

FEAR WINS

Have You Noticed...

- THAT First Nations sovereignty remains unceded.
- THAT this “No” result will only embolden racism.
- THAT colonisation actually has had ongoing impacts.
- THAT Australia is an ongoing settler-colonial project.
- THAT the Left must fight for First Nations justice.



Australia votes “No”



to historic proposal.

This country needs to face its collective apathy towards First Nations issues.

Australia has voted No to the Voice to Parliament. Overwhelmingly. In all states, and in the Northern Territory, the majority voted against a constitutionally-enshrined advisory body representing First Nations people in parliament. Apart from the specific proposal it presents, the referendum asked Australians a moral question: “how seriously do you take your obligations as settlers on this land? How seriously do you take First Nations people and their wishes?”

It asked Australians — settlers living in a country built upon the dispossession of First Nations land — what is Australia? In voting to reject the Voice, Australians have shown that they plainly do not know. They have shown that they do not take the history of this country seriously. They have shown that they are blind to the colonial violence which underpins this country and, further, ignorant to the

suffering of First Nations people.

Fifteen years after Rudd’s Apology to the Stolen Generations, thirty-one years after Mabo, and more than two hundred years after colonisation began, Australians have once again proven that they do not take the struggle of First Nations peoples seriously. They have once again said that which they have always said to First Nations people: “you are not welcome here.”

It is not enough to say that this is merely an Australia which has been misled. Much of the discourse around the referendum result will rightfully focus on the culture war deliberately stoked by the No campaign. However, the reality is that this country needs to face its collective apathy toward First Nations issues — an apathy which defaults to racism.

The truths of genocide and dispossession are never confronted or acknowledged in this conceptualisation — to do so would be for the nation to reckon with the brutality of our history, to invite uncomfotability in examining how they benefit as settlers. Instead, settlers opt for the cruellest form of laziness.

an Honi Soit editorial,
continue reading on Page 4.

Acknowledgement of Country



Honi Soit publishes on the land of the Gadigal people 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 knowledges 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 systems and mechanisms of colonisation.

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

As an editorial team of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage, we are both victims and beneficiaries of colonisation. We are



committed to unlearning our colonial premonitions and working to hold current institutions accountable.

We are galvanised by our commitment to Indigenous justice.

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Editorial

This has been a bad week. An overwhelming majority of Australians have voted to deny First Nations people an advisory body in the Constitution; to retain parliament’s power to make laws about First Nations people without giving them a say. Israel is bombing, and cutting food and water from, civilians in Gaza. Invasion is seemingly imminent.

Honi editorials, at this time of the year, are often about the trials and tribulations of editing the paper. That feels inappropriate. They sometimes offer optimism — or defiance — in the face of a world hostile to young people. That feels difficult.

As hard as it may be, though, I think it is important for young people to stay engaged, to keep on pushing for a better world. Because the tragedy of the Voice defeat is not defeat itself, but because First Nations people will continue to be imprisoned at the highest rates in the world, go without adequate education, and die young. Because Israel disregards civilian lives with Australia’s support. And because these facts are not evidence that Australia has changed, but because it has not changed at all.

This edition attempts to grapple with those issues and many others. Our editorial on the Voice referendum can be found on page 4 with coverage of pro-Palestinian protest on page 6. I hope that *Honi* this week can keep students engaged; I hope that it can provide a different perspective in the context of a total failure of the media to inform and moderate debate.

The feature (page 11) grapples with the state of anti-protest law in Australia and beyond. Unfortunately, it could not have been published at a better time, with the government’s hostility to peaceful protest on full display earlier this week.

Also in this edition, Simar Batra (page 15) and Harrison Brennan (page 8) discuss the housing crisis which continues apace. Maeve Hopper (page 12), Angus McGregor and Jayden Nguyen (page 7) keep an eye on life at the university. James Wiley (page 19) tries to single-handedly keep Arts Revue alive.

I hope you enjoy!

Luke Cass

Reading the Jacaranda Leaves

Why so shy?

Switch girlie and nominee for Woco Convenor Eliza Crossley played it coy when speaking to Guardian reporters at polling booths this weekend. She gave only her first name, alongside others who offered their surname as well. It seems she doesn’t want to be caught doing anything too radical, as she held back from disrupting the Higher Education Summit over midsem.



A note on the front cover

The result of Saturday’s referendum has once again highlighted Australia’s suffocatingly stagnant political environment. It is one which refuses to accept change and champions the status quo. In this spirit, our cover for the Week 11 edition is pulled directly from the archives. By reviving our 1960s masthead, graphic elements from the 70s and 80s, and the “Have you noticed...” panel from our very first edition in 1929, we aim to remind Australians of exactly what they stand for — not for

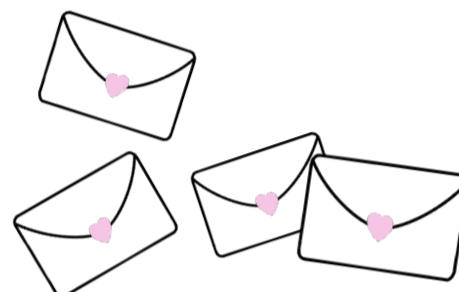
progress or improvement, but for a maintenance of the intransigent attitudes which underpin First Nations disadvantage and permit the insidious growth of racism. We hope you enjoy it, dear readers — you certainly voted for it.



dear *honi* wankers

you think you are so cool breaking into international house but you are not cool you are losers you just write poopoo articles about lame stuf

Drake



Dear editors of *Honi Soit*,

Please tell us who broke into International House, they deserve all the praise in the world.

Kind regards,

A trespassing enjoyer



Disagree with something that we say? Want to argue? Waiting to profess your love? Send us a letter to editors@honisoit.com

Whorescopes

Oh baby, the way you feel me is so immaculate — can’t wait to take your pants off the moment we enter my room. Keep playing with yourself, because time and orgasms wait for no one.

Aries: You will be in a melting pot of consecutive sex in one night with an oh-so-sexy air sign and the boundaries of pleasure will be tested to no extent. Remember to sip some water and slop more lube mid-action!

Taurus: Did you think that your new Honey Birdette haul went unnoticed in bed? They will be photographing you against the mirror in those new lacy suspenders and invent some boudoir poses one only dreams off. Let me strip off those panties because the honey under that birdette is so, so sweet.

Gemini: Enough of Gemini slander, reclaim that cuntiness and venture into a night of mischief at your local kink club. You will be kissing throuples endlessly and venturing into some degradation kink (with consent) so get your charisma popping!

Cancer: What if we made out in the pool with the entire world watching? You will reclaim your water aura and explore tongue action never felt before with the best chemistry ever. Hold your horses tight and your swimsuits tighter because they will be slipping into a puddle of water soon.

Leo: Nothing like a sultry movie night of watching a horror movie with your crush. There will be hot vampires on screen but your red stained lips will be the only thing they would want to nibble on.

Virgo: There’s no shame in wanting to eat that booty out with great communication. You will see heaven with that certain hotshot on your face but nothing can get you closer to each other than some nasty ass action.



Horny Soit slips a finger in.

Libra: Come here my sweet prince, let me tie you up. You will be the one typing your partner up and tickling them in a way that makes your leg quiver and emanate deep, dirty moans loud enough to wake the town up.

Scorpio: My favourite drug is your cum in my mouth. You will be coming out from your slumber of mediocre sex and unleashing your capacity to squirt like never before. Keep some towels next to you because wow so many surprises to unfold.

Sagittarius: Take some break from your hoe phase with an HIV test and that \$7 riesling in bed. There’s hotness in unwinding reconsidering what your desires are how you can honour them better.

Capricorn: The Chainsmokers wrote a song on being in the backseat of your Rover, and I want to write ballads about doing you in the driver’s seat. Life will be on the go but you will find spicy moments on the road, so get on your knees and make use of that travel time (please don’t get into an accident)!

Aquarius: Classic denial of feelings, am I right? Run across the hill for them and pick them up in your arms because every whore deserves to feel some affection wholeheartedly.

Pisces: Caught you daydreaming about some anal! You could change the dreaming into reality by communicating with your partner and slowing yourself into it (with heaps of lube and saliva).

Art by Horny Soit

The Gig Guide

Tuesday 17th October

Cardigan Blue // Lazybones Lounge // 7pm

Wednesday 18th October

Mister Ott // Lazybones Lounge // 7pm

Thursday 19th October

Caity Baser // Mary’s Underground // 6pm

The Yearlings // Lazybones Lounge // 7pm

Heartstoppers // The Vanguard // 7pm

Sonic Reducer // Servo Food Truck Bar // 7pm

almost monday // The Underground UTS // 8pm

Kanho Yakushiji // Manning Bar // 8pm

Friday 20th October

Drift // Kelly’s on King // 7pm

Built to Spill // Manning Bar // 8pm

Osaka Punch // Crowbar // 8pm

Good Pash // The Lady Hampshire // 8pm

almost monday // Powerhouse Museum Ultimo // 6pm

Saturday 21st October

Blackened Rose // The Vanguard // 7pm

Muscle Mary // Botany View Hotel // 8pm

Dekelyn // The Lady Hampshire // 8pm

Someday Soon // Manning Bar // 3pm

Sunday 22nd October

Sloan Peterson & Bonne Grace Vargas // The Vanguard // 7pm

Horns Plus Big Band // Lazybones Lounge // 5pm

Kosheen // Oxford Art Factory // 5.30pm

Tuesday 24th October

Bright Eyes // Enmore Theatre // 7pm

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Fear wins.

Australia has voted No to the Voice to Parliament. Overwhelmingly. In all states, and in the Northern Territory, the majority voted against a constitutionally-enshrined advisory body representing First Nations people in parliament. Apart from the specific proposal it presents, the referendum asked Australians a moral question: “how seriously do you take your obligations as settlers on this land? How seriously do you take First Nations people and their wishes?”

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It asked Australians — settlers living in a country built upon the dispossession of First Nations land — what is Australia? In voting to reject the Voice, Australians have shown that they plainly do not know. They have shown that they do not take the history of this country seriously. They have shown that they are blind to the colonial violence which underpins this country and, further, ignorant to the ongoing suffering of First Nations people.

Fifteen years after Rudd’s Apology to the Stolen Generations, thirty-one years after Mabo, and more than two hundred years after colonisation began, Australians have once again proven that they do not take the struggle of First Nations peoples seriously. They have once again said that which they have always said to First Nations people: “you are not welcome here.”

It is not enough to say that this is merely an Australia which has been misled. Much of the discourse around the referendum result will rightfully focus on the culture war deliberately stoked by the No campaign. However, the reality is that this country needs to face its collective apathy toward First Nations issues — an apathy which defaults to racism.

“If you don’t know, vote No” tells Australians that it is OK not to care about First Nations people.

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— to do so would be for the nation to reckon with the brutality of our history, to invite uncomfotability in examining how they benefit as settlers. Instead, settlers opt for the cruellest form of laziness.

This much is clear in the arguments of the No campaign. “If you don’t know, vote No” tells Australia that it is okay not to care about First Nations people. The claim that the Voice is “risky”, “legally flawed”, or that there is “not enough detail” have been so

at Cronulla Station, solutions which force spit hoods over the heads of black kids. This lies at the very foundation of who is included in the collective imagining of Australian nationhood.

We are a nation who voted No. This process delivered nothing for First Nations people.

We are a nation who voted No. This process delivered nothing for First Nations people. This referendum is another chip in the mosaiced facade that tells us we can achieve change through the establishment.

purported “balance” between First Nations people who support a Yes vote and those who did not support the referendum — 80% of First Nations people supported the Voice.

Objectivity has long been upheld as the gold standard of journalism, but it is easily invoked to privilege the status quo and naturalise the views of those in power. The Australian media landscape has abandoned truth in favour of appearing well-balanced, while established power structures continue to oppress First Nations people and all those who fall outside the white, male, cisgendered norm. Our national broadcaster should be accountable for legitimising the platform of a university student who is unrepresentative of her peer’s views, with no qualifications, in a misguided attempt at “balance”.

With the proliferation of divisive rhetoric from the No campaign, our democracy will be tested as Dutton and his ilk continue to incite culture wars as political strategy. With challenges to the validity of the electoral process, and a relitigation of the history wars, the Voice debate saw American-style polarisation. For Dutton and the Liberals, the Voice is only the beginning.

The Voice to Parliament offered Australia a chance to recognise First Nations people, and a step towards treaty and truth-telling. It was a modest proposal, to the point where many First Nations activists rejected it for not going far enough — and yet, it failed. All year, activists have debated whether any good can come from engaging with the parliamentary process in order to improve outcomes for First Nations people. The Voice referendum has shown that electoralism fails, especially when supercharged with the ignorance of the Australian public. With few avenues for protest remaining in an increasingly repressed society labouring under draconian anti-protest laws, activists and campaigners will need to take stock of their campaigns and invest their energy where it counts: with grassroots First Nations activists.

White Australia marched forward on Saturday. It barely had to try.

Honi Soit writes.

Support Lines:

13YARN - 13 92 76
Lifeline - 13 11 14



thoroughly debunked that they can only be described as excuses. The claim that “some Indigenous people oppose the Voice” is ignorant of the fact that a clear majority of Indigenous people do not. Another excuse.

Australia said: “I don’t want to vote Yes, because there is nothing in it for me.”

Talking heads will blame the failure of this simple proposal on the number of volunteers door knocking, the calls made, the pamphlets handed out. They will craft strategic reasons for why this referendum has been defeated, obfuscating the crux of the reason behind its failure: an indifference to the racism which lies at the heart of Australia.

Right-wing politicians, and proponents of White Australia more broadly, have always harnessed this underlying racism. It is racism that festers in the backyard heat, the cruel malaise of electing governments who run on platforms of turning back the boats, shirtless men spewing hate speech

The fate of USyd Politics and International Relations up in the air

Misbah Ansari

The University of Sydney has proposed the discontinuation of Bachelor of Arts/Advanced Studies (Politics and International Relations) stream, merging it with BA/BAS (International and Global Studies) stream in 2025.

Further, a new proposal is being planned for a Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics (BPPE). This is being offered in place for students who want to focus on a politics-centred learning. BA/BAS (PIR) will be discontinued with “major curriculum amendments” for BA/BAS (INGS) with the stream being renamed to BA/BAS (International Studies).

The change has been brought forward as “the BA/BAS (PIR) and BA/BAS (INGS) are cannibalising significant load from one another”. Also, “Sydney Future Students (SFS) have reported to the Faculty that prospective students are unclear on the distinctiveness of the two streams.”

SRC Education Officers Ishbel Dunsmore and Yasmine Johnson condemned the change, stating “these attacks, on top of the rumoured cuts to Arts and implemented cuts to Honours courses, represent everything wrong with the neoliberalisation of our university. In the wake of the JRG [Job-ready Graduates Package], and the Labor government’s failure to put an end to such legislation, student and staff conditions have been whittled to the bone.”

According to a University spokesperson, the Faculty is currently reviewing their courses as the change is “this proposal is not about cutting Honours courses, represent everything wrong with the neoliberalisation of our university. In the wake of the JRG [Job-ready Graduates Package], and the Labor government’s failure to put an end to such legislation, student and staff conditions have been whittled to the bone.”

The University also said that the “curriculum refresh” has been favourably accepted by different

faculty-based committees, and will go to the University Executive Strategic Course Portfolio Committee before a final decision is made in January 2024.

The proposed changes come in the wake of a raft of changes instigated under the “Future FASS” plan, which has seen courses and disciplines — most recently, discipline-specific Honours subjects — cut and student choice reduced.

Provost Annamarie Jagose, in her former role as Dean of FASS, described student choice as “poor pedagogical practice”.

The USyd branch of the NTEU was approached for comment.

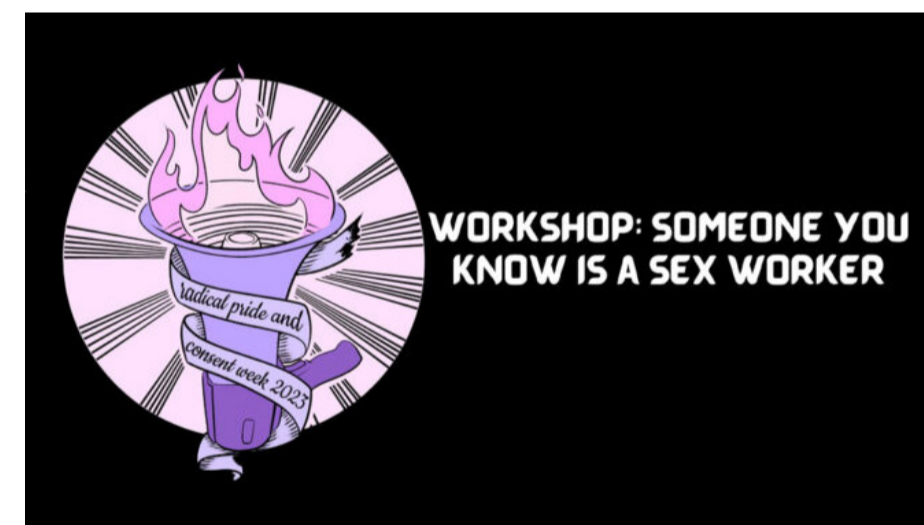
Radical Pride & Consent Week: Someone You Know is a Sex Worker

Simar Batra

The Queer Action Collective (QuAC) and Women Collective (WoCo) at the University of Sydney (USyd) hosted a workshop titled “Someone You Know is a Sex Worker” on Tuesday. This workshop sought to dismantle the prevailing misconception that sex work is inherently misogynistic. Led by Jessica Duffy of QuAC and Pride in Protest, along with Damien Nguyen, Queer Officer at the National Union of Students, this event shed light on the intricate dynamics surrounding sex work, emphasising the importance of a critical perspective.

Duffy delved into the claim that sex work is misogynistic, rooted in the assumption that it primarily serves men. She explained that this argument oversimplifies the complexities of the industry. Sex work is not inherently misogynistic; rather, it exists along a broad spectrum of experiences, with some individuals entering the field by choice and others out of economic necessity. It is crucial to recognise that sex work, like any occupation, can vary from neutral to empowering, depending on individual circumstances.

At its core, sex work is about establishing connections and providing companionship to clients, challenging the notion that it exclusively caters to men. This perspective highlights the diverse clientele and the emotional labour involved. Many individuals engage in



sex work because they genuinely enjoy the connections they form with clients. However, sex work cannot be divorced from the broader context of gender oppression and feminised labor.

The industry disproportionately employs marginalised individuals, including those with physical disabilities, contributing to precarity. Sex work predominantly falls under the category of feminised labor, exposing workers to exploitation and vulnerabilities. The gendered nature of the industry can lead to systemic devaluation and a lack of legal protections. This perception often objectifies and commodifies the bodies of sex workers, enabling clients and employers to exert control and power. Moreover, the stigma associated with sex work can hinder access to essential services and

legal recourse, further entrenching vulnerability. Challenging gender-based discrimination within the industry is essential, advocating for policies that protect the rights and dignity of sex workers.

Nguyen addressed the critical issues surrounding sex work, emphasising the need for a progressive perspective. Decriminalisation stands out as a crucial step in reducing industry precarity and misogyny. Advocating for fair legislation and unionisation empowers sex workers, offering safer working conditions and greater job security.

Precarity within the sex work industry persists, mainly due to criminalisation, which forces sex workers into the shadows and leaves them vulnerable to numerous risks. This vulnerability arises from a lack of legal protections, job security, and

recourse in cases of exploitation or abuse. As a result, sex workers often have limited access to healthcare, social services, and legal support, further entrenching their precarious circumstances. Gender-based discrimination compounds this issue which disproportionately affects women and exacerbates systemic biases.

The workshop highlighted the significance of unionisation and education in empowering sex workers. Although forming unions can be challenging, they provide collective bargaining power, ensuring workers’ voices are heard. Education dispels stereotypes and fosters understanding of the complexities involved in sex work.

Achieving social change is undoubtedly a formidable task. It requires persistent effort and open dialogue to transform attitudes and perceptions surrounding sex work. Allies must actively support sex workers in their pursuit of fair treatment, equal rights, and respect. By decriminalising the industry, advocating for fair legislation, unionising, and promoting social change, a more equitable future for all involved in sex work becomes possible. This progress takes us closer to a world where the rights and dignity of sex workers are both recognised and upheld.

Hundreds march in solidarity with Palestinians

Ethan Lyons and Jayden Nguyen

CW: Palestinian and other First Nations communities, as well as the Jewish community, are advised this piece discusses colonial and state violence and mentions antisemitic language.

Hundreds of people rallied in solidarity with the Palestine Action Group Sydney on Monday, marching from Sydney Town Hall to the Opera House. The action occurred just a day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared war against Hamas and began a complete siege of Gaza.

Palestinian activist Assala Sayara opened the Town Hall gathering with chants as numbers of protesters swelled, “Resistance is justified when Palestine is occupied! Free, free Palestine, free, free Gaza!”

USyd Indigenous Community Engagement Officer Jeremy Heathcote made clear the historical resonance and solidarity between First Nations Peoples and Palestinians. “You see, between us Aboriginal People, and what you [Palestinians] are going through are the same things: dispossession of our land, racist attacks on people, intergenerational trauma we are facing (...) it’s really important we support you as you supported us,” said Heathcote.

Sayara then contextualised Palestinian oppression and the cause for Monday’s action, “Seventy-five years of occupation. Seventy-five years of injustice. Seventy-five years of theft of land. Seventy-five years of demolition of homes. Seventy-five years of innocent lives taken in cold blood (...) In these two days until now, the death toll reached 436 innocent lives taken by the Israeli occupation.”

Organiser and activist Josh Lee criticised the state and federal governments for sympathising with Israel, calling the Opera House’s blue-and-white sails a disgusting, fallacious signal for the world to see. Lee condemned Netanyahu’s announced siege of Gaza as a forthcoming act of genocide, and the Australian government’s unwavering allegiance to Israel.

Jasmine Al Rawi (USyd SRC Global Solidarity Officer) criticised this political-alliance dynamic, stating “our government has always put their own bloody, imperialist interests before human rights. Australia has blood on their hands, the U.S. has blood on their hands, Israel has blood on their hands!”

Justification of Palestinian armed resistance was central to later speeches by Palestinian activist Ahmed Abadla and USyd academic Fahad Ali.

“What’s happening now has been happening for the past seventy-five years, but the world has just woken

up to such a reality because there is Israeli blood being spilled in Palestine now. This myth of ‘the army that can never be conquered’ has been crushed by the Palestinian resistance. This war is not just on Gaza, this war is against Palestinians everywhere in historic Palestine,” said Abadla.

Ali emphasised the necessity of violent resistance in the context of Israel’s settler-colonial occupation, stating “if [the Israeli government] will not end the occupation like we’ve been calling for decades, if they’re not going to listen to international law, if they’re not going to listen to the pleading of Palestinians every time we come to these protests, then they cannot act surprised when Palestinians fight back!”

Swarms moved towards Circular Quay chanting for the liberation of Gaza, and in ode to the sanctity of Islam, “Takbir! Allahu akbar!” Onlookers became distracted from their harbourside meals, and mass media news outlets featured reporters speaking into microphones amidst a mobilised crowd. At the Opera House forecourt, steps leading to the sails were guarded by rows of metal fences and organised police. Beside the illuminated sails, Palestinian activists and their allies occupied the forecourt for hours beyond schedule, where the protest turned into a flared celebration of Palestinian resistance. Despite heavy police presence, no arrests were made.

Conservative media outlets have already sensationalised yesterday’s protest as anti-semitic in nature, and of terroristic incitement. This perception has been perpetuated by the Australian federal government. Anthony Albanese spoke on 2GB, saying Palestinian activists ought to have cancelled the action, and needed to “take a step back”. This is in line with Defence Minister Richard Marles’ opinion, claiming Israel to be a liberal democracy which values human rights.

The Palestine Action Group has since released a statement addressing the estimated group of twenty whose anti-semitic chants have been mainstreamed. The Group condemns those who participated in the offensive chants, reiterating that the protest at large did not endorse anti-semitic behaviour. Resistance is directed towards Zionists, whose beliefs are completely separate from Jewish peoples’ which was stated thus:

The Palestine Action Group wrote, “Long-standing Palestinian organisers and activists, Palestinian, Arab and Muslim elders attending the protest were disgusted and deplored by the [separate, anti-semitic] action. This is not what our movement stands for. We oppose Zionism, an ideology distinct from Judaism. (...) We are an anti-racist and anti-colonial movement and we refuse to fight racism with racism.”

A CORPORATE RORT: THE FASS1000 SHAM

Angus McGregor and Jayden Nguyen hate FASS1000 and what it stands for.

FASS1000 IS A MICROCOSM OF AN INCREASINGLY CORPORATE UNIVERSITY THAT VALUES GENERALITY AND NEGLECTS SPECIALISATION.

FASS1000 was first implemented as a core subject for BA/BAS students in 2021, supposedly to teach fundamental skills of critical reading, research, and analysis while exposing students to a wide range of specialties that make up the humanities. Core units are nothing new and are required in most, if not every, major. However, rather than a useful grounding in the arts, FASS1000 is a microcosm of an increasingly corporate university that values generality and neglects specialisation. This is not to devalue the efforts of academics whose responsibilities are to facilitate this course. Instead, University management must be criticised for rorting students and academics of opportunities for specialised education.

The University claims FASS1000 reiterates how “the disciplines that make up the Arts and Social Sciences are fundamental to understanding our world.” While its intention appears innocuous, FASS1000 truly represents the corporate University’s growing interest in centralising Arts subjects in order to subsequently discontinue specialised courses en masse. This process of course-amalgamation since the “Future FASS Plan” in 2021 has been justified as a measure to reduce administrative demands, and guarantee consistent educational standards for all Arts students. Though, the pattern of successive course cuts proves more disastrous than beneficial. Recently, the Politics/International Relations stream has come under threat of amalgamation into the International Global Studies stream by 2025. Discipline-specific Arts Honours coursework units have also been proposed to be replaced by ‘interdisciplinary’ units. Such decisions occur in the shadow of USyd recording a \$298.5 million surplus in 2022, and a \$1.04 billion surplus in 2021, with staff and student trust in the University executive severely low.

In this context, Arts students forcibly undergo FASS1000 — a unit designed to justify their decision to study humanities; a self-validating exercise that students in Arts streams or other faculty dual-degrees are not forced to experience.

It’s no surprise that with a framing this condescending, most students who take FASS1000 become jaded very quickly. One first-year English and film student, when asked for a one-line summary of FASS100, said it was a “contrived attempt to teach already-enrolled arts students why Arts is important.” Another cut in, saying, “in short, a waste of time.” Being hammered with questions on the importance of Arts and others like, “what does it mean to be part of a university community?” mean students don’t take this course seriously and view it as a box they have to check.

Beyond the purpose of the course, the content itself is also vague. Students jump from learning about “narratives of belonging and exclusion” in Week 1 to “gender roles in society” in Week 4 and “art in social and cultural lives:” in Week 7. These are all important topics, but with one reading each — plus a very general lecture — students don’t learn enough to ground their conceptual understanding. The lectures are often pre-recorded so they can be reused every year, what the unit calls “asynchronous” lectures. Unlike most other courses, the topics and readings don’t build on one another, making it hard for students to consolidate ideas or make connections between topics. Sometimes the exposure to disciplines students may not have seen in high school — like criminology or linguistics — is engaging, however this is just the exception that proves the rule. Even when the lecture is interesting, the guest lecturers brought in are often overburdened, forced to add FASS1000 to their existing course load.

When asked what students took away from the course content-wise, some pointed to one or two readings they found intriguing, others pointed to a decent class discussion, but there was no conceptual takeaway about the discipline. It’s ironic that a course designed to cast a wide net leaves most students grasping at details.

Perhaps the greatest failure of FASS1000 is when its stated intention, to teach students core skills applicable to all Arts disciplines, falls through the cracks. How to find, critically analyse, contextualise, and cite sources is essential for students to master in their first year and something many did not get taught in high school. Rather than being emphasised, these skills are interspersed throughout the course at seemingly random points. The act of reading is taught in Week 5 and critical reading is introduced in Week 6 — apparently students were only taught non-critical reading beforehand.

It’s important to point out that these skills are well taught in discipline specific core courses. Placed in a very concentrated timeframe, History majors are taught how to analyse primary sources extensively in “History

Workshop”, and English majors in “The Idea of the Classic” learn close reading skills through an incremental assignment structure. Skills require content to ground them — something FASS1000, by its very nature, cannot provide.

For academics, FASS1000 is often a teaching experience that does not tend to each tutor’s field of expertise, nor does it encourage a useful opportunity for Arts students to thoroughly interrogate majors beyond their own. The generalising, interdisciplinary designs of FASS1000 (and similarly FASS3999) represent a departure from specialised intellectual standards. While these courses are designed to appease the “Job Ready Graduates” program, and that neither FASS1000 nor FASS3999 are unequivocally hated by all students, it remains certain that course-amalgamation stands for corporatisation rather than for education’s sake. What is instead prioritised by the University’s executive is the superficiality of its 2023 QS world ranking, which belittles the significant issues of staff to student ratios, makes sustainability requirements easily obtainable, and preserves the elitism attached to academic and employer reputations and outcomes. Students must



Chandler-Mather defends Greens on HAFF at housing justice summit

Jordan Anderson

Action for Public Housing hosted a National Housing Justice summit at the Sydney Maritime Union of Australia branch last Sunday. It called for substantive reform to rectify the worsening state of the housing crisis, with each speaker presenting different strategies to work towards housing justice.

Adam Antonelli, a Public Policy Masters student at USyd, chaired the panel. Antonelli highlighted that the sell-off of public housing results in “key workers, including nurses and teachers, no longer living close to their workplace”.

Carolyn Ienna, a stalwart public housing activist — recently evicted from 82 Wentworth Park Road — made evident that First Nations communities are at the front lines of the public housing demolitions.

Paul Keating, Sydney branch Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia, acknowledged the response to these demolitions and the housing crisis, more broadly, asserting that “what we need to do is blockade, what we need to do is fight back”.

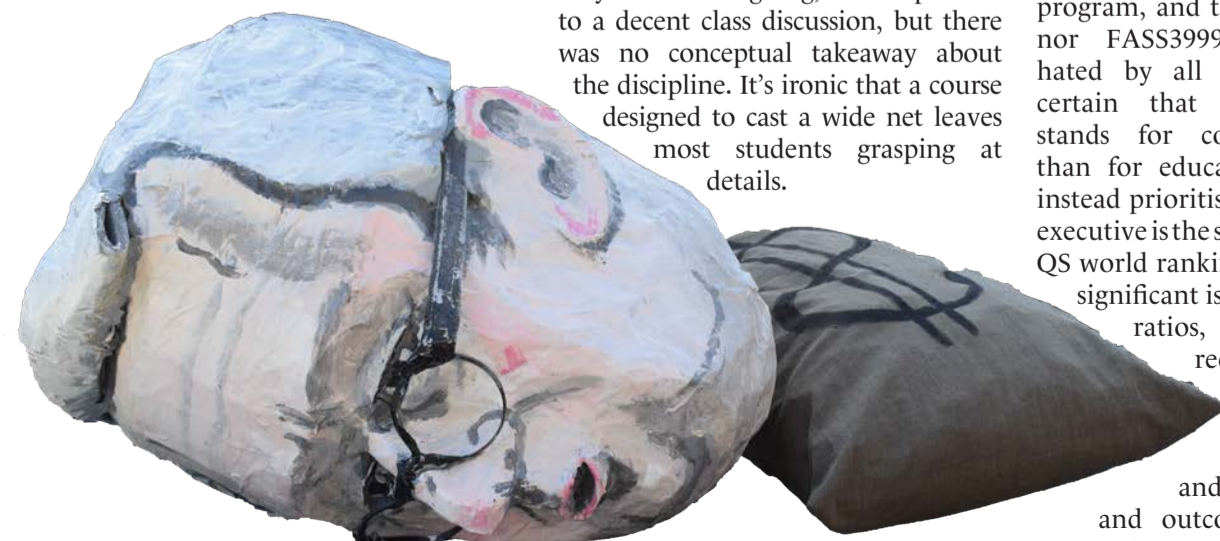
Ishbel Dunsmore, Sydney University SRC Education Officer, indicated that the crisis most affects the oppressed and young people. Dunsmore also condemned the Housing Australia future Fund (HAFF), questioning Greens MP Max Chandler-Mather, after the Greens facilitated its passing and sold-out renters. Finally, Dunsmore spruiked the Get a Room protest against private student accommodation suppliers on Friday 3 November.

The summit then took questions from the floor. Wendy Bacon, a journalist and activist, argued that the current slate of housing policies were engineered to preserve corporate profits, which it has done successfully.

Former University of Sydney SRC Education Officer, Deaglan Godwin, reiterated the importance of “getting out into the streets” to demand housing justice, rather than relying on convincing Labor. Zach Smith, Construction Forestry Mining Maritime Energy Union National Secretary, suggested political education as a roadmap out of the housing crisis.

Chandler-Mather was asked to justify the Green’s concession on the HAFF. He suggested that there has been a considerable increase in the support of a rent freeze, though, admitted that there exists an “emboldened movement angry that the Greens did not achieve

rent freezes”. Chandler-Mather maintained that parliamentary solutions must work in tandem with grassroots organising. In response, Dunsmore demanded a commitment from the Greens for legitimate housing justice policies.



staff teaching conditions and students’ education practically deteriorates while the University’s executive celebrate historical world rankings that ignore fundamental issues of exclusion and exploitation that have been repeatedly brought to public attention.

SKILLS REQUIRE CONTENT TO GROUND THEM — SOMETHING FASS1000, BY ITS VERY NATURE, CANNOT PROVIDE.

The Arts are valuable. The University should prove they know that — by valuing its academic staff, protecting student choice and investing in discipline-specific courses — rather than getting its students to recite it back to them.

Photography by Bipasha Chakraborty

Greens, The HAFF, and the Great Betrayal

When Labor introduced the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) in March, the Australian Greens took the principled stance of blocking the legislation and became the party for renters. As the conflict persisted, the Greens watered down their demands, weakened their opposition, and in September, discarded the goodwill of tenants nationwide by passing the HAFF. What was a feeling of palpable unity amongst one-third of the country morphed into profound disappointment. What happened, and what can we learn from this betrayal?

The HAFF

Australia is experiencing one of the worst housing crises in its history. Rents have risen between 10–30% in every state and territory and more than 640,000 households are experiencing housing stress or homelessness. Urban sprawl is accelerating and social housing waitlists have blown out, with more than 55,000 in the queue for a public home in NSW.

The federal Labor government, attributing this crisis to inadequate supply, introduced the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) in March. The bill proposed a \$10 billion investment fund where its earnings, capped at \$500 million, would fund social and affordable housing projects across Australia. The ALP argues the HAFF will see the creation of 20,000 social homes, and 10,000 affordable homes — specifically for frontline workers — over the next 5 years, starting in 2024-25. The ALP have touted the HAFF as the solution to the ongoing crisis, deeming it as not just “good social policy, but good economic policy”. But does the HAFF even resemble something close to a solution?

The Greens

The HAFF is a deeply flawed proposal. Chief among its faults is the method for funding these new homes. Unlike hospitals and schools, whose construction is directly funded by state and territory governments, the HAFF leaves the funding of shelter, a human right, to the mystical and unpredictable whims of the stock market. Max Chandler Mather, the Green’s MP and housing spokesperson, has repeatedly identified the Future Funds loss in 2022 of 1.2%, equivalent to \$120 million, acknowledging how the HAFF gambles the shelter of those most in need for shelter to volatile financial markets.

Further, the HAFF’s returns, if

any, would be invested into the construction of social and affordable homes. “Social” homes is an ambiguous term that refers to both public (government-owned) housing, and “community housing”, typically owned by third-party providers, such as charity groups like Mission Australia. The HAFF then allows both the state and federal governments defer the housing of vulnerable people to community housing providers, who can charge more than 25-30% of the household income public housing tenants pay, and are not required to follow the same stringent eviction rules.

The HAFF leaves the funding of shelter, a human right, to the mystical and unpredictable whims of the stock market.

The HAFF has been fittingly berated by the Greens for what it neglects to include; the HAFF, and the ALP’s housing policy more broadly, provides nothing for renters. There is no plan for rent controls, such as rent caps, no plan to expand access to or substantially increase rent assistance payments, and no plan to end no-grounds evictions nationwide. Further, the Albanese Government’s 2023-24 budget refuses to remove the significant tax breaks offered to landlords and property developers. Parliamentary budget office costings estimate that in 2023-24 the Federal Government will lose approximately \$40bn to tax concessions, namely negative gearing and capital gains discounts. These funds could be directly spent on the construction of more homes or rent relief provisions.

In blocking the HAFF, the Greens decided to fight for one third of the country. Finally, tenants, who had been consistently exploited under decades of neoliberal housing policy, were

having their rights platformed on a national level. The Australian Greens drew a clear line in the sand, they demanded; a two-year freeze on rent increases, a two per cent annual cap on rent hikes, and a \$5 billion annual spend on affordable housing.

The Green’s harnessed the frustration of tenants nationwide, launching an immense campaign for renters’ rights, initiating a nationwide door-knocking campaign in Labor-held electorates and a social media campaign explaining the HAFF and its failings. This pressure secured minor concessions from the ALP, namely, a \$2 billion one-off payment to the social housing accelerator fund, and an amendment to the HAFF which mandates a minimum spend of \$500 million a year. The Greens even forced a national cabinet meeting concerning renters’ rights, from which state and territory premiers expressed a non-binding commitment to standardise rental policy and conditions nationwide.

The Great Betrayal

On 11 September, the Greens agreed to pass the HAFF upon its reintroduction after securing an additional \$1 billion for social and affordable homes. The radical, yet reasonable, demands for a national rent freeze, rent caps, and a \$5 billion annual spend on affordable housing were watered-down and abandoned. In capitulating to Labor and passing the HAFF, the Greens threw away the goodwill of renters they had mobilised and ceded to the neoliberal logic that this housing crisis is an issue of supply, not structural inequality. Their submission brings into question the utility of the Greens as a protest party; what role does the Australian Greens play in holding the “balance of power”, if they are unwilling to exercise this power

completely? They often market themselves as the party holding the government to account, but in yielding twice this year — first to the Safeguard Mechanism and second to the HAFF — I fail to see how they are fulfilling this mandate. The Australian Greens should be making it inhospitable for Liberal or Labor governments to govern when they propose legislation that fails to resolve the economic inequality and harm facing one third of Australians.

Their submission to the HAFF and the Safeguard Mechanism reveals that the Greens are far more concerned with their optics and electoral prospects. The 2022 Federal Election has been hailed as a “greenside” by party leader Adam Bandt, achieving four seats in the lower house and level seats in the Senate. With Labor threatening a double dissolution projected to gain them seats, and touting disingenuous arguments that the Greens oppose emergency housing for survivors of domestic violence, I can only assume the Greens ceded in fear of being seen as an uncooperative party, forfeiting the reasonable demands they drew in blocking the HAFF to appear more palatable.

Ultimately, this betrayal is a reminder of the futility of political parties in fighting for structural change. It is a poignant reminder for student residents, renters, and public housing tenants that housing justice cannot come from the parties that perpetually seek re-election. Change on this scale can only be won from the streets, from a mobilised and militant force of tenants fighting for rent controls, legal protections, and a radical reworking of how Australia’s housing system operates. We have to fight for a system that does not prioritise the interests of the landlord or developer, but the people, who are all entitled to safe and affordable housing.

Harrison Brennan reflects on The Greens betrayal of renters.

2023 ALP National Conference: Reflections on Democracy and Unionism

Gerard Buttigieg wants more democracy in the ALP.

Australian Labor Party (ALP) Conferences used to mean something. They used to have a direct effect on the policies that leaders and politicians representing the labour movement took and implemented. Ideally, they were symbolic of the innately democratic nature of Australia’s largest worker’s party.

Motions passed at your local branch could theoretically become policy if passed through all the chains necessary for it to arrive on conference floor. Factions had a strong social purpose: the Labor Left remained staunch in their commitment to the ideals of socialism, feminism, industrial action, environmentalism, nationalisation and anti-privatisation, land rights, the further democratisation of the Party and the movement, and so on. It was a chance to challenge not only the status quo of the Party, but if Labor was in government, it was a chance to actually challenge the status quo in Australia.

Long gone are the days of Maoists and Leninists battling it out on the conference floor. Nowadays, ALP Conferences are pure theatre. All positions are decided on before the fact, via deals between factional heavies and politicians. There is no serious debate on most controversial issues, and votes are rarely taken further than by voice or by show of hands. The 2023 National Conference was no exception. While the grassroots sentiment of the Party has never been more characterised by disillusionment with the government’s policies, challenges mounted against these were more or less quashed.

The platform endorsed by the 2023 National Conference of the ALP should be a disappointment to any Labor loyalist who calls themselves a socialist. It reaffirmed the Party’s endorsement for a government which has been by-and-large supportive of US imperialism and its

military-industrial complex, supportive of landlords and property-owners, supportive of sustaining the neoliberal project, supportive of capitalism’s continued destruction of our environment, and so on. The Party has shown no remorse for students who have had to deal with HECS debts in the tens of thousands, which are indexed at over seven per cent.

Nowadays, ALP Conferences are pure theatre. There is no serious debate on most controversial issues, and votes are rarely taken further than by voice or by show of hands.

Key issues that initially inspired mass grassroots dissent from rank-and-file activists and unionists alike, such as AUKUS, Palestine and refugee-rights, remained unchallenged. AUKUS is particularly interesting. The PM apparently took to the stage for the last speech before a vote was called and pleaded with the audience to understand the electorally pragmatic position of the government. To understand that a decision such as AUKUS — one which will see nearly 400 billion dollars go towards acquiring and building eight war machines instead of housing our homeless, feeding our poor or assisting our most vulnerable — is just one that simply cannot be undone, we are told.

What is crucial to understand about this, is that it was the political class of Australia’s Labor Party that led this reactionary charge. In fact, the pattern seems to be that it is always the ALP’s political wing that opposes mass reform and genuine socialist policy within the Party.

All this is not to say that left-wing forces within the ALP, which champion ‘change-from-within’ as a useful tool to dismantle capitalist hegemony, have failed at their core strategy. The Labor Left have now basically won power on a national level, controlling a majority of delegates as well as having half the positions on the National Executive. The problem is the rank-and-file of the ALP simply aren’t as militant as some groups seem to think they are. In fact, what

consistently seems to be the case, is that any meaningful progressive agenda within the ALP is led by those in the union movement.

The ALP has enacted useful reforms since its election to the national stage last year — most importantly, ten days paid domestic and family violence leave for all workers in Australia,

abolishing the ABCC, fee-free TAFE, extended paid parental leave, multi-employer bargaining, commitments to end loopholes in the gig economy and for casuals, requirements for big employers to publish gender pay gaps, and so on. These are concrete, material changes for the working class in Australia. Furthermore, we cannot ignore the tremendous reform that is the commitment to implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full — and to Voice, Treaty and Truth. However, these issues — with the exception of the Uluru Statement — are all part of policies initiated by the trade union movement.

When people look at the failure of not just the Labor Party’s internal democracy, but of its socialist elements, a crucial element which is overlooked is the importance of strengthening unionism. This doesn’t mean handing over more delegates to the unions — of which they control 50% already. But calls to reduce union control on conference floor are completely misguided and should be disregarded outright. What is essential is reviving the militancy of the union movement.

The unions which consistently represent a committed, progressive agenda both within and outside of the ALP are those not only affiliated with the Left but which are, crucially, very internally democratic and grassroots-led: unions such as the Maritime Union of Australia, Australian Services Union, the Australian

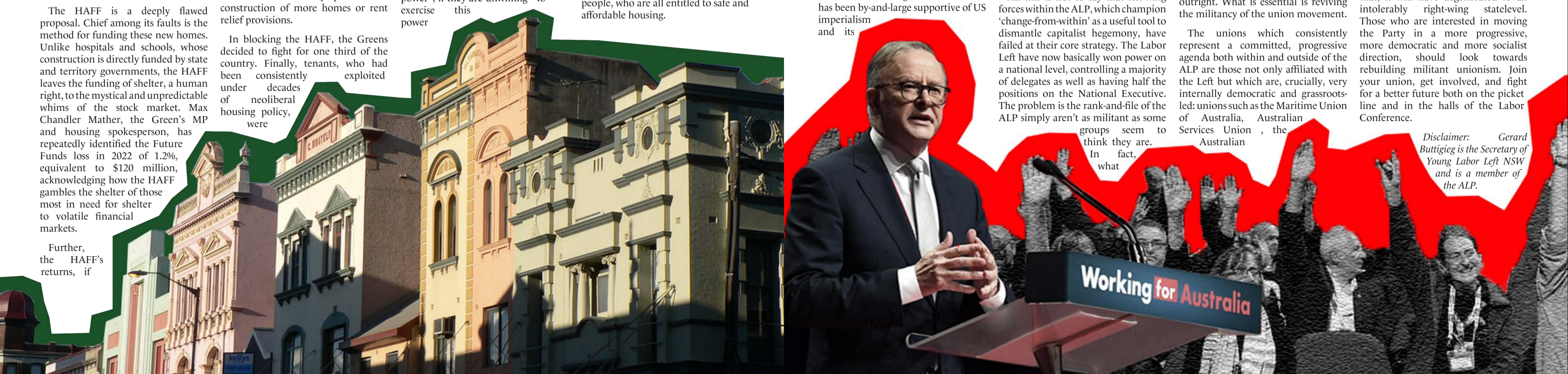
Manufacturing Workers’ Union, and the United Workers Union. These unions led opposition against Labor’s support for anti-protest laws in NSW, they led opposition to the continued enactment of the AUKUS submarine policy, and have consistently led the charge for industrial relations reform in Australia. They have also been at the forefront of social activism to support LGBTQIA+ rights, Indigenous justice and a just transition away from fossil fuels.

The most right-wing, of course, are those which are heavily top-down and politically obsessed with control of the ALP, such as the Australian Workers’ Union or the infamously pro-boss Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association. These unions maintain a tight control of factional politics and thus retain a disproportionately heavy influence over the policy positions that the ALP and — crucially — its political representatives take.

Albanese’s intervention on AUKUS tells us something very important. We must note that rank-and-file delegates to the 2023 National Conference still voted in favour of a pro-AUKUS policy position. At the end of the day, rank-and-file delegates will always be vulnerable to persuasion by politicians and factional interests. The only true force which can prove to be a militant opposition to the reactionary political class of the ALP, is a coalition of left-wing trade unions. The fight to reinvigorate the Party democracy of the ALP, is thus one which is deeply intertwined with that of the fight for a strong and militant trade union movement.

After all, the ALP was always meant to be the political wing of the union movement. As soon as it stops being that, it will have degenerated to an intolerably right-wing statelevel. Those who are interested in moving the Party in a more progressive, more democratic and more socialist direction, should look towards rebuilding militant unionism. Join your union, get involved, and fight for a better future both on the picket line and in the halls of the Labor Conference.

Disclaimer: Gerard Buttigieg is the Secretary of Young Labor Left NSW and is a member of the ALP.



Where do USyd students live?

New data suggests that the North Shore remains the most popular location for domestic students at the University of Sydney to live.

The data was collected in an internal report commissioned by the University. The report also shows a decline in the number of domestic students when compared to 2021.

Students who had the same permanent and term-time address — predominantly students who live at home — were concentrated in Sydney's Northern and North Western suburbs, with Mosman remaining the most popular. Interestingly, Kellyville has surged to second place, when compared to 2021.

In 2023, the most popular suburbs for domestic students who have the same permanent address as during term time (or live at home) are:

1. Mosman
2. Kellyville
3. Castle Hill
4. Epping
5. Strathfield
6. Wahroonga
7. Chatswood
8. Carlingford
9. Baulkham Hills
10. Marrickville

One of the most significant shifts over the past two years is the relocation of students from inner Sydney suburbs, to suburbs further away from campus — with high numbers living outside three kilometres of USyd. Burwood, Mascot, Wolli Creek, Rhodes and Rosebery are among the most common. The paper suggests that this group is mostly made up of renters. Some 17,500 students are estimated to be part of Sydney's private rental market. It also notes that increasing rents across the city is adding to cost of living pressures for

students.

"It can be concluded that it is increasingly difficult for a student wanting to live within a 3km radius of the Camperdown campus of Sydney to find a rental property for less than around \$389 per week — which is the weighted price per room. The more a student is willing to pay, the greater the number of properties available for rent," the paper said.

This follows the closure of University run student housing, including International House, and the planned sell-off of the Darlington terraces. These changes come amid a housing crisis across the state that has disproportionately impacted students and young people.

In contrast with domestic students, nearly half (47%) of all international students who are not already in student accommodation live within three kilometres of the Camperdown campus, followed by the Inner West, Inner South, and North Shore suburbs.

The top five suburbs favoured by USyd's international students in 2023 are Chippendale, Zetland, Ultimo, Burwood and Mascot. According to the report, this reflects strong links to public transport and higher density areas with high-rise developments in Ultimo, Zetland and Waterloo.

Another notable change since 2021 is a strong increase in students living in student housing. This has exceeded pre-COVID-19 records, as more are renting at university-owned or private purpose-built student accommodation (PBSA). The number of students living in student accommodation rose by 31% between 2021 and 2023 from 4,002 to 5,240 students. The largest increase was within the private PBSA sector with a staggering 46.7% increase in the number of USyd residents.

This is not without controversy as average rents in the private PBSA market have spiralled upwards, with the lowest median charges jumping from \$416 to \$519 in just two years

across the entire city. Some of the city's most expensive PBSAs now rival fees charged at USyd's residential colleges.

Despite the trend, USyd's residential colleges are in decline, with numbers plummeting by 6.9% to from 1,000 to 931 residents in 2023. This might reflect internal angst within USyd's elite colleges when St Paul's decided to admit women despite overwhelming opposition from its alumni who cited long-term financial considerations behind the move.

Khanh Tran looks into the stats.



TABLE 1.2 DATA BREAKDOWN (HIGHLIGHTS POTENTIAL STUDENT HOUSING RESIDENTS)

Characteristics	Number of Students (n) 2023	Number of Students (n) 2021	Number of Students (n) 2019	Percentage Change (2019-23)	Percentage Change (2019-21)	Percentage Change (2019-23)
Student Housing	5,240	4,002	5,164	1.5%	36.9%	-22.9%
Colleges	931	1,000	964	-6.9%	-4.9%	-77.2%
Other University Associated	1,953	1,306	2,270	-17.8%	39.9%	-41.2%
Private Off Campus	2,356	1,606	2,221	6.1%	46.7%	-27.7%
Not in Student Housing	45,469	52,562	46,198	-14.6%	-13.5%	13.8%
International Students	13,013	28,876	6,107	17.3%	13.1%	-43.5%
• Within 3 km	6,118	47.0%	3,831	7.0%	-13.9%	-68.8%
• Beyond 3 km	6,895	5,276	8,238	-16.3%	30.7%	-36.0%
Local Mature Students (over 25 years)	8,380	18,474	17,520	33.2%	8.9%	-19.4%
• Within 3 km	1,217	2,656	1,482	-18.4%	-61.4%	87.9%
• Beyond 3 km	7,171	15,818	7,489	-4.0%	-62.2%	101.0%
Local Students (Same Geospatial Address Under 25 years)	3,264	7.8%	3,042	8.8%	1.7%	3.0%
• Within 3 km	1,100	908	729	50.9%	11.6%	35.2%
• Beyond 3 km	2,164	2,007	1,918	126.2%	11.5%	102.1%
Local Students (Same Geospatial Address Under 25 years)	20,674	45.5%	22,912	43.6%	20,179	43.7%
• Within 3 km	1,158	1,359	1,073	7.7%	-14.7%	28.2%
• Beyond 3 km	19,516	21,554	19,105	2.2%	-8.5%	12.8%
Total	50,709	56,584	51,362	-10.3%	-10.4%	18.2%

Top five most expensive student housing providers in Sydney. Rents are provided on the basis of the lowest charge for a single occupancy room. Source: Location IQ and student accommodation providers' tariff rates.

Student Housing	Rents per week
Drew's	\$1,009
Paul's	\$900
Wesley	\$819
Scape Darling House	\$809
Scape Darlington	\$769

A PATCHWORK QUILT OF REPRESSION:

THE DISAPPEARING RIGHT TO PROTEST IN NSW



Luke Cass and Elliot Lawry call for the repeal of draconian anti-protest laws.

"I don't want to see protests on our streets at all, from anybody"
— Yasmin Catley, NSW Police Minister

Long before her arrest, Violet Coco knew that she'd be going to prison. The 33-year-old environmental activist was sitting at a friend's table, when the news broke that the NSW Government had passed draconian restrictions on the right to protest in the state.

"It was an intense day, that was the day that I knew I would go to prison because I knew that I wasn't going to stop without serious action."

Just four years ago, Coco had sold her successful events management business and committed her life to environmental action organising. While strongly associated with Extinction Rebellion, she also distributes her energy across many other groups. "I guess I'm sort of a bit of a freelancer. I just jump wherever the action is," she said.

She would go on to be the first person to be charged under the anti-protest legislation in April 2022, when she staged a climate action on

the Harbour Bridge and blocked the flow of traffic.

"Once I was arrested, they put me in the back of the divvy van and then held one of the others who was on the road with me just outside the divvy van for about five minutes under pain compliance," said Coco.

"I could see her being tortured and neither of us could do anything about it."

Coco spent the subsequent days in police custody where she says she was denied access to food and toilet paper, and threatened with sexual violence before being released into 24/7 house arrest.

"Eventually, I was able to get a bail change so I could get out, but even then I was largely confined to my home," she said.

"My apartment at the time was a one-bedroom house with no garden or anything, and I had non-association conditions with my community so I was incredibly isolated, I became very unwell, and so I changed my plea from not guilty to guilty and as soon as I did that they removed my bail conditions."

Following her guilty plea, Coco was sentenced to serve 15 months in

prison.

She would go on to have her sentence quashed on appeal after it was revealed that NSW police had provided false testimony that Coco had blocked an ambulance during her protest on the Harbour Bridge. This false narrative, constructed to villainise Coco, is reflective of the state's law enforcement's long and complicated history with protest movements.

"It was because of that lie that they were able to keep me under house arrest," she said.

Through a long smear campaign, Coco has become the poster child for civil disobedience. However, the activist believes that the attack is not personal, arguing that state forces are cracking down on the environmental movement at large.

"The fossil fuel industry has a strong hold over our government systems and they obviously do not want us to be trying to shut them down and so they have the political power at this stage," she said.

"We're in that struggle between people power and political power."

Josh Pallas, President of the New South Wales Council of Civil Liberties, describes the laws restricting protest in NSW as a "patch-work quilt."

In 2022, the Coalition government, with the support of the Labor Party, passed the Roads and Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The bill amended the Crimes Act, to allow activists like Coco to face fines up to \$22,000, sentenced to two years in prison, or both, if they trespass or block a "major facility" and cause damage, serious disruption, closure or redirection of people from the facility.

But the Bill is only one part of a "tranche" of legislation going back to 2016, Pallas said.

In 2016, Premier Mike Baird passed laws that increased the penalty tenfold for trespassing with intent to interfere with business to a \$5,500 fine. He also enabled anyone "interfering with a mine" to be imprisoned for seven years. In 2018, the Berejiklian government enabled police to prohibit people from "taking part in any gathering, meeting or assembly," on Crown land, which makes up 40% of all land in NSW, including Hyde Park and Bondi Beach.



The net effect of these laws, Pallas said, is that “it is actually becoming quite difficult to protest anywhere at all in NSW.” He noted that the new laws prohibit blocking or obstructing all of the train stations in the CBD.

“If you are protesting outside Town Hall, you are blocking entrances to Town Hall Station. Or at Martin Place, you are blocking Martin Place Station. In Hyde Park, you’re potentially blocking St James Station. Protesting in all of those places is now criminalised.”

Pallas said it is also illegal, due to the obscure Placemaking NSW regulations, introduced in 2020, to protest along large parts of the Sydney Harbour foreshore, including Circular Quay, Barangaroo and Darling Harbour.

“There are now very few places where you can now gather without falling foul of these regulations. There is perhaps some sort of residual space where people could engage in protest as a matter of legal technicality, but they are generally places that are difficult for people to gather in number or places where it is difficult to demonstrate to the government.

“That doesn’t stop activists from protesting and they will continue to protest and they should continue to protest run up against these laws. But it certainly makes it harder to engage in it lawfully.”

Coco shared the same sentiment, stating that the protest movement “might take an initial hit because of the fear of men with guns but hopefully, they see the value and importance to the movement and step up through that.”

The restrictions on protest are not a NSW-specific phenomenon. Since 2019, Labor governments have passed laws targeting environmental direct action in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. A Liberal government has passed them in Tasmania and environmental protest is being strictly punished in Western Australia.

The blatantly anti-democratic laws, Australia-wide, need to be repealed.

The fact that they even came to be is a dark reflection of Australia’s broken and decaying political culture. What, aside from repeal, needs to be done to protect the right to protest and support effective political activism?

For Jon Piccini, an Australian Catholic

University-based historian who has studied protest and human rights in Australia, the recent expansion of anti-protest laws is not a historical anomaly. Australia has long seen attempts to restrain political resistance.

“It goes back a long way,” Piccini said. “Australia was established as a penal colony, as a part of the invasion of the land, so certainly there have always been laws to limit people.”

“Protest laws are part of a bigger continuum of the use of legality and bureaucracy to enforce a centrist ideal.”

Pallas agrees. “I see more continuity than change ... The military mode of colonisation means we have a far more repressive criminal law than even the UK.”

Piccini tracked this repression through the 20th century.

“In Queensland, there were bans on protest, often using the Traffic Act.

“The Traffic Act was designed to ensure the free flowing of traffic on city streets, but often that was just used as a blanket way to ban protest. That happened in the 1940s, by the Labor Government, during a high point of industrial protest after World War Two.

“Again, in the 1960s, the Traffic Act was used to ensure that protesters, particularly protesting students from UQ [the University of Queensland] couldn’t interfere too much with the running of the city.”

Whether protest laws were used to stop industrial, student, or environmental activism — as occurred under the Bjelke-Peterson government in the late 1970s — Piccini noted that “there is always a connection between the laws and the context in which they are made.”

Often, he said, “the laws are used as part of the theatre of politics. Governments use a heavy hand on a small number of activists in order to show they are protecting the peace. They are used to convey a sense of strength.”

Indeed, the NSW government media release announcing the increased penalties for protesting boasted that they

would be “protecting communities from illegal protestors.”

Despite the Labor Party owing its existence to the protests of the union movement, Piccini notes that the Party’s current support for harsh anti-protest laws, be it in opposition or government, is not without precedent. “If you look at how the progressive wing of Australian politics has acted, it has often really crack[ed] down on the radical edge.”

This is because, Piccini continued, “the Labor Party is not a coherent whole.” In 2022, the state Labor Party passed the increased protest penalties despite Unions NSW describing them as “unacceptable”.

“Certainly, some progressives more to the centre move to protect their turf, and see any threat from the left as being something to which they will need to use administrative legal manoeuvres in order to contain,” Piccini said.

“Protest laws are part of a bigger continuum of the use of legality and bureaucracy to enforce a centrist ideal.”

A criminal law that represses civil liberties (such as protest) may be a feature of an invaded, colonised, penal colony. However, how is this consistent with the Australian state’s image as a modern democracy? It isn’t.

The primary justification for the laws is that protestors should not have the right to disrupt people and major economic activity. Pallas and the NSWCCCL contest this.

“All protest is disruptive. The right to protest is fundamental to a whole heap of fundamental rights: the freedom of thought and conscience, freedom of assembly and association and the fundamental right that we have to participate in our system of democracy,

“Protest is one of the few ways that individuals can directly engage with lawmakers collectively.”

In Coco’s case, NSW Police justified her prosecution and conviction with the lie that her protest blocked an ambulance. The Attorney-General in the South Australian Labor government, Kyam Maher, used the same far-fetched rhetoric about ambulances in justifying the state’s similar laws.

But as Pallas pointed out, the disruption caused by the protests which the laws seek to prevent is “usually proportionate to the harm caused by the actions they are

protesting against.”

“I find it really interesting when people talk about being disrupted by a couple of climate protesters,” Pallas said. “In Violet Coco’s case, one lane of the Harbour Bridge coming into the city was blocked. That’s one lane of a harbour bridge that’s usually blocked every morning by traffic.

“When there’s talk of disruption, it obscures the disruption that will occur [without the protests], the disruption of bushfires, the disruption of floods [and the climate crisis generally] is far more significant than the disruption caused by activists.

“There’s many different ways to affect social change. But there’s often nothing more visceral than people sort of taking to the streets and engaging in direct action.”

The decriminalisation of homosexuality, the eight-hour work week, and women’s suffrage, “were all brought about through protest and civil disobedience.”

As Blockade Australia, Fireproof Australia, Extinction Rebellion, and other activist groups point out, it is rather easy to stop the disruption of protests and (far more importantly) the climate crisis: by passing laws which stop the emission of greenhouse gases.

Due to the bi-partisan opposition to these arguments, activists have turned to legal remedies to invalidate the laws on the basis of their inconsistency with the system of democracy established by Australia’s settler-colonial and racially exclusionary Constitution.

In May, a constitutional challenge against the validity of the protest laws was brought before the Supreme Court of NSW by local environmental action group The Knitting Nannas. The Nannas are an “international disorganisation” made up largely of older women who stage “knit-ins” as their own brand of protest.

Two women from the flood and fire-impacted NSW mid-north coast, the Knitting Nannas’ Helen Kvilde and Dominique Jacobs, told the Court that their right to engage in protest was fundamental to advocating for their regional communities.

“If it rains, we get scared. If we see smoke, we get worried. One neighbour, a mum with three kids, is still living in a caravan from the fires. And our situation will only get worse,” said Kvilde.

Jacobs emphasised her fellow Nannas’ calls for urgent climate action, saying “we really need to be able to protest. It’s not illegal and they shouldn’t make it so. We need to be ramping up action to get things moving faster because we don’t have a lot of time left to make changes. That’s not going to happen at a system level without a big push from people in protests.”

During a climate protest in Port Botany in March 2022, Kvilde and Jacobs were both arrested for blocking roads.

In their dealings with the judicial system, they were introduced to the Environmental Defenders Office, a non-profit legal service that defended the duo after their arrest.

Protest laws show the police that the government wants them to crack down on protesters and that they will be supported if they do.

The EDO, now partnering with the Nannas in their challenge against the anti-protest laws, argued that the legislation is in direct conflict with the implied right to political communication found in the Australian Constitution.

“The explicit purpose of the law is to impose a burden on political communication, because it is perceived ... a particular form of protest ... should be prohibited and subject to severe penalties,” Stephen Free SC, representing the EDO, told the Court.

Indeed, Kvilde and Jacob’s arrest at Port Botany would look very different in the present day — on conviction, they received a conditional release order (CRO): a far lesser sentence than they’d likely be subject to now.

Speaking to Honi outside of the Supreme Court, Kvilde said that all citizens of NSW should be concerned about what the laws mean for our future.

“It’s a democratic right to be able to make a protest,” she said.

“I guess I feel that even if the laws don’t change, well, what can we do? The [climate] situation’s only gonna keep getting worse and worse.”

The outcome of the case will be unveiled in October. A High Court challenge against the laws could also be on the cards, given the complex issues of constitutional law involved.

It is clear that legal challenges alone

won’t drag us from this position. Indeed, even a repeal of the recently passed laws will not solve the problem alone.

When it comes to the state’s response to dissent, explicitly anti-protest laws don’t exist in a vacuum when it comes to the state’s response to dissent. As Pallas described, the protest laws function as a “patchwork quilt of repression”, with the most obvious part of that quilt being the police force. Although police in Australia have long treated protesters with barbarity, they are becoming an increasingly deployed tool of the government to crush protests.

As part of the Coalition government’s passing of the Roads and Crimes

Legislation Amendment Bill last year, it also oversaw the establishment of a Strike Force Guard to directly target environmental activists. This Strike Force can be seen “visiting” protestors in their homes before protests and staging violent and theatrical arrests.

Part of the reason police hostility to protest has ramped up of late is because the protest laws serve an “expressive function” as Pallas put it: they show the police that the government wants them to crack down on protesters and that they will be supported if they do.

Piccini commented that “although these laws are often on the books for a long time they are often deployed at particular moments”. Anti-protest laws are only as effective as the zeal of the police force implementing them.

Aside from intimidation, the police use other legal tools. One of these is the use of bail to restrict the freedom of environmental activists. Police attempted to impose bail conditions on student activist Cherish Kuelmann earlier this year, preventing her from entering the Sydney CBD. As a magistrate ultimately held in Kuelmann’s case, they had no legal basis to do this.

The other is the use of the Summary Offences Act — notably the Form 1 process — which police use to disperse protest and even arrest protest, for trivial offences.

This patchwork quilt of repression may be derived from parliament and its

enforcement to the police, but it owes its possibility to the voting public. A disappearing right to protest, ultimately, is caused by a political culture that is intolerant of dissent and disagreement.

“We’re expected to engage civilly all the time, on every issue. This push towards civility and decorum really squashes room for dissent, or protests. If we say that you can only disagree or dissent in certain ways, we end up with tacit acceptance for these types of anti protest laws,” Pallas said.

“We need to sort of regenerate norms around the way we have civil discussions in the public sphere and the way that we express dissent or disagreement.”

Piccini agreed, noting that protest movements themselves help generate a more active democratic culture. “It’s about the norms, but the laws. Protest movements facilitate a greater involvement — not just by the left but by the right — in politics, the sense that politics is not just for the parliament.”

Increased political engagement is not just important because it disallows politicians to so heavily crackdown on peaceful protest — polls show Australians strongly support a right to protest, for instance — but because it leads to policies which better meet the public good. The corollary of the public applying less pressure to politicians is that the pressure applied by corporate lobbyists is more impactful.

A disappearing right to protest, ultimately, is caused by a political culture that is intolerant of dissent and disagreement.

Pallas said, “at the moment there has been a coalescence around the influence of lobbyists and people with vested interests, and people with significant amounts of capital. And that is problematic for our governance because what is in the interests of lobbyists and money-making machines is not necessarily in the interests of the people the government is elected to represent.

“We know that’s the case when it comes to the protection of the fossil fuel industry and any industry that capitalises on the climate crisis, because the scientists are telling us that the planet is fast becoming uninhabitable.”

Violet Coco says that it is paramount that the Nannas return a victory for their efforts.

“There’s some really, really intelligent and powerful women and minds in front of that case, so I’ll definitely be watching closely,” she said.

“But it’s hard to have hope at the political will of this system of injustice to do the right thing, but I guess we gotta keep trying, and we gotta keep fighting for what’s right.”

It is clear when speaking with Coco that the activist’s experiences with law enforcement have not swayed her resolve, nor that of the environmental action movement.

“When I got sentenced to prison, we saw some of the largest solidarity amongst the movement,” she said.

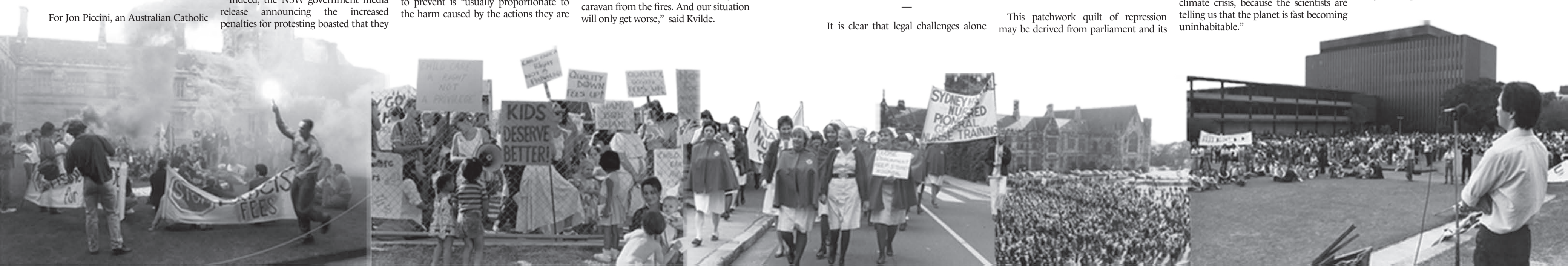
“And that was really powerful because they recognise that it’s not just about me, it’s about all of us.”

Speaking about the relevance of the laws to students, she said “throughout history, the most powerful movements to shake up social change have been the uni student movements, and so it is not surprising to me that the government and the police are making moves early to scare students into submission.

“But I also know that the fighting spirit of people who have engaged minds are gonna see through that and are gonna rally through that.”

As we have seen this week — as the NSW Labor government said it would try to prevent a pro-Palestine protest on the basis it hadn’t filled out paperwork in time, then backtracked with police announcing their plan to use extraordinary powers to search protesters without cause — a lack of protections for protest doesn’t just hurt environmental activists, or students, but anyone who may disagree with the government.

Rebuilding the conditions in which protest can thrive unencumbered by overzealous police and a state which is intolerant of dissent is a project in which we all must play a part — in repealing protest laws, protecting the right to protest and in creating a culture in which mass engagement with politics is a norm. None of that can occur if the assumption that disruptive protest is illegitimate protest remains untouched.



NSW Government issue ultimatum to international student group amid crisis

The NSW Government has issued an ultimatum and pulled funding from the Council of International Students Australia (CISA) for this year and 2022 due to frustrations over CISA's lagging progress on constitutional reforms and deteriorated relationship with member student unions.

In an email from Study NSW — an agency within the Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade tasked with overseeing international student initiatives under Investment NSW — obtained under freedom of information laws, Associate Director (Policy and Student Programs) Nate Henderson warned former CISA National President Oscar Ong, and the organisation, that the government will “establish our own international student body” if CISA failed to provide details on how to remedy serious structural and managerial issues.

“At this stage we are not seeing value as it [CISA] does not adequately reflect the NSW international student voice. I would like to ask you to provide me, by the end of the year, with details on how you can immediately improve in CISA the NSW international student voice in a meaningful way. Otherwise in January I will be starting a process to establish our own international student body, and replace our positions currently held by CISA with the new body,” Henderson said.

“I appreciate a lot has gone on [in] CISA in the past year, but we have not seen signs that the situation is improving, nor have we had good communication or visibility on this process. I recognise your efforts to improve CISA, and I am hopeful that it can be resolved. But I must also ensure that our Board and other committees have a true NSW international student voice and that is my top priority.”

Following the ultimatum, Henderson and current CISA National President Yeganeh Soltanpour had a call in January 2023.

In a subsequent email sent by Henderson to CISA on 9 January 2023, Study NSW said that it has commenced the creation of an international student committee separate to CISA and anticipates that CISA's seat on the government's board will be discontinued:

“We are continuing to develop a NSW international student committee separate from CISA and do not foresee that CISA will be able to maintain a position on our board. We remain open to discussions with CISA to understand how the constitutional changes might offer opportunities for sustainable collaboration.”

Honi understands that part of the dispute between the two organisations is over changes requested by the government to CISA's constitution. One former executive of CISA, speaking on condition of anonymity, told *Honi* that poor governance and declining membership was a key

Poor governance and declining membership was a key flashpoint between the government and CISA.

flashpoint between the government and CISA.

“Study NSW demanded CISA to increase the number of members and member engagement. If not, they would withdraw funding,” the former executive said.

They are also concerned about CISA's democratic structure, as with little to no communications with member student unions, CISA's positions risk being stacked by current executives leaving members with very little say over the body's future.

According to receipts released by the government, Investment NSW spent a combined \$46,915 between 2020 and 2021 on CISA. No money was spent on CISA for 2022 and so far in 2023. This confirms a leaked email in March seen by *Honi* where Investment NSW told a third party that it has “not funded CISA this financial year” due to a lack of progress on requested changes to CISA's governance.

In addition to funding from Study NSW, CISA receives funding from other states' counterparts of Study NSW (‘study cluster’) in the mainland states of Australia and \$440 membership fees from a number of student unions.

Grievances from member unions over CISA leading to disaffiliation

Honi can confirm that at least five student unions have broken away from CISA during Oscar Ong's presidency: Sydney University Postgraduate Students' Association (SUPRA), University of Technology Sydney Students' Association (UTSSA), the National Union of Students (NUS) and the University of Melbourne Students' Union International and Graduate Students' Association.

Both UTSSA and NUS cited major disagreements with former President Oscar Ong's conservative leadership as the reason behind disaffiliating from CISA.

Meanwhile, the University of Melbourne Students' Union International (UMSU) disaffiliated

from CISA following a “sense of misrepresentation by the CISA executive board” with UMSU's name “still being used” by CISA on its website. The organisation cited serious grievances with CISA's election process where despite being “informed” that a student nominee was representing

Poor governance and declining membership was a key flashpoint between the government and CISA.

UMSU International, the union never had contact with the person.

“This became fundamentally clear, closer to their elections when despite us wanting membership and providing all the [sic] necessary paperwork, there was a deliberate delay in the provision of the membership,” said UMSU International.

Archival records of CISA's now-defunct website as of June 2023 shows that CISA persisted in using UMSU International's and disaffiliated members' names in its member list.

Other student unions who have not disaffiliated said that they feel ignored and left in the dark by CISA's lack of communication. This is the case for Griffith University Postgraduate Students' Association (GUPSA) who has not heard from CISA since May 2022 and did not receive any response despite sending an invoice request in June last year.

Soltanpour said that CISA will seek to broaden the membership beyond universities towards TAFE, VET, and individual student members.

“We've heard nothing again from CISA about renewing our affiliation or any other CISA matters, that's very concerning as GUPSA has been affiliated with CISA for many years and GUPSA members have been office bearers in CISA in the years prior to COVID too.” GUPSA Support and Events Coordinator Michael Carden told *Honi*.

“So to sum it up, we haven't actively disaffiliated from CISA but have been passively disaffiliated by CISA due to its failure to provide us with any means to do so, or communicate with us in any way at all.”

CISA's response and plans for radical changes to membership

In response to UMSU International

and GUPSA's concerns, Soltanpour blamed the lack of an “ideal” handover from former President Oscar Ong, a lack of “two-way” communication from members, lack of progress on reforms and significant changes being planned internally to change CISA's membership structure.

“I didn't really get much of a handover either. Most of the emails were not there so I couldn't even really look through emails and try and see what could have been shared. I came into CISA entirely blind,” said Soltanpour, who claims the reason behind CISA's lack of communication is the body's ongoing constitutional reforms.

“It's not that I don't want them to [not] have that connection to us. But then the fact that I haven't connected to them is because at the moment what can I genuinely offer them that would be of value?”

Within Soltanpour's vision is a radical overhaul to CISA's membership, which seems to stem from CISA's frustrations with its own member student unions, its structure being described as “willy-nilly” and that some student unions were “biting the hand” of CISA.

“But for me to be able to actively advocate for students, we cannot bite the hand that feeds us is how I think about it. At the moment, our membership structure is a bit willy-nilly. So if we were to have members that we couldn't actually speak out if they were doing something that was against our values, then that kind of

defeats the entire purpose of CISA as a student union.”

When pressed on the proposed reforms, Soltanpour said that CISA will seek to broaden the membership beyond universities towards TAFE, VET, and individual student members.

However, she did not confirm whether individual student members may have to pay an affiliation fee similar to student unions, citing the ongoing reform process. *Honi* asked if this may mean that non-paying individual student members will have the same rights as paying member unions leading to unequal representation. Soltanpour did not think there would be an inconsistency if the two groups were granted the same rights.

Khanh Tran reports.

“To be honest, it would be unfair, if they didn't. I think every voice is a very important voice in my opinion. So I would, I would hope that they get equal treatment and they get equal attention as they should.”

This is not the first time that CISA is facing existential questions about its viability. In 2020, the ANU Observer reported that former CISA National President Ahmed Ademoglu resigned following allegations of financial mismanagement by failing to declare a sponsorship package worth \$200,000 to CISA's executive, misusing CISA money by “pretending that a mistake in a flight booking was the Treasurer's fault”, and using another executive's

identity when boarding a flight.

CISA's predecessor, the Overseas Student Association (OSA), closed doors when former NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell and all universities across NSW issued an “extraordinary” rebuke of the association after allegations of privacy invasion and issuing fraudulent “safety cards”.

In a statement, an Investment NSW spokesperson did not confirm nor deny suspending funds from CISA and said that it continues to recognise the body as the country's peak organisation for international students.

“Funding for CISA is delivered in collaboration with other state-

based study organisations, and future investment opportunities will be considered on their merits in line with our priorities to enhance the international student experience.”

Study Queensland also commented, noting that while the state “previously provided funding to CISA” and included the organisation playing an advisory role in several meetings in the past, these arrangements have since stopped.

“However, there is currently no formal contractual arrangement with CISA. Engaging with the student's voice continues to be a priority for Study Queensland.”

Study Melbourne was contacted for comment and has not responded at the time of writing.

A full transcript of questions and responses in *Honi* and CISA's National President Yeganeh Soltanpour's interview is available online.

Disclaimer: Khanh Tran is a former International Student Ambassador with the City of Sydney.

THE ROLE OF RENT CONTROL

The Albanese government's claim that they will solve the housing crisis by increasing housing supply is overly simplistic and insufficient. In the face of a growing housing crisis that has left countless Australians struggling to secure stable and affordable homes, new visions for housing reform are gaining momentum. These visions seek to tackle the root causes of the crisis and fundamentally transform the housing landscape to prioritise people over profit.

The government's approach to solving the housing crisis relies on the premise that boosting the supply of housing units will naturally lead to lower prices and greater affordability. While this may seem like a straightforward solution, it fails to consider several critical factors: profit-driven developers, gentrification and displacement, market volatility and environmental concerns.

To effectively address Australia's housing crisis, we must move beyond the superficial supply-side approach and embrace a more comprehensive strategy. In the ongoing struggle for housing justice, rent control has emerged as a critical policy tool aimed at protecting tenants from the ravages of unbridled capitalism. Yet, it faces staunch opposition, receiving criticism about its efficacy and consequences.

Rent control involves creating government regulations that limit the amount by which landlords can increase rent on residential properties. These regulations would be supported by strengthening tenant rights and introducing just-cause eviction laws. Together, these policies would ensure that housing remains accessible and affordable for tenants of low and middle incomes, preventing exploitative practices that lead to exorbitant rents and mass displacement.

Rental regulations which safeguard tenants from sudden and unfair increases in rent or unjust eviction, ultimately ensure a stable living environment. This sense of stability not only fosters stronger community

bonds but also helps lower the risk of homelessness.

Rent control policies also reduce economic inequality by placing limits on landlords' ability to amass excessive profits and accumulate vast wealth. In doing so, they promote greater economic equity and social justice.

Critics argue that rent control discourages landlords from investing in property maintenance, leading to deteriorating housing conditions. This argument overlooks the capacity to accompany the introduction of rent control with supporting regulation to landlords to act responsibly and to incentivise maintenance, such as mandatory inspections and penalties for neglectful landlords.

Some suggest that rent control reduces the incentive to build new rental units, exacerbating housing shortages. Comprehensive housing policies can stimulate the construction of affordable units, ensuring that rent control does not contribute to shortages. Critics also argue that rent control primarily benefits affluent tenants who secure rent-controlled units, leaving out those in dire need.

This argument appears to overlook the fundamental imperative of addressing the pressing issues of homelessness and housing insecurity. Furthermore, it is essential to recognise that the substantial majority of rental properties derive from the existing housing stock. A significant portion of landlords, rather than contributing to the expansion of housing supply, opt to rent out properties that would otherwise be within the reach of first-time homebuyers.

The proposal to institute a rental cap, while well-intentioned, may not exert a significant deterrent effect on landlords' motivation to invest in new housing. The housing market dynamics are such that there is ample — too much — profit to be made from housing. Instead of favouring landlords, governments should consider curbing their buying power by eliminating

tax benefits like negative gearing and capital gains discounts, which cost the government significant sums annually and contribute to rising housing costs.

Arguments against rent control also often appear to be rooted in misconceptions about how this kind of regulation would work or a failure to consider the broader housing context. Rent control, when properly implemented alongside other housing policies, can be a crucial step towards achieving housing justice and ensuring

that all individuals have access to safe, affordable, and dignified housing.

While this vision for housing reform may face political challenges and opposition, it would represent a necessary shift in priorities. By putting people before profit and addressing the systemic inequalities that underpin the housing crisis, rent control would create a more just and equitable society where housing is a right, not a privilege.



**EXAM TIMETABLES
were released on
MONDAY 9th October**

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

For more information on exams see:
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WHITE BAY POWER STATION: WHY LOCAL HISTORIES MATTER

Will Thorpe reminisces through the history books.

Curving off the Anzac Bridge into Rozelle, you'll notice Rozelle Bay to your left and a towering disused power station to your right. It has two sentry smokestacks which oversee the industrial waterfront. Just down the road, the Westconnex Rozelle Interchange has transformed an area near the bay over the last few years. Like nothing else, the White Bay Power Station welcomes you into the once-industrial Inner West from the bustling city centre from which it is only separated by Pyrmont and the twice-intervening harbour.

The power station's tumultuous story is an allegory for the ever-changing Inner West, showing how much is to be found in the investigation of local history, and how local areas have their own unique roles in the broader developments of society at any given time.

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The power station's tumultuous story is an allegory for the ever-changing Inner West

In 1912, Sydney's tramways and railways were growing rapidly. The tram network was extensive — it would become the largest in the Commonwealth outside London and the largest in the Southern Hemisphere — and greater power capacity was needed to fuel its expansion. That year, the New South Wales Government Railways, a predecessor to Sydney Trains and NSW TrainLink, would begin work on the plant,

which is constructed in the Federation Anglo-Dutch style. A now-defunct railway branch line was built to serve it later on.

Rozelle, located 3 km from the city centre, was a working class suburb at the time, as were those around it. It had only received a name twenty years prior, drawn from the "Rose Hill parrots" (Rosellas) — Rose Hill being the short-lived colonial name for Parramatta, not to be confused with the suburb now named Rosehill. The suburb was previously part of neighbouring Balmain. The Metropolitan Goods Railway to Darling Harbour was opened in 1922, with a goods yard subsequently constructed in the suburb.

A 1930s photograph shows a bustling facility boasting nearly two dozen chimneys, with the working-class townhouses of Rozelle visible behind it and the masts of ships in front of it. This was the Inner West in all its grit, soot, and industry — the railways, the tramways, power generation, and the working harbour intertwined.

White Bay's furnaces would continue burning away until Christmas in 1983. The nineties would see decontamination of the site, asbestos removal and the removal of most of what machinery had remained, as well as a heritage listing in 1999. With the

goods line decommissioned in 2009 and converted to light rail while the disused rail yard became overgrown, the



derelict power station served to remind a gentrified suburb of its past.

As was once the case with many now-cherished historic buildings, such as the Queen Victoria Building, the defunct White Bay Power Station wasn't universally appreciated. It was considered for use in 2016 by major tech companies including Google, though nothing eventuated. In November 2020, then-Treasurer Dominic Perrottet savaged the building.

"Shocking building, it should be knocked down like the Sirius

Building," Perrottet remarked. By the following week, his stance had moderated.



"Perhaps I was too hasty when I suggested the old White Bay power station should be demolished. This week, I visited the site with Inner West mayor Darcy Byrne and my colleague Planning Minister Rob Stokes, whose transcendent wisdom and insight bestowed upon me, mere mortal, a fuller understanding of its historical significance," Perrottet wrote in The Sydney Morning Herald.

Now, the White Bay Power Station has received a new lease of life. The maligned colossus standing guard at the gates of Rozelle will become an arts venue, opening to the public in March for the 24th Biennale of Sydney. With its boilers and a large steam turbine remaining in place, Arts Minister John Graham compares White Bay favourably to London's repurposed Battersea Power Station, and even more so to the Tate Modern which he notes entirely lacks such machinery. I cannot think of a more

fitting, more dynamic use for the old battler. One can expect that The Bays Metro station, proposed for opening in 2030

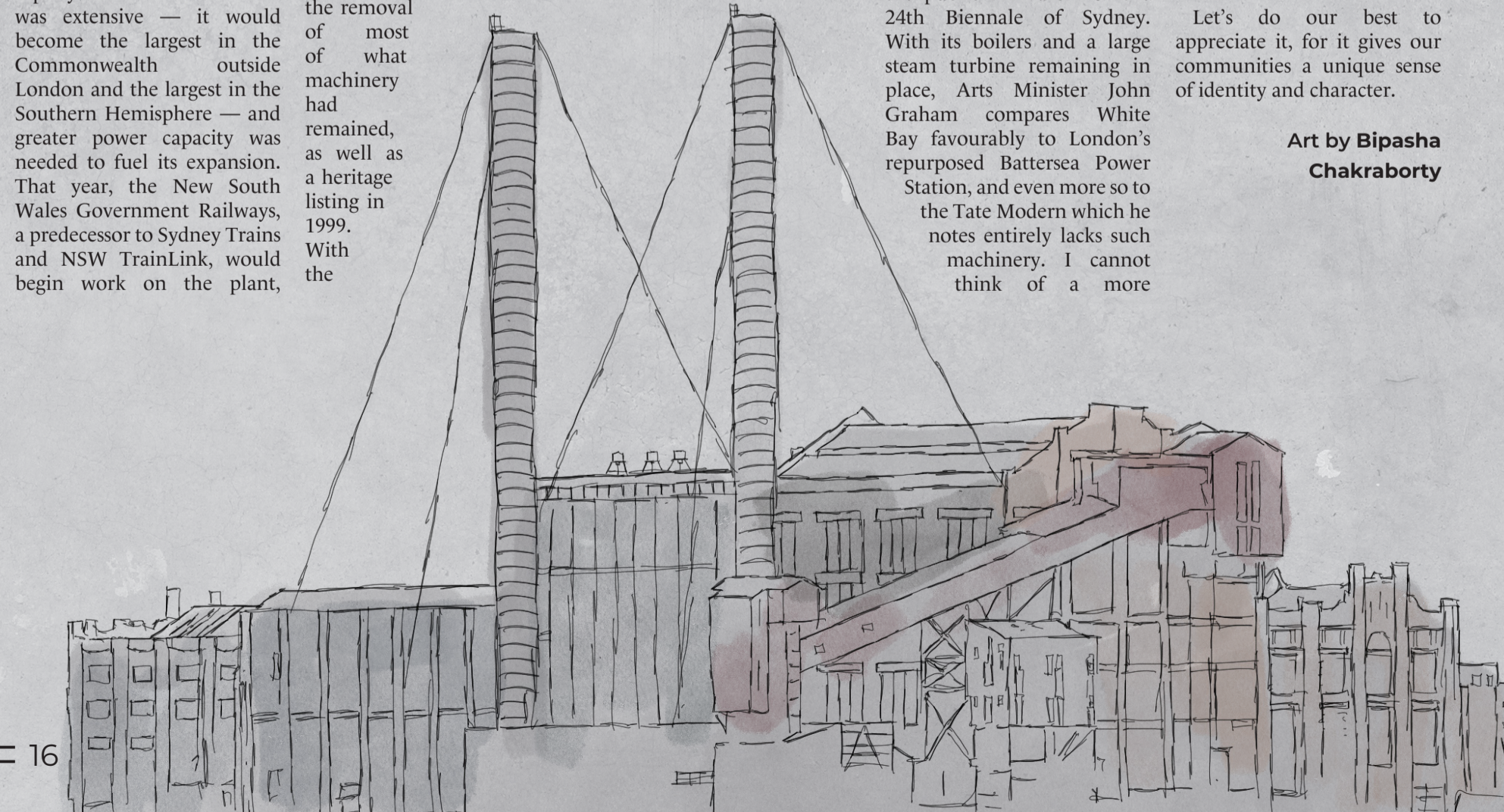


as part of Sydney Metro West, will draw many to the site.

Imagine if Perrottet's mind had not been changed. In the same world, other historic charms would also certainly have been lost; not far from the power station, the Rozelle Tram Depot sits beside Jubilee Park. This building was once run down, but was renovated and turned into a beautiful shopping centre featuring an old Sydney tram inside. The buildings of Callan Park, including the domineering clocktower on the site, sit on the other side of Rozelle. The Iron Cove Bridge. The Bridge Hotel. Local heritage is everywhere.

Let's do our best to appreciate it, for it gives our communities a unique sense of identity and character.

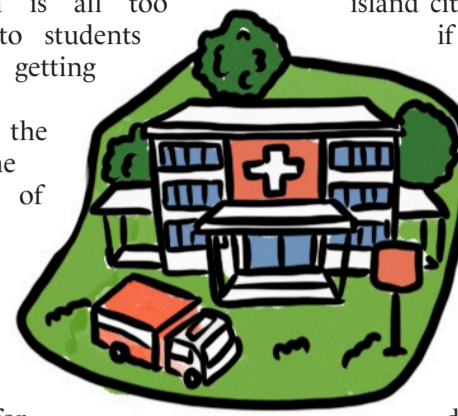
Art by Bipasha Chakraborty



WHAT'S UP WITH SYDNEY'S CITY LAYOUT?

Hannah Nicholls wants a walkable Sydney.

Frustration is all too common to students just getting acquainted with the labyrinthine ways of Sydney's streets and public



transport, but for students coming from walkable cities, the source of confusion lies deeper than just unfamiliar neighborhoods.

Walkability is the idea that urban environments should be designed to allow users of the space to walk from place to place with little resistance from the architecture and design of the space. More broadly, the concept includes the effect of walkability on the users. This includes but is not limited to greater opportunities for community building within neighborhoods, greater individual agency, and improved access to sustainable transport options. In essence, increased walkability makes it systematically cheaper and more sustainable for individuals to travel through our urban cityscapes.



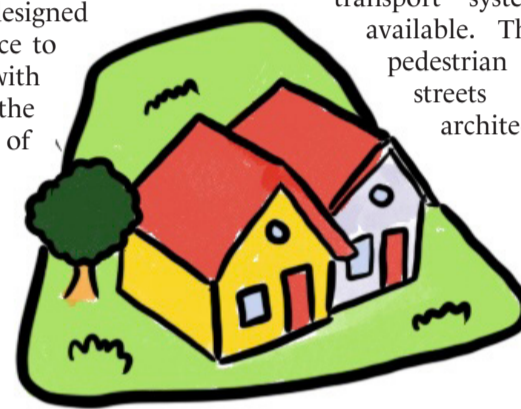
Back home in Singapore, the positive effects of its intentional city structure are keenly felt in the day to day of the average commuter. True blue Singaporeans look to the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system with a sort of fondness and pride, as it is one of the key pieces of infrastructure that they know they can rely on. While Singapore is not perfect, and has its urban design faults just as any city, adjusting to Sydney's transport systems involves confusion and no small amount of



frustration. Put simply; what's up with Sydney's city layout?

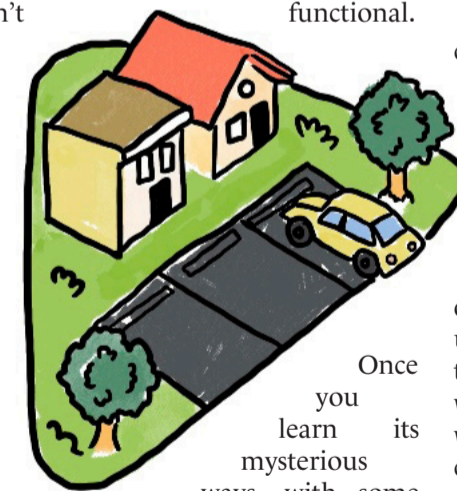
To answer this question, it takes a little bit of context. In Singapore, although it's a small

island city-state compared to Sydney, if you want to go from A to B using the train (or otherwise known as the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system) you can usually find one to two different train stops in the vicinity of your destination. If not that, then a direct bus or a mix of a bus and a train. The diversity of train line directions and the intuitive intersections between the buses and trains and the Light Rail Transit (LRT) in the outer sections of the city make for a pretty comprehensive transport network, even if one transport system isn't available. There are pedestrian friendly streets and architectural



accommodations throughout the country to ensure walking isn't just available but very accessible within the architecture design itself. Add on very regular trains for each train line that are quite reliably on time, and you've got yourself a city full of people that can functionally rely on the city design and infrastructure for their regular commute. In short, Singapore is very walkable.

That's not to say Sydney's public transport and infrastructure isn't functional.



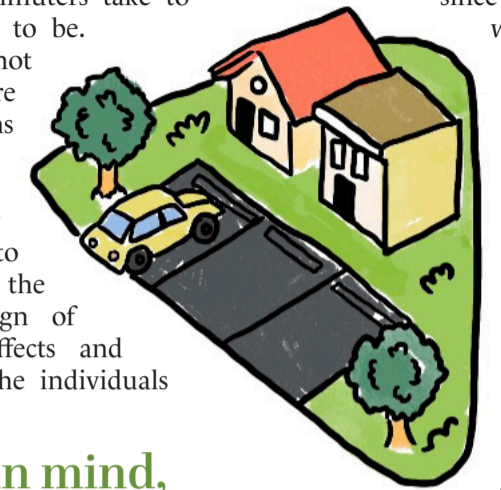
Once you learn its mysterious ways, with some healthy commute planning, it can work well for the average commuter. Sydney's infrastructure especially shines with its navigation of transport across the Parramatta River, which provides a sizable challenge to mass transport across the different halves of the Sydney central business district. Sydney also does well in providing intuitive and available night bus services to a wide range of different places where Singapore does not. However,

the point must be raised about the ways in which the city planning and design rises to accommodate the well-worn paths that commuters take to get where they need to be. Urban planning is not just considering where buildings, institutions and businesses can fit within the larger cityscape, but rather an intuitive look into the ways in which the placement and design of urban landscapes affects and shapes the lives of the individuals who use them.

With that in mind, it's not difficult to see that Sydney was quite simply not designed for pedestrians.

With that in mind, it's not difficult to see that Sydney was quite simply not designed for pedestrians. You can feel this tangibly every time you walk on sidewalks next to 4 lane highways, looking for a place to cross the road or turn off to a smaller street to get to where you're going. Further, you've never known pain until you pull up Google Maps to find the best public transport route to where you want to go, only to find that it's a thirty-minute trek to the specific bus stop with a bus that goes there. All the while knowing that some intuitive design on the part of the city planners would have saved you the time you then wasted making that trek.

Sydney is what is known as 'car-centric,' or essentially; designed and planned with the use of cars in mind as the primary form of transportation. The public transport in Sydney often seems like an afterthought to driving a car within the urban infrastructure, especially to students like myself who hail from walkable cities. It's not difficult to see why, given that streets in Sydney don't connect to each other intuitively, and sidewalks and regularly spaced pedestrian crossings are harder to come by the further you are from the central business district. The train stations are also generally farther from locations with the highest foot traffic, instead relying on bus connections to connect commuters to

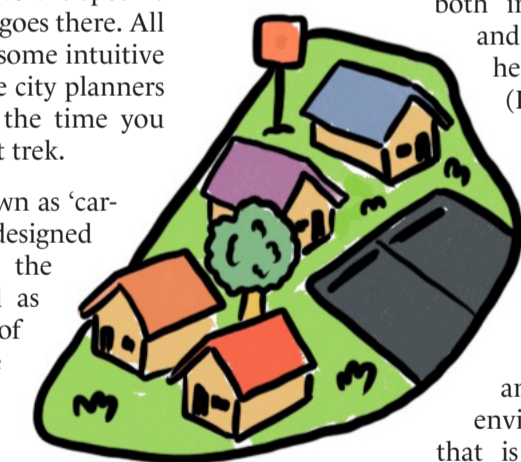


where they want to go. It's clear that the public transport system was built around cars being the priority since no matter what you do, eventually you'll have to take a bus to get somewhere by foot. The problem eventually boils down to population density. In Singapore, the connections

between the public transport and the pedestrian accessibility of its streets ultimately comes down to a need to save space. There's a denser population per square inch of the island city than there is in Sydney. While the car-centrism of its major cities serves

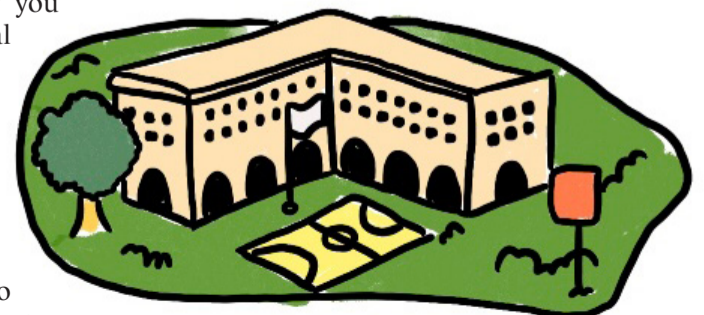


Australia as a whole increasing the ability of individual citizens to travel between cities, towns and states without relying on pre-existing infrastructure, it doesn't serve the people who live and work in the city. Further, there's a definite element of income inequality in the disparity of distribution of accessible and walkable streets. This lack of walkability is despite research suggesting that greater walkability leads to more sustainable cities and healthier citizens, both in physical and mental health.



(I'll add a source here I do have one lol) All in all, if you want an urban environment that is made to support you, it starts with walkability.

Art by Bipasha Chakraborty



Is Honi Any Good?

A wise person once said, “Self-reflection is a vice best conducted in private, or not at all.” I agree that the process of taking a look in the mirror can be nauseating, but just this once I will have to disagree with Roebuck Wright. *Honi*’s editors and reporters spend so much of their time up to their elbows in life’s unhappy sewage — ignorance, stupidity, power mongering. We pride in ourselves for pointing out the muck and its composition, or if we are in an optimistic mood, we will proudly present the public with something shiny or pleasant we have disentangled from the rubbish. As the year crawls to its terminus, let us climb out of the misery and see what state we are in.

First and foremost, *Honi Soit* is a godsend for a number of practical purposes. Creative societies are never in doubt as to the sourcing of newspaper for props, craft, painting, and papier mâché. Playing a middle-aged British guy and need to be reading something onstage? *Honi* is there to meet your needs. I myself, once I’ve read it cover to cover, will hand my copy over to my friends who keep rabbits. Newspaper is the bread and butter of anyone fond of making a mess, and *Honi Soit* is free, quality and always within

reach in large quantities — unless of course the nearest stand has already been raided by bigots.

If you ask people, “What do you think of *Honi Soit*?” the answers vary intensely. The puzzle section, it seems, is universally beloved. Last week, actor Jeremy Jenkins was heartbroken to find that their director had taped the crossword page to the wall while repairing a set piece. At Courtyard, I will often see two or three people bent over the crossword, pulling apart clues and spelling out words on their fingers, desperate to finish the damned thing before they have to dash. The Quiz and Sudoku are put up with very well, but rarely persevered with — a mention of the Cryptic Crossword is sure to be met with blank stares.

As for the articles themselves, that is where discrepancy begins to show. It cannot be denied that *Honi* is pretentious. There tends to be a quippy tone that even gets on my nerves sometimes; at the mention of *Honi*, there is sometimes the hint of an eyeroll. There is a hesitancy to give a strong opinion at the risk of

offending others—it is well understood by the student body that anyone with the self-appointed authority to publish their opinion of something is likely to have a high estimation of their own importance.

Many find the lovey-dovey affair between *Honi* and SUDS to be exhausting, as well as the overwhelming saturation of StuPol material. Many are disgusted by the increasingly weakening criticism offered by reviews, a point which targets me and yet I also 100% agree with.

The choice phrases “echo-chamber” and “nepotism” among others tend to crop up. It is true that *Honi Soit* was the first to introduce to me the most nauseating term on the planet: BNOC, meaning “Big Name On Campus”. What’s more, it would surprise many to know that a majority of the student body have no idea who we are, and probably wouldn’t care if they knew.

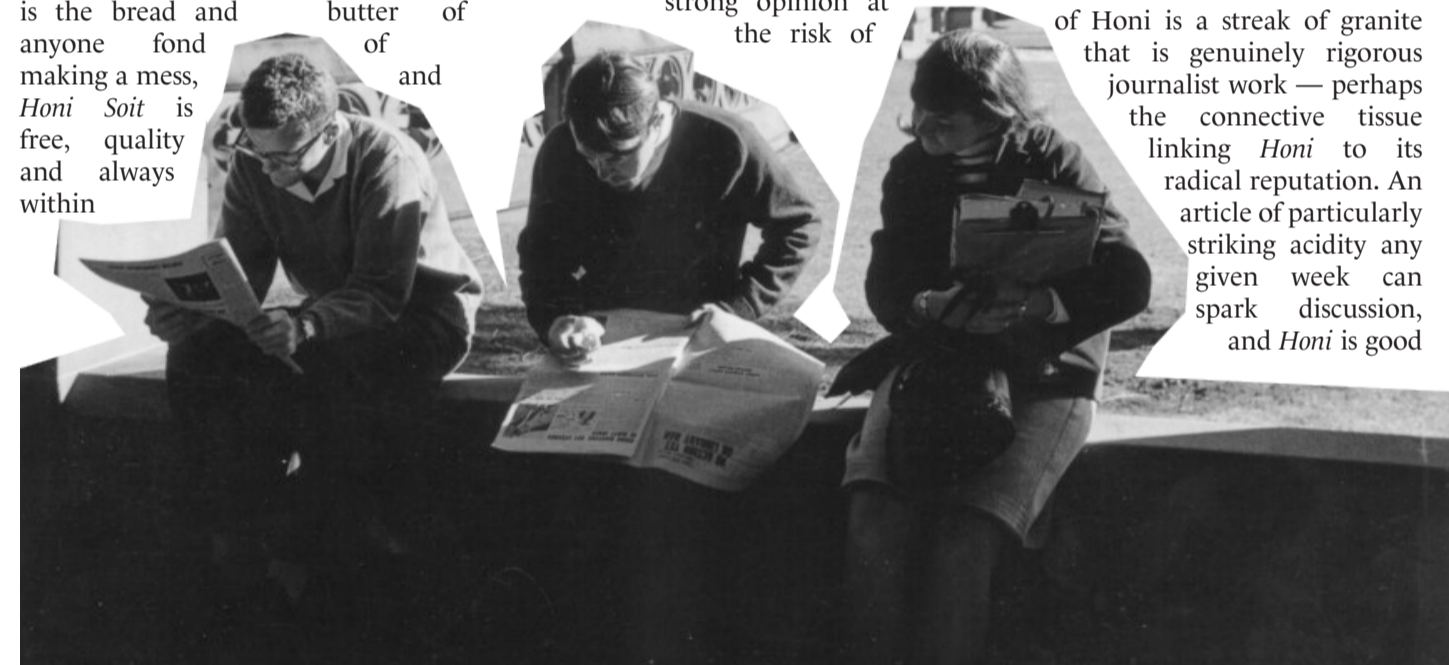
Despite this, many people I spoke to who don’t write for *Honi* expressed a real appreciation for its coverage of current affairs. At the heart of *Honi* is a streak of granite that is genuinely rigorous journalist work — perhaps the connective tissue linking *Honi* to its radical reputation. An article of particularly striking acidity any given week can spark discussion, and *Honi* is good

Zoe Le Marinel asks around.

at alerting us to parts of the university’s workings that we might otherwise have been oblivious to. A lot of people, including me, who don’t read the paper religiously will devour an article written by a friend. Across the board is an appreciation of the paper’s editors that borders on disbelief. I was not urged to say this, I swear, despite the fact that I would die for my editor. Even if you don’t care for *Honi*, there is no denying the absurdity that is the editorial workload.

We do some good work, at the very least. Like many things at the university, *Honi Soit* is old as fuck, and that means that it’s associated with power and influence — despite its left-wing convictions. To many, its well-worn tropes — love letters, odes, think pieces — are a comfort, whilst to many they appear lifeless. Maybe *Honi Soit* can be a bit annoying — but that’s because young people are annoying. We are part of a long tradition of nit-picky, quippy people who care. We’re opinionated as much as we’re inexperienced, and for better or for worse student journalism is the overt efforts of our age group to grapple with the age we are in. I’m not ending this one on a saccharine tie-in — it’s clear that *Honi Soit* has got flaws as much as strengths. If I didn’t manage to catch your opinion on my rounds, please feel free to send the paper your thoughts via email. We’re out for the university’s blood, but we’re a big scary institution in our own ways. I urge you, implore you, beg you — give *Honi Soit* a taste of its own medicine and let us know what you think of us sometime.

[Editor’s Note: we always love letters, so please do email us what you think at editors@honisoit.com]



Why don’t students socialise anymore?

I’ve tried to get off TikTok. I’ve tried to spend less time online, and more time outside “touching grass”. Though I wouldn’t say I am chronically online, I can acknowledge that the media I consume online constitutes a part of my being. I prioritise relatable lyrics in my music choices, save videos that convince me my oddities are normal, and have comfort movies that romanticise my life and offer a sense of escapism. This is what is great about the freedom and versatility of access to online media: I can empathise, connect, and imagine different lives that transcend my own immediate experiences.

However, I have noticed in myself and others a darker consequence of this digital dependence. I find myself supplementing other’s online

experiences for my own; I have never truly been heartbroken, but I can feel as if I have after listening to certain songs. Media ticks a box of experience for me, and for so many young people, without me actually having experienced it — I feel things by proxy, and can then safely scroll onwards.

I understand why I do this. Considering that I spent the ages of sixteen to eighteen in intermittent and incessant lockdowns and social restrictions, I had to go online because I couldn’t go outside. I am not the only one — between 2020 and 2022, the screen time of young people rose by 52%. I’d watch movies about high school parties on a Friday night, not being able to go to any myself. I’d dance in my room to love songs despite not actually being in a relationship. In

Maeve Hopper blames the University and the government.

order to be a teenager, I had to rely upon others’ stories to explore these feelings.

Unfortunately, like any bad habit, this tendency has lingered beyond its initial stages. I feel that myself and my peers withdraw from in-person engagement on campus in favour of familiar, and often online, experiences. To enrol in clubs, to write articles for the paper or to attend a protest have become infrequent and rare adventures. Instead, I can get someone’s Instagram from a tutorial and say that I have made a friend. I can repost an infographic supporting staff strikes without attending them.

While I have attributed a large part of this phenomenon to the impacts of COVID-19 and a pervasive media

culture, I feel that reliance on such an argument overtly and unfairly attributes the blame to the individual. I have a glass-half-full and inherently positive view of people, and I believe that if we were given the proper outlet to have these experiences, we would. I do not blame myself or others for feeling more comfortable online and struggling to put ourselves out there, when there are significant institutional obstacles preventing us from doing so.

I would argue, and lament, that the University is responsible for digitising (and obliterating) campus culture. It is difficult for me to forget that my first day as a student at the University was online, despite there being little social restrictions at the time. I had gotten dressed to go to campus to attend my first ever lecture, only to find out

Review: Arts Revue 2023: Everyone’s a Critic

James Wily got asked to review?

Whilst Big ‘USU’ would probably like you to believe that Arts Revue (alongside Commerce and Veterinary Revue) did not go ahead this year due to a lack of engagement, my faxed invitation to Arts Revue 2023: ‘Everyone’s a Critic’ begged to differ:

Message:

You are cordially invited to Arts Revue 2023: “Everyone’s A Critic”.

Please sign the attached NDA with post-haste, and return to sender.

Further details to come.

Yours Truly

Natalie Nelson, Producer.

Arts Revue
Fax: +61 (2) 1297-1289
Phone: 0499783636
Substack: https://Outwards_but_not_inwards.substack.com

Sent from my iPhone.

Arts Revue, it seems, has just gone underground.

It should be noted, however, that the same cannot be said for Commerce Revue (which had its assets liquidated into Law Revue) or Veterinary Revue (which was tragically put down).

After making my way through the elaborate mirror maze (a formidable comment on the spectator/performer relationship of theatre — which itself was an excellent precursor for the rich political themes of the show) I finally found myself seated comfortably inside the Theatre.

Eventually, the vainer guests got bored with the maze and trickled into their seats. Thus, the show began opening with a quote from venerated film critic Roger Ebert:

“I wonder what’s for lunch?”

The stage then sensationally burst alight with a whole cast acapella parody of Alphaville’s Forever Young, “Forever (a) Young (creative)”; Setting the tone for a show that was entirely unafraid to be observed as even remotely quality.

A particularly compelling sketch from the first act was Wheel of Death (featuring Jake Percy), where a hooded Percy spun a giant wheel decorated with each audience member’s full legal name, selecting them for something called the Deep Forever. After which, the chosen audience member was dragged backstage by the entire cast in a hysterical frenzy. A huge shoutout goes to the audience members’ commitment to the bit in this sketch, as I did not see them for the rest of the show — or even after that!

Unfortunately, as with most revues, not all sketches were winners. A particularly awkward moment in the show was during the Adolescents Choice Award Show, (hosted by Falikes Faouvar). The choice to have the audience slimed — right at the end of act 1 too — was particularly uncomfortable, and left my audience more sopping, stinky and insulted than comically satisfied.

To sidetrack briefly, a particular gripe I have with the show — not just with this sketch but in general — was with the performances given by Faouvar. Never in my life have I seen an actor so devoid of talent, charisma, integrity or even a single iota of respect for the profound art form that is (at least what I’m told) the university revue. If the word ‘detest’ were to be inscribed on every nanoangstrom of my body, that would not even begin to approach one millionth of the feeling that I have-

The following section has been cut down due to concerns of relevancy.

To return to the show, whilst it is not entirely uncommon for revues to feature a live band to help fill in the dead air between sketches, it is remarkably more impressive for that weight to be carried by one man: Callum Brickly. Issued with his iconic accordion (the very same from his 3 week run at the Sydney Fringe Festival) Brickly’s striking composition of Bob Dylan’s Knocking on Heaven’s Door fragranced the air of every transition in the first act. Overall, Brickly’s performance imbued the show with an exhilarating, almost fanatical, energy that seemed to only escalate as the night went on.

The second act saw the audience’s (John Saryes, Mary Green, Danial Y, and myself) ascent through the rings of comedy heaven, skyrocket. Brickly had traded his iconic accordion for a 2010 Soccer World Cup branded Vuvuzela. His backing to the show’s act 2 opening number “Walking on a Fart” (A parody of Empire of the Sun’s hit song), was celebrated with a 28 minute standing ovation. Particular highlights from Act Two had to be the following: WWE Slam Poetry Evening, The Paw Patrol respond to an actual crime, and The Real Housewives of the Nuclear Apocalypse.

Walking out of the [REDACTED] Theatre (to the tune of Brickly’s Pan-Flute reimagining of Garfunkel and Oates’ “The Sound of Silence”) I couldn’t help but be overwhelmingly impressed with the directors’ (Frank Schliplo and Sandy Crankleton) ability to make a four hour show feel like a tight three hour and thirty-nine minutes — bravo!

I will not reveal where, or for how much longer Arts Revue 2023 is being put on for a sincere concern for the general safety of the university theatre-going community, but safe to say, what

a blast it was.

The Verdict:

Pros

Callum Brickly.

A moving dissection of the modern-day political zeitgeist.

The Pirate Moving Company sketch

Cons

Have to set up a fax line for invitation

The person behind me kept talking between sketches

The Obligatory Chat GPT Sketch

My Final Score:

★☆☆☆☆

Revue’s just aren’t really my thing.

P.S: This review is allegedly a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual events or locales or persons, living or dead, is entirely intentional, and should be followed by a period of intense retrospection on why that might be, which should then be followed up by with a sharp blow to the back of the head.

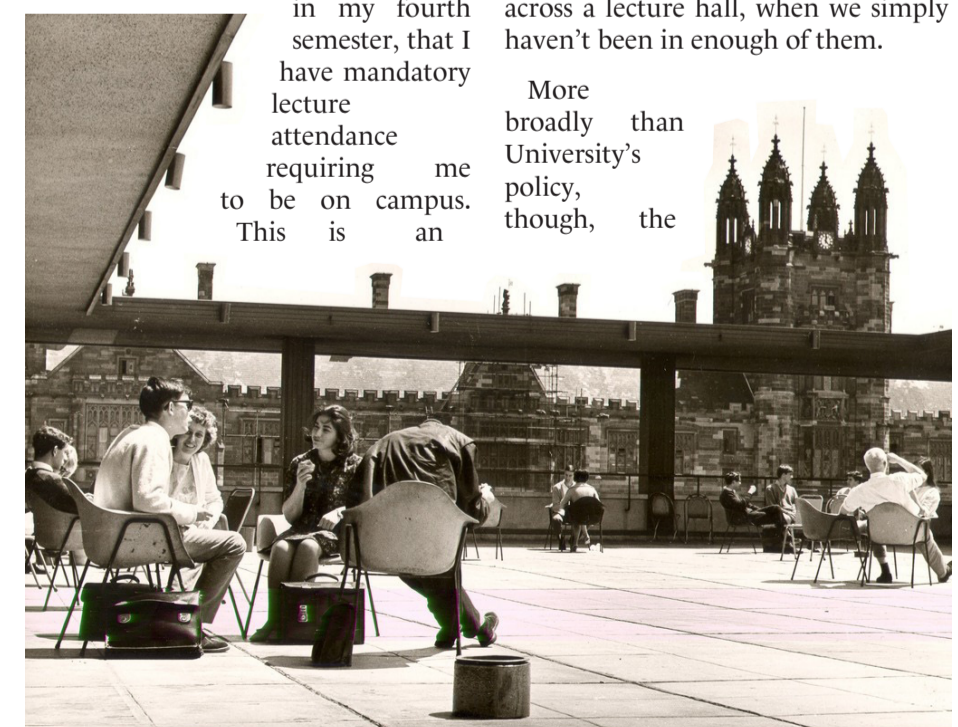


“Issued with his iconic accordion... Callum Brickly’s rendition of Bob Dylan’s ‘Knocking on Heaven’s Door’ fragranced the air of every transition”

Art by Margot Roberts

that the lecture location was not on campus, and instead in my bedroom.

It is only now, in my fourth semester, that I have mandatory lecture attendance requiring me to be on campus. This is an



experience shared by many of my fellow students. It is no wonder that so many of us have not yet fallen in love across a lecture hall, when we simply haven’t been in enough of them.

More broadly than University’s policy, though, the

government’s lack of comprehensive and focused support for young people amidst the cost-of-living crisis has further exacerbated these ailments. Young people are at significantly increased risk of homelessness after the pandemic, and long-term economic insecurities only continue to worsen. When we speak of the casualisation of the workforce, with rates of underemployment of young people 7-10% higher than the general population, as well as declining rental affordability and inadequate rates of income support, we often forget about the consequences of this on human interaction: systematic inequality impedes and deprives the freedoms of young people. Gone are the days of house parties, small trips away with friends and post-work drinks, because we simply cannot afford it.

At the risk of sounding defeatist, I am sick of waiting and begging the institutions to make a change. I feel that

for many of the social implications of this issue, we may need to take matters into our own hands. If the University insists on online lectures, contact your lecturer in person and have a meeting to discuss your assignment. Don’t post the infographic to your story — attend the protest and get involved. If I may be so bold, stop the “talking stage” and ask them on a date. You can still be dramatic and obsess over heartbreak music and rom-com set in New York, but now with the added benefit of knowing what it’s really like to be a fashion intern or experience a “meet-cute”.

In order to take things into our own hands, we have to put down our phones. We cannot afford to fix this with a one-handed approach, our attention drifting to our personalised TikTok feed. Get angry, fall in love, have a yelling argument, cry, and hug a friend. Don’t let the institutional encouragement of seclusion win.

President

LIA PERKINS

Hi everyone, it's certainly been a big and difficult time for many in our University community, and I'd like to share a little bit about what I've been up to. The SRC co-hosted a 'no to racism, yes to voice' rally on Wednesday last week, and many SRC representatives promoted the Yes vote in the referendum in

the lead up. I'd like to honour the wishes of the Indigenous People who supported the Voice Referendum and have requested a week of silence for the Voice beginning on the weekend.

We are witnessing a deadly war between Gaza and Israel this week, and we released a statement on the SRC's social media account addressing our solidarity with Palestine and our belief that Palestine must be liberated to end the violence and suffering of so many – Palestinian and Israeli. Please read the statement, and if you are a student

impacted by the current events you are able to access support through the SRC or University. I attended the powerful and peaceful Stop the War on Gaza rally on Sunday, where we heard from Palestinian and Jewish speakers about the devastation facing Gaza today. The next rally and march for Palestine will be next Saturday, please come along if you can.

Other activities last week included the Environment Collective's rally to Tanya Plibersek's office, the Students against Placement Poverty BBQ which reached

out to many new students, as well as a range of fantastic Radical Pride and Consent Week Sessions. Congrats to all involved in these events.

As I've outlined in this report, it has been a difficult week for many of us, and I encourage you to lean on your communities for support, take the time you need, and stay active until there is justice for all. Lia.

Education Officers

YASMINE JOHNSON
ISHBEL DUNSMORE

The Education Officers did not submit a report this week.

Women's Officers

IGGY BOYD
ALEV SARACOGLU

The Women's Officers did not submit a report this week.

Interfaith Officers

THOMAS THORPE
SARGUN SALUJA
JOSHUA NORENA
SIWAN XU

All humans have a natural inclination towards justice. Simultaneously, there is injustice in the world. For example, if we see someone push an old lady in

front of a car we know it is wrong and desire recompense.

Much of contemporary life is seeking justice. The "No justice, no peace!" slogan is a plea for racial justice. Social justice is sought in many forms, including justice for animals, the environment and people. Our criminal justice system is designed to protect citizens through the deliverance of justice.

Despite endless calls for justice, and subsequent attempts to achieve it,

there is always something wrong. Our attempts to achieve justice seem unending, perhaps futile. The pursuit of justice appears inexorable. Even if we could completely redesign the world there would still be injustice. That is because humans are innately imperfect, and it is our imperfection which perverts justice. We cannot perfect ourselves, so we cannot achieve perfect justice.

This is where God comes in. God is definitionally perfect. He is just. God knows that there is injustice in this

world and is outraged by it. Unlike us, he is capable of delivering perfect justice. His plan to achieve justice is perfect and has promised to fulfil this plan in perfect timing.

Our appetite for justice will be satiated by God. All we have to do is accept him, and expectantly but patiently await his justice.

If you would like to discuss this more please reach out to Thomas via the Interfaith Office email.

Refugee Rights Officer

AKEE ELLIOT
ANNABEL PETIT
LYDIA ELIAS
AMELIE ROEDIGER

The Refugee Rights Officers did not submit a Report this week.

Disclaimer

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

They are not altered, influenced or otherwise changed by the Editors of Honi Soit. Despite our best wishes.

Environment Officers

RORY LARKINS
MADDIE CLARK
SIMON UPITIS
SATVIK SHARMA

The Environment Officers did not submit a Report this week.



If you feel you will be unable to complete a unit of study, you have a couple of options. Keep in mind that reducing your study load may impact academic progression, Centrelink payments or access to concession opal cards. Student Visa holders should also note that dropping a unit might have implications for their student visa status.

Discontinue Fail

You can choose to Discontinue Fail (DF) before the DF deadline in each semester, that is, the last Friday of semester.

If you DF a subject, you will still have to pay for it, and will receive a DF grade on your transcript. However, in most faculties the DF grade does not impact your WAM (weighted average mark). However, exceptions exist, particularly if you intend to pursue honours. To understand how a DF grade will impact you specifically, you should speak with an **academic advisor**.

Student Visa Holders are eligible to DF only if they will maintain a full-time study load after dropping the subject. If you are a student visa holder and unable to maintain a full subject load, you can apply for a **Reduced Study Load** before the census date. You can apply for a Late Discontinuation Under Special Circumstances if it is after census date.

Late Discontinuation Under Special Circumstances (DC)

If you have experienced 'special circumstances' that have affected your ability to study after the census date, such as a serious illness, injury, or misadventure, you may be eligible for a Discontinue Not Fail (DC) grade. A DC grade will not count as a fail on your transcript, and should not affect your WAM or your academic progression status. If your DC application is approved, you will receive a refund for your fees or HELP loan. Applying for a DC can be a

complex process, it is recommended that you review your draft application with an SRC caseworker.

In general, for a DC application you will need:

Student Statement

Outline how your special circumstances have affected your ability to study. Ideally you should explain that you were attending class and submitting assignments up until the point you were significantly impacted by your circumstances. If you were not attending class or submitting assignments and did not apply for **special consideration**, you will need to explain why. Explain why the subject you wish to drop is more impacted by your circumstances than any subjects you can continue.

Supporting Documentation

Include formal, third-party supporting documentation (e.g., a **Professional Practitioner's Certificate**) from a GP, counsellor or other relevant professional.

Your supporting documentation will need to outline:

The date range of impact. This will need to begin after census date and cover a length of time greater than could reasonably be covered by a **special consideration** application.

An explanation of how your circumstances impacted your ability to study: e.g., extreme stress leading to reduced concentration.

The severity of impact, ideally stating that you were 'very severely impacted'.

If you are not applying to DC all of your subject your supporting documentation will need to explain the specific impact of your situation on the subject(s) you wish to DC.

You can contact an SRC caseworker via our contact form: bit.ly/SRCcaseworker or call 9660 5222.

For more online information on **Discontinuing a Subject** including links and resources, scan the QR code



Ask Abe

SRC Caseworker Help Q&A

Get Exam Ready



Dear Abe,

I've got a big take home exam coming up and I'm really nervous that I won't be able to answer all the parts of the question. Is there someone who can help me?

Thanks

Exam Nervous

Dear Exam Nervous,

The best place to start is with your lecturer or tutor. Ask them if they can guide you on what topics will be included in the essay. Carefully read the marking rubric to get an idea of what they expect from you. Look at the online resources and workshops that are available through the **Learning Hub** to develop skills that will help you to carefully read the exam question and plan your answer effectively. The library is running a series of events through the **Exam Ready program**. These services are available to you for free.

Thanks

Abe

Sydney Uni Learning Hub



Exam Ready Program





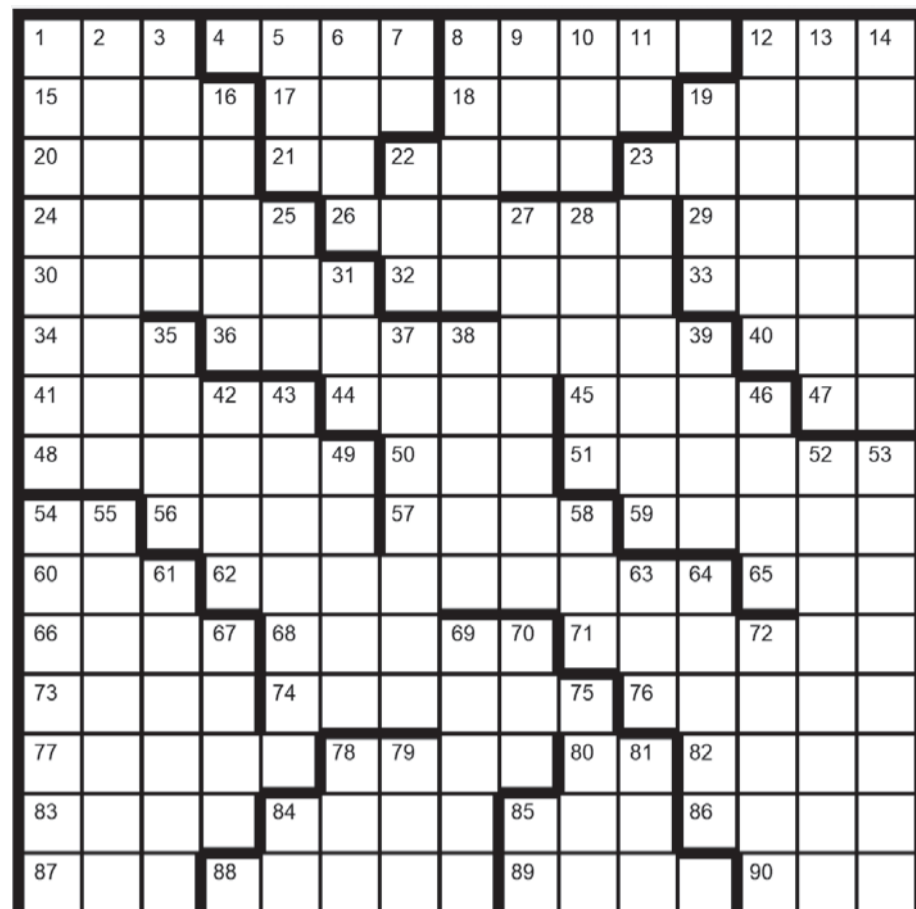
Did you know you have 15 days to **appeal a grade** if you think it is unfair?
Ask the SRC!



contact a caseworker
bit.ly/SRCcaseworker

srcusyd.net.au
02 9660 5222

Barred Crossword



- Across**
- Call for attention
 - Rescue, preserve, stop from being privatised, etc
 - Medical practitioner
 - I am, you ___
 - Cutting tools
 - Annoying horse?
 - Excessively fussy
 - Show off
 - 500 pages
 - Eliot's initials
 - Alcohol
 - Pain in the abdomen
 - Type of fish
 - Decorative tuft of thread
 - Get up
 - Terminated the call
 - Lustre
 - Clio, Erato, or Euterpe
 - And the rest
 - Home and Away, say
 - Dirt + Water
 - Nice type of energy
 - Move with haste
 - Water + Air
 - Einsteinium symbol
 - Three-legged thing
 - Check the next page
 - Direct blame at
 - Working
 - Filipino currency
- Down**
- Most rough
 - Person who puts into effect
 - Desire
 - Ant-Man-sized insect
 - Expansive
 - Exempli gratia
 - Low-lying wet land
 - One of a kind producer
 - Unfashionable person
 - Italian article
 - Bulbous plant such as an onion or garlic
 - Release again
 - Surpasses
 - Smokes + Fogs
 - Shape
 - What stars are made of
 - Female sheep
 - Looong fish
 - Front of a phone
 - Half of two
 - Moves earth
 - Before
 - Perform duties for
 - Tertiary institution
 - Also
 - Ossie, Hoot, and Bert
 - Famous Roman port
 - Australasian Supply Chain Institute
 - One who imitates
 - Red rash caused by various diseases
 - The worst food of all time
 - 1960 Fellini film La ___ Vita

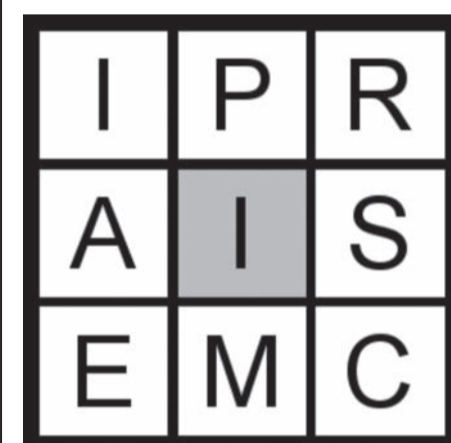
Two Quizzes for the Price of One

Name the modern day country in which each of these battles took place.

- Battle of Marathon
- The Battle of Red Cliffs
- The Battle of Hastings
- The Battle of Rio de Janeiro
- The Battle of Sekigahara
- What country comes next in the sequence

Name the notes individual by their bio.

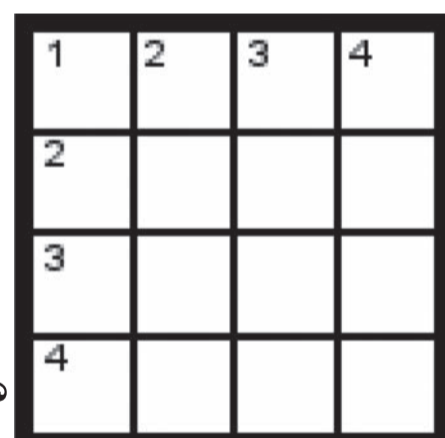
- Pan African and anti colonial world leader was a founding father of the non aligned movement during the Cold War.
- Back to back NBA mvp who lead the Milwaukee Bucks to NBA championship in 2021 Q3. Actor who depicted Poe Dameron in Star Wars
- Bolshevik leader, who attended the Yalta conference with Winston Churchill, and FDR.
- The founder of the printing Press
- Name the nationalities of each famous person (hint they all start with the same letter)



Target

- What are the rules?
- Minimum 4 letters per word.
 - 10 words: sick.
 - 15 words: underfunded.
 - 20 words: getting better.
 - 30 words: meeting community needs.

This Way and That



Answers across and down are the same

- Medical attention
- On top of
- Flower
- Sword
- Part of the psyche
- Small coffee
- What a journey of a thousand miles begins with
- More bananas
- He's just
- Capable of being sued
- Latin thing
- Full
- Part of the eye
- Walkway between stuff
- Lavatory, informally
- What you do to a trailer
- Spanish girl's name
- Mist - Water
- Lavatory, informally
- Football umpire
- Germany's internet domain name
- Overtime



National

Sport

Lifestyle

Fascist Propaganda

www.the_usu_statement.com

This week, something has been happening in the Middle East. We are not going to sugarcoat this: there has been an escalation of issues.

Let us be unequivocal: people do not always agree. The USU maintains its commitment to understanding issues as they occur.

We remain steadfast in this position.

In this time of events, we recommend you continue breathing. Eating, drinking and sleeping may also help.

To assist our members in this period of time, we are offering 5% off falafel wraps between 3pm and 4pm. Every. Tuesday.*

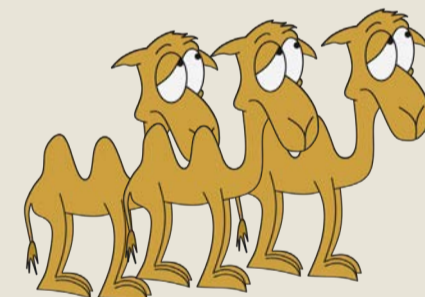
As Mother Teresa once said, "peace begins with a smile."

May we all smile a little wider during this period where outcomes are yet to be determined.

Relationships



New friendship test: who's showing their but-hole, who's taking the photo, and who's holding the cheeks apart?



"I've only got one hump": Camel fails to please lover.

Food



Next on Kitchen Cabinet: Benjamin Netanyahu

Culture



Eras? Ages.

Politics

Peter Dutton sprouts tuft of hair in post-win excitement



Albanese's marriage started with a simple but modest proposal



Scomo emerges and cooks hummus to help solve Middle East crisis



Is Peter Dutton bald down there?



Honi Soit

WEEK ELEVEN, SEMESTER TWO, 2023

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Where do students live?

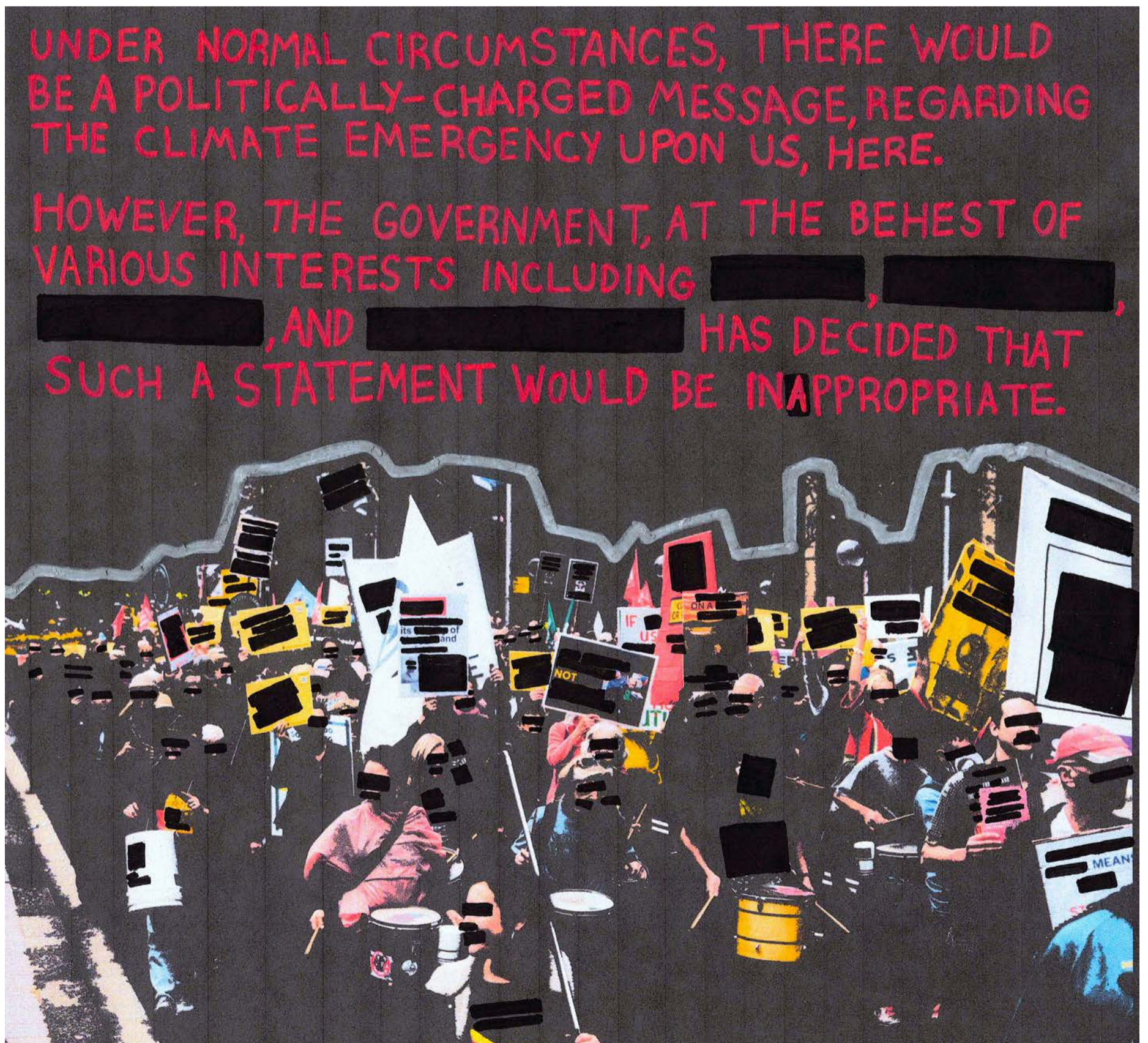
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The Right to Protest

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What do you think of
Honi anyway?

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Is Sydney walkable?

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Fear Wins

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History of White Bay

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