

# Honi Soit

WEEK TWO, SEMESTER ONE, 2023

FIRST PRINTED 1929

## USyd staff vote for new round of strikes

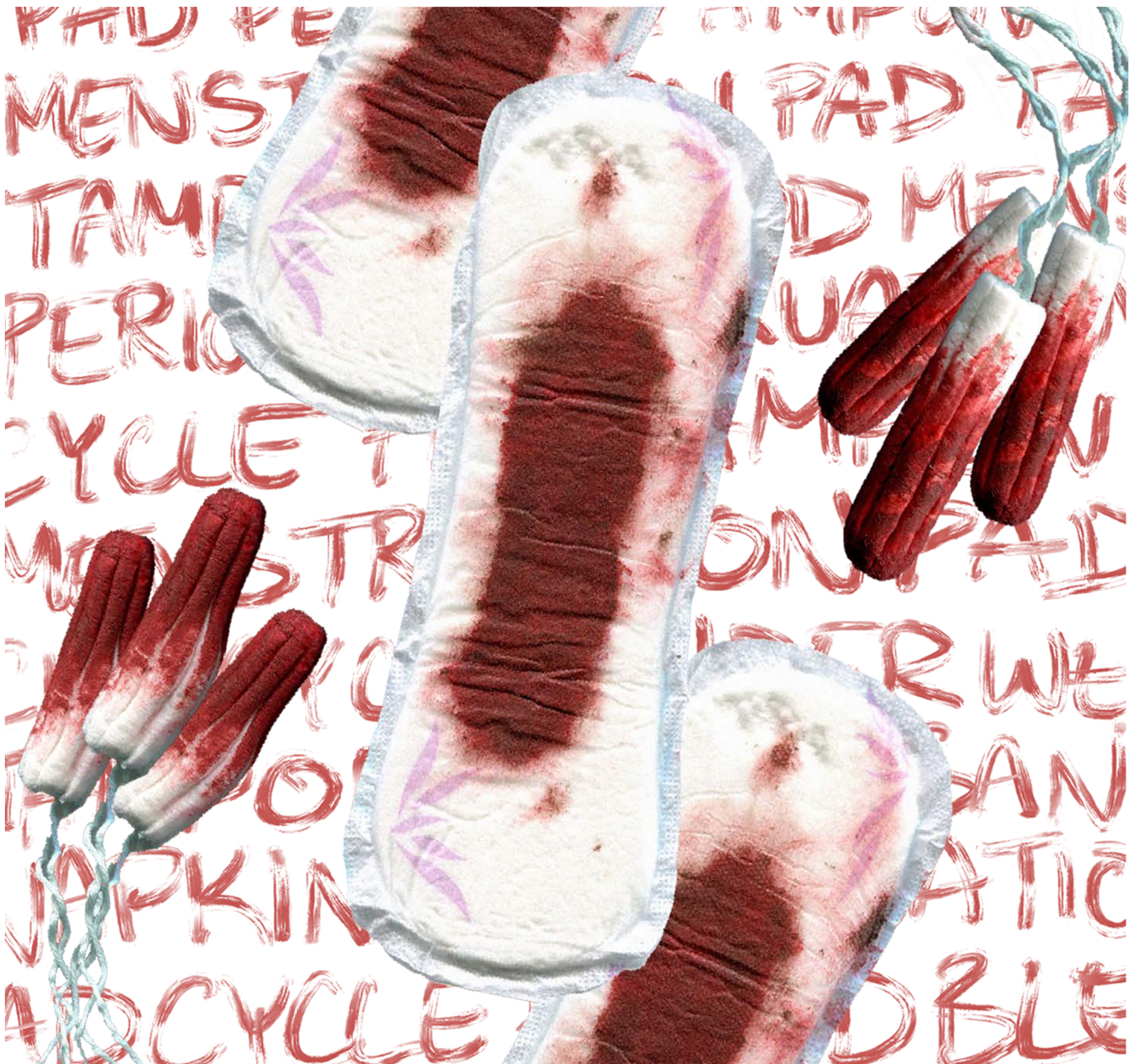
Misbah Ansari and Luke Cass  
News, page 5

## still we bleed.

Bipasha Chakraborty  
Feature, page 8

## College students accused of misogyny

Honi Soit  
News, page 4



## Reducing your risk of drink spiking at Uni

Jo Staas  
Explainer, page 12

## I am not a carer

Nafeesa Rahman  
Perspective, page 16

## Stickers and Beeping

Sophie Katherine Serafim  
Perspective, page 11



# 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.

## In this edition

- 3 News
- 7 Feature
- 11 Analysis
- 12 Explainer
- 14 STEM
- 15 Perspective
- 19 Reviews
- 20 SRC
- 22 Puzzles
- 23 Comedy

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Graphics: Bipasha Chakraborty

## Editorial

Health equity is far from being reached. The system is convoluted, corrupt and inaccessible. The word 'health' itself has a broad definition, which can be used in many contexts, ranging from physical health, emotional health to environmental health. For this edition, I wanted to amplify and highlight student voices on their experiences with 'health.'

In this edition, you'll find a range of pieces ranging from spiking explainers by Jo Staas (p.12), the emotional experience with caring by Nafeesa Rahman (p.16), to a raw exploration of intergenerational trauma by Ethan Floyd (p.15), accompanied by Yasodara Puhule's incredible artwork.

Over the past few years, we've seen changes being made to the mental health care plan, multiple nurse strikes, and increasing health care privatisation. Individuals' own intersecting identities can lead to lucky or unfortunate experiences with health, which need to be addressed and reformed. The system is failing to accommodate all, especially in the context of the worsening of climate change.

The confronting images of bloody pads and tampons on the cover are

there to make you stop and think of the menstrual inequity that exists both on campus and globally. The feature this week grapples with menstrual inequity on campus, ranging from available period products to regulatory support. Surprise, there is barely any.

I had first noticed free pads and tampons being available in the bathrooms of Abercrombie in my first year, and since have kept an eye out for other bathrooms, though limited, that have stocked the essential goods. Thank you to all the societies on campus that use their funding to help and provide for others.

I hope this piece gives you useful information for yourself or friends to use, and hope for the university to soon provide better menstrual care and support.

Thank you to all the doctors, nurses, psychiatrists, paramedics, teachers, and many more who continue to contribute and support the decrepit health care system. Thank you reader for picking up this week's paper, and I hope you get the chance to learn, empathise and enjoy yourself in this edition.

Bipasha Chakraborty

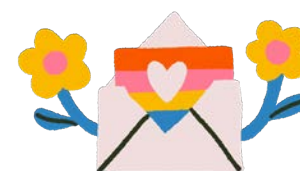
# letters only

Zoe Le Marinel's article in this week's *Honi* made me cry.

I was expecting an interesting read, but I wasn't expecting to be as affected by it as I was. Being a vaguely queer woman who dresses outrageously pretty much always, I felt seen by this article. For the longest time I have been looking for someone to tell me that the way I dress isn't an act of vapidity or vanity, but rather an act of self love and inner expression.

Thank you for reminding me of that.

Astrid



Dear Honi,

On page 5 of the week one edition of *Honi Soit*, you ran an article titled "Conversion therapy ban finally backed by both major parties ahead of NSW state election". However, as you mentioned in the article, Perrotet's statement was one only one of support "in principle" for bringing an end to equivocally-defined "harmful practices".

In a world where politicians rarely deliver even on the promises that they \*do\* make, and given Perrotet's track record on issues like this one, why would you present this spineless, non-commitment as a serious government

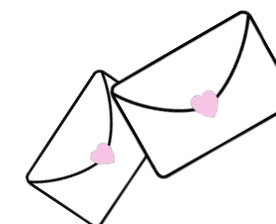
pledge?

Signed,

A gay communist

Dear gay communist,

*In the editors' view, it is not the role of a news piece to speculate on the likelihood of Perrotet following through with his commitment. It is sufficiently newsworthy that the sitting Premier and Opposition Leader both commit in principle to banning conversion therapy — which would be a significant win for the queer community. It is then up to the reader to form a view on the credibility of both leaders and the likelihood of a ban being passed by either major party. The article addressed the vagueness of what Perrotet would legislate by a) saying neither party has agreed to support Alex Greenwich's proposed bill in its entirety and b) referencing Greenwich's bill's qualified exemptions for religious groups. This, again, provides readers with sufficient context to form views as to whether a ban would be sufficiently broad.*

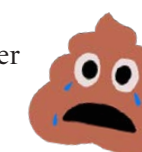


Dear honi editors,

Where are all the poop jokes? I am but a simple person who enjoys a good stinky poop joke.

Kind regards,

a poop joke enjoyer and immature honi editor



Dear reader,

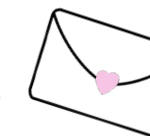
This is a yucky letter. Please grow up.

Best wishes,

Mature Honi Editor



Want to tell us something? Want to compliment or complain? Write us a letter and send it to editors@honisoit.com



## Reading the jacaranda leaves

Shake my head (SMH) !

Honi, in solidarity with two student activists who were suspended by the University — for protesting (???) (see p.6) — was ready on Sunday to publish an opinion piece by the affected students condemning the University's decision. However, much to our shock, a suspiciously similar article (82% similarity per copyleaks.com) appeared at 4pm in another publication. No, not RedFlag, but The Sydney Morning Herald.

Fortunately for the editors of this notoriously 'right-wing' paper, copyright laws were a convenient excuse not to publish the piece. Alas, *Honi* understands the activists' decision to publish in the Herald, which remains committed to upholding a radical student voice.

82.2% MATCH



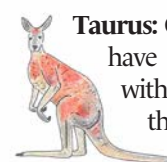
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## Whorescopes

Misbah Ansari



**Aries:** A lot of your passions can be masculine in their expression due to the domination of Mars, but this is the time to let out your feminine passion. Go for hearty morning walks, add flowers in your room when indulging in passionate encounters, or just colour your vibrators pastel!



**Taurus:** Go be a whore, remember that you do not have to in-take everything. Have mulled wine with that hotshot in the bar, break into a party at the pub, or go for a naked night swim before summer finishes.



**Gemini:** Be more buoyant with your day-to-day interactions because nothing's like a hearty meal before steamy time with your partner (or yourself), laughing genuinely (take a break, you sook) or curating a sexy playlist.



**Cancer:** The moon loves you so in times of loneliness take inspiration from its beauty. How do people fuck on the moon, kiss under its glimmering light, and how will your sexual actions be impacted by the

phases of the moon? The softness of the moon is the driver of your wildest fantasies.



**Leo:** It might always be sunny in Philadelphia but you are going to be sooooo wet in the coming week. Tread with fun and benefit from your high rates of arousal (all with consent). Nurture care in your approaches nevertheless and use all of it to get closer to your fantasies.



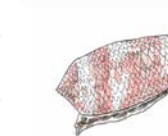
**Virgo:** You might find a lot of your structure coming back but looking different from what it used to be. Your beds might be a bit messier in the mornings but you will get it all back after a cup of coffee. The power of Mercury, your planet, lies in strong communication so you must find bliss in raucous sexual conversations and vulnerabilities nevertheless.



**Libra:** You are intrigued by the power of sultry imaginations expressed through song lyrics so you might find yourself weirdly aroused by lyrics indulging in dirty talk. You might find yourself so immersed in fantasies and probably writing your own imaginations of kissing aggressively at dawn.



**Scorpio:** Things are getting back to normal from a period of stagnancy so you might find yourself distant from the world of sex. Take it easy, sweet child, you shall reap peachy results from what you sow.



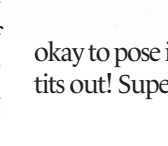
**Sagittarius:** Not all foreplay needs to be outstandingly adventurous, sometimes you need yo kiss for 10-minutes straight before the main action. Stop overanalysing you doofus, let it flow naturally!



**Capricorn:** Sometimes rosy view of romance is what you need so if you find yourself diving into scenarios like running across the airport for love, deep art gallery dates, or daydreaming about them, let it be. Butterflies are fun.



**Aquarius:** You want to try on more harnesses and leather accessories in your everyday dressing and I can see you looking dope from across the road. Roar!



**Pisces:** It is your season, so it is okay to pose in front of the camera everyday tits out! Super liked already.

Art by Aidan Elwig Pollock



# St Andrew's College students accused of "acts of intimidation, misogyny and homophobia" towards all-female college residents

Honi Soit

St Andrew's College students have been disinvented from inter-college Welcome Week events after Andrew's students were allegedly involved in sexist, homophobic and intimidatory behaviour earlier in the week.

The accusations arose following St Andrew's students' alleged behaviour at two separate Welcome Week events at The Alfred Hotel and St Andrew's College.

Sancta Sophia Principal Fiona Hastings told Sancta students in an email, since seen by Honi, that "some of our students were exposed to deeply offensive name calling, gestures and acts of intimidation, misogyny and homophobia."

Sancta Sophia subsequently rescinded St Andrew's invitation to their annual 'Intercol' dinner as well as rescinding their formal support for Sancta Sophia College students attending St Andrew's own Intercol dinner.

After Sancta Sophia's decision to do so, all other colleges (St Paul's, Women's, Wesley and St John's) also chose to St Andrew's invite to their Intercol dinners.

A number of college students, including those from St Paul's and St Andrew's, expressed their unwillingness to comment on the allegations to Honi, despite many expressing familiarity with the situation.

Sancta Sophia College co-operated with Honi's formal inquiries.



# University of Sydney's renewed offer to staff deemed by NTEU to be "completely unacceptable"

Luke Cass and Andy Park

On Tuesday, Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Annamarie Jagose sent an all-staff email detailing the University's revised offer in ongoing negotiations between staff and management on a new Enterprise Agreement (EA).

Jagose stated that, "since August 2021, the University has made a number of significant concessions in relation to its offer."

"This is a sector-leading offer", which "addresses pressing concerns like workload and casualisation and is attractive and fair."

The new Enterprise Agreement is set to be a three-year deal, expiring in 2026.

## Pay Increases

The University has offered a yearly salary increase beginning with a 4.6% increase this year, and \$2000 sign-on payment with the commencement of the new EA.

Jagose described this offer as "higher than any offer proposed or agreed at any other university in the current round of bargaining."

Though Jagose presented this as "an increase of 15.4% (compounded) over the life of the Agreement", the pay offer represents a mere 3.3% annual increase from the expiry of the previous agreement in 2021 to the expiry of the agreement being negotiated in 2026.

With the rate of inflation currently at 8%, the University's offer still constitutes a pay cut in real terms for staff. Nick Riemer, President of The University of Sydney Branch of the National Tertiary Education

Union (NTEU) said that management "blindsided our bargaining team by making a lower wage offer than any other union-agreed pay-rise in the higher education sector," and that it is a "low-ball offer which is completely unacceptable and an insult to staff."

Stating that the University of Sydney is richer than other universities who have recently finalised enterprise agreements with staff, Riemer said "how is a pay-rise less than these universities, who are all in worse financial positions, possible? This is a low-ball offer which is completely unacceptable and an insult to staff."

The University of Sydney recorded a \$1.04 billion surplus in 2021.

## Academic Staff Packages

The University's new offer proposes a 20% reduction of its "casual academic workforce" over the three year period of the new agreement.

To achieve this, the University "has committed" to advertise 300 new continuing positions — 200 education focused and 100 for teaching and research. "These positions are in addition to existing positions, including existing current vacancies," said Jagose.

A proportion of these new positions is set to be "specifically advertised as priority roles for University of Sydney casual and fixed term staff," according to Jagose.

Jagose said "more" PhD Students, who would otherwise be engaged as casuals, will receive "PhD Fellowships of up to 3-year fixed term employment during the period of the PhD at a fraction of approximately 0.2FTE."

"The EA will include protections and entitlements regarding these Fellows."

Riemer said that while "management has agreed that there is an over-reliance on academic casuals," they "have not yet committed to a reasonable and enforceable limit on their use."

"Other universities have committed to reducing casual academic employment by 20-25%. Why won't our University — an institution that has returned a surplus of over a billion dollars — make the same commitment?" Riemer said.

## Education Staff and 40:40:20

Currently the university employs a 40:40:20 model which allocates staff time as 40% for teaching, 40% for research, and 20% for administration. This model exists for staff to be able to maintain a balance between their different responsibilities. Management has previously attempted to increase the teaching workload in the past under the guise of "flexibility."

In the new offer, the University has proposed to protect the 40% research allocation unless staff agree to a change. Jagose said that "to provide some flexibility, if staff do not have 'approved service activities; which reach the 20% allocation of administration, up to 10% can be allocated to additional or research after consultation with the staff member."

Riemer described this offer as still "maintaining [an] attack on 40:40:20, and still seeking the right to force academics to increase their teaching by one quarter, to a 50% allocation."

Jagose has justified the changes "to improve the quality of our teaching in a rapidly changing environment that

demands new pedagogical skills to ensure effective student learning."

In the past, Jagose has described student choice as "poor pedagogical practice."

In an email to NTEU members, Riemer said that the union has made it clear that "encourage staff to consider the flexibilities already in the agreement," but that they "will not allow management to direct a 25% increase in teaching."

## Moving forward

The University is set to meet with the NTEU and Community and Public Sector Union for a bargaining meeting on 28 February.

Jagose said "we will continue to negotiate in good faith with staff unions based on this package as we seek to reach agreement and finalise bargaining as soon as possible."

University of Sydney staff will then vote on the new Agreement.

## Seen something suss?

If you have further information about stories involving USyd's residential colleges, or anything else at the University please email [editors@honisoit.com](mailto:editors@honisoit.com) or submit an anonymous tip on our website.

# Staff vote for Semester 1 USyd strikes

Misbah Ansari and Luke Cass

The University of Sydney Branch of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) voted today to hold a 24-hour strike on Thursday during Week 3. This strike will be followed by a 48-hour strike in Week 6 and a 72-hour strike in Week 10, if Union demands are not met by University management.

The motion to strike passed overwhelmingly in one of the biggest meetings of the campaign with 445 staff members in attendance.

In order to not hold strikes after Week 3, the Union demanded that: the University withdraw the attack on 40:40:20, offer a pay rise that is respectful to staff, improve rights for casual staff, cap education focussed staff at 20% of the workforce, decasualise the workforce by 20% with at least 15% long-term casuals, and return to [its] original position on Indigenous Employment ("population parity by roughly 2026").

USyd NTEU Branch President Nick Riemer stated, "we'd really hoped that after 19 months of negotiations we'd be able to come to this meeting with the news that we were on the path to settlement. But since December management has doubled down on a series of what we can only describe as highly hostile positions."

"We're quite constrained in the kinds of [industrial action] that we can take. Until we can rebalot, strikes are what we have," Riemer stated, adding "it's clear that we need to escalate our campaign."

"We don't want to strike or take other industrial action any more than we absolutely have to."

"But, our jobs, our salary, our rights at work and the nature of our institution are under attack from managers who never fail to show their disrespect for us. If we don't fight back, those attacks will be locked in as the new normal to the detriment of every single person here."

In a statement to Honi, a University of Sydney spokesperson said that, "While disappointed, we fully support the right of our staff to take lawful industrial action — yet as we've always maintained, it will not influence the manner in which we reach agreement. We intend to continue to negotiate in good faith on this package, including at the next bargaining meeting scheduled for 28 February to discuss the unions' response as well as other matters."

Staff at USyd took strike action throughout 2022, in an enterprise bargaining process which has been ongoing since 2021.

The Week 10 strike, if it eventuates, will coincide with the NTEU's national week of action regarding enterprise bargaining negotiations across Australia.

# New report reveals \$107.8 million wage theft at Australian universities

Misbah Ansari

A report released by the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) on Monday has revealed wage theft of more than \$107.8 million occurred across 22 Australian public universities since 2020.

The Union analysed 34 different cases of wage theft across the higher education sector in Australia. Per the report, the University of Melbourne, University of Sydney and University of Tasmania are the top three offenders, owing more than \$45 million, \$12.75 million and \$11 million to the staff respectively.

When broken down by state, the wage theft was most serious in Victoria, where universities are said to owe staff over \$50 million. New South Wales' universities under-paid staff

almost \$25 million, consisting of cases from University of Sydney, University of Technology Sydney, University of Newcastle, Charles Sturt University, and Academy of Information Technology.

The Wage Theft report estimated that \$83.4 million-worth of wage theft had occurred. However, that amount was increased to \$107.8 million on Tuesday after it was revealed that the University of Melbourne owes staff more than \$45 million and that the University of Tasmania owes staff UTAS's \$11 million rather than \$6,000.

This amount will only increase as information about wage theft at other major universities like University of New South Wales, Deakin University, Charles Darwin University, among others, is revealed. In 2021, the University of Sydney admitted to a wage theft of \$12.75

million and "began the process of compensating current and former staff identified as being affected in the initial phase of the review," according to the University. The initial compensation process started in September 2021 to fix the "payment error" made by the institution and the final compensations will occur from late March to early April this year.

According to the USyd Branch of the NTEU, the University's theft is a result of long-term actions like "paying tutorials at the demonstrator rate, paying 'seminars' that are really lectures at the tutorial rate, or paying tutorials at the 'repeat tutorial rate'". Furthermore, while the University is bound to pay staff for their preparation hours (called "associate working time"), staff have not been paid for this time in several cases.

# Working hours to be capped for international students and post-study working rights extended for select degrees

Khanh Tran

The Australian Department of Home Affairs announced on Tuesday that restrictions will be reintroduced on the number of hours that international students can work, capped at 48 hours per fortnight from 1 July this year.

## Reintroduction of working hour restrictions

The policy marks a change from measures adopted by the government during the COVID-19 pandemic when the Morrison government relaxed working hours rules in February 2022 in response to "workplace shortages" as a result of strict border control laws.

It is also a departure from pre-COVID-19 policies as the new 48-hour working hours cap allows overseas students to work for an additional eight hours per fortnight.

The Department of Home Affairs advises students to report workplace exploitation to the Fair Work Ombudsman where employers threaten students with visa cancellations for working beyond the limit. According to a report by the Migrant Justice Institute in 2020, almost four in ten students (38%) reported that students did not seek information or help for a problem

out of fears that it will affect their visa conditions.

"Your employer cannot cancel your visa, and the Department of Home Affairs will not cancel your visa for reporting workplace exploitation to the Fair Work Ombudsman, even if you have worked more than the allowed number of hours in a fortnight."

In a statement, Federal Education Minister Jason Clare said that the changes were aimed at addressing international students' work and study balance along with the economy.

"Businesses are screaming out for skilled workers, particularly in the regions," Clare said. "As well as delivering the skills and qualifications Australia needs, the measure will make Australia more attractive as a study destination, helping the recovery of the international education sector and boosting earnings from Australia's education exports."

## Extension of up to two years of post-study working rights for eligible degrees

The government has also announced that international students who study for a number of degrees related to "verified skill

shortage" will be able to access up to an additional two years of post-study work rights in addition to the current 2-year limit for temporary graduate visas.

The degrees and professions listed on the list focus on teaching, computer science, nursing and the medical sciences among a number of other courses.

This means that international students can access up to six years' worth of post-study work rights, depending on their degree:

- Four years for Bachelor degree graduates, up from two years.
- Five years for Master degree graduates, up from three years,
- Six years for Doctoral degree graduates, up from four years.

All doctoral graduates are considered eligible for the new measures regardless of their field of study.

If a student graduates with a degree that is not listed on the government's skill shortage list, they will be eligible for two or three years post-study work visas.



## “Is Harry Styles playing Hermann’s?”: USU February Board Meeting

**Luke Cass** the USU’s strong financial performance.

With its Executive fresh from an expenses-paid trip around the UK over summer, the University of Sydney Union (USU) Board sat down for its first meeting of the year on Friday.

### Welcome Week: Great success!

The Board meeting was a cheerful affair after the USU successfully conducted its annual Welcome Fest earlier this month. CEO Andrew Mills told the Board that between 45,000–50,000 attended Welcome Fest, an increase from 2022. With the amount of USU members also rising over Welcome Week, there has been a 14% increase in membership from this time last year. Welcome Fest was conducted without any safety issues, Mills told the Board, due to the USU taking longer to install and dismantle stalls than they did previously. Such was the success of Welcome Fest — Vice-Chancellor Mark Scott sent an email to the USU congratulating them, much to the excitement of Mills. Scott doesn’t send *Honi* nice emails.

### Finances: How is the USU going with divestment?

As has been the case for the last year now, the USU continued to record strong financial results, with profits at its outlets, and revenue stronger than expected in January.

Honorary Treasurer David Zhu told the Board that the USU has spent \$1.2 million on student initiatives thanks to

However, the tensest moment of the meeting came following questions by Honorary Secretary Isla Mowbray about the USU’s progress in divesting from companies involved in unethical practices, including the fossil fuel industry. The USU Board originally passed a motion in 2020 calling for divestment from fossil fuels, and its quest to do so was renewed following an *Honi* article last year criticising the Union’s lack of progress in doing so.

Finance Director Rebecca Sahni told the Board that the USU was divesting gradually, and that this process was dependent on market conditions. Sahni told the Board that the USU has not yet divested from some of its unethical investments due to not wanting to ‘lock-in’ losses on those investments. Mowbray expressed her concern at the USU’s delay in divestment. She told the Board that the Union’s desire to not make a loss on its investments should be balanced against the harm done by continuing to invest in these companies, and the reputational cost of maintaining those investments.

To address that tension, Board members have been asked to complete a survey to outline their opinions relating to the USU’s investments. Yet, University Senate Appointed Director David Wright told the Board that he preferred that the Board’s opinion be canvassed as a whole, rather than the opinions of individual directors. He said that this was because Board

directors only serve two-year terms. With such back and forth, it seems that full divestment is still some time away.

### Cost of Living Measures

The USU is planning to combat the cost-of-living crisis. CEO Mills announced the USU’s new range of discounted food items. Highlights include six-dollar pizzas at Courtyard, three-dollar chips at Carslaw, and six-dollar eggs on toast at Laneway Café. In response to *Honi*’s questions on the initiatives, Mills said that these would be offered to students on a one-per-student-per day basis for the foreseeable future. USU President Cole Scott-Curwood said that a free-breakfast initiative, as *Honi* has previously proposed, has been fast-tracked.

USU staff received a 4.6% pay rise last year and received an end-of-year bonus which was described by Mills as a “part performance, part cost-of-living” measure. Although this means USU staff received a pay cut in real terms in 2022, Mills compared the USU’s pay rises to the 2.1% rise offered by the University to its staff last year.

### Transparency lapses

Questions from student media — *Honi* and the USU’s own *Pulp* — pointed out shortcomings in the USU transparency practices. *Pulp* Senior Editor Marlow Hurst pointed out that the USU’s conflict of interest register wasn’t on the Union’s new website. Mills said this was a consequence of the transition to the new, custom-built, site and the Board agreed to action the

required updates. *Honi* pointed out that the motions discussed in the Board’s private in-camera sessions have not been made available in Board minutes for a number of months, despite the USU’s website listing this as a transparency measure. Scott-Curwood and the Board accepted the error and read the motions to be discussed in this meeting’s in-camera session.

### Strikes

In response to questions from *Honi*, Scott-Curwood said that the USU will totally shut down operations during the University staff’s upcoming strike action in Week 3. Although the Board unanimously passed a motion to do the same thing before last year’s strikes, the USU continued to operate some services in spite of this. It is yet to be seen if the USU will in fact totally shut down this time around.

### What to watch

Disabilities Portfolio Holder Alexander Poirier said that the new disabilities room has been fast-tracked by the University and will be ready by September this year, as opposed to September next year. Vice-President Telita Goile said consultation is underway on a student safety conference, and Ethnocultural Portfolio Holder Naz Sharifi said changes to the ethnocultural room “are being communicated about”.

The USU has quietly soft-launched a new bakery in the Holme building, in the space formerly occupied by Cereal Hub. Apparently, it’s good.

## Students suspended for Malcolm Turnbull protest

**Andy Park**

“Fuck off to Mosman, fuck back off to Wentworth!”

Following an internal investigation, the University had found that they had “violated Turnbull’s freedom of speech” and “made him and other students afraid.”

A University of Sydney spokesperson told *Honi*, “Protests may be rowdy and spirited, but they cannot interfere with the rights and freedoms of others.”

“We consider attempts to shut down speakers who have been invited to our campuses to participate in an exchange of views and ideas as contrary to our Charter of Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech, which defines the core values of our University in these matters.”

“The safety and wellbeing of our community is our number one priority. We don’t take any disciplinary action lightly, knowing it has consequences for our students,” said the spokesperson.

On the suspension itself, they said, “Due to our privacy responsibilities we can’t comment on the process or outcome for individual students.”

Godwin described the disciplinary process as “a kangaroo court.”

Godwin said, “There was no presumption of innocence, there was no place to refute evidence or counter evidence before a panel and I was gagged from speaking publicly about it.”

“The university’s attack on the fundamental right to protest should be thoroughly concerning for any left-wing person. One of the most basic democratic rights does not apply to students on campus. University management has a track record on this. In the past, they have invited police onto campus to shut down protests and provided them with the details of student activists.”

In the past, *Honi* has investigated the misconduct system and found flaws in its construction and operation. During USyd strikes last year, a student who participated in an online picket was faced with suspension on the basis that they “effectively prevented the tutors from continuing with the Classes.” The University retreated on their decision after the NTEU Sydney Uni Branch Committee passed a motion in support

of the student, and a petition signed by 155 students and staff.

In 2018, NSW Labor MLC Greg Donnelly lobbied the University to suspend 2018 SRC Women’s Officer Madeline Ward for partaking in a pro-choice protest on campus. Ward was suspended for a semester, though it was eventually downgraded to a written warning.

Last year, *Honi* attempted to investigate the rates of students wrongly accused for misconduct but the GIPA was denied on the basis that it related to only one student.

Godwin and Clark will both appeal their suspensions.





# still we bleed.

Bipasha Chakraborty bleeds through their jeans.

You're an hour into your seminar, when suddenly you feel it. You realise that you forgot to restock your bag with a pad. You've never seen or heard about affordable period products being available on campus — let alone free ones — so you approach anyone you see, hoping that their generosity and better organisational skills mean that they are carrying a spare small square flowery package. Or you leave campus to find one yourself and miss class.

Periods are complicated.

## Menstrual pain can result in class absenteeism, disrupted academic performance, reduced concentration and participation.

A European study found that two out of five people with uteruses had their performance in class disrupted by their period, with one in five having to miss class. However, the real number is expected to be higher due to a global lack of research into menstrual pain and related issues.

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To investigate the extent of this issue on campus, I talked with fellow students to hear their experiences.

These USyd students have commented on missing classes due to menstrual related issues or attending classes whilst feeling ill.

Student A described having to push themselves to go "while feeling crap...and then spending the day wanting to collapse onto the desk or curl into a ball."

All students surveyed felt they had no support from USyd in regards to menstrual issues. A recurring issue was a high required attendance rate that is difficult to upkeep with recurring period pains. Student B added, "I can't miss many classes due to attendance policies, or I risk getting an absent fail which is why I often am just forced to go to class even though I won't process anything because I'm not in the right headspace for it. The kind of physical and mental toll periods have on me is pretty bad and I would rather be resting."

Student C explained that, "especially a few days before my period, my

mental health declines and my body starts to feel feverish. It gets harder to leave the house and I end up skipping class for the day."

As a result of these absences, students can fall behind on their coursework. This can become cyclical as menstrual related absences lead to more absences. Student C recalls that, "the feeling of anxiety worsens because I missed a class without telling my teacher, and this may lead to me missing more classes because of the guilt of missing the first one."

The university has made progress in providing some form of free period products. When using 'university' in this sense, I refer to the student community rather than the University of Sydney's formal structure. As clubs and societies on campus move to support students whilst the University publishes articles hypocritically celebrating research that endorses global period equity, whilst there has been no advancements from their end in addressing these issues on their own campus.

An overwhelmingly pink dilapidated dispensing machine with "MrsFeelGood" printed in thick cursive is still stuck to the walls of Manning bathrooms, providing a glimpse into one of the first few overpriced options USyd had to offer. Beyond the \$10 pads from the USyd stores across campus, there are certain locations across campus where you would be able to find a pad or tampon for free. These resources are organised below by their funding source.

### 1. Society funded

Currently, societies such as Network of Women (NoW), Sydney University Law Society (SULS) and engineering societies are known to provide free period products in

certain locations across campus.

NoW spends \$500 to \$1000 in providing pads and tampons within the Abercrombie bathrooms, and commented on their current projects of expanding further onto other locations on campus. The SULS office has free period products available for anyone to drop by and collect, and have been working towards increasing accessibility within Law school bathrooms. Engineering societies across campus fundraise yearly to stock every bathroom (male, female, and unisex) in the PNR building, and received faculty funding last year for more products across other

engineering buildings.

### 2. USU funded

In a 2021 Honi article by Kat Porritt-Fraser highlighted that the University of Sydney Union (USU) at the time did not provide any free products, but instead a limited range of overpriced products in their USyd outlet stores. The USU justified this by saying that "due to our very low sales volumes and wholesale purchase arrangements, our retail prices are higher than what customers would typically pay at retail pharmacies or supermarkets."

## Today, all USU buildings (Manning, Holme, and Wentworth) have free Pixii pads and tampons available in male, female, and unisex bathrooms.

USU President, Cole Scott-Curwood, confirmed the presence of "102 dispensers in all 51 bathrooms across our three buildings."

Pixii is an Australian-based business that aims to provide free period products for workplaces and schools, advertised as "Australia's most eco-friendly period products." Pixii claims to be plastic-free, organic, hypoallergenic, biodegradable between six months to five years, manufactured using hydroelectric power, and transported using biofuel.

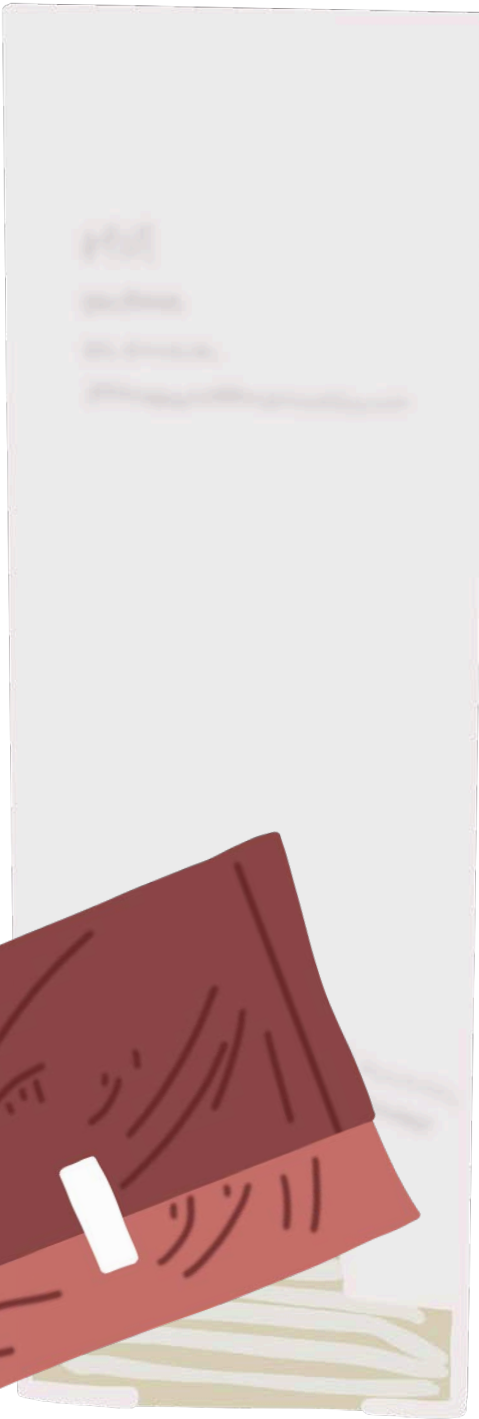
The introduction of menstrual products to male bathrooms in late 2022 was met with mixed reactions. These ranged from comments of appreciation to the alleged trashing of essential products at the bathrooms. Scott-Curwood explained that the change was implemented to "respect and support our gender diverse members."

The USU is able to provide these products because of a permanent allocation of Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) funding, with a \$40k budget in 2023. This means that student money provides the products, not the money of the University—a multi-billion dollar institution that generated a \$1.04 billion surplus in 2021.



### 3. SRC-funded

FoodHub is a collaboration between the USU and the Students' Representative Council (SRC), that provides essential food and items to University students struggling financially or with food insecurity. The SRC have been able to push for



FoodHub to include free menstrual products this year, due to an increased budget of \$75k in comparison to \$20k in 2022. FoodHub is located on level four of Wentworth and is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 2pm.

Lia Perkins, President of the SRC, has commented on plans of providing similar dispensers across campus. Nonetheless, questions are still raised as to whether students should be providing this service, or the University, with its substantial resources. "[The SRC] would like the University to provide free menstrual products in all bathrooms, and it is something I continue to raise at meetings with them," said Perkins.

The Women's Room on campus used to provide free menstrual products, however appear to no longer hold any at the time of writing. SRC Women's Officer Alev Saracoglu commented that "the Womens' Collective doesn't actually have any involvement in the provision of free menstrual products."

### 4. Independently funded

In the basement female bathroom of Carlaw sits a small vending machine providing free period product boxes — which include six tampons and two pads. The machine was installed as part of previous PhD student Alana Munro's collaboration with Share The Dignity in 2021.

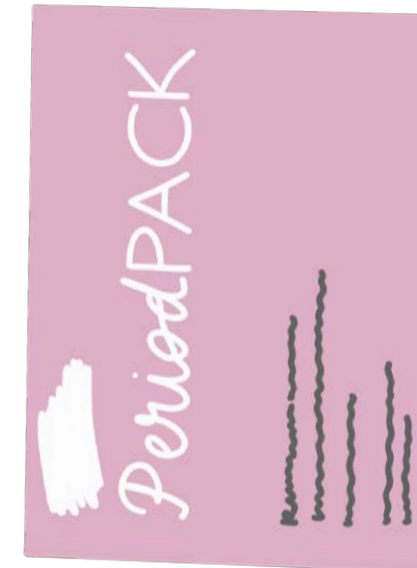
Share the Dignity is an organisation that aims to "bring dignity to women and girls experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, and period poverty through the distribution of period products." The first Dignity Vending Machine was installed in 2016, and since has expanded to over 200 machines across the country.

The Dignity Vending Machine costs \$25,000 to "build, install and maintain for four years with #PinkBox supplies." It features a 10 minute delivery delay between each time the button is pressed to avoid wastage. Though, at the

time of writing, the fully stocked machine at Carlaw presents itself as out of order.

The installation of the machine followed a survey

conducted by Munro highlighting that "around a quarter of students have left campus to purchase products instead of attending class. Ninety-two percent also indicated reasonably priced products in student bathrooms would help them manage menstruation."



You can occasionally find yourself lucky to find free period products, including menstrual cups and underwear being given out at Welcome Week. However, this did not appear to happen this semester.

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The students Honi surveyed had limited information about the free products available on campus, ranging from not knowing at all to knowing about one location. This suggests greater broadcasting of products available on campus is needed to allow for anyone menstruating to have access to free pads and tampons. Student D pointed out that they were aware of Manning's provisions; however, "it's not even a building with classes in it."

Many of the locations across campus, excluding Abercrombie, that provide period products, are ones that have little to none class presence, from lectures to tutorials.

## As a result, students must trek to locations away from their classes, missing out on content, in order to acquire an essential product.

Beyond the availability of limited free period products across campus, no other menstrual support is available. Numerous organisations and unions are currently pushing for some form of menstrual leave to be embedded into the Fair Work Act. The current proposed policy would allow one day a month off, twelve days in a year in total.

However, this would only be beneficial for employees of the University. A similar regulation, whether internally or externally formulated, needs to be introduced for students, which would reduce stress around attendance, content loss and participation. These forms of regulations are slowly being introduced globally. Kerala is set to become the first Indian state to endorse menstrual leave for students.

Despite the numerous news articles published by researched professionals on the USyd website, ranging from advocating for free products, leave policy to policy reform, the University fails to follow the research and advice of their own staff and students.

## The unequal distribution of free period products on campus is representative of the global scale issue of accessibility.

The alleged trashing of the period products made available by the USU in the male bathrooms last year is evidence enough that greater education is desperately needed.

The New South Wales Government has begun a rollout of free menstrual products for public schools across the state. The government has installed 4600 dispensers, and has publicly endorsed the delivery of the Periods, Pain and Endometriosis Program (PPEP-Talk) for all students. There have not been any plans of expanding this initiative into higher education, as conversations surrounding government mandated free period products within universities are far from reach until the younger generation are able to access their rights to essential items.

Student D comments that

"providing free menstrual products would be a start," in order for the University to create an environment that is supportive of students that menstruate. However, addressing menstrual inequity is not just providing free products, it's a vast area that is largely unexplored, but better policies and regulations surrounding menstrual leave and hybrid options are spaces that are proving to gain momentum and success.

## We are all responsible for increasing awareness, education and advocating for greater accessibility.

However, the responsibility for structural support of menstruating staff and staff should be placed on the University, with its billion dollar surplus, not clubs, societies and student unions surviving off student contributions.

If you know any places that we've missed, send us an email to [editors@honisoit.com](mailto:editors@honisoit.com) and we'll update our online map.

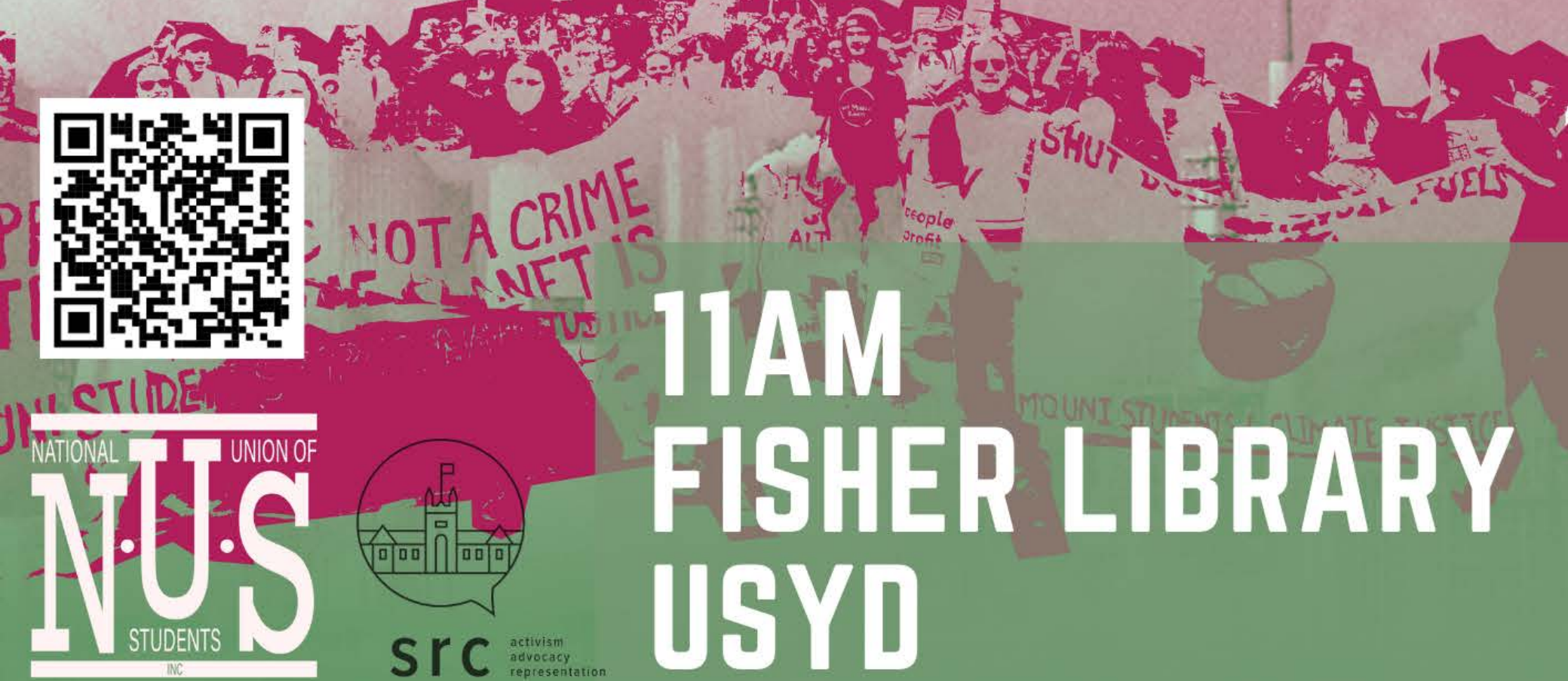




# FIGHT FOR THE CLIMATE MARCH 3 NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION



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- Stop the expansion of oil and gas drilling, stop Scarborough and Beetaloo basin projects
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- Stop the repression of climate protestors



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## Australia's Mental Health Crisis: Why did I have to wait over a year for a psychiatrist appointment?

Eleanor Douglas examines what is wrong with mental health treatment in Australia.

Awareness over mental health being an illness and strategies for one's mental health has become increasingly common. There are often slogans thrown around like "reach out for hell", and programs like R U OK Day are implemented at schools and universities all over the country. But what happens when you finally reach out for help, and find you have to wait for months to even get your foot in the door?

Australia's mental health system is financially destructive and completely inadequate at providing patients with the services they need. In the wake of the increased feelings of depression, anxiety and isolation people were feeling during the pandemic, the increased demand for mental health services revealed how broken it is. Programs like R U OK Day and awareness months allow the government to ignore the structural failures that lead to the deterioration of individuals mental health and the insufficient avenues people have to improve it.

The Australian Psychological Society's healthcare index survey shows the severe pressure the mental health sector is under since the pandemic. Almost two thirds of patients had to wait more than 12 weeks to receive care. 1 in 3 (33%) psychologists are unable to see new

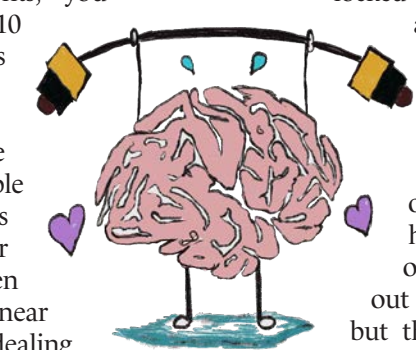
clients due to heightened demand, an increase from 1 in 5 (22%) from June 2021.

Psychologists have been warning about the increasing barriers to care for a while. 25% of psychologists are 55 years old or older, the largest workforce shortfall of any mental health profession and the federal government is only meeting 35% of its workforce target for psychology.

There is simply not enough government support to help train new psychologists and psychiatrists or to encourage people into the field, meaning that it is unlikely we will have enough professionals to support demand in future. The National Association of Practising Psychiatrists have spoken about the limited training opportunities that exist for new psychiatrists which exacerbate this shortage. Professor Phillip Morris argues that "while a major investment of public resources is required to deal with the mental health crisis, the money will not be well spent unless issues of accountability, service direction and training are addressed."

Even if you do manage to find a psychologist or a psychiatrist with a reasonable waiting list, for many people it is unlikely they can afford it. Most patients when seeing a psychologist/

psychiatrist will first seek out a Mental Health Treatment Plan. A Mental Health plan is a form you can receive from your GP after they diagnose you with a mental illness to help cover the costs of appointments; you can receive up to 10 individual sessions in a year. While this number of sessions can sometimes be enough for people dealing with issues like mild anxiety or periods of grief, Ten sessions is nowhere near enough for people dealing with complex traumas or those with more serious mental health issues. This means that people with the most serious mental health issues have to be financially comfortable to be able to receive necessary help.



what a doctor charges you and how much medicare will give you back). The government's continued severe lack of funding to the health sector has meant that many people are just financially locked out from receiving help and that psychologists who do offer services like bulk-billing will be underpaid.

The deterioration of Australia's mental health services is only one part of the hollowing out of our state institutions, but there is some hope for the future. The Victorian government had committed \$3.8 billion dollars to the mental health care sector over the next four years, overspending the federal government by 65%, setting an example for the rest of the country.

While a review of the Medicare system is a good start, professionals are worried as there is little concrete evidence about how it will help those struggling to see doctors, or how much costs and wait times aim to be reduced. Without government reform, it is unlikely we will be able to adequately support the most vulnerable with their mental health any time soon.

### Perspective

Sophie Katherine Serafim invites you to connect with the chronically ill community.

a luminescent, zigzag display in a darkened room that only they can read. Today, I don't like how this doctor is looking at me, like this is somehow my fault.

I'm weary of watching my feet push a wrapper around a greasy, tiled floor while I try not to vomit in public. I'm done with professionals patronising my lived experience and done with this ugly, killing thing resting namelessly in my autoimmune system. As nurses wheel me from room to room, I toss around "idiopathic anaphylaxis" and "suspected MCAS", but none of these terms mean anything in particular except for "essentially untreatable with the information available".

Now, I hear beeping everywhere: bus bells, open fridge doors, Skype's trilling ringtone. I feel phantom stickers on my breast, lower back, collarbones, belly. It's never the same places. After each hospital visit, I sit at the bottom of my shower searching for them, peeling them off. Hot water runs down my back; it makes the scabs sting.

You have to get up now. It has to be right now.

But the water keeps on running down my back.

## Stickers and Beeping

Why can't I breathe? I'm sure that's something I can normally do.

Dark, black, bad. An evil courses through my bloodstream, drags part of me out through the small of my back. This isn't what falling asleep normally feels like.

You need to get up now. It has to be right now. Something burns yellowish and grey at the edges of me. You are going to die here, if you don't do something right now.

Paramedic #1, Lucky, holds a long, fine needle plugged into a white plastic port. It punches through the skin and slides into a bruising vein. Shzoom, shzoom. It doesn't feel like the ambulance is moving but it must be. The traffic sounds morph around us while the stretcher's chrome bars double and triple beside me, trembling.

"Can you try," Lucky asks politely, "and stay conscious for me, please?"

I wasn't aware I hadn't been staying conscious.

"Yeah? Okay."

Two stars sit embedded in smog, winking astigmatically at each other across a looming cloud. We wait outside glass double-doors by the intercom. A paper note beside it declares that the BELL BUTTON BROKEN BUT OK WORKS. Laughter is tricky, but I manage it. Cold air settles on burning

skin. When the doors whoosh open, the paramedics wheel me in.

We wait in a corridor outside triage for a long time. Seven square stickers with plastic hooks connect me to a beeping machine. Chest, abdomen, back. Men I don't know have to put their hands under my clothes, all so little coloured lines can zigzag up and down.

Paramedic #2, Manny, asks me if I'm having trouble breathing. I am. He puts a grey clip on my finger to get my heartrate and wraps a blood pressure machine around my arm. He waits for it to be done, gets a funny look on his face and leaves very calmly in a way that makes me think perhaps he isn't very calm.

Lucky murmurs, "Hypotensive... and what do you take the agomelatine for?"

"It's for anxiety."

"Are you anxious right now?"

"Wh- kind of, I guess."

Someone with the word RESUS on his shirt talks to Manny and I wonder what he's doing here. I'm not being resuscitated.

It dawns on me that they're waiting

here in case I need to be resuscitated.

I feel a bit more alert, and quietly think about LED lights and turtles in Victoria Park until a doctor comes. She tells Manny and Lucky to put another line in, and that I can go to the next room once that's done. They nod and fetch the equipment.

"Do you know what you're allergic to?" I'd forgotten she was there.

"Um, no, I have known idiopathic anaphylaxis," I say, trying not to think about how oxy-fucking-moronic that sounds. "I just go into anaphylactic shock sometimes. They think it's a combined stress trigger."

She's not convinced and asks about everything I've eaten, drunk, whether I've gone anywhere new, washed my clothes in something different?

No. No, no and no.

My GP's chair squeaks on its way to her short desk. She asks if I've been stressed lately.

"Like, aside from a simmering awareness of my own mortality?"

So many days I am patient and polite with the experts, because my life is quite literally in their hands, under their stickers, compressed into



# Reducing your risk of drink spiking at Uni events

Jo Staas looks out for you.

It was a gruelling, sweaty evening, where the patrons were loud and eyeing me for their nightly fix. I was the only bartender tending this bar, tucked away in the inner west of Sydney and it was about one in the morning. On the far right of the bar, a man sat alone slurring his words and drifting into sleep, so I flagged him to the managers to keep an eye out. I continued preparing drinks, and chatting to patrons but was told to call on them if I saw his condition worsen or if he and his party wanted to order another round.

Many of them (although not all), are trained in first aid and responding to assaults on campus, and may identify themselves in high-vis or wear a coloured lanyard.



## Have a solid plan to get home

I highly recommend having a safe way to get home. If you plan on staying out past midnight, evaluate whether getting public transport will be the best way to travel, especially if you are thinking of drinking or taking substances. Try to travel with someone who lives in a similar area to you, as you may feel unwell travelling.



When I plan to go out, I use the code safety feature on Uber, which requires a passcode to ensure you get in the correct Uber. When this is enabled, you provide this to your driver upon entering the vehicle. In addition to this, I try to have some spare money set aside for a taxi in case there are no Ubers available.

## Invest in testing equipment/prevention kits

Drink testing strips (including Test My Drink), detect the presence of GHB and ketamine by inserting a drop of the drink onto a test patch. The patch turns blue in the presence of either drug.

Another preventive measure is to cover your drink with your hand, or use a drink cap (such as NightCapIt).

On another note, if you are planning on taking a drug, invest in test strips such as the Fentanyl test strip (free on the End Overdose website). If you are in a controlled environment, you may be able to afford to test the purity and more detailed tests, however this may not be realistic in a club setting.

**Build a support network**

If you have a mutual friend going to the event, it's a good idea to look out for each other in case you feel unwell. Try to have at least one person of a similar gender to you, as they usually have shared experiences with you and know what to look out for.

## Watch the bartender make the drink

Standard mixers have 30ml of a spirit, indicated by the very top of the jiggers bartenders



use. If it spills over, they've put extra alcohol into your drink, and you can't calculate your BAC.

## Go to the bar staff or security guards at the venue

If you feel drunk or that you have been spiked, I highly recommend going to the bar staff as it is their responsibility under the Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) to make sure you get home safe. In most cases, they will stay with you until your ride arrives, or decide to call an ambulance if your condition becomes worse. If someone in the venue is making you feel unsafe (or pressuring you), express that to an exec or bartender.

## Talk to a trusted adult, and your support network

They may be able to pick you up or stay with you until you reach safety. Conversely, if someone is making you feel unsafe, your support network may stick with you, so you aren't alone or in a compromised position.

## Evaluate whether you wish to report the incident

If you do choose to report an incident, taking a test (typically blood or urine) is a strong form of evidence that you have been spiked. Drugs like GHB can be detected in a urine test for

up to 12 hours, and ketamine can be detected for up to 14 days. Generally, the earlier the test is taken, the more likely it is to show up in a test. If you have taken this in conjunction with another form of testing (i.e Test My Drink), then you'll have more of a clue of when/where the spiking took place.

You can also choose to report it to the police. If the situation took place at a licensed venue, they are likely to find video evidence monitoring yourself, your symptoms, and who you conversed with.

Ultimately, it is your decision whether you report or not.

Although these provide some ways to reduce your risk of spiking at events, it is important to note that most spiking cases are not from drug misuse, but rather from alcohol. By testing the substances, you can keep note of how much you consume, become more aware of your own limits, and feel comfortable at night. Remember, it's important to stay vigilant, but also to have fun!



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# Care down there: how euphemisms impede healthcare

When I was introduced to sex ed for the first time as a kid in Year 6, I was directed to two books: one called Secret Boys' Business, the other Secret Girls' Business. Both were aimed at children, introducing them to the confusing and sometimes confronting parts of puberty — how your body changes, how things like menstruation, pregnancy, and erections work. Despite being presented as companion texts, aimed at teaching young boys and girls the same basic principles about their body, the former book was twice the length of the latter. Eleven-year-old me had only 32 pages of quirkily illustrated information about the confronting things happening to my body, while the boys in my class had 64.

There are a plethora of problems that come with under-educating people about their bodies, especially in the context of sex education. Improper or inadequate sex education leads to young people not understanding safe sex and possibly getting hurt. In a broader sense, though, it doesn't equip people with the knowledge — or the language — that they need to take care of themselves, and to advocate for themselves medically or legally.

## When we deprive people — especially those assigned female at birth — of this vocabulary, we put them at risk.

Language is a crucial part of healthcare.

First, let's explore the linguistics underpinning this issue. Unsurprisingly, it's hard to have a conversation without words. We build meaning with words and the definitions we understand them to have. It's also hard to have a conversation with a limited set of words — if you want to express something but you don't have a word for it, your explanation tends to be less precise, less streamlined. This goes beyond not being able to find that word on the tip of your tongue. It extends to an entire school of linguistic thought known as the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis.

The hypothesis is that our

understanding of the world is filtered through the parameters afforded to us by the languages we speak. In his work as a chemical engineer for an insurance company, Whorf noted that English speakers misunderstood gasoline drums marked "empty" as containing nothing, rather than having been emptied of gasoline but still containing flammable gas, leading them to carelessly light cigarettes around such drums. Because English does not distinguish between both senses of "empty", speakers don't either. This correlation between the words we have and the way we understand words is also evident in how we identify things. Empirically, it's easier to notice things with names you're familiar with. I can easily identify when I feel sad or happy, because I've used the words "sad" and "happy" since I was a little kid. It is much harder to describe emotions which English doesn't have neat words for, so I don't consciously feel those nuances as much as I otherwise might. I didn't really notice how often I felt déjà vu until I learned the term. Hence, a speaker of another language with a different set of words for emotions may have an entirely separate experience to me; the resources they have at their disposal are different.

## Our world is shaped by the words we have access to.

This includes the words we have for our bodies. The repertoire of names we have for body parts shapes the way we see our body, and the way we talk about it. Although the English words we have for body parts tend to be fairly comprehensive and standardised, that is less true for areas of the body we consider more taboo, such as genitalia, which we sometimes opt to refer to euphemistically.

While we use euphemisms and informal reference terms for body parts all the time — like calling your head a "noggin" — it's unique that euphemisms and informal terms seem to be a preferable mode of reference for genitalia. This, I think, is especially true for references to female genitalia.

Nicola Brayan questions the words we have to describe our bodies.

## The words we have for female genitalia are broad at best and uncomfortable at worst.

After anonymously surveying some AFAB people on their views on such words, a few trends emerged. The word "vagina" seemed to be preferred in conversational and medical settings, such as when talking to a doctor. Etymologically, "vagina" comes from a Latin root meaning "sheath" — something which a sword can be inserted into. It is not lost on me that even our most "neutral" word for genitalia is shaped by the way men interact with female bodies.

As one respondent noted, however, "vagina" is oftentimes misused. Anatomically, it refers to the internal parts of female genitalia, with "vulva" being the term for the external parts, but I — and most of the respondents I spoke to — only learnt this later in life. One respondent lamented the lack of a clear, all-encompassing label for female genitalia without the clinical or medical tone of "vulva" or "vagina". These words sound awkward in casual conversation. In practice, they are often misapplied.

The euphemisms we have for female genitalia are equally awkward. Respondents identified truncated forms of "vagina" like "vag" or "vajayjay", which evoke frustration: "an over the top euphemism is just annoying, because it's not something that should invoke humour." Others suggested "pusy" as a preferred term in casual and sexual contexts, which possibly comes from the Old Norse "puss", meaning pocket.

The last term that came up in these discussions was "cunt". "Cunt" stems from a geographical origin, being used to describe topographical features like gulleys or clefts, but has strong negative connotations, considered by

some to be the most offensive word in the English language. Although Australian slang treats the term with less trepidation than other dialects, it is still used with negative connotations.

Both "pusy" and "cunt" are used to deride and demean. It is not uncommon for words referring to taboo body parts to be used as insults — "dick" and "asshole" also come to mind — but "pusy" and "cunt" carry the unique pejorative connotations of weakness and shame, rather than just being a target of disdain.

The repertoire of reference terms for female genitalia that most AFAB people have ranges between misapplied medical terms and shameful euphemisms. This makes it hard to advocate for yourself in a healthcare context. How can you describe a symptom or a pain if you don't have a word for its location? How can you understand what a doctor or gynaecologist is telling you if they're using unfamiliar terms?

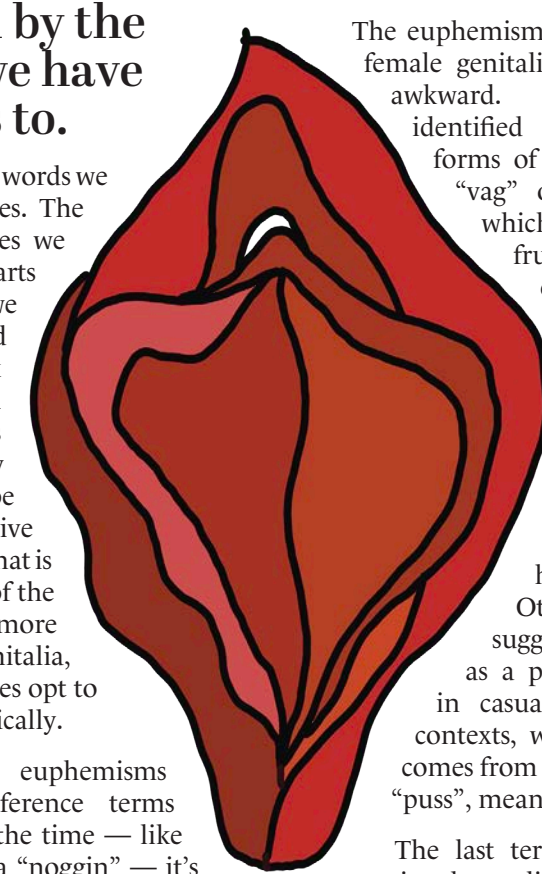
Furthermore, it steeps discussions of female genitalia in shame.

## If the only word you know for your genitalia is pejorative, you're unlikely to bring up problems with a doctor in the first place out of embarrassment. This can be deadly.

It can lead to AFAB people receiving improper or inadequate healthcare. This also applies in legal settings: feeling shame when talking about genitalia, or not having precise language, deters people from speaking to law enforcement or counsellors about legal issues involving them.

If Sapir and Whorf are correct, and we filter our world through the words we know, then the gap that exists in terms that describe female genitalia is devastating. We can — and must — do better to equip all people, young and old, with adequate and shame-free terms they can use for some of the most intimate parts of their lives.

Art by Katarina Butler





# Migrant and refugee youth: examining their sexual and reproductive health rights.

**Sharanya Napier-Raman explains her research.**

Health and wellbeing during adolescence and early adulthood has significant and lasting impacts on a person's life. Improving health outcomes and supporting young people in their decision-making not only provides immediate benefits to these young people, but has flow-on benefits into their adulthood and the health of their children.

Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) is an integral aspect of wellbeing and a human right. Young people, particularly those from marginalised groups, are vulnerable to compromised sexual and reproductive health and rights, and face particular barriers that can limit their decision-making and agency.

My PhD examines how migrant and refugee youth (MRY) make decisions and enact agency around their sexual and reproductive health. This research is part of an Australian Research Council project examining MRYPY sexual and reproductive health and rights. Our research is rights-based, participant oriented and multidisciplinary.

## The population

Young people grapple with a myriad of physical, social and emotional changes as they transition to adulthood, and often have limited knowledge and access to information, services and contraceptives — all of which can impede sexual and reproductive

health. Australian young people are disproportionately represented in national STI rates: 75% of Chlamydia cases occur among those aged 15-24, while over half all Gonorrhoea and a third of Syphilis cases occur in those under 29.

Such vulnerabilities are particularly acute for young people from marginalised populations. Australian migrant and refugee communities have poorer health outcomes and lower service engagement than their non-migrant counterparts, and particularly poor sexual health service uptake. Moreover, many cultures have specific constructions of sexual and reproductive health, including taboos and certain expectations around sexual behaviour. MRYPY therefore grapple with both the challenges and experiences of young adulthood, and those of belonging to a marginalised group within Australian society. They have distinct needs, perspectives and experiences that shape their sexual reproductive health and rights.

## A rights-based approach

Sexual and reproductive health is a crucial aspect of wellbeing that has broad social and economic benefits beyond the individual. Importantly, sexual and reproductive health can only be attained through the realisation of sexual and reproductive health rights. These include reproductive rights and a range of sexual rights to make informed decisions about what happens, and when, to one's body. Access to services, education and information are vital rights, as are

rights to a safe and satisfying sexual life, rights to bodily integrity, choice of partner, gender identity and sexual orientation.

Understanding how MRYPY experience and actualise these rights is crucial to developing rights-based health policy and programming that supports decision-making and improves health outcomes. Existing research on Australian MRYPY has fixated on family and culture, emphasising intergenerational tensions, discordance between home and resettlement cultures and familial, religious, and cultural restrictions. While understanding challenges and risks faced by a population is important, this tends to frame MRYPY as a "problem" population. A rights-based approach instead emphasises the active choices MRYPY make regarding their sexual and reproductive health.

## The research

My research thus far has examined the factors that inform MRYPY decision-making. Results highlight the importance of social, emotional and relational aspects of sexual and reproductive health — aspects often neglected from mainstream medical approaches. Participants viewed social and emotional aspects of sexual and reproductive health as equally important as more traditional physiological safety and risk-avoidance considerations. As such, services, programming and education that continue to focus purely on biomedical aspects of sexual health, such as STI and pregnancy prevention, will fail to

fully engage MRYPY.

Moreover, participants considered family and culture far less important than other aspects. While family, religious and community stigma did have a negative impact on MRYPY, it did not ultimately prevent them from making their own choices. Instead, MRYPY navigate agency around sociocultural and familial restrictions, indicating that healthcare should take a nuanced approach to culture. Policy and programming must go beyond typical biomedical constructions of sexual and reproductive health to incorporate emotional and relational factors, which MRYPY value as equally important and beneficial to their agency.

My current research examines the experiences and decision-making of MRYPY who have accessed abortion care. If you are a young person from a migrant or refugee background between the ages of 16-26 who has accessed abortion care, please consider getting involved by scanning the QR code below. If you want to hear more about the research and findings, feel free to reach out via email: [snap3609@uni.sydney.edu.au](mailto:snap3609@uni.sydney.edu.au).



# Burraburrabanha wiray murungidyal: A wound that cannot heal.

**Ethan Floyd reckons with the living history of First Nations trauma.**

*CW: Honi wishes to advise its readers, particularly those belonging to the Indigenous community, that the following piece contains reference to colonial violence and intergenerational trauma.*

This is not a story for me. This is not something that I can break down with facts. This is not something that I can analyse. It isn't about statistics or numbers. This is my life.

## When I was a baby, my grandfather held me in his arms.

He was the son of a man born onto the frontier of a newly-federated Australia. A frontier marked with violence, disease and death. He had experienced more of the darkness of Australia than I will ever know.

Aborigines rounded up and shot, babies buried into the sand and decapitated, women raped, men killed as they hid in the forks of trees, waterholes poisoned, flour laced with arsenic.

From me to my grandfather to his father: that's how close it is.

My family is like so many other Aboriginal families. What has happened to us has happened to us all.

We have felt the brutality of Australia. We have had our land — our inheritance — stolen. Our language was banned. Our children taken away. We have been herded onto missions. We have been forced onto the margins of society. We have lived in tin humpies and tents.

We have been powerless before the state. Welfare officers and police have invaded our lives at will. We have been told to become like white people, yet when white people loved us and even had children with us, they too were punished.

and walked away. I dedicated a year to peel through my mind, dissolving and rewiring that which doesn't serve me anymore, finding new routes, like the one towards my body, which sidestep the brambles of the masculine.

Now begins the task of reconciling the physical and the mental.

A body and a board.

A body and a board and a knife, held in my corporeal hand. But this time, I walk forward and approach my body, inquisitive. I pull my limbs back and slice, watching as the ties which bind my body and the board fall away. The mass limps to the floor. I hoist it over my shoulders like a wounded soldier. I walk away.

I wear my body like a coat. One day it will slip past my fantastical skin and fall into place. For now, it protects me. I must love it.

It would be so easy to surrender to this oppression. The weight of our history suffocates us. Our history leaves its mark on our bodies and our souls.

I have seen people crushed by whiteness. I have seen people deny who they are — lie to their own children — to escape the fate of blackness. They prefer to disappear into a world that has never wanted them anyway.

## I'm sure I am not alone amongst Indigenous people who wrestle every day with swirling emotions.

Among them has been anger.

The choking asphyxiating anger at the suffering and injustice my people have endured. I know where that comes from. I have seen it in my mother and she inherited it from her father. It comes from the weight of history. This anger is not good for me. It is not good for my mental health. I have laid awake at night panicking about nothing in particular. It is not good for my physical health either. I have been short of breath and dizzy. I have wept.

## I am afraid too. I have known this fear all my life.

When I was young it used to make me feel sick, physically ill in the pit of my stomach. I see that in my mother as well. I see it as she tenses up just at the sight of a police car.

She has done nothing wrong.

We are marked by history. It is a living history. We touch it and we wear it. It is written in the scars on the bodies of men like my grandfather. It is echoed in the stories of women like my mother. It is carried deep within us, mental wounds that cannot heal. It is so close we can taste it.

But it is nothing compared to what too many other Indigenous people go through day after day. Those languishing in cells. Those who take their own lives. Those who are caught in endless cycles of poverty. Confined to social housing or town camps, living hand-to-mouth.

## This isn't the Dreamtime. This is mangy dogs and broken glass.

Writing this is not good for me.

I feel my pulse racing now.

I feel the tension building in my head. Why do we do it? Why

do we have

to explain

ourselves, why

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pain?

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Art by Yasodara Puhule.

**I am angry: I know that. It flares suddenly and with the slightest provocation; it takes my breath away sometimes.**

But when she is pulled over for something as routine as a random breath test, her heart begins to race and she fumbles her keys.

She could never explain this fear in any rational way. She is fair-skinned, enough to pass for white — her mother was white and her father a Wailwan man.

But I was always aware that we were marked by something more than skin colour.

I often wonder what it would be like to not know apocalypse. To not know what it is to come from people who face an existential threat. Who have clung desperately to their place on this earth.

Sometimes, I wonder what it must be like to be white.

But then I would not be my mother's son.

**13 YARN**

If the content of this piece has raised concerns for you, call 13 92 76 for support.

## Perspective

# An exercise in masculinity

**William Winter explores his relationship with his body and his masculinity.**

Sometimes, when I try to grapple with my relationship to my body, I picture it on a spinning wheel. My body, discombobulated, is somehow invisibly tied to this board. My body is on display. I am not. I am a corporeal figure, watching from a respectable distance. My wispy hand is holding a knife. The tiny blade slips through my fingers, soaring through the air, and I never see where it lands. The point of insertion.

Will it hit my body, or the board? Where does one start and one end?

I am at once living inside my body and observing it. I don't always feel at home in my flesh. My high school was a single-sex selective school that aimed to unite smarts with sportiness. We were expected to participate in Saturday sport throughout our schooling career, every term, every week.

I never really took to sports in the way that was prescribed.

I'm a chubby lil' guy. I have a big infectious smile, long curly hair, and thick legs. I've always been rounder, smoother, physically and emotionally softer than my male peers. I never liked scrimmages or rallies at school before the big rowing competitions. I never quite gelled with the sporting culture.

I always enjoyed the adrenaline rush of running, of movement, of yelling during a game for a moment of catharsis. I would spread my arms like a flightless bird and sprint and grin into the breeze. But the markers of achievement I saw tied any physical success to being a man.

Going to the gym and getting stronger made it easier to pick up ladies. Tackling others in rugby was a sign of masculine dominance. Being in a rowing shell meant working with

your fellow men to achieve a goal.

To be fit, I had to be masculine. To find myself, I had to run from masculinity.

A body and a board.

Eventually, in the swamp of the 2021 lockdown, I would stumble across an online aerobics program that rewired me. In my little living-room bubble, a perky, vivacious woman encouraged us "ladies" to run, sprint, dance, and sing out loud to the effervescent eighties' music.

Movement, slowly, became decoupled from the masculine. My body transcends gender in non-bodily ways. My wants for my vessel are more immaterial now — stamina, flexibility, freedom. It is active and passive, working towards a body which matches a spirit I can't quite pin down.

I am the most physically unfit I've ever been. I hung my body on a board



# I am not a carer

Nafeesa Rahman reflects on a summer spent caring for her grandparents.

These summer holidays I was introduced to the world of caretaking. And no, I did not work in an aged care facility, or in a hospital. For the most part I spent my time at home, with my grandparents who were visiting Sydney from overseas. Like many, my grandparents suffer from a plethora of chronic health issues, ranging from aching limbs and sore spots to heart palpitations, fluctuating blood pressure, and hypoglycaemic incidents. Just the bitter gifts of old age, you see.

While tours of Sydney and beyond were a must, outings were often followed by at least a two-day recovery period. In these moments, I found myself involved in caring duties for my loved ones.

**Over time I've become more intrigued by the word "care" — a harmless, altruistic word that means looking after or providing for someone.**

But over a prolonged period of providing "care", one extra letter hitches itself to the rest to form the word "carer". This word has additional baggage associated with it.

According to NSW Health's definition, a carer provides ongoing, unpaid care to family members and friends who suffer from a disability, mental illness, chronic conditions, or terminal illness. The website proudly

boasts, "Anyone can be a carer, at any time."

Theoretically, I ticked all the boxes of a carer. I was regularly taking care of my grandparents — assisting with nightly medications, preparing hot water bottles for heat therapy, pushing my grandmother's wheelchair, and offering up a time to keep my grandparents company. Regular household work that did not feel like a chore to me.

Perhaps for this reason, I felt uncomfortable donning the title of "carer".

Surprisingly, I was not alone. A 2014 study on "hidden carers" in the UK — those doing the work of carers but avoiding the title so as not to officiate their role — revealed that carers are reluctant to identify with the label because they do not consider caring to be legitimate "work".

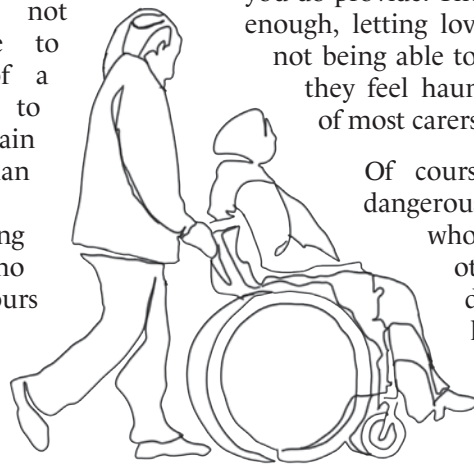
I too felt the same way. As a South Asian woman, the expectation that children will tend to their elderly relatives is intrinsic to my culture. The social responsibility to care for elders takes precedence. Of course, this expectation is usually gendered, which can pose as problematic for women who do not see themselves in a caretaking role. I am lucky that in my case, gender did not obligate me to care for my grandparents. As such, to put a label on my actions would be to reward myself for simply carrying out a generational duty of looking after my elders. This felt wrong.

The study also revealed that a deterrent to embracing the title of carer is the belief that it will weaken the self-perception of the cared-for.

In other words, this is an attempt to preserve their autonomy.

Unfortunately, it is a sad reality that those who are cared for feel like a "burden" to their family.

My grandmother, for one, is difficult to convince. My grandmother does not miss any chance to refuse the aid of a wheelchair because to her, limping in pain is much better than "inconveniencing" others. Portraying myself as a carer who is endowing favours on her will only destroy this imagined sense of confidence she has in her own strength.



The self-belief of being a burden is further compounded by the structural ableism and ageism that riddles our society, reminding individuals with disabilities that the outside world is not built for them. People's impatience towards the elderly in public spaces and the unwelcome looks of sympathy towards wheelchair users are ugly realities. More broadly, the Australian government's intransigence towards providing cheaper healthcare alternatives for foreigners, and the negligence of health insurance providers to insure those above a certain age bracket are further schemes made to promote societal exclusion.

Ultimately, the biggest and least justified reason why I do not associate with the title "carer" is because of

internalised guilt.

Living away from vulnerable family members that require constant care means that there is a gap in familial duty that remains unfulfilled. Internalised guilt also comes in the form of dissatisfaction with the care you do provide. The idea of not doing enough, letting loved ones down, or not being able to alleviate the pain they feel haunts the peripheries of most carers' experiences.

Of course, carer guilt is dangerous. All people who are caring for others are making a difference, at some level or another. Whether they choose to identify with the title of "carer" or not is a matter of personal choice. However, it sure does help. Accepting your role as a carer opens a world of tailored support services and helplines that you are more likely to reach out to. Carers can access support from Carer Gateway, Carers NSW, the NSW Health Department, Carers Australia or the NSW Carers Advisory Council.

Caring is an emotionally loaded experience and, as with most experiences in hindsight, the good outweighs the bad. Caring gave me a kind of gratitude for my own health that I had not previously felt. In the end, you reap the rewards of your care with the warm smile of your loved ones, realising that they appreciated your efforts all along. And that makes all the difference.

# The Glass Menagerie: "Yes, I have tricks in my pocket."

Val Chidiac reviews SUDS' production, and enters a family's home.

Everyone is familiar with at least one Tennessee Williams play from high school English. Even if you're not, you automatically associate his name with a high calibre of playmaking. SUDS' production of *The Glass Menagerie* has indeed proven a worthy addition to the countless reinterpretations of a classic.

Upon entry, the digital program was filled with background information on the genesis and purpose of this project — to centre the 'ethnic other' experience by POC creatives, for POC and non-POC audiences.

**The considered approach of these production members cultivated a high level of care and creativity in delivering this story full of dreams, disappointment, memory, heartbreak and laughter.**

The play surrounds the story of the Wingfield family, immigrants to Australia. Tom, played by Nelson Lee, is stuck between his reality and his desire to become a poet, the anti-immigrant job as it doesn't involve prosperity or security. Amanda "Ima" (Josephine Lee) — a matriarch — attempts to recreate her youth by gathering "gentleman callers" for her daughter, Laura (Airlie Benson) and moulding her son, Tom.

The set design truly captured the feel of a lived-in house — not just through

photographs, lamps and vases. A torn crochet tablecloth, a clothesline, Persian carpet and evil eye amulet convinced me that a POC family occupied this space. In particular, the tablecloth and carpet were reminiscent of my grandma's house.

existent or minimal.

On a lighter note, the moment that I saw an *Honi Soit* newspaper being utilised — effectively — as a prop, I realised that cheeky, meta tricks were being displayed before me.



The godfather-like portrait — minus the seriousness, with more smile and charm — was always watching from above, and actively the fifth character, evocative of the lost past.

Credit to Amelia Birdsong

The detailed set was accompanied by effective costumes, a varied soundtrack, and videos with imagery and multilingual phrases accompanying the play, which kept the audience engaged throughout.

The walkway was a clever touch. It allowed Tom to exit the scene and assume the role of the narrator to voice profound thoughts and inner desires against the red and blue strobe lights. One idea that stuck with me was the fact that countries like America and Australia export their adventures to be watched in cinemas for the world to see. Unless there is a war, representation of anyone beyond that sphere, is non-

To quote Tom, the show was saying in capital letters, "Yes, I have tricks in my pocket." The newspaper itself wasn't merely for decoration. Instead, it was used on four separate occasions: Tom and Jim each read it to escape Ima's questions and boredom, and Ima also convincingly picked it up and hilariously asked aloud "Honi Soit?", as if coming across it for the first time. At one point, Tom actually sat on it. I guess he wanted to absorb the newest edition.

Ima was easily the standout with her boisterousness and catchy phrases, but also in her more quiet and reflective moments. Laura was perfectly frightened and anxious, a stark contrast to her energetic mother. Tom commanded the stage, stomping

about, going to the "movies" whilst simultaneously navigating his inner and outer lives.

Little touches like "tomorrow gives me no time to prepare", mention of knafeh, the hometown of Ipoh, checking if necessary to take off shoes at entrance, and sitting on cushions enhanced the play with cultural details. The alternation between pure rage and tender moments amongst the family members is sure to ring a bell for everyone, and even validate others.

While the physical comedy was performed well, the constant placement of the candle near pieces of cloth gave me consistent heart palpitations. However, the actors were on the ball, and would move the candle away, while staying in character.

Jim O'Connor (Michael Sebastian) had fantastic chemistry with Laura. He also delivered the funniest line of the night that had the audience roaring. No spoilers but it is directed at Laura in such an offhand and harmless manner, that you cannot help but giggle.

At the intermission, I was speaking to some of the audience and they were encouraged by this rendition to go back and visit the original story. Adapting such rich texts and adding a multicultural touch would work well for future SUDS productions, especially benefiting from the talents of the team behind *The Glass Menagerie*.

Well done to director Danny Yazdani, and the entire cast and crew. And now, excuse me while I satisfy my craving for knafeh. Meanwhile, be sure to check out *The Glass Menagerie* at the Cellar Theatre until 3 March.

# Welcome Week '23: Perspectives of a first year

Josh Clay goes to grown up school.



For many first-years, Welcome Week can be a relief after navigating the esoteric enrolment processes and other impossibly user-unfriendly websites — now the real university experience begins. Although many fleeting friendships were developed in the lines for Redbull and free toothpaste, Welcome Week was definitely a mixed bag of experiences.

## Tuesday

Like lambs to the slaughter, the early morning empty stalls and Eastern Avenue buildings led me to a Socialist Alternative recruitment drive instantly. I'd barely left my bus before

being asked "Do you care about left-wing politics?" and a flyer thrust into my hands.

**"Meet the socialists," the poorly cropped paper tells me. No, thanks.**

We kept slipping between SALT's recruiters until we finally reached the Quad, walking past the damned who were too nice to say no. God knows it'll be impossible to unsubscribe from their mailing list.

After a confusing hour where my student mentor led four of us into a strange, empty room off of the Great Hall and abandoned us, we were finally led to a lecture theatre where various academics took the stage. By

the second hour, many had grown hungry, talking over SRC President Lia Perkins and club representatives out of — what was hopefully — restlessness.

Finally offered the free lunch, my mentor group seemingly disbanded in the hoard and never re-formed, so I tagged along with another group for the "Amazing Race."

Handed a yellow piece of paper, where a set of four ingenious and brain-teasing challenges were laid out, including but not limited to, theorising where a staircase led to — "creative answers only!" — and counting how many gargoyles were in a specific area.

During the "race", we soon realised that we had no competitors, as almost all students had left. I quietly slipped away too.

## Wednesday

Braving the impenetrable thicket

of students, I found myself desperately navigating around lines that cut through busy thoroughfares as I got acquainted with the clubs, societies, and political factions of USyd.

Like death and taxes, SALT proved themselves to, again, be one of the certainties of life.

We soon became acquainted with minions of the Conservative Club, who paraded around with a Steven Crowder-esque sign asking "How many people has socialism killed?" in which people would tally under the options "100 mil or am I wrong". One then donned an Israeli flag and yelled some unintelligible nonsense towards the left-wing stalls.

A group of college girls then approached the Wom\*n's Collective stall, claiming to be offended by the stickers that read "burn the colleges". With the entitlement of someone

whose nuggets had been forgotten at McDonald's, they demanded to speak to someone higher up to complain, despite those who created the stickers being there at the stall.

## Thursday

**The organ blared Star Wars' Imperial March for the half empty Great Hall, as six academics made their way to the stage to debate what "power" is.**

Allotted 5 minute speaking times, each debater argued what power is with regards to their specific faculty — clearly with the intention of showing us how FASS courses intersect.

It was fairly lighthearted, with Professor Jioji Ravulo's speech beginning with a musical act of "Lean on Me" by Bill Withers. Although, it

seemed the only thing many speakers leaned on was swearing for a cheap laugh from students who'd never heard a teacher curse.

Professor Sonja Van Wichelen



argued that by not clapping after her speech, we would reclaim personal power and subvert the system — the system being the Decibel X app that served as an 'applause-o-meter' to decide the winner of the debate.

Her speech concluded to applause.

Some speakers were surprisingly engaging, particularly the opening speech by Dr Paul Dwyer who pretended to be the "villainous John

Howard". He demonstrated the power of symbolic gestures, casting us as the delegates who physically turned their backs towards Howard during the 1997 Reconciliation Convention.

Although it was proudly branded as a socratic debate several times, there was no time for questions or rebuttals, leaning more towards a socratic seminar — although one key aspect of the seminar is that it is not a debate and thus there is no winner.

So, despite barely being a debate, Dr Anne Rogerson was crowned the winner by Decibel X, donning a laurel made of plastic leaves.

Despite the sea of white bucket hats and constant Harry Potter references, Welcome Week did prove to be a somewhat pleasant introduction to campus life.

We've seen the political clashes and recruiting drives. We've endured the disorganised and somewhat ridiculous events hosted by the university. And we've battled with the constant volley of "what are you studying?".

We're basically university veterans by now.



# Find the imposter: Games for every season

Kate Zhang wants you to play these games this year.

After the surging popularity of *Among Us* during the pandemic — keeping us entertained in our lockdown lives — many find-the-imposter type games have hit the market. If you aren't sure where to get started, here are recommendations for one to try for each season.

### A luxurious summer holiday: *First Class Trouble*

*First Class Trouble* is set in a luxury spaceship. You are tasked with finding out who are Personoids, hiding among the human residents. The funniest thing in this game is that if you suspect another player and want to kill them,

you have to first hug them from the back first, and then ask another player to choke them.

### I guess it's not always nice if you can hug in games.

### A warm fuzzy autumn in a village: *Eville*

Welcome to the village where you use your skills and items to protect yourself and the neighbours that you trust, from Conspirators who attack at night. You can buy locks and tripwires, or make potions. Even if a player has

already died, they can still play as ghosts and buy skills from the ghost trader to help the living villagers. The warm feeling of community makes this game perfect for autumn.

### A cold thrilling winter voyage: *Dread Hunger*

The crew are under pressure trying to survive the cruel winter on the ship. At the same time, they have to look out for betrayal. An immersive experience drags your emotions into it. For example, when betrayal is right in front of you, but you are starving and freezing and can't do anything but continue dying.

### It's extremely frustrating... until the next game begins.

### A fresh start in spring: *Goose Goose Duck*

This game has gone viral for their cute cartoon art style, interesting role design and the diverse customisation options for your own goose avatar. Plus, it's free.



What else could make it a better game to start with?

# Good for her: Representations of feminine rage

Gemma Hudson explores what draws us to flipping the script, and the power balance.

'Feminine rage' movies. The 'good for her' cinematic universe. 'Gaslight, gatekeep, girlboss' literature. If you frequent the same corners of the internet that I do, regularly looking for recommendations of what to read and watch, you might have noticed these 'genres' slowly appearing.

### Unlike science fiction, romance, fantasy, this genre does not simply do what it says on the tin, its content — and its motive — is far more complicated than that.

This begs a number of questions. What defines 'feminine rage' in media? Where did it come from? And why — across the world — are so many women connecting with it on such a deep level?

Whilst there are distinct nuances between the genres of 'feminine rage,' 'good for her,' and 'gaslight, gatekeep, girlboss' media, for the purposes of this article, it is worth examining them as a whole.



### What is the 'feminine rage' genre?

'Feminine rage' as a genre refers to a collection of works that feature female characters (predominantly written or produced by female authors and artists) engaging in taboo or socially unexpected actions — most often violence. The violence depicted in these works can be classified into three categories.

The first category is rage against the patriarchy or men. This is essentially the revenge plot. These are the narratives where the protagonist undertakes violence or revenge against another individual, usually a man, who has committed some kind of harm towards them. Examples include *Promising Young Woman* and *Gone Girl*, where the female main characters enact revenge plots involving psychological and physical violence.

The second kind is general violence. This works where women participate in or perpetrate significant violence, but without the ideological backing of the first category. Notable films in this category include *Midsommar*.

The final category is that of self-inflicted violence. These are stories where a woman or group of women enact various types of violence, from the physical to the psychological, upon themselves. Examples include *Bunny* by Mona Awad, a novel where a group of female university students engage in ritualistic sacrifice, or *My Year of Rest and Relaxation* by Otessa Moshfegh, in which a young woman isolates and drugs herself into perpetual sleep.

### Where did it come from?

In the media we consume, we are typically shown violence

perpetuated against women. We are desensitised to it. Crime procedural shows such as *Law & Order* and *Criminal Minds* — a mainstay of our television screens — feature the violent murder (and, invariably, sexual assault) of women week after week, for the purpose of entertainment.

### In fact, in some genres, violence against women is a necessity to be seen as 'accurate'.

Period pieces and fantasy shows such as *Game of Thrones* thrust graphic sexual violence to the forefront of our screens, with female characters' story arcs revolving solely around this violence.

When critics claim that these scenes are gratuitous, or unnecessary, others argue that this is simply in the name of 'historical accuracy.'

### As if in television shows that prominently feature dragons, we could not suspend our disbelief to allow fewer women to be despicably assaulted and murdered.

Simply put, when we turn on our television screens or crack open the spine of a novel, we often expect some kind of violence against a woman to appear, almost always at the hands

of a male character, or male author. This experience, for many female audiences, is horrific and alienating. This is not the stuff of fantasy that one can simply turn off or ignore, but a real and oppressive fear that is present in many women's lives.

With so much violence being perpetrated against women by men, it seems only natural that people are looking for stories where women are the ones in control.

### Why do we connect with it?

In all the types of violence that we see so often on our screens, female characters are stripped of their agency. When we are so used to seeing representations of women as helpless and harmed, seeing women take control of violence can prompt a cathartic experience.

Bloody revenge plots become a fight against the oppression that has filled our screens and novels for too long. The unfamiliar subversion of the expected role of women as meek,

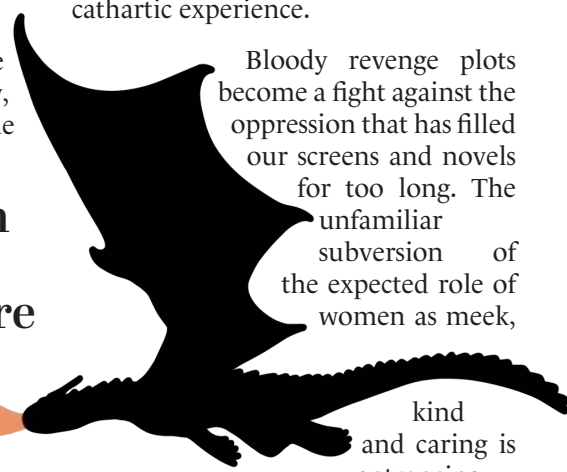
and caring is entrancing.

In these texts, women are now agents of the story, in control of what happens. They make the striking move of being objects, rather than subjects, of violence.

It is exhausting to keep seeing women have to be good in the face of constant violence.

It is freeing to see them be heinous.

Let them rage on.



# How can we tell stories about the climate crisis?

Katarina Kuo explores the future of climate stories on stage.

"Before I read this play, I sort of assumed that the future existed as two possibilities — either we fix this climate crisis and things can go on pretty much as normal, or we're screwed, and I'll always be looking into the future and seeing fire and apocalypse. This play says it's actually going to be neither of those things."

Carissa Licciardello is a theatre director. She is currently working on David Finnigan's *Scenes from the Climate Era*, which will debut at Belvoir St Theatre in May. Since working with Finnigan, the way that Licciardello conceptualises the climate crisis has completely changed, and as I listen to her perspective, I realise that her initial assumptions are not dissimilar to my own. I've probably been thinking of it wrong.

We tend to forget just how difficult it is for us, as humans, to conceptualise the climate crisis. It forces us to conceive of human-made harm that exists beyond a human scale, to understand scientific explanations far beyond the average person's pay grade, and to wrestle with a level of

existential uncertainty that in many ways evades comprehension. Perhaps most challengingly, it forces us to understand the sheer scale of this crisis as a constant backdrop to our everyday experiences.

If the climate crisis is hard to think about, it is perhaps even harder to write about. Telling stories about the climate crisis not only requires artists to convey what is often inconceivable, but to do so using creative and literary frameworks which are fundamentally ill-equipped to deal with it. Most of the stories we know draw their momentum from narrative or character arcs — as readers and audiences, we have learnt to instinctively seek them out. In the case of the climate crisis, however, those conventions don't really fit.

The parts of the climate crisis that are most intuitive to us are those that happen on a human scale (and, indeed, a large proportion of climate fiction deals with individual human stories).

However, to represent only individualised experiences of climate devastation is to neglect its actual scale. Character-driven stories necessarily exclude the moral implications of the climate crisis, an essential consideration of climate fiction.

Even putting the question of characters aside, the climate crisis is also difficult to narrativise. There isn't a simple beginning, middle, or end to the climate crisis. If there is, we don't know what it is yet, or how we

will be implicated. The uncertainty of our climate's future means that any ending can feel disingenuous — to end too optimistically is to give in to false hope, to end too pessimistically is to give in to what Delia Falconer terms "the numbing fantasy of apocalypse."

If narrative and character are no longer viable, storytelling about the climate crisis requires artists to direct their audiences towards another source of momentum. Finding what that is, however, is often difficult and, in many cases, requires artists to reinvent what can exist within different literary forms. As Licciardello explains, the theatre-makers endeavouring to tell authentic stories about the climate "are also trying to solve the form that this kind of theatre can take." Is it possible, for example, to make theatre without humans on stage? Can animals or machines be characters? Is it possible to realise an unstable environment which actors can still exist in? Can theatre itself, which requires lighting and costumes and set design, be made environmentally sustainable?

Like many artists, Licciardello and Finnigan's desire to tell a story about the climate crisis has required them to find a novel way to craft it. *Scenes from the Climate Era* resists telling singular stories of the climate crisis: imagining it as an arc of history, where changes to the climate become the backdrop of every moment of our lives. *Climate Era's* concern is not how the climate crisis will impact specific individuals,

but rather, what it means to come to terms with a new phase of human life — one where some moments will be catastrophic while some will be the same as they've always been. As Licciardello puts it, "someone is going to have their house burned down by a fire, at the same time as someone else is getting married. It's not all going to be [a] disaster or all going to be fine, it's going to be a combination of both."

By resisting the instinct to see the future in black and white, Licciardello and Finnigan's work gives audiences some reason to be hopeful, even if that hope won't always be easy. For all the ways that theatre is imperfect when it comes to capturing the climate crisis, it is perhaps the perfect way to deliver this muddled kind of hope.

"It is something that we will all experience as humans, and perhaps there is value in trying to grapple with that in a room full of other people," Licciardello tells me. "There's something about the ephemerality of theatre — the fact that it does begin, and end, and disappear — that could go right to the core of how the natural world is changing in a bigger way than we're used to."

# Kip Chapman's *The Resistance: The Most Fun You'll Ever Have While Worrying about Climate Change*

Mariika Mehigan reviews on-stage activism.

Kip Chapman's *The Resistance* is 90 minutes of glorious chaos, providing poignant commentary on climate activism with the energy of a children's birthday party.

*The Resistance* follows five climate activists as they struggle to organise what will become the biggest climate rally in Australian history, in which millions throughout the country will take the streets in order to put pressure on the Australian government to sign the fictional Athens Agreement. The group of activists are effortless crafted archetypes, reminiscent of your favourite childhood television shows. There's Pepper (Thea Scholl), the boisterous one with a worrying interest in explosives, Miro (Jack Walton) the anxious tech expert that Pepper loves to bully, Drew (Genevieve Lemon), the scatterbrained head of the art department, Bundilla (Lakesha Grant) the passionate one who ultimately makes the decisions and Marlee (Diya Goswami), who's shy but becomes the reluctant face of the movement.

The group scramble to prepare for the arrival of Eva Lawson, a Greta Thunberg-esque figure whom they've centred in their campaign, on the backdrop of a set that evokes a childhood wonderland. The walls are painted entirely hot pink, scaffolding adorned with colourful foam rollers and wires taking centre stage.

At the top of the scaffolding sits a computer with a convoluted assortment of wires springing around it, seemingly plucked out of an eleven-year-olds imagination. "It looks like an episode of Richard Hammond's Blast Lab," my friend Lucy whispers to me. Scattered across the walls were four TV screens, a nod to the work by another Kip, Sydney Theatre Company's production of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, a similarity that is acknowledged throughout the play.

As the team bickers back and forth, volunteers are brought to the stage, some sitting in the craft area colouring the banners for the protest that's to come. The plot is frequently

interrupted by the actors breaking the fourth wall and addressing the audience directly, prefaced by techno music that you'd find in a game show. The interruptions range from Pepper asking, "we just want to know who's your favourite character so far, so put your hand up if it's Pepper!", to the audience being encouraged to take out our phones, open YouTube and search the sounds of our favourite animal.

The group hits a roadblock in their plan as they discover Eva Lawson is no longer coming, throwing their plan into whack and forcing Marlee into a leadership role, which she adamantly resists. One of the play's best moments is Marlee's reluctant participation in an interview with the Minister for Energy. The scene features the political doublespeak we all know too well, as he condescendingly claims that "we need a diversity of energy producing projects" and a "conversation grounded in fact." As they discuss the figure they are expecting at their

rally, he rebuts, "let's have a maths lesson since we're in school today." This dialogue, compounded with the child-like randomness of the production, articulates Chapman's key argument, that the youth of the climate movement is both its greatest strength and its Achilles heel.

Such a point is exemplified when Bundilla sees Drew's newly designed banners. As one reads 'We Still Have Hope,' she's infuriated by the softness of the message, yelling "this is why nothing changes ... its a privilege to be nice."

*The Resistance* offers a night of pure enjoyment that sheds an important light on the current operation of the climate movement in Australia. Its themes ring eerily true for a generation that's become accustomed to continuous reminders that the odds are stacked against us, but as Chapman reminds us, there's power in anger and strength in fun. Harness these and make change.



## President

LIA PERKINS

This week we've been around campus holding SRC stalls, handing out the remaining tote bags, telling students about the SRC and upcoming rallies organised by SRC collectives. These have been great and we'll continue them next week. I held my first consultation hours, weekly on Monday 11-1 and Wednesday

1-3. The re-opening of Foodhub this week has gone swimmingly, and I congratulate the SRC Vice Presidents for their work. I attended the Education Action Group's fantastic protest demanding the University cut ties with weapons manufacturer Thales. With a 24 hour strike called in Week 3 the SRC will be mobilising and encouraging students to join staff on the picket lines. We must oppose management's consistent attack on our education and fight for the rights of staff who really make this university run. We co-

hosted the 'Students For Affordable Housing' protest on Friday. A range of speakers addressed the intensity of the housing crisis. We need state and federal governments to take serious action to address the complete unaffordability of housing in NSW. The SRC will share updates as this campaign escalates. The crackdown on the right to protest with the arrest of the UNSW Education Officer is concerning, and I extend solidarity to Cherish. The discussion paper for the Universities Accord was released last week. I feel the need to

repeat consistent arguments the SRC has made: the Job-Ready Graduates package needs to be repealed immediately, and students should have access to FREE, quality higher education. There is a housing crisis, the age of independence and rate of Youth Allowance is too low, and sexual violence occurs on campus at extreme rates. We campaign around these demands and more, as they should be addressed immediately. This week, get along to the Climate Strike on Friday! Meeting at Fisher Library at 11am.

## Education

ISHBEL DUNSMORE  
YASMINE JOHNSON

Our first week of semester has been packed with activism. We spent Welcome Week letting students know about the Education Action Group and building the Books not Bombs - Thales

OffCampus campaign, demanding that the university cut ties with one of the world's largest weapons manufacturers. We kicked this campaign off with a speakout on Thursday of week one, calling out the fact that the university is helping contribute to the expansion of Australian militarism. We're keen to jump onto building the staff strike that the National Tertiary Education Union has called for Thursday of Week 3. Students have a vital role to play

in supporting staff, demanding that management stop attacking conditions for staff and students at Sydney Uni. We'll be building a student contingent to attend the picket lines on the day to help shut the campus down and show management that they won't get away with making billion dollar surpluses by attacking staff. We've also been part of a cross-campus campaign against the housing crisis which is hitting ordinary people, and students in particular, at

the moment, and were part of a rally last Friday for action on this crisis. While the profits of landlords, property developers and banks soar, young people are finding themselves faced with eviction, struggling to pay rent, or unable to move out of home. We're supporting the national Get a Room - Students for Affordable Housing campaign, and look forward to working closely with the Welfare Action Group around this issue.

## Women's

ALEV SARACOGLU  
IGGY BOYD

The Women's Collective has been very active to begin the semester; we held a demonstration at Welcome Week to bring awareness to the plight of sexual violence in orientation weeks across the

country, particularly in USyd where the Colleges continue to harbour a strong and lasting rape culture. We don't at all believe that the eventual introduction of this unknown consent merchandise makes amends for their chronic dismissal of and inaction around sexual violence on campus. Thank you to all who came along, and don't forget to come along to our Welcome Picnic on March 1st, 4pm at

New Law Lawns! We'll have catering provided by Courtyard and it's open to all students. Thanks to the Student Life Grants team for the help! We'll also be painting a few banners, including one for the upcoming International Working Girls Day rally and march. The Women's Collective recognises that The University of Sydney is a corporatised University, a University that weighs to profit-making above the

well being of its staff and students. We recognise that staff teaching conditions are student learning conditions, so we are delighted that the National Tertiary Education Union's University of Sydney branch has recently passed a vote for further striking in weeks 3, 6 and 10 of this semester. WoCo supports the strikes! We hope to see you all at the pickets soon!

## Welfare

ELLA DOUGLAS  
ELLA HAID  
HARRISON BRENNAN  
FELIX TONKIN

The Welfare Action Group held our first meeting in week 1 with plans to target the cost of living and housing crisis this year. The welfare officers were

busy spending our first two weeks on campus building for the Snap Rally to Fix The Housing Crisis at Town Hall on Friday Feb 24th. We condemn the outrageous midnight arrest of socialist activist Cherish Kuehlmann, who was charged with "aggravated trespassing" for protesting against the housing crisis alongside others outside the Reserve Bank of Australia. She now faces the threat of a \$13000 fine or a year in jail. This is blatant intimidation by the police, and an obvious attack on the

right to protest. We stand completely in solidarity with those affected by the tightening anti-protest laws in NSW and identify the real criminals to be the profiteering landlords and banks who hike rents and interest rates across the country, pricing people out of a basic right to shelter. Please sign the petition to drop her charges on megaphone.org.au and follow the GET A ROOM campaign launched by the National Union Of Students Education Office, available on Facebook. We're excited to

hear of the updates in the USyd NTEU campaign and are keen to support staff striking in week 3 and week 6. We will join the EAG's campaign of student-staff solidarity, getting the word out about the importance of not going to class on strike days. 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. We hope to see you at WAG's next meeting on the 17th of March.

## Sexual Harassment

ELIZA CROSSLEY  
ALANA RAMSHAW  
GRACE PORTER  
ZOE COLES

Wow, it's already Week 2 and we have lots to report on! Over the summer, we engaged in activism on and off campus,

attending WoCo's rally demanding a rape-free campus and the Violet CoCo rallies to fight anti-protest laws. We also helped edit Growing Strong which contains articles about Women in Climate disasters and Abortion Inaccessibility in NSW. On the more bureaucratic side, we recommended amendments to the Student Sexual Misconduct Response Procedures 2018 to include options for students whose complaints have failed to yield disciplinary action. This year we have

already seen accusations of sexism, homophobia, and intimidation from Saint Andrews college students being raised. This is disgusting and we must reinvigorate the 'burn the colleges' campaign and continue to fight against the scourge of sexual violence on this campus. During this semester, with WoCo we will help build a roundtable and informational forum around the safety of colleges and are excited to plan events for Rad Sex and Consent Week for semester two. We are also

planning to support 'the International Working Girls Day' rally for the rights of sex workers to participate in International Women's Day in a way that uplifts radical feminism. We are also building a counter-protest for Day of the Unborn child, a day that creates stigma around abortion access. Thanks to our Wom\*n's Officers for being the headkickers of these events! We would love more support on our campaigns so if interested please come along to WoCo meetings!

## International Students

The International Students Office Bearers did not submit a Report this week.

These pages belong to the Office Bearers of the University of Sydney Students' Representative Council.

They are not altered in any way by the editors of *Honi Soit*.

## International Student Fees: A Cheaper Way to Pay?



There are lots of advertisements showing cheaper ways to pay your international student fees. Some will even do smaller transactions with a refund on the exchange rate, for bills like mobile phone or internet, rental payments, or even your SSAF. Unfortunately, they are ALL scams. ALL OF THEM.

They will do the smaller transactions for you without a problem to build your confidence in them, to encourage you to pay your fees to them. They will even issue you a fake receipt, so you won't know that you have been scammed until you are at risk of being unenrolled from uni. Don't risk it. Pay your fees to the University through the official channels.

For more information about these scams click here: [scamwatch.gov.au](http://scamwatch.gov.au)

**Unfortunately, they are ALL scams. ALL OF THEM.**

## Ask Abe

SRC Caseworker Help Q&A

### Sexual Health



Dear Abe,

I am embarrassed to say that I am still a virgin, and I don't know much about sex or sexual health. My boyfriend has been very patient, but I think I will need to have sex with him soon or he will leave me. I feel scared and I don't know what to do. Please help me.

Embarrassed

Dear Embarrassed,

I am sorry to hear that you feel embarrassed about being a virgin. Media and friends can put ridiculous pressure on us to conform to standards we don't all subscribe to. You should have as much consensual, safe, and fun sex as you like. If that means none, then that is what you should

do. If your boyfriend does not like that, you do not have to be in a relationship with him. Also consider that not all relationships have to be monogamous, and this might be something you could discuss with him. The Health Direct website ([healthdirect.gov.au/safe-sex](http://healthdirect.gov.au/safe-sex)) has information on sexual health and safe sex, and there is specific information for international students through the NSW Health website ([internationalstudents.health.nsw.gov.au](http://internationalstudents.health.nsw.gov.au)). You can also get free telephone advice on 1800 451 624. This year Sydney is host to World Pride, a celebration of diverse genders and sexual orientations. There are lots of community events that might have information and support for you.

Abe

## Ask Abe

SRC Caseworker Help Q&A

### Centrelink Independence



Dear Abe,

I've applied for Centrelink Youth Allowance, but they said I can't have it because my parents earn too much money. My parents don't give me any money, so I think I should be able to get the payment. What should I do?

Independent

Dear Independent,

Unfortunately, Centrelink don't care about your actual circumstances. They will only consider you independent if you:

- are 22 years or older
- have special circumstances (e.g., you're an orphan, or parents are in prison)

- have worked an average of 30 hours a week
- are married, or in a marriage-like relationship

You might be eligible for a Low Income Health Care Card that won't give you an income, but may help with any health costs you have. Talk to the Uni's Financial Support Services to see what they can offer you. For more details about Centrelink go to the SRC's Caseworker Help page: [bit.ly/3XV5b5n](http://bit.ly/3XV5b5n)

Thanks,  
Abe

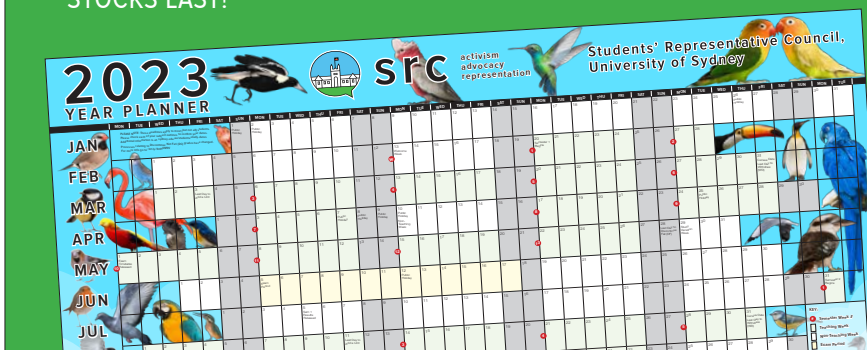
If you need help from an SRC Caseworker start an enquiry on our Caseworker Contact Form: [bit.ly/3YxvDUf](http://bit.ly/3YxvDUf)



## NEARLY ALL GONE

### DON'T MISS OUT ON OUR 2023 WALL PLANNER

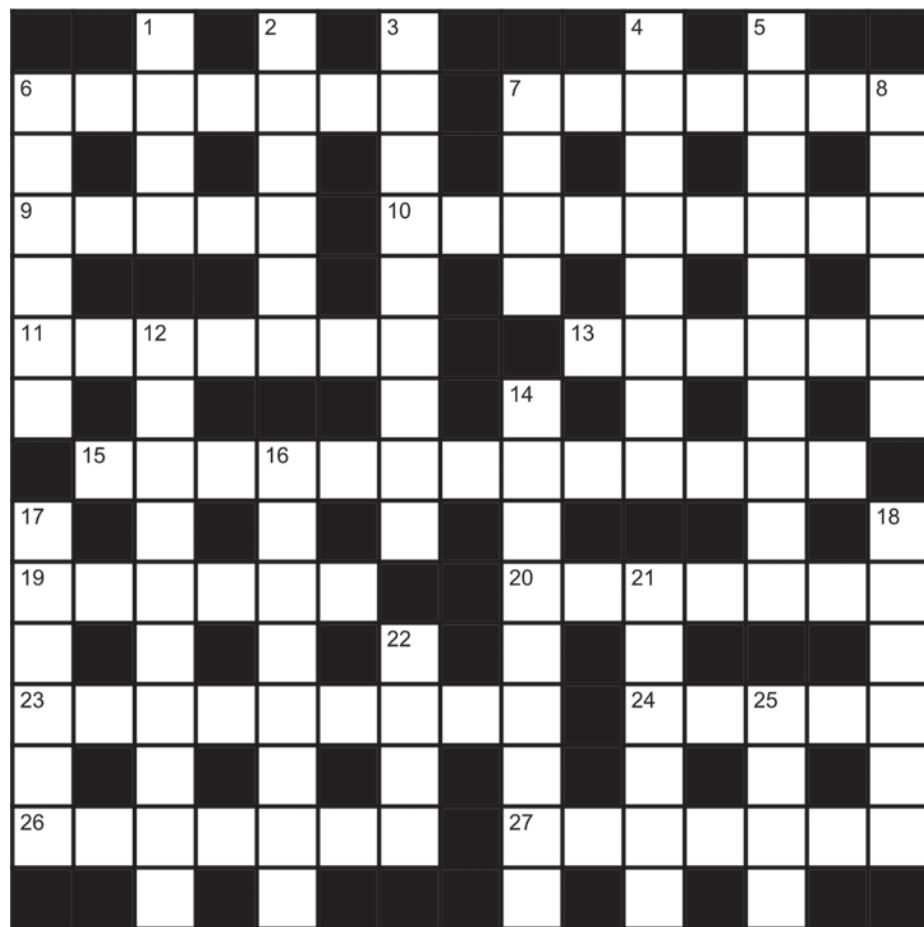
Our much-loved annual wall planner is an A1 poster folded to A4, and has all the important USyd dates and deadlines. You can get your FREE copy at USyd libraries, or from the SRC office ONLY WHILE STOCKS LAST!



Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney

[srcusyd.net.au](http://srcusyd.net.au) [usydsrc](https://www.facebook.com/usydsrc) [src\\_usyd](https://www.instagram.com/src_usyd) [src\\_sydneyuni](https://www.tiktok.com/@src_sydneyuni)





Quick Crossword

Across

- 6. Largest species of ape (7)
- 7. 1980s synth-pop duo known for 'A Little Respect' (7)
- 9. Not left (5)
- 10. Describing a tree that sheds its leaves (9)
- 11. Deadly poison (7)
- 13. Wild dog of the Wild West (6)
- 15. 24 Across composer, "Joseph Green" (8,5)
- 19. On fire (6)
- 20. Exclamation heard in fencing (2,5)
- 23. Sydney city locale centring on Dixon St (9)
- 24. La Traviata, Aida or Rigoletto, say (5)
- 26. Bloodsucking worms (7)
- 27. Bewitch, beguile (7)

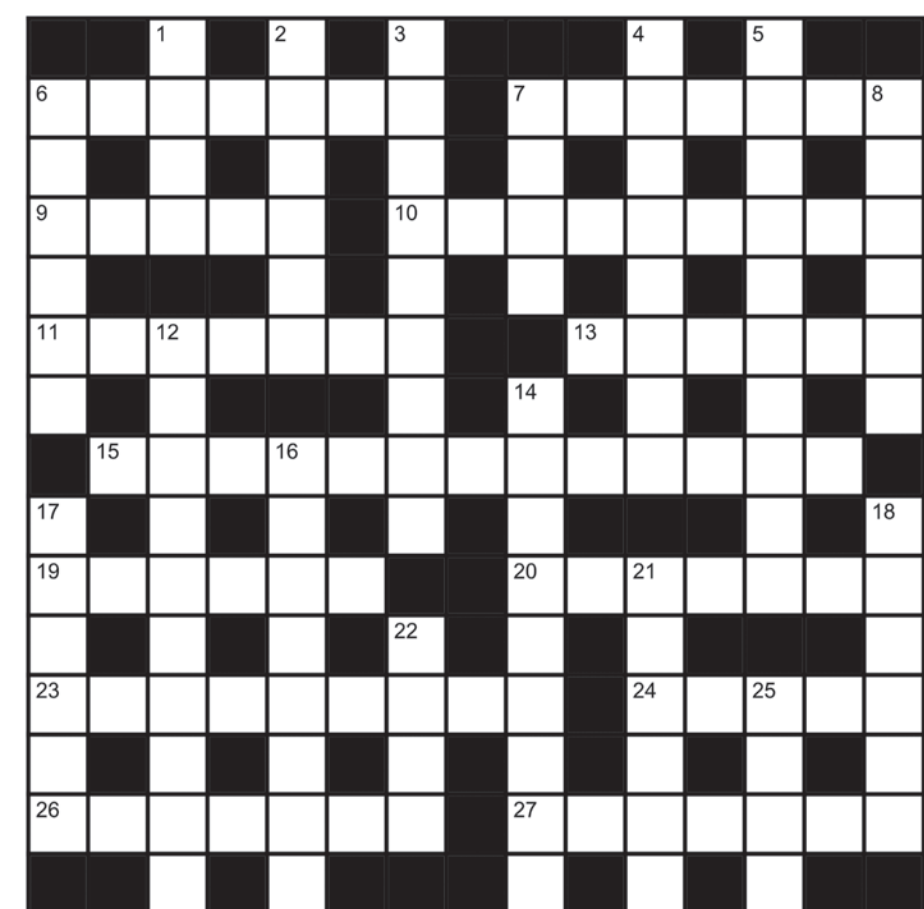
Down

- 1. RuPaul's ... Race (4)
- 2. Don't eat this if you have coeliac disease (6)
- 3. Not portrait (9)
- 4. The Lion, the Witch and the ... (8)
- 5. Broken, in disuse (3,2,5)
- 6. Deutsch (6)
- 7. Engrave (4)
- 8. Major Christian holiday (6)
- 12. Paintings of fruit (5,5)
- 14. Body of water in between Greece and Turkey (6,3)
- 16. Feeling another's pain; common understanding (8)
- 17. Proust, or the shell with shoes on (6)
- 18. Leave (6)
- 21. Oscar the ... (6)
- 22. Cattle (4)
- 25. Red-waxed Dutch cheese (4)

Quiz

- 1. What word refers both to a type of long-grained rice and to a strong-scented, white-flowered climbing shrub?
- 2. Who is the Roman goddess of the dawn?
- 3. What is the name of the airy spirit who attends Prospero in Shakespeare's The Tempest?
- 4. What German name is given to the leafy green Campanula rapunculcus, also known as rampion?
- 5. What first name is shared by journalist Wintour, actor Kendrick, and dancer Pavlova?
- 6. What connects the answers to the five previous questions?

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



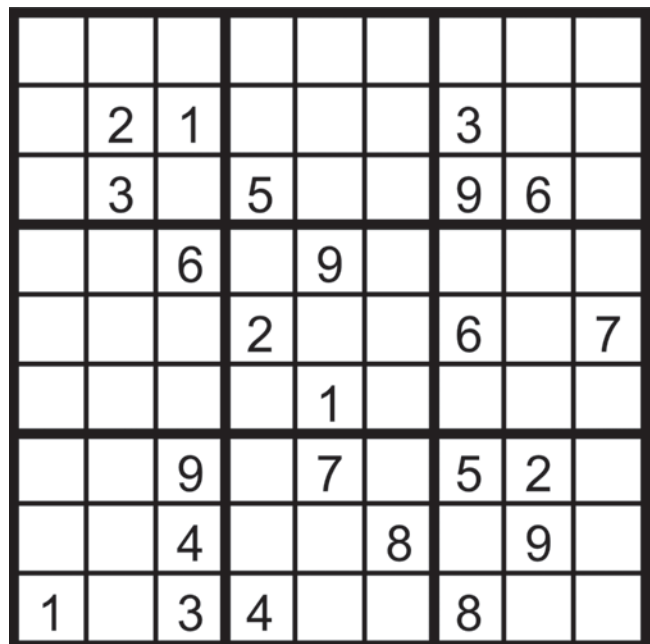
Cryptic Crossword

Across

- 6. Comedic Greek characters follow Aristophanes's principle in original Grease (7)
- 7. Receive debts - a lot (7)
- 9. Vegetable married in south-east (5)
- 10. South American country fan? (6,3)
- 11. Fruit for Princess Jasmine, say (7)
- 13. Drunken holidaymaker loses Harley of Japanese official (6)
- 15. Dove into classic horror movie: "Dead... Gone... RIP" (7,6)
- 19. Way to trash a venue (6)
- 20. Look across at the last newspaper (7)
- 23. Coles arse about with dinner (9)
- 24. Bite, love, dance (5)
- 26. This will sound like a Scottish bloomer (7)
- 27. The reason he lost sedition case (7)

Down

- 1. Melody of Nutcracker Suite finale (4)
- 2. Theatre maniac uses E for a bender (6)
- 3. Spooner to ask consumer for kitchen implement (9)
- 4. Union leader has leverage to bring about revolution (8)
- 5. Do a burn-out in road junction (10)
- 6. Bum is the first to help (6)
- 7. Persuade (with weapon) (4)
- 8. The Brady Bunch? It's worse with original music (6)
- 12. Captain's savvy to authority (10)
- 14. Food bath, reportedly get one (9)
- 16. Little ball allowed in route (8)



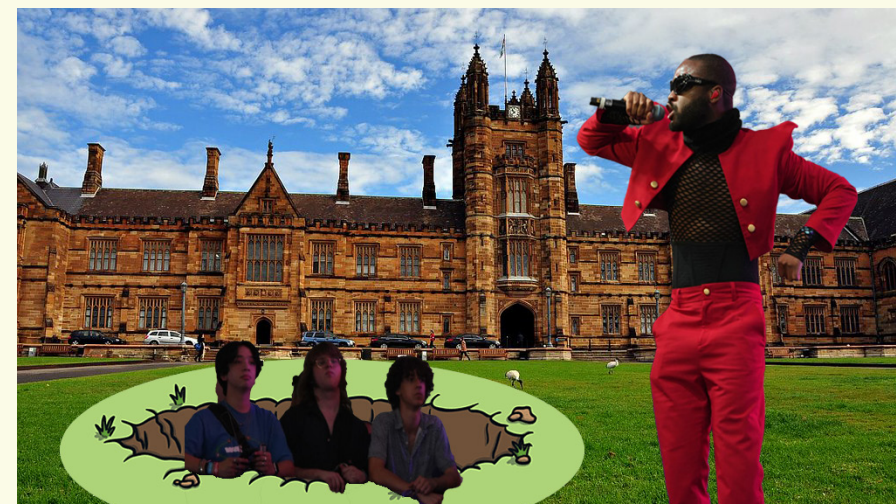
Sudoku

National

Sport

Lifestyle

Fascist Propaganda

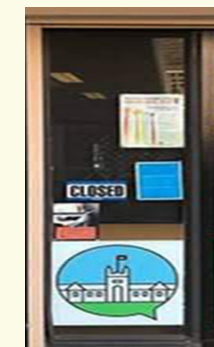


Quad lawns collapse during Genesis Owusu Welcome Week set

TRACK YOUR NUMBER TWOS: Surveillance Capitalism Goes Too Far



People have long been obsessed with measuring their lives, but this has finally gone too far. Poop Map - Pin and Track offers users a way to log their bathroom visits as a sticker on a map alongside the date and time, location, description, your blood type, a mandatory rating, your Fisher borrowing number as well as a picture if you feel so inclined. Midway through writing this article, we discovered an Honi editor was pooping globally. As in, any user of the app anywhere in the world could see where he went to the bathroom. Surely, identifying your home address through the frequency of the poops is a step too far for surveillance capitalism?



March SRC Meeting to begin at six am to ensure a finish before midnight



Next Honi editor to be decided by Hunger Games style competition at Courtyard



"I give a little back because I'm an ally": Straight man's night out at Universal



Discover an institution of diverse cultures.

Mold Spore  
Holme building resident

The respiratory infections you acquire here.





# STUDENTS + STAFF UNITED

## SAY NO TO:

- Austerity
- Staff and Course Cuts
- A Real Wage Cut



## SAY YES TO:

- Supporting your teachers on strike on 09/03
- Joining the Picket Lines
- Fighting for Quality Education



**ON STRIKE!**  
**THURS 9 MARCH 7AM-1PM**