, its content is relegated to the deep crevices of the mind. Considering consent remains

continuously relevant in a university student's quotidian interactions, and any lessons the module teaches are unlikely to be remembered or implemented by a student.

Another factor that prevents long-term retention is its flawed quizzing system. Pedagogical research unanimously agrees on the importance of quizzing students on content to consolidate it in their memory. Not only do quiz questions force students to appraise the nuances in what they have learnt, they also prevent students from hammering their trackpad with their mouse posed over the 'next page' arrow. There are quizzes and scenarios to engage with throughout the course, but these do not actually need to be clicked or read in order to proceed to the next page. This stands out from other consent modules I have taken, such as Monash University's consent module equivalent where the arrow does not appear until the page's activity is complete, or the more detailed module for USU club executives which does not flick to the next page until adequate reading time has passed. Although these measures can seem irritating, they increase the likelihood of students interacting with the content by eliminating an 'easy way out.'

The one-hour course is also painfully dry. USyd student Holly\* said the design was "sterile", which "undermined the seriousness of the topic."

## The black and white, stick-figure design lacks the intrigue to hold the audience's attention for an hour, and also feels as divorced from reality as possible.

As the design is embedded into a Canvas page, USYD student Liz\* remarks that it feels like "a bland Canvas module," which further encourages students to click through it rather than critically engage with any material.

Instructional design research also points to face-to-face learning as more effective than online learning, particularly for the undergraduate demographic. Regular face-to-face

sessions are more likely to open peer-to-peer dialogue in a safe, regulated space. They also allow students to tailor their learning by asking questions, rather than all completing a standardised module. Face-to-face conversations also allow the minimisation of distress, whereas students who feel distressed during the online module may be isolated and struggle more to reach out from behind their screen.

### 4. Inadequate content warnings

Psychological research on the effectiveness and utility of content warnings to prevent distress produces mixed results. However, the topic of sexual assault is highly triggering for many students who have experienced it or know someone who experienced it — a pool of people that is unfortunately very large. As explained by the philosopher Kate Manne, the point of content warnings is to allow people to mentally prepare before commencing a reading that will be upsetting or distressing. Before the University of Sydney's Consent Matters module, Canvas provides the bareboned warning:

"This module covers some sensitive topics that may cause you distress. The course does not include explicit graphics or images, but it does include hypothetical scenarios exploring what consent and lack of consent can look like."

The vague content warning dances around the issue itself, which is problematic as it does not concretely lay out what the module involves and what students will be exposed to — this withholds students' ability to prepare themselves or apply for exemptions if required.

### 5. Lack of alternatives

Considering the highly distressing nature of content on sexual assault, particularly scenarios that may simulate a student's own trauma, it is remiss not to provide a comprehensive range of alternatives, tailored to each student's potential needs. Sexual trauma does not affect students equally, and therefore pointing all students in one direction is harmful.

Not only are there inadequate alternatives for students distressed by the course's content, the University of Sydney acts punitively towards students who do not complete the module. If a student does not complete the module by the census date, often the punishment is delayed and revealed when they open their marks, only to see they have failed

their courses. Once they are shocked by this and probe further, they realise that this is due to the non-completion of the Consent Matters module. Bella\*, a former USYD student, failed to complete the module purely because she was not aware of its existence nor the strict deadline — and was only made aware on results day. She was astounded, sharing: "I didn't have any clue that it was due, or what it even was," as there was little communication, unfairly relying on students mastering navigation of Canvas depths in their embryonic university days.

Students can apply for an exemption, but this involves navigating the University of Sydney's notoriously slow-moving and labyrinthine bureaucratic maze. Considering the severe consequences of non-completion, survivors are likely to complete the module regardless, feeling forced to tolerate any levels of distress raised.

### 6. Moving forward

## The truth is that consent education has to begin years before students arrive onto a university campus.

When students enter with at least 18 years of preconceived notions about the patriarchy, rape culture and power, it is impossible for these beliefs that drive and perpetuate sexual assault to dissipate.

However, this does not dismiss the University's obligation to facilitate a safe environment for students. A mandatory consent training system is one stride towards a safer campus — but its content and methodology must be tailored to support students, particularly vulnerable survivors. Nevertheless, one stick-figured slideshow does discharge the University's obligation to prevent sexual violence and survivors. An improved Consent Matters module should be only one paving in a long road of measures to improve student safety.

\*Names have been changed to protect the interviewees' identities.

View Course Stream

View Course Calendar

View Course Notifications

To Do

Nothing for now

Next



# ABS to offer BUSS1050: Trading Friendship in the Social Economy

**James Dwyer brings news from the business school.**

Bold and ambitious news rings out of the progressive halls of Abercrombie Business School this week, often regarded as the frontline of USYD's most avant-garde and culture-shattering ideas.

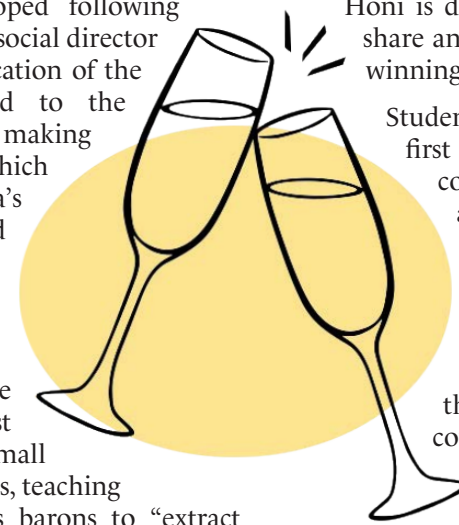
Today, the Dean announced to the Academic Board the launch of a long-awaited initiative, which seeks to fundamentally disrupt the way first year students think about the world. It is said this course will be giving them an internship in one of the most productive tools of a modern entrepreneur, "contracting their [hopefully] profitable social partnerships and making those long-term investments which, with any luck, will pay lucrative dividends" (Honi believes this translates to "making life-long friends" in other faculties).

BUSS1050: Trading Friendship in the Social Economy, is the ground-breaking result from Australia's corporate and

education sector working hand in hand to develop a solution to the large-scale loneliness and lack of campus life that has plagued our university for the last three years. The course has been developed following what one KPMG social director called "the application of the scientific method to the commerce of making associates," in which some of Australia's top CEOs and most socially distinguished Pitt Street Cryptocurrency traders have distilled their best Lunch Club small talk into a syllabus, teaching budding business barons to "extract the optimum social market value from your connections."

Graciously, Honi has had a first look at the exact content of this unique market analysis course, which has already been lauded and praised for its

"astounding ability to allow students to not only commodify, but trade in friendship!" (Australian Financial Review). After observing an intensive trial program over the last few months, Honi is delighted to be able to share an outline of this award-winning education with you.



Students started the first few weeks of the course by learning about appropriate conversation topics for social encounters. It appeared almost like high school with the tutor making the entire class recite core phrases: "May I have some more bubbly?"; "Do you winter in Perisher or Hotham?" and "Oh, what accountant are you with?" No doubt these life-like prompts would serve to warm even the coldest heart on Wall Street to you.

Exercises predominated the second third of the classes, with one task giving students a week to make as many LinkedIn connections as possible and then assigning mid-semester grades based on this ranking. This, as one tutor puts it, "replicates the real and natural allocation of resources in a deregulated and free social market." Having gained these contacts, the final leg of this new business journey focuses on how to leverage contacts and friendships. "One must remember to distribute the most time to the most valuable social assets," one of the slides in the final lesson argued, "only then will the social benefits trickle down to you."

The unit will commence its formal teaching this semester and will be compulsory for first year students, however conciliation is offered in the form of a free LinkedIn Premium membership which will hopefully entice older students to hone their skills and become sharks of the social market.

# How does the USU exploit its volunteers?

**Khanh Tran reflects on volunteering with the USU.**

Every February, there's a ritual that's hard to replicate: Eastern Avenue and the Quad are lined with hundreds of students donning either a brick



red or sun yellow t-shirt. These t-shirts represent the volunteers who make Welcome Fest possible: red for Sydney University and yellow for the University of Sydney Union (USU). Back in 2020, during my first year, I volunteered in the USU's V-Team

program, manning its iconic bright yellow food truck.

Over the course of three hours, I stood at the front of Fisher Library with another international student. We were tasked with directing students to the truck and show students the menu. In return, we were rewarded with an (admittedly cute) yellow t-shirt and a lunch, courtesy of the food truck team.

As much as I enjoyed the time, there was a great deal of buyer's remorse; a sense that I wasn't paid enough. That the experience was underwhelming. That the three-hour sojourn was a clog in the USU's own gig economy.

Mirroring USYD's chronic reliance on unpaid student volunteers (think Student Representatives and Mentors), the USU similarly relies on the hundreds of volunteers it hires to run Welcome Week. Swathes of volunteer day trip leaders frantically race around the city for around eight hours while Welcome Week Party volunteers scrutinise ticket holders before headliners hit the stage.

The similarity between them? No cash offered, just a lunch or a free

ticket to the party and vague hopes for a spark of friendship.

The issue in the USU's reliance on unpaid volunteering is that it perpetuates a gig economy whose modus operandi is extremely low-cost labour. That is, in order to access opportunities involving greater responsibilities, we must submit ourselves to unpaid work. Persist in these roles, get a CV to evidence your grind, polish up some charisma and you're in the vaunted inner circle of those employed by the USU.

If you want to get paid by the USU, you have to go through the baptism-of-fire that is the USU Board elections, become a PULP editor — requiring political acumen, writing and editing experience) — or become Debates Director, a role that requires immense oratory, administrative and organising skills.

The result is a quasi-exploitative and predatory architecture where, other than not being paid the actual worth of one's labour, unpaid work is seen as natural.

This mantra is so deeply ingrained in our collective consciousness that one mentor of mine, when I asked if SULS execs are paid, they grinned and told me: "No, but they're paid in clout."

Beyond this, what should spark concern is the program's false promise of friendship and community connection. Back in late 2020, as a newly minted first-year student, volunteering in the V-Team offered the elusive prospect of connecting

with other students. Instead of this, only radio silence ensued beyond my rostered hours. Our WhatsApp group(s) quickly moved on because, unlike the sustained work of clubs and societies, the USU V-Team opportunities are one-off gigs.

Yet surely the prospect of making friends motivates a majority of student volunteers to collectively contribute an obscene number of hours to the USU's coffers. Over time, it becomes apparent that, as the institution wields a monopoly over USYD's student life, the USU's free volunteering network becomes a borderline exploitative endeavour.

Borderline exploitative because, in the end, the USU is an institution that can afford to invest more in the students who make it possible and chooses not to. Exploitative because the arrangement takes advantage of students' goodwill and optimism to bolster its bottom line. Community service and genuine volunteering should be oriented towards a not-for-profit institutional end rather than inadvertently cushioning revenues.

And so, it comes back to the question of what constitutes the common good for the Union. Persist as is, and the answer seems to be that V-Teams deliver services at profoundly low cost for the USU's finances at the cost of a fragmented student culture. Alternatively, it can deliver change by building community, genuine financial security for its members and reversing the insecure gig economy that we are in.

# How to build a better campus: the fight to abolish VSU

**Luke Cass wants a return to compulsory student unionism.**

Each club, society, sports club, collective (not to mention this humble newspaper) that sets up a stall at Welcome Week substantially relies on student money to survive. Despite every student being required to pay a fee to fund student life, the vast majority of these organisations actually have very little money. The money they do have is subject to the whims of University management, not students, who decide which organisations to fund and how much to fund them. Both of these problems — a lack of student control of their own money, and a lack of available student money in the first place — are directly responsible for the dreary campus culture at Australian universities, not least USYD. This was not always the way things worked, and students are fighting to change it.

Prior to 2006, students in most states were required to pay money to their student unions (which include the USU and SRC at USYD) in a system known as Compulsory Student Unionism (CSU). However, John Howard's government abolished CSU in time for the 2006 uni year, meaning that students were not required to pay any money to the organisations which sustain student life.

After five years, the Gillard government introduced the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF), which students today will be familiar with: we are required to pay the fee to the University as a part of the enrolment process. Under the current system, the University receives student SSAF fees and distributes them among student organisations, including the Students Representative Council (SRC), the University of Sydney Union (USU) and Sydney University Sports and Fitness (SSUF) (among others) at USYD. Universities are also able to keep SSAF funds to run their own initiatives for students, as occurs at USYD.

The National Union of Students (NUS) — the peak representative body for undergraduates at Australian universities — has been campaigning to improve this system, although it faces

significant barriers to success.

NUS President Bailey Riley told *Honi* that the NUS "of course would love the return of CSU," and framed CSU's return as a long-term goal of the NUS. To get there, Riley said that pushing for CSU's return will be "part of our discussions & future submissions within the accord's process." However, citing the difficulty of achieving this reform, Riley said "CSU is not our top priority now."

A return to CSU would be beneficial in a number of ways. It would mean that student unions receive greatly improved funding: either students would pay the same fees, and the bureaucratic costs involved with universities distributing that money (and the money they withhold from student unions) reduces; or they would pay slightly more, and student unions would have even more resources. Student unions also would have to spend less on convincing students to join them, a process which has to happen each year anew as new students join, and as those already sold on the benefits of student unions leave, uni. This funding could be well used to fund services like legal aid, caseworkers, and student media, and enable student unions to run more effective activist campaigns.

**Since funding would no longer be contingent on appeasing university management, student unions would be free to run activist campaigns and provide services purely according to the wishes of students.**

La Trobe Student Union by La Trobe University are reminders of the control universities have over student unions.

The NUS has been lobbying a range of Labor Party members to reintroduce CSU. However, Labor is currently unwilling to legislate this change, with Riley saying that "Labor need[s] the most work" to change their mind. Deep political divisions in the lead up to Howard's 2005 reforms mean that legislating CSU would use a significant amount of political capital, being a significant deterrent for a Labor Party that is portraying itself as interested in reforming the university sector through consensus.

Accordingly, the NUS has been also lobbying The Greens as they are viewed as "the best ally in this fight," according to Riley. If the NUS were to succeed in lobbying the Greens to introduce a bill to reintroduce CSU, it would force Labor to address the issue and arrive at a position, thereby opening them up to critique by students and the broader public.

For NUS Education Officer, Xavier Dupé, "lobbying is no solution," to student unions' funding problem. He adds that "Labor wants student unions to be bureaucratic and apolitical because they know that historically students have played a role in social struggle." While Dupé's vision of mass activism would apply significant pressure on mainstream political parties and effectively insert student perspectives into the CSU debate, the NUS' ability to create such a movement is questionable in the short-term. An activist campaign to revive CSU would entail a long and hard fight.

In light of these barriers to a return to CSU, the NUS has been prioritising lobbying for changes which, ideally, would see 100% of SSAF fees given to student unions, or at worst, require universities to give 50% of SSAF fees to student unions. *Honi* understands that some members of the Labor Party whom the NUS has spoken to agree that the current SSAF system is broken and are open to reform. The Greens would also likely support a reform to the SSAF system.

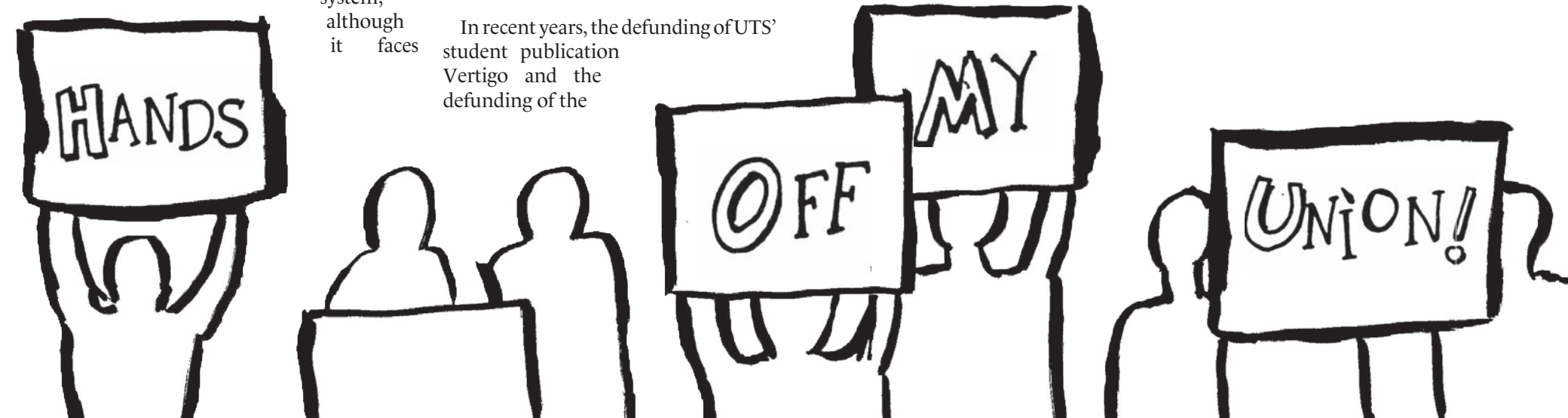
If student unions received 100% of SSAF fees, some of the problems with CSU would be remedied. The sheer weight of bureaucracy would be reduced, and student unions would receive more funding and improve student life and welfare accordingly. Funding would be more secure, which is particularly valuable for activist unions like the SRC at USYD and student unions reliant on more precarious funding, including those at smaller or rural universities.

However, the NUS rightly sees CSU as preferable to 100% SSAF. Dupé told *Honi* that "even 100% SSAF would not fix" the problem of universities having control over how student unions spend their money and lead activist campaigns, since "the university still has discretion over whether SSAF conditions have been breached."

More fundamentally, amidst the discussions of whether students should campaign for more achievable SSAF reform or the more ambitious CSU, is the question of how student unions, and thus students, conceptualise their role in the university system, and society.

VSU was ostensibly introduced to limit the political autonomy of students. Instead of university being a democratic place in which students have agency, VSU renders students passive participants, customers and consumers in the higher education system. Without student unions, students have very little capacity to change their university, and as such, fail to develop an understanding of their political power. In turn, students' ability to demand improvements to student life, and to create their own forms of campus social experience, diminishes. This suppression of the student political conscience has further ramifications on how students, beyond university, think about their role in social and economic systems and their ability to agitate for change.

As the NUS and student unions make the case for CSU or 100% SSAF, they ought to remember that they are not just campaigning for new funding arrangements, but to destabilise the foundations of the neoliberal university system.



In recent years, the defunding of UTS' student publication Vertigo and the defunding of the



# Living with strange bedfellows

**Hamish Lewis introduces you to his uninvited housemates.**

My house, I suspect, is much like yours, in that it's alive. It's not merely that things go bump in the night, but more to do with the cockroaches that scatter as the kitchen light flickers on. The spores from the bathroom wall that multiply in my throat, or the missing window pane in the laundry where the weather leaks in. The sagging floors upstairs, like the place pulled on an old hat, frowning at the brim.

I am a share house resident, and I am one of the lucky ones. I took on the undulating masses in queues that stretch round the block and managed to escape with both my life and a lease. I tamed the real-estate agents like a veritable snake charmer, only to fear every time the property manager emails.

It is surely the case that nobody should have to live like this, in a house that labours to fulfill the promise of shelter, beneath the spectre of being priced out of one's own existence. But many of us do. In fact, "the problem of the house" is hardly new. In his 1927 work *Towards a New Architecture*, Le Corbusier suggests that you and I are to be "pitied for living in unworthy houses since they ruin our health and our morale."

To him, the solution to the malaise of the modern city involves considering the home as "a machine for living." A machine which, in place of cogs and gears, has an adequate space to sleep, to eat, to think and to sit, identical for all and infinitely replicable with the aid of industry. The role of such a house is to provide us with some comfort to keep us sane and productive members of capitalist society. I am doubtful that this amounts to an improvement in the lives of the inhabitants of the home. It seems that if the wary, old houses

like mine kill us by disease, then the homes of modernity kill us by their imposition of a tyrannical sameness.

Le Corbusier, and all those who think a house is just the sum of its parts, could learn a lot from a place like mine. My house is a testament to the fact that mechanical failure can provide the grounds for thinking differently about home life. My place, despite its failures, is still a place of love, reflection and, dare I say it, beauty. It is, in short, a home — and a living one at that.

It is our futile homemaking that gives that life its character. While the issues which underlie our occupation of the house are structural (much like the defects of its floor plan) our adornments are skin-deep. Dampness claws at the flowers we collect in vases in the living room. Slug chewed advertisements cohabit in the letterbox with correspondence addressed to a long-dead former owner who

frequented the Church of Scientology. Underneath peeling layers of paint we find green wallpaper from a by-gone age, a reminder that one day soon our residence will similarly be lost under the weight of time. Yet, we never stop loving our home, this place that seems unwilling to love us back. We fix the broken parts as though they were parts of ourselves.

In the process, we find a strange harmony with the uninvited guests who host sleepovers in our cabinets. It turns out that even bugs can be good housemates. Really, all they want is much the same as what we want. A home that speaks to who we are. One that serves not as a machine for living, but a being that we live with and within. One that can love us like we love it. So, if you knock on my front door and find me inside, hosting a tea party with the bugs and the spores, I just hope you'll pull up an old chair and join us.

bought, feels more personable and makes your space feel more homely.

**Home might be a person.**

Feeling like you're home is often dependent on the company you have. Housemates, siblings, or even pets might be the reason the space is lively and gives you a reason to come home to. If that person who was truly home isn't around anymore, keep physical memories and reminders of them near.

**Accept defeat.**

Things are going to fall apart sometimes. You'll find yourself crying in the corner of your room after all your posters fail to stick to the wall. Or panicking over learning how to tackle bills and bugs. Living on your own is a learning curve — accept each failure and push through. Befriend the huntsman in the corner of your room, rather than trying to exterminate it.

Sydney might not become your home. It might just be a place for you to finish university and then move onto the next chapter of your life. You might have to move multiple times before you feel settled. But until then, even the narrowest alleyway nestled in the busiest streets may end up being your safe haven.

I hope the home you occupy, whether it be the one you live in now or one you may come to find in the future, fills you from deep within with comfort, joy and love.

Art by Nafeesa Rahman



The road to settling into a new city is bumpy, with many mistakes made along the way. But small ventures into building comfort is what makes the difference, which follow:

**Get lost.**

Leave the house, don't open Google Maps. Keep walking straight, turn left, turn right, keep going. Soak in the views of the unfixed potholes, magpies swooping, and the dog taking a shit across the road. Familiarise yourself with the quirks embedded within the surrounding neighbourhoods — they're what will lead you home on the drunkest of nights.

**Find the suburb that tastes like your childhood.**

Harris Park tastes like mum's cooking. Lakemba tastes like hanging

out after school. Eastwood tastes like special occasions. There will be days when you get tired of having the same depression meal for a week straight, and the only source of comfort is your UberEats delivery.

**Bring your drugs:**

Sydney is expensive. Chances are — regardless of where you've moved from — it's a lot cheaper to bring your own medicine over, or rummage through your parents' medicine cabinet. Just try not to get stopped at immigration.

**Give up on your DIY crafts.**

Sure, you can fill up your room with cheap Facebook Marketplace or Kmart finds, but it's the half-finished craft in the corner of your room that brings personality to your space. Owning things you've made, rather than

# Sydney, you are home

**Bipasha Chakraborty packs up their childhood home and moves to Sydney.**

Moving out is hard.

Whether it's your first or tenth time moving homes, cities or countries, it never gets easier.

As a third culture kid, it's difficult to really call anywhere your home. Others find it easy to latch onto the feeling of belonging to where they grew up, or the country their parents might call home; but when you feel no attachment to either, it feels alienating to not have somewhere to feel you can recluse to.

However, when you leave the shelter of your childhood house, that's when you can really explore and test out your different versions of 'home'. From university owned accommodation to establishing your own sharehouse, it's the small things that curate the essence of homeliness.

It's liberating leaving a household that dictates your every move, establishes your curfews and limits your independence. On the other hand, you lose the false sense of safety from the familiarity of having those restrictions laid upon you.

For me, Sydney was my way out. I packed my belongings in one suitcase, took a sixteen hour flight, and found myself alone in a city I had never been in. That ended up being the best decision I had made, in order to be able to finally find somewhere to call home.

# Off-Offstage: "This is stagecraft. Goodbye"

**Sophie Katherine Serafim relives the horrors of the HSC.**

SUDS' Off-Offstage embodies amateur attitude with affection, but also a biting accuracy that alludes to a dark past with school theatre. As we took our seats, it became apparent that the set embodied this same sentiment.

As someone cornered into writing heavy-handedly thematic pieces for the HSC in a mad attempt to ensure the marker didn't "miss anything," these



skits resonated with me. Off-Offstage acknowledges this with its characters' confessions in the dark that they are out of their depth, that they will never amount to anything, that they didn't even write their own work.

It says a lot about the charisma of the cast that, despite deliberately playing their characters as obnoxiously as possible, you still find yourself rooting for them. They are caricatures, but it makes them all the more real, because the HSC makes caricatures of us all.

The show wraps up with what the snarky narrator describes derisively as a full circle plot. In this way, the love/hate relationship between the writers, cast and the backstage team of school theatre is tangible from start to finish. Hatred is there in all those times a "stagehand" gleefully tested the lights, plunging the audience into pitch black before we even entered the room. Love is there too, because how else would everyone have had so much fun?

# Arracket: "MILFs. Sandworms. Love triangles"

**Mali Lung heads to the theatre.**

Co-writers Bella Wellstead and Amelia Vogelsang's promise of "salacious fanfiction" in their original work for SUDS' Summer Season drew me in - and this duo delivered just that.

As we shuffled into the Cellar Theatre we entered the homely bedroom of Danny Cabubas' Y/N, only to spend the next half hour in absolute silence.

Directed by Wellstead, Arracket's first act follows Y/N silently reading

the final pages of 'Dune'.

The real performance of this act was the audience's reactions, with Gemma Hudson's saucy MILF attempting to grab Y/N's attention to no avail, until the sweet release of intermission.

In the moment? One of the most agonisingly long experiences of my life, matching the excruciatingly snail-paced "Dune" (I've never read it). Retrospectively? One of the best decisions they could have made - a stark contrast to the antics of Act II.

Act II introduces manwhore Saul A Tradie, portrayed by Hunter Shanahan. My monolingual heart pitter-pattered at Shanahan's impeccable French and German flirtations.

Enter Sandworm Stuart Rich from the tech box - played by none other than fake moustachioed lighting designer - turned - actor extraordinaire Stuart Rich. A shotgun-wielding Rich puts an end to Saul's whorish behaviour (and life), winning the affections of MILF. We discover that Arracket was a touching story about a

family reuniting all along.

Wellstead and Vogelsang's unhinged script was a roaring success, and never included a joke that didn't land with me. I hope to see more of their writing in future SUDS productions and beyond. Just don't make me sit through thirty minutes of fuck-all again.

**Full reviews on our website!**

# Heat Lightning: "Burns with intensity and emotion"

**Zoe Le Marinel absconds to the American desert.**

As the SUDS summer season comes close to its end, Heat Lightning — directed by Pearl Cardis and Emma Johns — goes off like a firecracker, eagerly welcoming a new year of theatre.

As people file into the Cellar on opening night, a familiar eager chatter persists as we all take in Eleanor Fair and Anna Chan's set. A dusty gas

station is swathed in shades of orange, filled with bright light and sharp shadows that suggest a sprawling landscape invisible to the eye.

Olga's (Adele Beaumont) staunch loyalty to her chosen home becomes the solid rock around which the drama revolves. She watches over her sister Myra (Elodie Jakes), whose young, naive fire clashes with Olga's stoicism.

Olga's manipulative ex-lover George (Jeremy Jenkins) and his nervous friend Jeff (Eoin O'Sullivan) are on the run from the law, but their plan to flee



over the Mexican border is halted.

In scene after scene, Beaumont and Jenkins revolve around each other, the romantic tension palpable.

Heat Lightning burns with intensity and emotion, with a cast of universally strong performances full of humour and vivacity that elevate Cardis and Johns' direction. What is on the surface a gripping thriller, has a strong narrative of family and a ringing praise for the values of dignity and self-respect laying underneath. Heat Lightning is a resounding success.

# StuJo! the Musical: "There's no show like StuJo!"

**Celine Marshall travels through time (but not space, she's still stuck in the Honi office).**



StuJo! The Musical presents a whimsical homage to the great cultures of student journalism and musical theatre. StuJo, as both a musical and practice, is about the "pursuit of truth," "fighting for what's right," "community" and "love."

The grungy Cellar Theatre provides a fitting ambience for a 1960s newsroom, creating an apt vintage setting for the Honi Soit editors of 1968. However, these props soon turn into laptops and a vape as the three editors from the past are time-warped to 2024.

As the audience follows the 1968 editors into 2024, interesting comparisons are made between student life then and now. Where students of the 60s had hoped that universities would bring progress, StuJo! highlights the current day campus which is instead characterised by course cuts, student protests and fee hikes.

An original jukebox musical, the show reinvented iconic musical songs with witty lyrics and zings about student theatre. This made the show particularly entertaining for musical

theatre lovers. From tunes like The Sound of Music's "My Favourite Things" and Funny Girl's "Don't Rain On My Parade," to Ariana Grande and Iggy Azalea's "Problem," there was a good variety of numbers for the audience to enjoy.

Performing to a full house on their second show, the cast and crew of StuJo! The Musical performed sold out shows until Saturday. The show had a great amount of fun and laughs, and was a dazzling celebration of student journalism and its quirky characters.



# Gig life: An insight into music and the student experience

One way to spend your weeknights is in the foggy haze of one of the pubs of King St as they peddle this week's rotation of surging Innerwest bands. Maybe you would make the trek to Oxford Art Factory, or traipse your way through The Vanguard, Kelly's on King, Mary's Underground or The Lansdowne. Perhaps you'd like some local post-hardcore, re-born jazz, alternative-rock, funk, soul or RnB.

Live music can be an enigmatic pastime. The Inner West, and by default, The University of Sydney is notorious for its gig culture. For some, the best parts of student life are synonymous with exploring new live music or attending parasocial invites to nouveau gigs. So much so, that the council itself has a "gig guide" accessible for their youth coining this pastime as a "vital part of the cultural fabric and identity of Sydney's Innerwest." But is this choice of Friday night activity an enjoyable way to spend your social battery, or a product of the daunting

jealousy of being absent from a scene likened to last Friday's gig?

To fill this void of introspection, I dug a little deeper into some of the voices that make up the "cultural fabric" of our local gig space. University of Sydney student and musician, Justina Blahlock sat down with me to discuss her "unofficial guide" to understanding the Inner West's gig culture. Justina occupies both "the artist and the audience" and feels that live music is deeply synonymic with her sense of expression.

Justina explains that there are three key kinds of audiences to live music. The 1st level being **The Rock**: Hard to crack and often apprehensive of an unfamiliar scene, the rock may come across as standoffish, but be assured that with time for tentative unfurling, their inner enjoyer is alive and well.

For the 2nd level, next in line, is **The Embrace**: a contagious release of stress enters the performance walls as

personal identity unfolds. They giggle and they groove - opening up to the vibrance of local art.

And completing our 3 level guide is, **The Fine Wine**: considered as a matured, but engaged, exhilarated audience member, its fitting to identify them as tasteful embracers of everything.

Front-manning her RnB/Neo-Soul band Astral Juice, Justina's preferred live music environment is a "sultry embrace," promoting an inclusive and accessible space dedicated to the appreciation of her band's art. Collaborating with fellow collectives like Alpha Goose and Skruish, her live audience is often filled with university students and young adults, becoming a "hive of collaboration" and connections for all.

Regardless of level, the Inner West and its students deserve to see their artists live. To respond to this demand, the University of Sydney offers their

Zeina Koichaiche hits the dancefloor.

own spin on "gig life" with their newly birthed festival Someday Soon hosted by the USU at the Manning Bar. With its genesis in October 2022, the weekend festival saw a setlist of over 20 artists and a healthy jump start for the almost 50 year old venue. Manning Bar witnessed its own re-birth of live music culture in the early months of 2022 as they began their onslaught of weekend gig line-ups, and marginally acclaimed DJ sets every other Friday.

The experience of an audience is a crucial part of gig and student life. It serves as the link to meeting like-minded folk, connecting with young talent, and fostering one's creative ambitions regardless of which sweaty dance floor you dare to enter.



# Horror? I barely even know her!

William Winter politely declines your invitation to watch something scary.

There's much to say about the "rituals" of growing up. If you haven't completed certain steps, it can feel like you're missing out on some vital part of life. I've never been kissed, never gotten truly drunk, and never had a sexy pillow-fight with my fellow teenage girls at a sleepover — probably because I'm a cis man who went to an all-boys school.

A step I was never drawn to as a teen was watching a horror movie in a cinema.

I'm going to admit something, and this has haunted me for basically my entire life: I'm too much of a wuss to watch horror movies, and that's okay.

Horror movies are seeing a resurgence. Modern cult classics like Halloween are being revived; diverse twists are being performed on intellectual properties like Child's Play; slasher tropes are brought to life in new and exciting ways through films like the gender-queer They/Them, the meme-ified MEG3N (to speak nothing of the chokehold this doll had on gay Twitter), and gen-z filled Happy Death Day.

There are oodles of reasons as to why horror is an important genre for the human experience. The thrills can be oddly comforting, allow people to process dark experiences in safe spaces,

and over-stimulation can help soothe anxiety.

This doesn't mean I have to like horror. I still have vivid nightmares about a single Saw trap I witnessed when I was fourteen in a WatchMojo video. The thought of it is gag inducing...

In a shocking turn of events, scary things are scary, I don't like them, and I don't want to watch them.

So how do I get my thrills? I love to read all the plot summaries. Some of these films are so camp!

My favourite storyline I've discovered is that of Jennifer Tilly in the Child's Play series.

In the 2004 film Seed of Chucky, Jennifer Tilly, playing a version of herself, is impregnated with Chucky's titular seed by his doll girlfriend Tiffany, voiced by Jennifer Tilly. At the end of the film, Tiffany switches her soul with Jennifer Tilly, trapping the Academy-Award nominee in a doll body until she is finally switched back in the 2022 show Chucky. This means, canonically, that every single role Jennifer Tilly has taken on between 2004 and 2022 has actually been performed by Tiffany.

If I could watch a version of Child's Play without the spooky serial killings, I would. Alas, I cannot. I'll just stick to reading about it in intense detail. Y'all can watch your horror movies. I'll be in my room re-watching Barbie Life in the Dreamhouse.

STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL LEGAL SERVICE

Did you know, Sydney Uni undergraduate students\* can get **FREE legal advice?**

SRC solicitors provide undergraduate students at the University of Sydney with FREE legal advice, representation in court where relevant, and a referral service. We can assist you with a range of legal issues including: Criminal Law, Immigration Law, Employment Law, traffic offences and more.

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\*SUPRA offers assistance to USyd postgraduate students

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# To thine own self be true. How?

Eamonn Murphy wonders who we are.

When I left school, I signed two hundred blue shirts. I say two hundred, but this is probably a neat exaggeration. My last day was punctuated by permanent markers swapped between hands, first names and brief messages scrawled onto each other's clothes. I remember how the black ink bled into the cotton. That evening, I stood in the shower and scraped at my torso, the messages ingrained on my skin.

My signed shirt lies before me as I write. Throughout school, my shirts were hand-me-downs from slightly (much) bigger friends: the label is a palimpsest of ironed-on name tags. I inspect this shirt, the names of the people I once knew. On the right arm, there is a message from a favourite teacher, his tidy cursive out of place amidst the dark scribbles.

**This above all: to thine own self be true.**

Ever since I studied *Hamlet*, I have resented those who take this platitude seriously. Where Polonius imparts this advice onto his son, a young adult about to leave home and enter the real world, he assumes that Laertes already knows who he is. Far from *Hamlet*'s own meditations on the shattered nature of being, Polonius implies a singular sense of identity — one that can remain intact from one place to the next, a core self to which we can stay true.

But when you leave school and enter university, what happens? When you

abandon what you know, when you leave a sea of identical blue shirts, of people you have seen almost every day for the past six years, of recess and lunch and coming back home at three to a snack and a family, how can you stay the same? How do you make friends? Do you reinvent yourself? At university, how do you learn who to be?

In his 2022 memoir, *Stay True*, Hua Hsu asks these same questions. Hsu, a staff writer for *The New Yorker*, has penned a memoir of his time at UC Berkeley in the 1990s, though to call *Stay True* a mere depiction of Hsu's campus experience would be reductive.



Many reviews have categorised *Stay True* as a study of friendship. The memoir does revolve around the murder of Hsu's close friend, Ken, yet this tragedy is not what governs the novel: it is the little quirks of Ken's identity, all intersecting with Hsu's

self, that bear a lasting mark on the reader.

Where Hsu is the son of Taiwanese immigrants, and where Ken's Japanese family has called California home for decades, their respective experiences of Asian-American identity collide. Hsu is all zines and baggy threads, arcane mixtapes and a reverence for Bay Area counterculture, while Ken is decked out in Polo and Timberlands, a frat boy and fan of the Beach Boys — despite their differences, little specks of their selves rub off on each other. They sing along to the radio together, they drive to 7-Eleven for cigarettes that they never smoke, and they sit on empty balconies and quietly chat. Speaking of Ken's company, Hsu writes: "Maybe this is what it meant to be known, this feeling of being exposed and transparent."

However, Hsu's analysis of friendship serves to illustrate how a young self is formed. Where Hsu begins mentoring a group of thirteen-year-olds from a nearby school, where he enters a new relationship or finds a new album or the perfect scratchy cardigan, he adds to the layers of his self. As Jennifer Szalai suggests in *The New York Times*, Hsu writes of "all those moments and gestures that constitute experience, the bits and pieces that coalesce into a life."

**With new selves, though, old ones dissolve.**

When a child of immigrants moves into the world, perfecting this new

language and learning to understand this society, they are torn from their cultural roots. Hsu writes, "You may master tenses and forms, grammatical rules, what passes for style. And yet consequently, you may struggle to hold a conversation with your grandparents." Here, I am reminded of Annie Ernaux's 1983 memoir, *La Place*, and how her education alienated her from her father: she writes, "I broke away from the things that were closest to me." Although young adulthood can be a time of enormous possibility — a time, as Hsu puts it, of "self-discovery, self-creation, and revision" — loss is inevitable.

**As I now move into my third year of university, I have not stayed true to any real self.**

Out of the two hundred blue shirts from school, I could count the ones I still know on two hands. I have met friends whose selves are miles away from mine, and specks of those selves have found their way into my own identity: a new saying, a little quirk. My desires have changed time and time again, from arts majors to music tastes and to rankings of my favourite books. With each choice, another fragment has been added to who I am. To me, and I think to Hua Hsu as well, this is the magic of university.

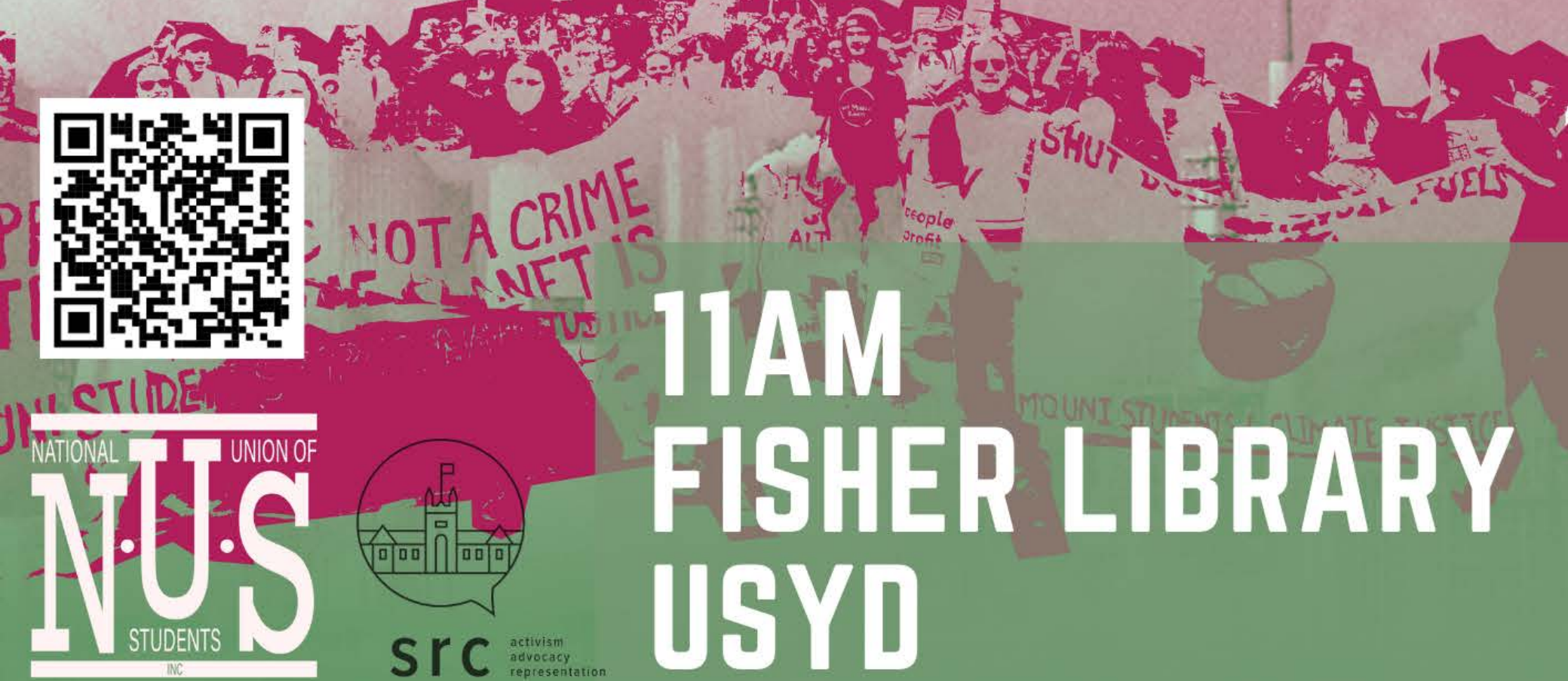




# FIGHT FOR THE CLIMATE NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION MARCH 3



- Shut down the fossil fuels industry: no new fossil fuel projects
- Tax the rich to fund a just transition to renewables and reparations for victims of climate disasters
- Stop the expansion of oil and gas drilling, stop Scarborough and Beetaloo basin projects
- Land rights now: stand with Gomerroi people, stop Santos project in Narrabri
- Stop the repression of climate protestors



## 11AM FISHER LIBRARY USYD

### President

LIA PERKINS

Welcome to, or welcome back to, the bureaucratic-corporate nightmare that makes up the University of Sydney. If you've managed to enrol in classes, log into your email and access your timetable, you're off to a great start! The SRC is the representative body for ALL undergraduate students, offering free casework help and a legal service – in case you run into trouble and need independent support. The SRC also firmly sharpens itself as a thorn in University management's side, offering an alternative to their brand of "student life". We run a range of activist collectives – currently our focus is on the crisis students are facing in housing. USyd has sold off a huge mass of its affordable housing, and rents in student accommodation and their nearby suburbs is dramatically more than youth allowance or any part time job can cover. We want the University to invest in student accommodation, guaranteeing a place for all students at a price range we can afford. In the reports below you can see a range of campaigns our Office Bearers are running! All of them are fighting for a better world, and a University education that is free, and puts the interests of staff and students before the interests of corporate donors and Vice Chancellors. We seek change in broader society, particularly as the Labor Government continues to open new coal and gas projects, jeopardising our future and making no change to their broken higher education system. My name is Lia, I'm a 4th year Arts student who will be your SRC President this year. You're always welcome to shoot me an email: president@src.usyd.edu.au and find my consultation hours on the 'contact' section of our website. In future reports I'll tell you more about what I've been up to, for now the focus is WELCOME!

We'll be talking to students about the fight for quality, free education, the strikes we helped build in 2022, and our new campaign against Thales. Keep an eye out for our Week 1 open meeting on the 23rd at 2PM (New Law Laws). The EAG's annual welcome week handbook, Countercourse, is in print! We received a large range of articles, and we're excited to share the final product with students during Welcome Week (in the SRC totes/ at our stall) and at our meetings. We're kicking off a campaign against the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between Thales and USyd. Thales have provided weapons to major world powers to be used in a variety of conflicts over recent decades. We believe that universities should be about education, not about furthering militarism. Read about our demands in our Honi op-ed or on our socials @thales\_off\_campus. We're planning an action for Thursday February 23rd at 1PM (Fisher Library), so make sure to mark it in your diaries! Hope to see you soon!

### Wom\*n's

ALEV SARACOGLU  
IGGY BOYD

Hello! We are the 2023 Womens' Collective and welcome to a new semester of activism. We are an autonomous activist space on campus for Women and Non-Binary people, join the "USyd WoCo 2023 group on Facebook to get involved! Growing Strong, the annual Womens' Collective pre-semester publication, has been printed and arrived yesterday and we're very happy with how it looks. We recommend any readers of Honi pick it up! There are articles on the white supremacy of the beauty industry, abortion accessibility, the Iranian Feminist movement over the years and many more. The Invasion Day rally this year was huge and it was brilliant to see a large range of WoCo members attending on the day. Invasion Day is always a particularly large and moving rally and it was great to once again see that this year with a very strong turnout which reflects just how much people want to see true Indigenous justice in this colony. The Womens' Collective should always be a bulwark for Indigenous sovereignty in so-called "Australia" and we're proud to be able to uphold that legacy. One of the best ways to get involved in such campaigns on campus is to drop by our Welcome Week stall and sign up as a member! We'll be raising funds for Pay the Rent so make sure to donate what you can and also pick up free shirts, stickers and zines. Sexual violence on University Campuses undergoes a sharp increase every year during O-weeks across the country. Join us Thursday 1pm outside the Quad to demand an end to Sexual Violence on Campus!

### Education

ISHBEL DUNSMORE  
YASMINE JOHNSON

We in the education department are looking forward to kicking off a new year of education activism! We spent January building for the Invasion Day rally on January 26th. Given the Labor government's continued attacks on Indigenous rights - overseeing racist police violence and child removals, lack of access to healthcare, massive disparities in poverty rates, and so on - it was positive to see a large mobilisation for Invasion Day. We're preparing to meet new students who want to get involved in education activism at Welcome Week. We've received all of the wonderful new merch we ordered, pick up some garb at our stall!

### Queer

YASMINE ANDREWS  
ELLA PASH

Excited to be back on campus and seeing familiar faces again – QuAC is gearing up for a few projects both old and new. We aim to hit the ground running at the O-week stall, having recently made a queer guide to campus, highlighting some of the resources and processes relevant to the community at USyd. At the end of welcome week we are co-hosting a community Mardi Gras Rally with Pride in Protest, an event we are particularly keen on. Thinking about projects throughout the year, we will be doing a second gender affirmation supply initiative after the positive feedback from last semester and are planning to hold a monthly non-autonomous meeting to include allies to the community in our political work. Additionally we will continue our collaboration with the queer societies under the USU to maintain the Queer Space as the center of queer student life. Thinking about the context we are organizing it, on the university's page for LGBTQI+ community it reads "The University of Sydney celebrates lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer or questioning staff and students because of the unique lived experiences they bring to our workplace and classrooms." How on earth can this institution claim to support the Queer community when it will not listen to the people they claim to be allies to? Time and time again management refuses to address workers demand for Annual Gender Affirmation leave, the USU has repeatedly used the autonomous Queer Space as a first aid site despite all queer student groups on campus opposing such action, and the means to change one's name in the university systems is an arduous process that is often only achieved through filing formal complaints with the university.

### Enviro

RORY LARKINS  
MADDIE CLARK  
SIMON UPITIS  
SATVIK SHARMA

We have been busy organising activism for the year ahead. We want to mobilise students for action and make a clear statement against Labor's greenwashing. This is especially important considering the increasing severity of climate change induced disasters. We are organising a March 3 walk off, in collaboration with collectives in the Cross Campus Enviro Collectives (CCEC) group and the National Union of Students. This date also coincides with a Sydney School Strike for Climate, which we will link up with on the day. The Labor government is expanding the fossil fuel industry in Australia. The Beetaloo Gas Project is expected to

emit 130 million tons of CO2 over its lifetime. Most of the natural gas produced will be exported and not counted in Labor's net zero targets. The approval of Santos' gas project in Narrabri shows that fossil fuel profits trump Indigenous rights. We stand in solidarity with the activism of the Gomerroi people who are fighting against the tribunal ruling that stated that the "public good" of this mine is more important than their land rights, their self-determination and the harm this mine will cause to the climate. Another project we have been working with is raising awareness and protesting the NSW anti-protest laws introduced last year. One of our enviro officers, Maddie Clark, was fined over \$400 for leafleting at the protest against the International Mining and Resources Convention (IMARC). We are planning a 'Welcome to the Enviro Collective' open meeting in week one for new collective members. We have also organised merch for our Welcome Week stall, including bucket hats, totes, stickers and our yearly publication, Combust.

### Welfare

ELEANOR DOUGLAS  
ELLA HAID  
HARRISON BRENNAN  
FELIX TONKIN

The Welfare Officers and Welfare Action Group (WAG) has been preparing for a series of campaigns to push in 2023. In NSW and Australia more broadly we have seen the cost-of-living crisis worsen. In particular, housing remains in an appalling state. Across Sydney threats of demolishing public and social housing have increased despite the fact that over 50,000 people in Sydney are on a waitlist for an affordable home. Renting has become ever-more turbulent, with illegal rent-bidding still rife, no-cause evictions still legal in NSW on account of the Labor and Liberal parties, and rental prices reaching an all-time high, a median increase of 14.6% in the last year alone. The Welfare Officers and WAG are keen on pursuing a housing justice campaign in the fight for housing justice during this cost-of-living crisis. On Saturday the 11th of February members of WAG attended the Housing Justice Rally organised by Action for Public Housing. If you'd like to get involved their next organising meeting is on the 20th of February at 5 pm over zoom. To get involved with WAG around this campaign you can visit our Welfare Action Group Facebook page or email welfare.officers@src.usyd.edu.au for more information. The NUS has also just launched their national campaign called "GET A ROOM: Students for Affordable Housing" which you can access on Facebook.

We hope to see you at WAG's first meeting of 2023 on Tuesday the 21st of February 3pm at Hermann's Bar.

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





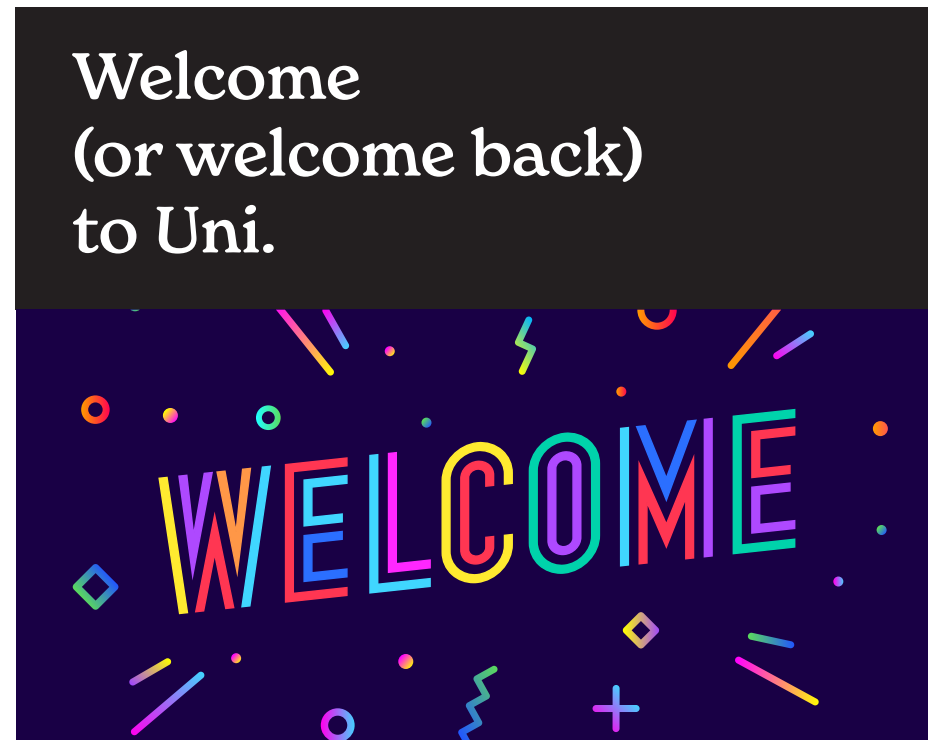
Do you need sharehousing or tenancy advice?



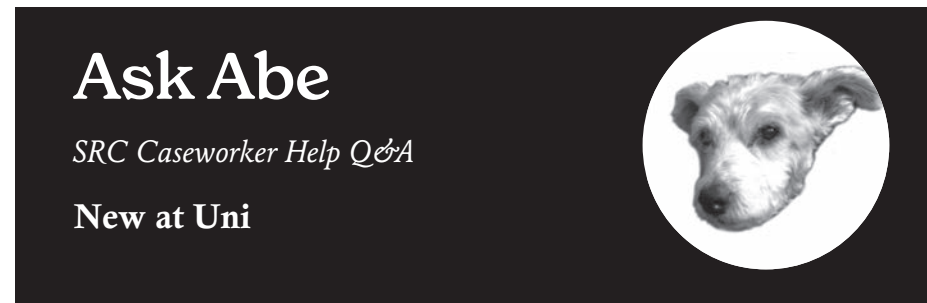
Did you know you have tight deadlines to APPEAL a GRADE or Academic Decision?



Do you need help with CENTRELINK?



Welcome (or welcome back) to Uni.



Ask Abe

SRC Caseworker Help Q&A

New at Uni

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The covid challenges just continue to have an impact on all of us, causing so much uncertainty on campus. Hopefully this semester is the last of these strange adjustments and you are all safe and well.

Uni at the best of times is daunting; most people feel this way. The increase in workload for students straight from high school, and who haven't studied in a while can be quite overwhelming. Ask for help whenever you need it, and before it becomes too late, whether it is from one of your academics, your Faculty's Associate Dean (Student Life), or a caseworker at the SRC. With the added stress of COVID, it is a good time to check in with yourself to see if you need to talk to a counsellor, even if it is just to keep yourself feeling well. The Uni has a Student Counselling Service and there are some online forums too, e.g., eHeadspace.

**Domestic students who started in 2022 or 2023 should be aware of the new rules that apply to you, where you not only pay more for each subject, but you must fulfil new progression requirements too.**

It is your responsibility to know how to negotiate the administrative side of your degree. You must check your uni email at least once a week, even during non-semester time. We know this is hard to do with the sheer volume that the Uni will send you. Unfortunately, there is no alternative – they assume you know about everything that they send you.

When you get your subject outlines, take a moment to read them thoroughly. Each outline should explain how to apply for special consideration in case you are too sick to complete an assessment. The most important things to note here are to apply within the 3-day deadline, and to get supporting evidence (e.g., a medical certificate) on

or before the day of the assessment. Some assessments will be eligible for a simple extension. That's an extra 5 days if you need it. Not all assessments are eligible so check before the due date.

Compared to high school or TAFE, there is less individual direction and larger class sizes. The onus is on you to stay focused, complete all the compulsory and non-compulsory work, and ask for help when you need it. You are the only person responsible for your success or failure. Get to know the resources available through the uni (e.g., Learning Hub; Peer Learning Advisors), and through your faculty. Read the Learning Hub's time management information to create a daily timetable and a semester assessment planner. If you have a chronic illness or disability, register with the Disability Support Services Unit. They can give you an academic adjustment plan that will help you to complete your subjects successfully.

Domestic students who started in 2022 or 2023 should be aware of the new rules that apply to you, where you not only pay more for each subject, but you must fulfil new progression requirements too, or have the consequence of losing your commonwealth supported place (i.e., be removed from HECS). If you are at risk of failing any subjects please contact the SRC as soon as possible so you can take steps to meet these new requirements.

The SRC has a year planner available at the libraries on Camperdown and Darlington campus, or you can have one posted to you (limited amount only). This has the Uni dates so you can make sure you don't miss anything, like the census date, or release of the exam timetable. There's also room to write your own dates too.

Most importantly please know that you can always ask for help. The SRC has caseworkers you can access for free, who can give professional, independent and confidential advice. We also have a free legal service, who can advise or refer you, on a range of legal matters including visas.

We hope you enjoy your time at Uni, and we wish you all the best with your studies.

Dear Abe,

I'm new at uni and I don't know anyone. None of my school friends got in here, and the people from my school that did get in, are not people I would ever want to talk to. I feel a bit scared and don't know how to make new friends, especially with some things being online and some people still scared of getting covid. What ideas do you have?

Newbie

Dear Newbie,

Welcome. Uni is a very big place, and even the people that already have friends are a little bit daunted. There are lots of ways to make new friends. Start by saying hello to people in your tutorials; you will probably be allocated into groups for an assignment within the first couple of weeks, so it will be a good idea, if possible, to make friends with people you are able to

work with. Join a club or society; the USU have hundreds of different groups each with very different interests and affiliations, where some events are in person, while others are online. Play a sport; you don't have to be good to participate. Join an SRC collective; you can work in a campaign towards an issue you feel is important, while making new friends. There are also online forums specifically for students to talk about their experiences; start with eHeadspace or TalkCampus. All of these will help you to practice making friends, and hopefully increase your confidence. Take your time and be yourself. And if you feel lonely or sad talk to someone at the Student Counselling Service. They can help you to develop strategies to manage your situation.

Thanks Abe

**YOU TOUCAN GET ORGANISED WITH OUR 2023 STUDENT WALL PLANNER**

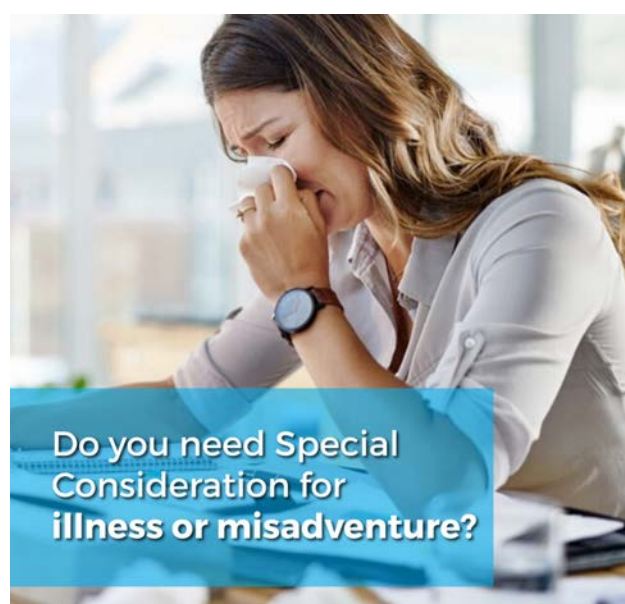
Our much-loved annual wall planner is an A1 poster folded to A4, and has all the important USyd dates and deadlines. You can get your FREE copy from the SRC Welcome Week stall, at USyd libraries, or from the SRC office.

2023 YEAR PLANNER

Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney

src activism advocacy representation

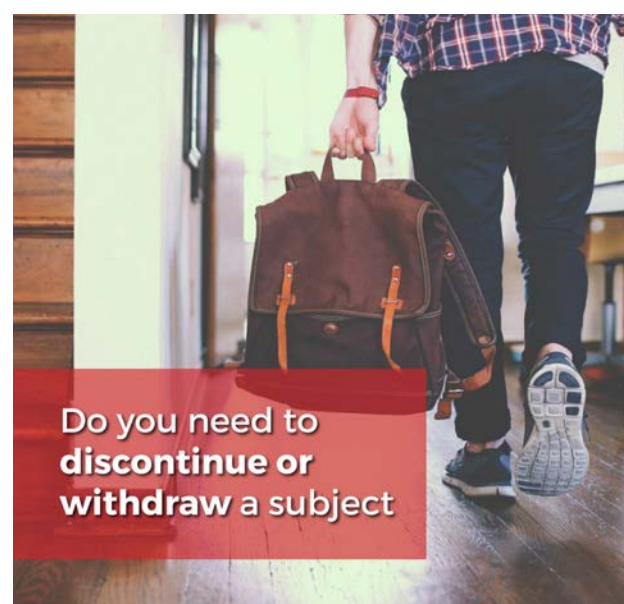
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Do you need Special Consideration for illness or misadventure?



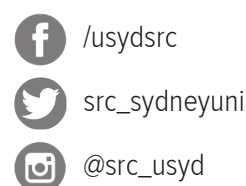
Do you need help with credit, debt or financial issues? Ask the SRC!



Do you need to discontinue or withdraw a subject

Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney

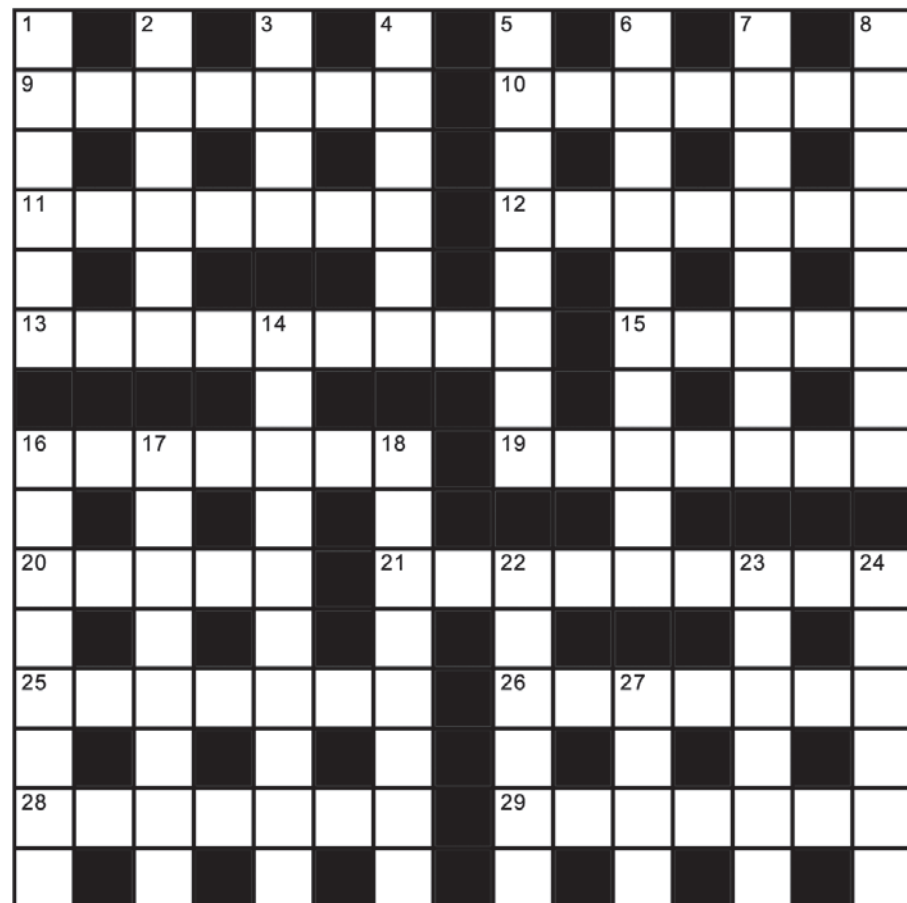
Level 1, Wentworth Building (G01), University of Sydney NSW 2006  
PO Box 794 Broadway NSW 2007  
p: 02 9660 5222  
w: srcusyd.net.au



For more information & links see: [srcusyd.net.au/src-help](https://srcusyd.net.au/src-help)







Quick Crossword

Across

- 9. Worship, look up to (7)
- 10. Steal thunder (7)
- 11. How to make a paper crane (7)
- 12. Item of clothing (7)
- 13. Designer of buildings (9)
- 15. Sibling's daughter (5)
- 16. Take over someone's body and mind (7)
- 19. Arch enemy (7)
- 20. Tiger, bull, or whale, for example (5)
- 21. Not sure (9)
- 25. Cock (7)
- 26. Supposedly suicidal rodent (7)
- 28. Afternoon performance (7)
- 29. Tiger, Ryan, or Wizz, for example (7)

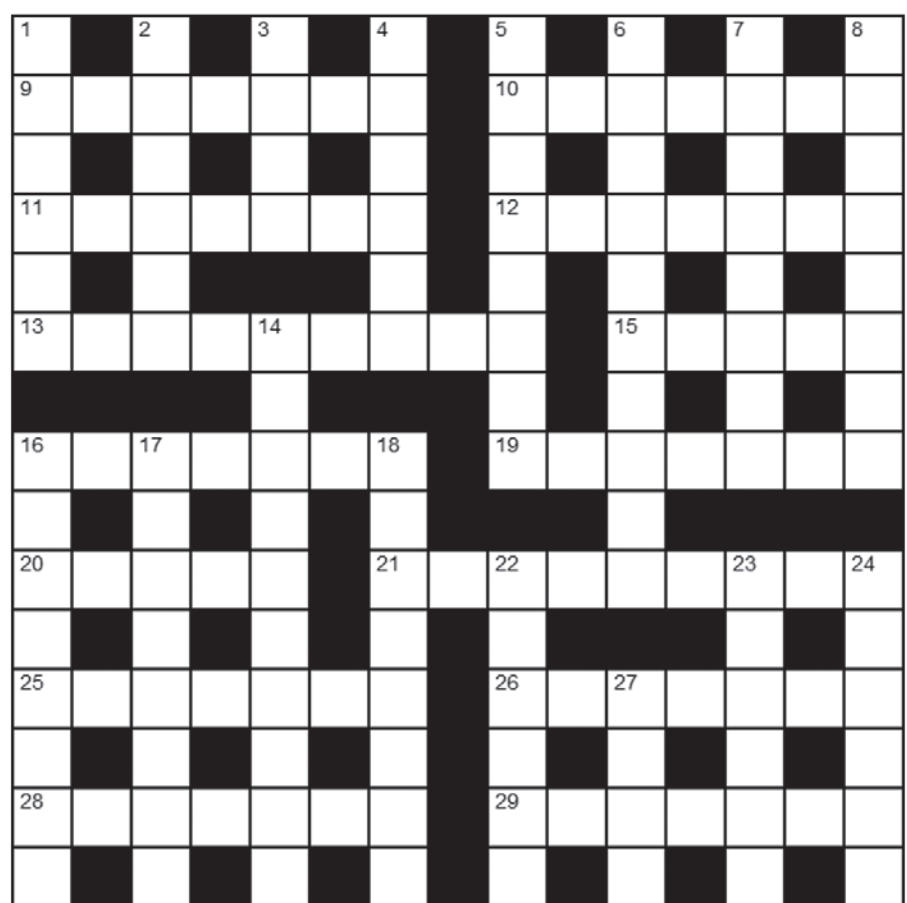
Down

- 1. Champagne and orange juice (6)
- 2. Portion of the heavens, split into twelve signs (6)
- 3. Elvis hit: ... Las Vegas (4)
- 4. Shakespeare hit: The Merchant of ... (6)
- 5. Rare metal with chemical symbol W (8)
- 6. One who studies the stars (10)
- 7. Inattentive, lacking caution (8)
- 8. 1989 teen movie starring Winona Ryder (8)
- 14. Tonya Harding's sport (3,7)
- 16. Eastern European smoked meat (8)
- 17. Cities with harbours (8)
- 18. Nut-loving rodent (8)
- 22. Theatre on campus, home of SUDS (6)
- 23. Not basic (6)
- 24. Portion of gold, wisdom, or chicken (6)
- 27. Wollstonecraft, Magdalene, or Poppins, for example (4)

Quiz

- 1. What profession sitcom characters played by Joseph Marcell in The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air and Rowan Atkinson in the third season of Blackadder?
- 2. Which Eastern Suburbs beach lies between Tamarama and Clovelly?
- 3. In Norse mythology, Fenrir is a giant version of what animal?
- 4. The world-renowned film festival South by Southwest is coming to Sydney this year; but what American city was it founded in?
- 5. What name is shared by actors Sam and Page?
- 6. What connects the previous answers?

Find the answers at [honisoit.com/puzzleanswers](http://honisoit.com/puzzleanswers)



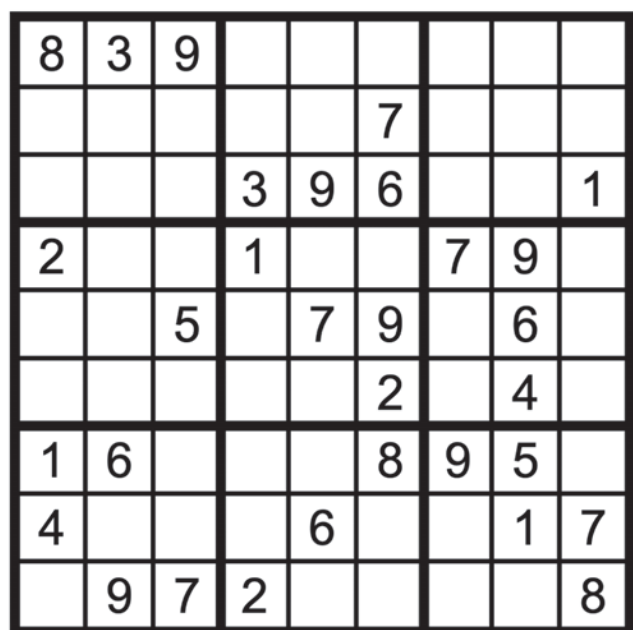
Cryptic Crossword

Across

- 9. Pornographic oral, bottoms, tops - next to gay hangout (7)
- 10. Spartacus' war: slave leader and queen overturning evil (7)
- 11. Picture him: a gin expert at heart (7)
- 12. Appendage appraised by reverend gyrated (7)
- 13. The Spanish firefighters accept uniform for 4-Down (9)
- 15. Am about to decapitate idiot (5)
- 16. Comedy show sexist and upper-class (5-2)
- 19. Animal smokes out cops (7)
- 20. Spot anagram clue, reversal, initial... (5)
- 21. DA cryptic wording: you can't get enough of it! (9)
- 25. Beg and dash for sweet (7)
- 26. Mark my introduction from bad to good (7)
- 28. Nag a ram? (7)
- 29. S: Sense Sound Scent (7)

Down

- 1. Bully boy endlessly on video app (6)
- 2. Property of Spanish Museum (6)
- 3. Mr West? Mr West is abominable! (4)
- 4. Depression about today's Swedish leader (6)
- 5. Drink bevies at home in unctuous company (8)
- 6. Somehow I'm chattier in Maths (10)
- 7. Spooner to break apart slit in paper presently (4, 4)
- 8. We had blows at ceremonies (8)
- 14. The Spaniard and the German loudly secrete fruit (10)
- 16. Reported source of confused nap: pot! (8)
- 17. San Francisco rock has origins in jazz, art, a classical snippet, swing (8)
- 18. Show Timothy a drug when everyone is having fun (8)
- 22. Tie queen to the furniture (6)
- 23. Part of cricket is smashing gin after the pub (6)
- 24. (6)
- 27. Ivory Coast finally meets U.S. - grand (4)



Sudoku

"Newz".com.au

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National Sport Lifestyle Fascist Propaganda

### Chef who cooks Courtyard Pasta tells all

The work of a chef isn't an easy one. Anthony Bourdain quipped that they must have a masochistic dedication to their craft, lest they be destroyed by the pressures of the job. Perhaps nobody knows better than Flavio Fettucine, the man behind Courtyard's infamous pasta. Fettucine says that he's had enough of people criticising his pasta, especially when those people aren't even Italian.

"It's fucking bullashitta. How would you like it if you woke up at 4 am every morning to cook something really special, only for people to write articles in Honi about how 'flaccid' it is? I was promised the Australian Dream. If this is it, I'd rather wake up."

Fettucine was particularly concerned with how people's perception of his pasta reflects Australian attitudes towards Italy.

"In the village that I grew up in - Leichhardt - life was not easy. But at least there was respect for my country - Republica Italiana. Nobody respects Italy anymore. People think it's okay to denigrate my pasta. The Italian Forum has been abandoned. Now they've got Chris Pratt voicing Mario in the new Super Mario movie. I thought Australia had moved on from this cacca. Mamma Mia, here we go again."

### Breaking: SUDS actor hospitalised following excessive herbal cigarette use

SUDS veteran Henry Hankins had to be immediately hospitalised after consuming too many herbal cigarettes. "It is a metaphor, Honi Soit. You put the thing that does kill between your teeth and keep smoking it. Killing yourself and those around you with herbs." The cellar smelt of burnt arugulas and charred asparagus, Honi might need a respiratory check-up too.

Clubs > DoorDash Society

## DoorDash Society

Do you like...

- Being exploited?
- Getting paid below minimum wage?
- Getting paid below minimum wage?
- Getting paid below minimum wage?
- Risking your life to deliver lukewarm food?
- Risking your life to deliver lukewarm food?

Join Today!

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Standard: Sanity  
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TIERS:  
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THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Wage theft for good starts here.



# EQUALITY NOT AUSTERITY!



# MARDI GRAS RALLY



src activism  
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19 FEBRUARY • 12PM  
NEWTOWN HUB



WE DEMAND SAFE SCHOOLS FOR QUEER YOUTH • THE RIGHT TO TRANSITION  
LEAVE & SELF-ID FOR ALL • FULL DECRIMINALISATION & PROTECTION FOR  
SEX WORKERS • COPS OUT OF PRIDE! AN END TO BLACK DEATHS IN CUSTODY  
& ANTI-PROTEST LAWS • THE CLOSURE OF ALL REFUGEE DETENTION CAMPS