

# HONISOIT

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Week One | August 1

THE SYDNEY ISSUE

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# Planner

## HONI'S GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON



**Re-O Day and International Food Fair**  
10am - 4pm, Eastern Avenue, FREE

Missed joining a society in O-Week? Don't miss your chance to peruse the C&S stalls, and snack on some international delights and listen to some live music.

**SUDS Presents: A Doll's House**  
7pm, The Cellar Theatre, \$2-\$5

SUDS's first semester two slot tackles Henrik Ibsen's classic. Nora, a seemingly typical housewife becomes disillusioned and dissatisfied with her condescending banker husband.



**Distinguished Speakers Program: The Right Honourable Lord Brian Kerr of Tonaghmore**  
6pm, Sydney Law School, FREE

The Right Honourable the Lord Kerr will discuss the UK's extradition procedures as highlighted in the cases of Julian Assange, Abu Qatada and Christopher Tappin.

**Beat the System Back to Semester Party**  
5pm, Hermann's, FREE

The well loved Beat the System DJs are back for another semester.



**SHADES Back to School: Start of Semester Party**  
10pm, The Viper Lounge, Burdekin Hotel  
\$10 at the door

Rumoured to throw the best parties on campus, the Shaders are at it again this Friday. Free drinks for best dressed, so reach back into those childhood memories and pick out the best of the worst uniforms, fashion trends and hairstyles!

**London Olympic Live Site**  
6am-6pm, Customs House, FREE

Join the Olympics craziness at Customs House Square where you can watch live events on a giant screen.



**The Theatresports Cup Winner's Cup**  
8pm, New Theatre, \$22-\$28

The winner's of the 2011 Cranston Cup (David Callan, Jon Williams and our own Bridie Connell) play the winner's of the 2012 Scriptless Cup, the 2011 Sydney University Theatresports Cup (Carlo Ritchie, Maddie Parker, Tom Walker and ...) and the 2012 NSW High School's Theatresports Championship!

**The Annandale Hotel Pub Olympics - Heat 3**  
12pm, The Annandale Hotel, FREE

Are you a beer pong baron? Flip cup fanatic? Register a team of four to win weekly prizes including food & beverage vouchers, double passes to shows, and be in the running for \$1000.



**Museum of Copulatory Organs**  
18th Biennale of Sydney, Cockatoo Island, FREE

Take a look into the microscopic world of insect sex. As part of the Biennale of Sydney celebrations, Maria Fernanda Cardoso and Ross Rudesch Harley showcase the most elaborate genital armature with the help of an electron microscope.

**Jaded Zombies**  
6:30pm, The Vanguard, GA \$36.80

Zombies attack Newtown! As part of the Vanguard's Zombie Week, the original Jaded Vanities burlesque show has been resurrected for one night only.



**How "stopping the boats" puts refugee rights at risk**  
Mon, 6pm, NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre, FREE

The Refugee Action Coalition Sydney has organised a public forum, featuring authors Tony Kevin and Robin De Crespigny.

**Internship and Vacation Work Fair**  
Tues, 12pm-3pm, The Great Hall, Quad  
FREE

Maybe head along if you want to get a real-life job after university.

## WORLD TOUR

Pens down, bottles up

In Russia, a drunken lecturer forced students to sit an exam for 23 hours, forbidding them to even leave the examination hall to use the toilet, according to the Moskovsky Komsomolets newspaper.

Students said the lecturer stank of alcohol. “[She] would go into another room, drink, come back and start telling us about her business,” one student said.

In Russia, examinations are oral, and students must answer questions to their lecturer’s satisfaction in order to pass. This exam reportedly began at 10am and concluded at 9am the next day.

*Honi Soit* has seen its share of boozy academics, but nothing in that league.

Scavenging for glory

At the University of Chicago, the world’s largest scav hunt was won by Snitchcock, for the 13th time since the competition began in 1987. Far from your average scavenger hunt, teams were challenged to build a piano that dispenses

es beverages with every keystroke, design a mechanism to brush and floss your teeth at the same time, meet with Rohm Emmanuel, obtain a pen that has been used to sign a bill into law, create an origami crane with a wingspan less than one centimetre, and creating a functioning keyboard with fist-sized keys - among 350 other items.

The scav hunt, which is adjudicated by more than a dozen judges, was recently the subject of a long article in the *New Yorker*. Sort of puts the USYD scav hunt to shame, one must say.

Pluck-a-duck

At the University of New Mexico, a staff worker is accused of bashing a duck to death with a metal trash grabber. Cheryl Gorber told college newspaper *The Daily Lobo* she saw the cleaner poke and bash the duck before smashing several white duck eggs in the pond with her cleaning tools.

It’s only a matter of time before our own Ibi get what’s coming to them.

## CORRESPONDENCE

**Madeleine King** finds a shrine to beauty in the Big Apple

New York, heat wave, high summer. The shade of Central Park is deceptively hot and so the refuge of choice for every tourist and local in the city is something New York has in spades: art galleries. Their temperate climates, tuned for the preservation of the world’s most important cultural artefacts, are appreciated by visitors alike. It’s a particularly hot day, so we’ve chosen the biggest museum for maximum exposure to air conditioning: The Metropolitan Museum of Art (affectionately, The Met).

While the Guggenheim, MoMA (Museum of Modern Art), The Frick and The Whitney were easy contenders, The Met takes the crown of New York’s (nay, America’s) art institutions. Rivalled only by the Louvre, a day’s visit barely scratches the surface. So one does not simply review The Met in its entirety. A more sound critical response would perhaps be to review rooms individually. Which would then take a number of years, given its two million-object collection. Perhaps sections would be better? Just 23 weeks.

We tackled the ground floor first. Or rather, glided through light-filled, cavernous halls of Roman and Greek sculptures and pottery; rooms of pristinely preserved mummies that spilled out into a glass-ceilinged room, twice the size of the Great Hall, in which was housed the entire ancient Egyptian Temple of Dendur. It was salvaged by the Americans in a socio-political gesture when the Russian-funded construction of the Aswan Dam threatened to flood the site during the fifties. Such things were done in those days, the golden age of American philanthropy.

Two corridors later (past the façade of an 19th century American manor house) we were in the Medieval wing, standing in a transported Gothic cathedral, then a hall with fully suited knights on horses, then amidst the glittering jewels of Catholic ceremonial excess. It was all



a series of glimpses into other galleries, ones we knew it would be folly to walk into. The ultimate labyrinth of history, where one wrong turn means the loss of all historical and artistic continuity, into a new century, a new art movement.

Upstairs I felt we were powering well through the European painting section (18th – 20th century) until we reached the consecutive rooms of Rembrandts, Monets, and Cezannes. Whether the glint of a ring or fine jewellery on fur, the light of a Cote d’Azur afternoon still shone centuries later.

We dragged ourselves to the rooftop bar and thawed out in the heat with a drink, overlooking the New York skyline and leafy rooftop of Central Park. My mum, an art teacher, has a Met membership and it afforded us a well-earned lunch in the member’s dining room on the 6th floor. If you know a member, take them along or borrow their card for an exceptionally well-priced multicourse meal overlooking the Park, including cocktails.

We wandered hazily in the late afternoon back through the exhibits we hadn’t reached. People around us were, literally, asleep on the couches, defeated by the museum and its therapeutic (hypothermic?) air conditioning.

How do you give an impression of a museum so vast, of such grandeur and scope, in 500 words? The Met is, quite simply, a physical history of humanity’s devotion to beautiful things. A crime to miss if you’re in the city.

## EDITORIAL

# HONISOIT

The winter break is a good time to reflect: on disappointing results, forgotten friends, unattainable goals of a semester been and gone. Or perhaps that’s just us.

The winter recess, when our politicians escape the freezing bubble of Canberra and head home, is also a good time for reflection - hopefully on the country’s future. But too often their thoughts turn to the future of their party, or, with things this bad, the future of their own seats.

July was supposed to be the month when it all turned around for the Gillard government. The carbon tax would be in place, the compensation rolling out, the Coalition’s fear campaign busted, and the primary vote finally ascendant.

But the latest polls show that the government’s fortunes are stalled or in reverse. The mirage of a turn-around appears to have been just that. And now, on cue, the leadership chatter within the Labor Party is back at full gallop.

It is unfortunate. Julia Gillard did achieve - with enviable determination - what her predecessor couldn’t: she got the carbon price through. She also leg-

islated the mining tax and the national disability insurance scheme, for which she deserves enormous R-E-S-P-E-C-T. Sock it to her.

But it is time the ALP cast its collective focus toward the fast-approaching reality that if things don’t change, all those valuable reforms will be wiped away by a spectacularly triumphant Abbott government.

In two weeks parliament will resume and the seasonal infestation of Canberra will begin, including - perhaps for the first time - the political groupies of Kevin Rudd. According to the *Sun Herald*, members of “Rudd Factor” and “Rudd Alliance” will descend on the capital in that first sitting week to voice their support for the former PM.

Can we expect raucous cheering in Question Time? Perhaps a giant effigy of the man himself? Maybe a hotted-up ute with the Ruddster’s cheshire grin emblazoned on the bonnet?

One thing is certain: the machinations are already in motion. Will Kevin Rudd be rethroned? We say he should be.

Twitter: @michaelkoziol

Capitalism comes good in the outback, writes **Adam Chalmers** in Uluru

I visited Uluru over the holidays, and saw a tiny Aboriginal art store set up alongside a road. There were two Aboriginal women sitting in the dirt painting, while a white woman sold their hung-up art at the shopfront.

A fellow tourist asked our guide why the white woman was handling everything while Aboriginal women painted on the ground. “Isn’t that a bit disempowering?”

The guide’s answer: “The business that sells those artworks is owned by an Aboriginal family. They make the paintings and control the finances. But they know they’re not great at dealing with tourists, because they’ve got different customs and etiquettes. So they decided it was easier to hire a Westerner to deal with customers, while they manage the rest of the business.”

I feel I’m not knowledgeable about indigenous issues to comment on this properly, but I find it fascinating how one of the key capitalist ideals – division of labour – was adopted by the artists’ family. Things aren’t always as



they seem. Something that looks like disempowerment can actually be empowerment. Capitalism can benefit both westernised society and tiny Aboriginal family businesses.

I’m sure there’s something to be learned from my experience, but I’m not quite sure what it is. Perhaps it’s “don’t judge situations pre-emptively.” Maybe there’s something more important to take away. But either way, it was a fascinating, strangely poetic moment, and I share it in hope that inspires similar thought in other students.

## RETWEETS: SPENCE ON #QANDA

Nathan James Lentern @Nlentern  
10:25 PM - 23 Jul  
It’s a fucking palace you spoilt brats #usyd #qanda

Donherra @Donherra  
10:33pm - 23 Jul  
Glad to hear a campus drinking ban is off the cards, there would be serious riots at #usyd then! #qanda

James Colley @JamColley  
1:01 PM - 24 Feb  
I am also mad at whatever happened on #qanda. I’m going to go to #usyd and kick an ibis for their poor performance or whatever.

Josh Pearse @joshpearse  
9:40 PM - 23 Jul  
hey #usyd i know we all hate spence but can we all take a moment to remember what a big twat chris pyne is please #qanda



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## Debt sparks murder accusations?

Six students await news of their fate, reports **Jack Nairn**

A University of Sydney student is among a group of six young Australians under investigation for murder in Peru.

Andrew Pilat, a 21-year old engineering student, was holidaying in South America early this year with five friends, all of who have since returned home to Australia.

But the group awaits a possible extradition order if Peruvian police decide to press charges over the death of Lino Rodriguez Vilchez.

Mr Vilchez was working as a porter at an apartment complex in the Miraflores region of Lima, popular with international tourists, on the night of January 19 when he suffered a fatal fall. The 46-year old employee was discovered on the ground after allegedly being seen to fall from a balcony.

Mr Pilat and his friends had checked into the hotel that day. Peruvian authorities treated the incident as a suicide and questioned the six Australians about the incident. They explained that Mr. Vilchez had assisted them with on their arrival at the building and that after this encounter they had no further contact. They were then permitted to leave the country to continue with their holiday.

After their return to Australia, the group discovered allegations of murder made by a number of family and friends of Mr. Vilchez via Facebook. The Facebook page "Justicia para Lino rodriguez vilchez" [Justice for Lino Rodriguez Vil-

chez] states: "We want justice for Lino Rodriguez vilchez, killed by 6 Australian tourists in Miraflores, Lima, Peru." The page currently has 5 'likes'.

Since the discovery of these allegations the young men and woman have promised cooperation with Peruvian authorities and are working with DFAT in order to clear their names. While there have been talks of possible extradition, no charges have currently been laid. Bob Carr earlier told the Sun Herald that full consular support is being provided.

A Peruvian newspaper, *Peru.21*, claims the Australians were drunk and "causing a scandal" when Mr Vilchez approached them asking them to quiet down. The students deny they were intoxicated.

There are also suggestions that Mr Vilchez owed a significant debt and that his family rejected the explanation of suicide in order to claim insurance payouts to cover these debts. At this time the Peruvian authorities are showing little support for such alternative theories.

Mr Pilat was not prepared to comment for this story. In June, the group went public and approached the Sun Herald to tell their side of events. It was published as a cover story on June 30. *Honi Soit* understands that since then, the legal situation of the six students may have changed, and that they are no longer able to talk to media.

## Eastern University Games Results

Compiled by **Kira Spucys-Tahar**

The Eastern University Games were held from 1-5 July in Tamworth during the semester break. It was an opportunity for our university sports teams and athletes to compete against universities from across the state. The overall champions were the University of Technology, with the University of Sydney coming sixth and the University of Sydney Cumberland campus tenth.

### GOLD

Sydney Uni Women's Touch

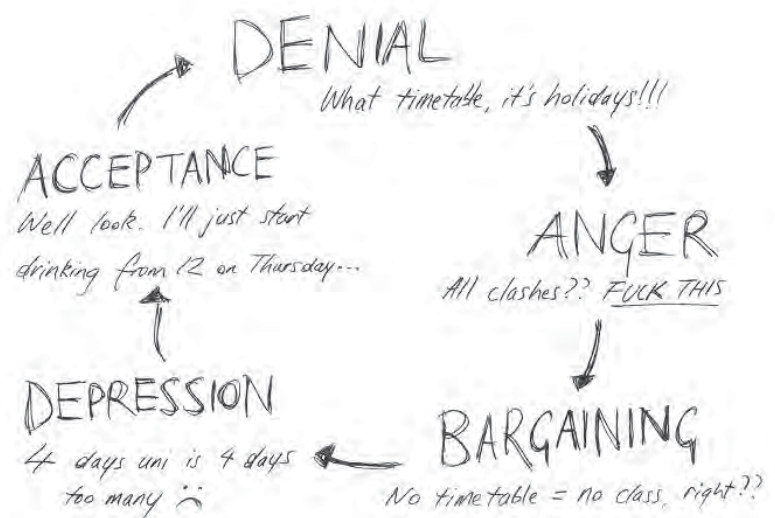
### SILVER

Sydney Uni Women's Basketball  
Sydney Uni Men's Touch  
Cumberland Men's Football  
Cumberland Men's Golf  
Cumberland Mixed Netball  
Cumberland Men's Rugby League  
Cumberland Women's Volleyball

### BRONZE

Sydney Uni Mixed Ultimate  
Sydney Uni Men's Basketball  
Cumberland Men's Rugby Union

## #graphite: The Pains of Grappling with USyd Timetabling



## Next stop Sydney Uni: food trucks find their way to Victoria Park

Sydney's latest dining innovation is a small-scale success, but it could all be hampered by endless red tape, writes **Michael Koziol**



The Cantina Mobil food truck at Victoria Park, just off City Rd | Photo courtesy of phuocndelicious.com

For a city so frequently compared with the sprawling metropolis of Los Angeles, it's a wonder Sydney took so long to steal that city's culinary craze: food trucks. Don't think soup kitchens or Woolies-vans: think tasty, mid-priced street food cooked by skilled young chefs from restaurants like Tetsuyas.

And the two trucks currently operating under the City of Sydney's trial are keen to arrest Sydney University's hunger pains: you will find them regularly in Victoria Park throughout second semester.

Cantina Mobil is run by Stephanie Raco and Rode Vella, who previously ran Manly's In Situ for nine years. These days their chefs are dishing out traditional Mexican burritos, tacos, chipotle beef, and achiote chicken from the back of a truck.

Ms Raco said they wanted to be part of an exciting period of change in Sydney's dining scene.

"The food truck movement really focuses on having a fantastic meal but not having to sit in a swanky place and pay exorbitant prices," she said. "Just down

to earth and really satisfying."

Eat Art Truck, meanwhile, is serving classic street dishes such as pulled pork buns, chicken wings, and spatchcock prepared by Stuart McGill and Brenton Balicki, who herald from the kitchens of Tetsuyas and Quay respectively.

Mr McGill said he faced a choice between top-billing at arguably Sydney's most famous restaurant or taking his career in an experimental new direction: he chose the latter. "When you take

over a place as a head chef and you're responsible for the day to day managing of things, you sort of stop learning," he said. "For me this is a whole new challenge."

On that point, one of the most challenging aspects of the food truck caper must be the red tape in which it is presently clogged. This is no organic movement: it is very much a marketing program being run by the City of Sydney, and as such, it is governed by their rules.

"We were invited in for a cook-off," said Ms Raco, explaining how the aspir-

ing food truck operators had been summoned to kitchens at UTS to cook for a panel including food writers Jill Dupliex, Terry Durack, and *TimeOut* magazine's Myffy Rigby.

"It was our first time ever having to cook for judges."

The carefully controlled trial means the trucks have to follow strict guidelines as to where and when they can set up operations. To protect the trade of other vendors nearby, the trucks can only use the site outside Customs House, at Circular Quay, from 9pm onwards: "you can't even attempt to enter that site prior to 9pm," said Ms Raco.

It's a far cry from how the industry works in L.A, where some 7000 mobile taco vendors are estimated to be in operation. Only around 3000 have even registered.

Both Cantina Mobil and Eat Art Truck expressed interest in being closer to Sydney University itself – preferably on-campus – but recognised there would be obstacles. "[We're] very concerned with respecting the establishments that do pay rent," Ms Raco said. "But a bit of competition never hurts."

"Anyone who can provide information on how to get closer will get a swag of burritos." The offer remains.

*Cantina Mobil will next be at Victoria Park on Monday 6 August, 12-3pm*  
*Eat Art Truck's schedule is posted on its website weekly*

## They're back: surprise lift in international student numbers

Lucrative international students are a cash cow for universities, but our budget for reaching them has been shrunk. **Michael Koziol** reports

Sydney University has experienced an upturn in international student enrolments for the first time since the onset of the global financial crisis. Figures known to the International Office reveal a "modest" increase in the number of overseas students starting their study here this semester when compared with the second semester of 2011.

The Deputy Director of the International Office, Jay Jayatilaka, said he was surprised to see a recovery this early given other Australian institutions are still experiencing a downturn in their numbers.

"We were not expecting a change in direction in terms of international student numbers until at least early next year," Mr Jayatilaka said.

"We had to double check the numbers to make sure we were reading [them] correctly."

Although the data has not yet been crunched, he expects the increase to come mainly from traditional markets such as China.

Sydney University takes on approximately 4000-5000 new international students each year, competing with UNSW for the lion's share of those who come to the Sydney area. But the GFC and the high Australian dollar have combined to reduce numbers in recent years.

The university's controversial Final Change Plan, which set out a number of cost saving measures including cuts to academic staff, named the "softening of international student demand" as a key



There was a "modest" increase in international student numbers this semester. Credit: Newtown Graffiti, licensed under CC BY 2.0

reason for the shortfall in student fee income in 2011. This shortfall, combined with "urgent capital expenditure needs", necessitated the loss of academic and administrative jobs, the university argued.

But the cuts also applied to the budget of the international office, and with it, the office's overseas marketing program, which helps recruit those lucrative international students.

Mr Jayatilaka told Honi Soit it was reasonable for the marketing program to generate its share of budgetary savings.

"The cuts had to be absorbed across the board, and we were no exception," he said.

"It's a decision that's made beyond

this office. The university recognised a need to make cuts because of the budget situation...we were not unique in that.

"We just have to work within what's available to us, and be a little smarter.

For the international office, those savings were chiefly made through a reduction in advertising spending, and by choosing to attend fewer expensive education exhibitions.

"We didn't think, with our brand positioning, that it was always necessary to advertise," Mr Jayatilaka said. "So we were able to get the message across without spending huge amounts of money in advertising. If you look at other universities you'll see them advertising in train

stations, on buses...we just didn't go down that path."

Big education exhibitions, where candidates peruse the offerings of numerous global institutions, can cost \$8000 or more just to register. Mr Jayatilaka said the university could attain just as much benefit by showing up the week after the exhibition and not paying the fee.

"We get more focused candidates who actually missed us at the exhibition and are now thankful that we did show up," he said.

"We don't necessarily need to attend these exhibitions if we are still able to attract the quality candidate by other means."

The strategy has been deployed in the Gulf and India, both particularly expensive markets in which to recruit.

But the effects of cuts to the marketing program may have not yet manifested. It takes around 12 to 18 months for most students to progress from inquiry into studying abroad to actually enrolling. The moderate upturn in enrollments this semester is likely a result of last year.

If next year's numbers are down, there will be serious questions to answer about the cuts made to the marketing program. Mr Jayatilaka admitted they will have to wait and see. But he was optimistic that "we have managed to do well by being a little more strategic than we have been in the past".

Twitter: @michaelkoziol

## Campus feminism faces radical rethink of priorities

When women's issues are played out via Clubs & Societies, how do we know progress when we see it, asks **Connie Ye**

The university community was subjected to both merited and morally panicked scrutiny regarding 'women's issues' at the end of last semester. Three student societies that cropped up in quick succession - the Feminist Society, LifeChoice and the short-lived proposal for the Men's Society - are worthy of comment. Partly so for their contributions to colourfully honest debate that rarely goes amiss in our age of diplomacy, and partly for signalling to the rest of the university the increasingly polarised views embedded in our student clubs and societies.

Questions of administration and 'right' to existence aside, these clubs have emerged in a flurry of wavering ideals on the horizon regarding choices tied to women's welfare, and whether the concept of such choice has been a mirage this whole time. It is less troubling to hear of people speaking about conservative or even retrogressive sentiment rearing its head in our generation than to see evidence of such sentiment and fail to link it to greater logical causes.

There is a real problem in the overlap between social issues. Take the recent US national legislative debate over 'conscience clause exceptions' in health care. Passing these exceptions would have mandated the provision of contraception by religious educational and charity services, overriding any patent opposi-

tion to such provision on the basis of their beliefs.

Among those speaking in favour of the measures was Georgetown Law student Sandra Fluke, who was especially vocal on the crippling costs of contraception for female students. Her comments that birth control could cost over US\$3,000 during the course of a law degree attracted the ever-welcome attention of right-wing commentator Rush Limbaugh, who said:

"What does it say about the college co-ed Susan Fluke [sic], who goes before a congressional committee and essentially says that she must be paid to have sex, what does that make her? It makes her a slut, right? She's having so much sex she can't afford the contraception. She wants you and me and the taxpayers to pay her to have sex."

Limbaugh's comments made nil contribution to the overall debate but the media storm was not unwarranted: for the past decade or so there has been rising conservatism across the Pacific. US vice president of external affairs for Planned Parenthood, Leola Reis, who spoke here last semester, listed at least six currently proposed bills - state and national - which threaten to restrict access and/or negatively reinvent the already arduous process of abortion or 'preventing natal development'.

All this begs the question of what it means to be progressive in the face of

conservatism. The progressive label has been dulled by misuse, being bandied around with such liberal application. If the point is to take a continuously forward-thinking critical view on policies regarding women's sexual health and social welfare, then the campus feminists would do better to pick the appropriate battles to fight.

The creators of Facebook advocacy group 'Stop the LifeChoice (anti-abortion) Society at USYD' are on their way to amassing the two hundred signatures of Union members required to call a Special General Meeting.

**"Campus feminists would do better to pick the appropriate battles to fight."**

But even once this does happen, it will be difficult to imagine what substantial changes will be made if any. Given the Union's constitution allows for little more scope than mere comment on Board actions and giving advice as to future oard policy, it is probable that recommendations for alterations of a procedural nature will be the most radical thing to eventuate from the SGM. The prognosis sounds grim for LifeChoice opposers, but as they say, red tape is red tape is red tape.

Many will also say Ann-Marie Slaughter's dismissal of lofty have-it-all ambitions for working women in *The*

*Atlantic* came at a good time when the feminist movement in whatever form it exists today needed a straight talking stock-take on the progress it has made. The creation of the Feminist Society will hopefully be a move to distance and broaden the brand of feminism from the Women's Collective, whose existence provided good ammunition for the likes of Men's Society founder Jack Mason.

While rigorous opposition and lack of support shut that idea down rather quickly, it's questionable whether such an immediate denouncement was helpful to the cause. If the feminist movement is robust enough, complementary discussion for men should not be discounted so quickly.

Furthermore, talk of starting an anti-pro-life society has not gone unsubstantiated. It would be interesting to see a Heglian dialectic played out via C&S. But whether or not we achieve any enlightening debate at the end of it is another matter altogether.

As for those thinking to follow in the footsteps of Ann-Marie Slaughter, consider the possibility that having one's cake and eating it too is not an impossibility in itself. So long as we understand that we will most likely be the ones baking the thing and sharing it around before we sit down to a slice of idealism ourselves.

Connie Ye is an Honi Soit editor



## HONILEAKS

All your university gossip, rumours, allegations, and revelations with **Michael Koziol** and **Kira Spucys-Tahar**

### Solidarity not forever

The Labor wing of student politics continues to fracture as Student Unity, or Labor Right, reveals it is in negotiations with a number of campus factions and groups, including the Indies.

Senior Unity figure and newly-elected USU Board director John Harding-Easson told *Honi Soit*: "In terms of supporting a candidate, we're considering all options."

This means Unity will not automatically support its Labor Left (NLS) compatriots, who will almost certainly choose SRC Education Officer David Pink as their candidate for the SRC Presidency.

With the election due to be held late next month, negotiations for preference deals have already begun. Sources have told *Honi* that Mr Harding-Easson, Dylan Parker, and Emily France are negotiating for Unity, while SRC President Phoebe Drake, Max Keifel, and Women's Officer Annabel Osborn are negotiating for NLS.

Rafi Alam and Brigitte Garozzo have been running talks on behalf of Grassroots (Greens), while Rhys Pogonoski is said to be negotiating for the indies,

along with Sam Pearson. Alex Dore and Henry Innis are representing the Liberals in talks.

Last year's election was a close race between a strong indie campaign (Voice) who ran with the support of Grassroots but were ultimately beaten by a united Labor opposition.

There has been speculation that Voice's unsuccessful Presidential candidate, Tim Matthews, would try again this year. But sources have told *Honi* Mr Matthews will not run and that the Indy candidate will be this year's other SRC Education Officer, Sam Farrell.

Mr Farrell told *Honi*, "I care a lot about the SRC and I'm enjoying working for it and I honestly have not decided yet. I haven't ruled anything out."

### Political blueprints

*Honi Soit* has become aware that members of the Sydney University Liberal Club will be running candidates for the upcoming SRC elections. Alex Dore and Henry Innis will back St John's college boy and Arts student Josh Crawford for President. Despite not being a registered Liberal, Crawford has been linked with the soft right faction

for some time. Zac Thompson and Sam Murray, also of SULC, will run St Paul's student Adam Murphy in the Presidential race. The biggest concern is that they're both college students which may split that base, but as Nick Coffman demonstrated in the Union elections, the college vote is unreliable at best.

Alex Dore told *Honi*: "The entrenched left and indies need to be challenged. Josh and Adam present a viable mainstream alternative."

### USU Board

The new University of Sydney Union Board met in July to elect the executive team from 2012-2013. As anticipated, Astha Rajvanshi beat out Rhys Pogonoski for President. Mr Pogonoski took on the role of Honorary Treasurer. Brigid Dixon was elected Vice-President after Jacqui Munro declined her nomination. Zac Thompson beat out Karen Chau for the role of Honorary Secretary. All executive roles were given to Board members in their second year. Debut Directors Hannah Morris and John Harding-Easson were elected to the Women's Portfolio and Electoral Committee respectively. After

expressions of interest were received, Karen Chau is now Deputy Chair of Clubs and Societies Committee.

### EdCon Drama

The National Union of Students' Education Conference, held at UTS and Sydney University in July, wasn't kind to either of the SRC Education Officers. Mr Farrell copped some flak for only appearing at a small proportion of the conference and not assisting with its organisation or registering prior.

"I attended two of the three days. The last day I had prior commitments and couldn't go," Mr Farrell said. "The registration was a simple administrative oversight. As to why I wasn't helping to organise the conference, I would have been entirely happy to help had I been asked to perform any specific tasks."

Rumoured NLS Presidential candidate David Pink was the subject of an internal grievance complaint by the President of the University of Adelaide SRC Idris Martin which was dismissed the following day. Nonetheless some Unity sources have said this has damaged Mr Pink's reputation within NLS caucus.

## Briefly...

### Vale Anne Dunn

Anne Dunn, former Chair of the Department of Media and Communications, Pro-Dean and Acting Dean of the Arts Faculty passed away at the beginning of July, surrounded by her family and friends. Energetic, witty, dignified and caring, Anne was highly respected for her work in journalism and public broadcasting, and widely loved as a mentor and collaborator. She will be remembered for her dynamism, leadership and vision, and her capacity to build bridges between industry and academe.

### Triggs and Bashir depart

Professor Gillian Triggs has stepped down as Dean of the Law School to become president of the Australian Human Rights Commission (HRC). Professor Triggs was appointed by Attorney-General Nicola Roxon last month to her new position on a tenure for five years, starting 30 July 2012. She will also step down as chair of the Council of Australian Law Deans. The acting Dean of the Faculty is Professor Greg Tolhurst.

In other news, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir announced she will conclude her term as Chancellor of the University on 15 December after more than five years. Her second term was not due to end until May 2015.

### History in the making

Associate Professor Mark McKenna of the Department of History has won a 2012 Prime Minister's Literary Award for his biography of historian Manning Clark. *An Eye for Eternity: The Life of*

*Manning Clark* took out the \$80,000 prize in the non-fiction category.

Manning Clark taught the first full-length university course in Australian history and produced a six-volume history of Australia. He played a key role in public debates including the end of White Australia, the demise of the British Empire and emergence of a new Australian nationalism, the dismissal of the Whitlam government, the bicentenary celebrations, and the fall of the Berlin Wall.

McKenna's research included reading Clark's extensive private letters, journals and diaries - many of which had never been examined before.

### University awarded ARC Future Fellowships

Senator Chris Evans, Minister for Science and Research announced on July 25 that Sydney University would receive 22 of the 209 Australian Research Council Future Fellowships, the largest of any institution. The Fellowships will assist early- and mid-career researchers in furthering their work.

Research projects include strategies to combat climate change, ensuring food security, detection of money laundering schemes, and increasing the wellbeing of mothers and newborns. The Fellowships are spread across various university faculties including the Sydney Medical School, Faculty of Engineering, the Department of Art History and Film Studies, and the Faculty of Agriculture.

The ARC Future Fellowships scheme began in 2009 in order for the government to support and increase the opportunities of researchers in Australia.

### SCA rocks the Biennale

Three artists affiliated with Sydney College of the Arts are having their work displayed on Cockatoo Island as part of the 18<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Sydney.

An internationally acclaimed artist with work exhibited at MoMA and in the Tate Collection, PhD candidate Maria Fernanda Cardoso has collaborated with Ross Rudesch Harley to create *Museum of Copulatory Organs*. The work is an exploration of insect penises through scientific models and photographs, together with a film titled *Stick Insects Most Intimate Moments, On Video*.

Conceptual artist Iris Haussler of Canada was artist-in-residence at the SCA while developing her Biennale work, *He Dreamed Overtime*. The work is based on a fictitious former ranger from Cockatoo Island with the work grounded in narrative exploration. Her project includes 73 beeswax sculptures as part of a site-specific installation, an online website and material works created at SCA.

Taiwanese-born Canadian Ed Pien also developed his work while an artist-in-residence. His work, *Source*, is an interactive experience encouraging people to immerse themselves in a series of inter-connected chambers made of translucent paper. The complex maze is filled with drawings and video projections while a traditional Inuit throat-singing track plays.

*The 18th Biennale of Sydney is on until 16 September 2012.*

Compiled by **Kira Spucys-Tahar** and **Connie Ye**

### HONI TAB

#### 2020 OLYMPIC BIDS

CHRISTCHURCH 2020:  
"I FEEL THE EARTH MOVE"  
\$1.29

ATHENS 2020:  
"GIVE US ALL YOUR MONEY. AGAIN"  
\$2.85

TEHRAN 2020:  
"IT'S GOING TO BE NUCLEAR"  
\$7.44

CHICAGO 2020:  
"WE'VE ALREADY RIGGED IT ANYWAY"  
\$21.16

DENVER 2020:  
"GOLD MEDALLISTS IN SHOOTING"  
\$138.42

## SPOTLIGHT ON SYDNEY

### Don't be incremental, be bold, planners tell government

Some of the world's biggest brains in urban planning had a strong message for our local and state authorities, reports **Michael Koziol**

An overhaul of the way development is financed in NSW was one of the major ideas to emerge from a panel discussion on urban planning at the University of Sydney on Thursday.

Tax increment financing is used by local governments in the United States to finance major projects by issuing bonds generated from expected future property tax income.

In the United States, property tax is the major source of revenue for most local governments. The property value is based chiefly on the value of the production taking place on the land, such that a vacant lot generates very little tax but a shopping centre would generate a substantial amount.

"We are permitted to use that like a mortgage, to make payments from that increased tax revenue to support a bond issue from which we can get money immediately to drive the development, to put in the infrastructure," explained Tom Murphy, the former Mayor of Pittsburgh and now senior fellow at the Urban Land Institute in Washington.

Under Mr Murphy's leadership, Pittsburgh engaged in a major revitalization project that transformed the city's neglected waterfront, created a vibrant arts and cultural precinct, required pension funds to invest in venture capital, and matched that investment with significant co-contributions from government.

The panel was held at the Seymour Centre as part of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Urban Planning and Environment Association symposium, co-hosted by the Faculty of Architecture and the United States Studies Centre last week. It was moderated by Edward Blakely, one of the world's leading urban policy scholars and the "recovery czar" of New Orleans in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina.

Mr Murphy said the major threats to the continued success of a city such as Sydney are a dearth of leadership,



Without new investment and infrastructure, Sydney is in danger of being left behind. Credit: Jimmy Harris, licensed under CC BY 2.0

strategy, and institutional capacity. By the latter he meant the lethargy of bureaucracy.

"You don't ever have to make a decision when you're in a process," Mr Murphy said. "You either paralyze yourself trying to get everybody for it, or you make a decision."

He said leaders and planners had to be willing to take risks for the future of their city and plan strategically, "not on an incremental basis but on a bold basis".

Local panelists felt those elements are lacking in Sydney. Julie Bindon, of the Warren Centre for Advanced Engineering's Urban Reform Project, said: "governance and leadership is what we really need to develop more of."

Partly that means finding new ways for governments and developers to finance projects, such as tax increment financing (TIF).

In 2008, PriceWaterhouseCoopers prepared a report on the need for such a funding model in Australia. The report was critical of the limitations of existing mechanisms such as development levies

and state government debt.

It noted that public infrastructure funding has fallen significantly as a share of GDP since the 1970s, and that consequently, "Australia's infrastructure is not keeping pace with the demands placed on it by a growing population and economy."

TIF, on the other hand, provides a strong market test for infrastructure selection because "TIF administrators have a strong incentive and accountability to invest in infrastructure that generates 'value' to the community". It is deemed more equitable because the funds come from the owners of newly created wealth within the designated TIF district.

The model has been used to finance major projects in Chicago, is currently being used to fund the extension of the "7" subway line in New York City, and financed enormous high speed rail rollouts in Japan, as well as the Hong Kong subway.

But thus far the PwC report has largely fallen on deaf ears in Australia. Unsurprisingly, the panelists who

spoke last Thursday night were also critical of a governance structure which they believe hampers development prospects.

"The 43 or 44 local councils [in Sydney] is not conducive to a much bigger picture if we're talking globally, but [even] if we're talking metropolitan, it's not working particularly well," Ms Bindon said.

Patricia Forsythe, Executive Director of the Sydney Business Chamber, has long supported an amalgamation of Sydney's councils down to just ten. She was critical of those who are uncomfortable with growth and change.

"I know there are some people who would rather that [overseas] investment wasn't there," she told the panel.

Mr Murphy said residents and business-owners could grow tired of development if it was badly designed or infinitely delayed, something NSW has experienced far too often.

"People will respond if they believe it's going to happen," he said. "The central role of an elected official is to create hope."

*Additional reporting by Fabian Di Lizia*



## CAMPUS NEWS

### Toy time at the Nicholson Museum

**Max Chalmers** discovered that LEGO Rome wasn't built in a day either

He came, he saw, he LEGOed. Thanks to certified LEGO professional Ryan McNaught, the Nicholson Museum is now host to the largest ever LEGO model of Rome's colosseum. The model consists of over 200,000 LEGO bricks, weighs 100 kilograms, and took 400 hours to build.

The model was commissioned by the Nicholson Museum as part of an exhibit featuring coins, sculptures, and artefacts from the Roman Empire.

The LEGO colosseum includes immaculate cut away detail revealing the building's inner chambers, stairwells, and gladiator battles, over which a LEGO Emperor Titus presides. "He's giving the thumbs down there. I don't know if you can tell because LEGO people don't have thumbs," Mr McNaught said.

Curves and crumbles proved the most intractable architectural problems for Mr McNaught. Four whole days were spent designing a prototype Roman arch

which young volunteers were recruited to build hundreds of times over. In keeping with Roman labour practices the children were not paid for their work. Many more hours were passed patching together single LEGO blocks so that one side of the structure appears in its contemporary rubble state, weathered by centuries of Italian seasons.

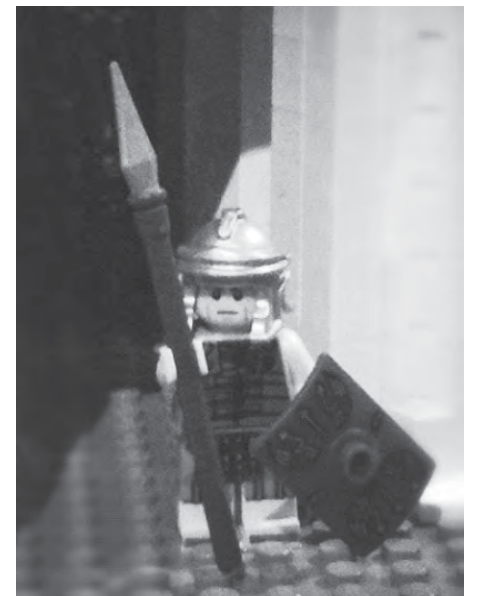
However, not all of the building was reconstructed with complete historical accuracy. Keen-eyed observers will notice a contemporary pope-mobile parked alongside the colosseum walls. Instead of a papal leader it contains Darth Sidious, the popular Star Wars LEGO figure which Mr McNaught employs as his anachronistic trademark.

After construction in Melbourne the set was nerve-wrackingly boxed up and trucked to Sydney. Addressing the school holiday crowd, Mr McNaught spoke about his fear of breaking the painstakingly detailed model. "I actually used to have a full set of hair when this project started," he joked.

Mr McNaught has experienced LEGO heartbreak in the past. A massive LEGO Airbus A380 he built was destroyed, ironically, while returning by air from the United States. He knew something had gone wrong when he noticed little blocks of LEGO trickling out along the luggage carousel.

One of just 13 officially certified 'LEGO professionals' worldwide, Mr McNaught quit his IT job to pursue a full time career as a LEGO artist. His most recent stock take estimated that he possesses six million LEGO bricks. His advice for those who wish to follow his career path? "Get into maths."

The LEGO colosseum is on display at the Nicholson Museum until January 2013.



Lego soldier at the Nicholson Museum. Credit: **Vicki Lu** @onceuponafoodie

SYDNEY: OBSERVED

## No bandaid for drinking culture

Attempts to motivate the public into action cheapen the problem of violence, writes **James O'Doherty**

The Kings Cross death of 18-year-old Tom Kelly last month has mobilised our apathetic city into action against the oft-derided scourge of Australia's 'booze culture'.

The sudden need to fix this systemic problem, and the pervading moral panic around drunk violence, are fuelled by tabloid, broadsheet, and broadcast media alike. But apart from repeated criticism of booze and violence laws, is anything actually being done?

The *Sydney Morning Herald* held a 'Safer Sydney' forum in Town Hall. News Ltd. responded with a 'Real Heroes Walk Away' campaign in its *Daily Telegraph*. Clover Moore jumped to propose tougher laws on clubs and pubs, and more transport to ship party-goers from the front line at the end of the night. Potts Point resident and general dilettant Paul Keating shot back, deriding the city as an "inebriate's spittoon" with a drinking problem.

But the Cross is not the exclusive den of inequity that public outcry makes it out to be. On Saturday night, police

investigated a fight that broke out in Rouse Hill. A glassing occurred in Crows Nest. And, yes, someone was also glassed in the Cross.

To take the moral high-ground after the straw that broke the camel's back is cheap activism, tapping into pervasive moral panic gripping a city in fear.

Indeed, Sydney has a drinking problem, and a drinking violence problem. So what can be done about it?

During the campaign for the last, Premier Barry O'Farrell proposed a trial of sobering-up centres to quarantine drunks who could run amok and cause harm to themselves or others, saying they would give police the powers they require to keep our streets safe from the unruly. But none of these centres have yet opened, and not everyone is pleased with the proposal. NSW Police Association President Scott Weber said it wasn't the job of police to babysit people who have had too much.

If we can't segregate the drunks, we could get tough on crime. But even after Tom Kelly's death, most assault of-

fenders have just received a slap on the wrist.

In exclusive statistics provided to *Honi Soit*, of the 173 cases of assault occasioning actual bodily harm that proceeded to the major Sydney courts, only 3 per cent of offenders faced prison charges.

Many were let off without charge, some were given fines, and many were given good behaviour bonds.

Even if we can't get tough on assault in the courts, cops can get tough on the streets.

But Professor Gordian Fulde doesn't think the threat of repercussions is enough.

"What we need is for people to grow up thinking assault is wrong, and knowing that if they get into a fight there's a good chance they are going to seriously harm another human being," he told *Honi*. "Sticking people in prison isn't the answer."

Beyond a safer Sydney, and asking real heroes to 'walk away', Sydney needs a rethink.



Kings Cross is a natural Mecca for kids hedonistically taking risks, drinking excessively, and living 'on-the-edge'.

Public safety campaigns can't be panaceas for an innate desire for this coming-of-age ritual. That can only be fixed by a cultural change.

James O'Doherty is on Twitter: [@jmodoh](#)

AMERICA: CRITICISED

## America undermines arms treaty

America's gun problem isn't just domestic, writes **Felix Donovan**

It is said that old habits die hard. On July 27, the UN discussions of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the UN reaffirmed its impotence. And the US, keeping with tradition, demonstrated its unwillingness to be the bastion and enforcer of morality that its leaders pay tribute to so often.

Throughout July, delegates from 193 countries negotiated the exact provisions of an Arms Trade Treaty. If successful, the negotiations would have, for the first time in history, imposed regulations upon the global trade in armaments. Quite absurdly, the merchants of death operate in a lawless environment. The \$60 billion arms trade occurs without oversight. The consequences of that anarchic system have been documented by human rights organisations for decades. They are laid bare in Assad's Syria, whose thugs wield Russian Kalashnikovs.

The proposed treaty was a common-sense one: countries must report the sale of arms and ammunition, and must not sell arms to countries or organisations that would put them to rapacious use. It had the support of Nobel Laureates, retired Generals and the vast majority of UN member states. So why, then, did the US delegation walk out on the 27 July, saying it needed more time?

America has built its hegemony on a web of alliances. The strength and longevity of those alliances is built upon simple logic: In return for resources and military bases, the US will guarantee your existence. Sometimes that is direct, like with Kuwait in 1990. But more often it is indirect, in the form of military training and equipment.

The US is the world's largest exporter of arms, accounting for almost half of all arms sales. But it does not pick its allies, the recipients of those arms, on the basis

of a shared commitment to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

And here's where we get to the ATT: regulating the arms trade would mean restricting America's ability to supply arms to its Eastern European and Middle Eastern allies – violently misogynistic and homophobic when not arbitrarily cruel. There can be no loophole big enough in the ATT for such countries. Reticence to abandon such ties explains, in part, the American recalcitrance.

That is, however, only one part of this tale. The greater morass to Obama's signature on the ATT was what President Dwight Eisenhower famously denounced in his farewell address as 'military-industrial complex'. The power of arms companies to cajole and corrupt Washington into favourable policies, including unregulated arms trade, is a very troubling vein of American democracy.

Take a look, sceptical reader, at the nefarious influence of US-based Lockheed Martin, the largest manufacturer and supplier of arms in the world. It spent \$14 million on lobbying Washington in 2010, and is the top contributor to the campaigns of many prominent US Senators. Moreover, Lockheed's CEO sits on the Obama Administration's Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations. And it is just one of the many American arms companies.

Many delegates bitterly denounced the debasing presence of lobbyists at the conference. A member of the British delegation told one reporter that he believed the American position on the ATT was bought by the arms lobby. There is likely some truth in that.

July 27 marked a triumph of cowardice and cynicism, and it is the children of Syria and the Congo who will pay the ultimate price for that.

GRIFFITH: CELEBRATED

## Regional newspapers get a raw deal

Country rags may be trash, but they're our trash, writes **Lane Sainty**

Most of us have little need to regularly consider the fate of the newspaper. It arrives on our doorstep, or at the corner store, every day without fail. But recent shake-ups in an industry under immense financial pressure have made us think twice about our throwaway rags.

The rise of the tablet and events like the Fairfax restructuring in June have given us much food for thought about the inevitable switch to online platforms. However, information about the changes regional newspapers face has been virtually non-existent.

There is one struggle we have heard about: that of Fairfax's *Newcastle Herald*, *Illawarra Mercury*, and associate papers. They will have editorial production outsourced to New Zealand, changes that were opposed by the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA) but will go ahead regardless. This will not only result in job cuts, but also inevitably impact upon the 'local' nature of these papers.

This is an important part of the story. Regional papers may have a much smaller readership than their metropolitan counterparts, but often command a larger percentage of the intended community. This means they can wield a tremendous amount of influence, albeit amongst a small population.

My local, Griffith's *The Area News*. At the best of times it's an enjoyable read; at worst, a trashy paper almost completely unhindered by qualms about bias. It has taken positions on a number of controversial town issues, and is currently pursuing a relentless campaign against the infamous Murray Darling Basin Plan.

*The Area News* also contains weekly segments that challenge the idea of 'newsworthiness' as we know it.

One section, carrying the inane title 'What are you into?', asks a random person what music, books, food, and websites they happen to be enjoying at the moment.

Obliging amateur chefs eagerly fill up 'Recipe of the Week'. 'My Wheels', which profiles someone and their car or motorbike, is testament to the grand country tradition of 'lapping'.

My personal favourite is the 'Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down' column, in which the people of Griffith detail readers with various small-town complaints and compliments. These usually involve speeding P-platers (complaints) and those who help elderly people carry groceries to their car (compliments). However, more creative—and more spiteful—entries have been seen. A recent contribution read: "Thumbs up to the thumbs down to the thumbs down to the P-platers blocking the service road at Marian Catholic College." I wish I were joking.

Needless to say, stories in *The Area News* are often uninteresting. Heck, they are often plain irrelevant. But they are always local, and this is what keeps the paper both alive and successful today. The MEAA agree, stating in regards to the *Newcastle Herald* and *Illawarra Mercury* issue that "commitment and engagement with the communities of the Hunter and the Illawarra depends on journalists embedded in and understanding those communities".

Essentially, you can't take the local out of local papers and expect them to keep chugging on as is. This applies to regional communities across Australia. Fairfax and News Ltd. would do well to dwell on that message as they negotiate this tumultuous era.

Lane Sainty is on Twitter: [@lanesainty](#)



## EDUCATION

## An Education: let's talk about teacher training

The Vice-Chancellor's appearance on the ABC's Q&A program put a glossy spin on Education degrees at Sydney University, writes **Cameron Caccamo**

Last week, politicians, experts, and our very own Vice-Chancellor, Dr Michael Spence, made up the panel of a Q&A program talking almost exclusively about education and teacher training. A number of issues arose that need attention, including falling acceptance standards, class sizes, and the amount of practical work necessary to complete the degree.

On the program, Dr. Spence mentioned that Primary Education had an ATAR cut-off of 90, which has been steadily increasing. Misleadingly, he concluded that Sydney University was not lowering acceptance standards for teachers. There are six Bachelor of Education degrees, and the other five; the four secondary streams of humanities, science, mathematics, and physical education, as well as early childhood; have ATAR cut-offs ranging between 82.45 and 78.40.

These cut-offs have dropped in recent years: the cut-off for Secondary: Humanities Education was 85.35 in 2010, dropping five points in two years. The problem with this, as education student Ashvin Ashok points out, "falling acceptance standards mean it is more likely they will not meet the NSW Institute of Teachers Graduate Standards, meaning they cannot become a teacher anyway".

One does not have to look far for reasons why. A recent government initiative

to have 40 per cent of Australia's workforce hold at least a Bachelor's Degree has meant lifting the caps placed on university intake into courses. For universities struggling with cash flow because of declining international student intake, the obvious answer to quickly raise funds was to increase student intake. This meant dropping ATAR requirements to allow more students in. The first year cohort (the first year of all 6 B. Ed courses) last year numbered around 400; in 2012, it is closer to 600.

A second issue raised was class sizes. Most students in the program have tutorials numbering 25 to 28 people, in which education students learn how to effectively manage a class; with an emphasis on how smaller class sizes can be hugely beneficial for students. So while learning what to do in the classroom, we were being shown what not to do from the university.

The Education and Social Work Society (EDSOC) represents students of the faculty, and President Matthew Woolaston is unhappy with the increasing class sizes. "Larger class sizes for students does not permit quality, constructive teaching and pedagogy to be fostered within classroom environments," he said. Kate Newland, a third-year student, found it "difficult to voice personal opinions and learn effectively" with such class sizes.



Credit: Marijn de Vries Hoogerwerff, licensed under CC BY 2.0

Finally, there is the issue of teacher training and in-classroom experience. In accordance with the NSW Institute of Teachers accreditation guidelines, the different degree programs give students between 75 and 85 days in the classroom, over four to five years. For secondary programs, this equates to no practical experience until the end of the third year of the degree. EDSOC Vice-President Kathryn Genthner questions this policy: "There should be a compromise," she said. "Not too early, so we have some theory under our belt, but not as late as it is".

There are reasons behind this; ensuring an adequate base knowledge in the subject and education pedagogy among them. There are several detractors too, like not knowing if you have the capacity to teach until you have gone through three years of the course. The question over whether this is enough continues.

It is clear teacher education at Sydney University is not the shining light portrayed by Dr Spence, nor is it as bad as some make it out to be. We need to start a reasoned discussion about what your university is doing in terms of teacher education and whether it is enough.

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## TALK OF THE TOWN

Before there were small bars, there was the Different Drummer, writes **Nick Rowbotham**

“Small bars have always been around,” I’m told by Marc, the bar manager at the Different Drummer, Glebe’s stalwart cocktail and tapas joint. At first I’m somewhat taken aback by this statement, it belies the common perception that small bars such as Shady Pines, Baxter’s Inn, and Grasshopper represent a new frontier for Sydney’s nightlife. But, as he goes on to explain, that perception is as much about a renewed public interest in smaller, more intimate venues as it is about their actual proliferation.

And notwithstanding the drastic increase in competition now faced by older bars like the Drummer, Marc seems incredibly enthused by the variety that the new crop of venues offer Sydney’s bar scene. “It’s the greatest thing that’s ever happened,” he says.

But the Drummer had been doing its thing long before Clover Moore unleashed the hounds. It has existed in some form or another since 1970, originally as a restaurant on Burton St in Darlinghurst at the sandstone farmhouse where The Commons now resides. It changed hands in 1986 and moved to its current location, perched atop the hill where Glebe Point Road meets St John’s. The new site also came with a wine bar license.

Dave Jeffrey purchased the restaurant in late 2003 and began a transformation toward a cocktail and tapas focus. “Ultimately [it became] a very down to earth

and comfortable space with a really big focus on music selection,” he says.

What really strikes me about the place in its current incarnation is its atmosphere. The central, solid brick room is bathed in a dark red glow, one wall cushioned by plush leather fixtures, and specially-designed lamps emit only the bare necessity of light. Upstairs the aura of an old west coast speakeasy continues, but a third rooftop level overlooking the low-rise wonder of Glebe is unmistakably Sydney.

It’s with some irony that we’re lauding Sydney’s small bars amid the current furor surrounding alcohol fueled violence in Kings Cross. Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore, has come under intense scrutiny in the past few weeks, copping flak from even Paul Keating who, with characteristic panache, branded her ‘the Queen of Sydney grog’. Cr Moore championed a series of legislative changes in 2008 that made it easier to establish small licensed venues.

Unfortunately, the emergence of more specialist wine and cocktail bars, particularly in the CBD and inner-west, has been coupled with a growth in venues in already concentrated areas like Kings Cross. That led the NSW hospitality minister, George Souris, to make a rather unwelcome and much-ridiculed suggestion that such bars might be contributing to the city’s violence problem.

The Drummer typifies exactly why that



Glebe has imbibed here since 1986. Photo courtesy of the Different Drummer

argument is laughable. Friendliness and relaxation are core components of the philosophy here, which sees a regular stream of locals, young professionals, students, and even a few academics. Marc says the bar strives to facilitate an experience akin to “sitting in your own living room, but with a whole lot of decent food and booze to go with it”.

And, of course, good conversation. Many of Sydney’s younger venues would do well to remember that one of the main attractions of small bars is their congeniality to a quiet drink and pleasant conversation with a group of friends.

Knowledge is also paramount. There is hardly a whiskey or tequila Marc couldn’t detail; between the bar staff they boast an almost obsessive knowledge of most liquors. Dave has begun importing spirits direct from overseas, including the impressive skull-shaped

bottle of Dan Akroyd and John Alexander’s ‘Crystal Head’ vodka, which stares knowingly at me as I sit at the bar. It accompanies a large range of local and imported craft beers, which will only grow as the bar embarks on a rebranding exercise early next year.

“It’s important to be able to change and evolve. There has been a big shift in the industry towards quality spirits, craft beers and fresh produce and it’s important to keep up,” Dave says.

Dave tells me his bar has been called “more Melbourne than Melbourne” on multiple occasions, and perhaps that’s true. But bars like the Drummer give evidence to the very plausible argument that Sydney, for the most part, bests its southern cousin. The clincher? The two-for-one cocktail “happy hour and a half” begins each evening at 6pm.

Wassail.

## ROAD TEST: SPOTS TO PARK YOUR BIKE ON CAMPUS

All bike racks are equal, but some are more equal than others, finds **Mariana Podesta-Diverio**



### Eastern Avenue (near Chemistry building)

Those of you seeking convenience and centrality need not look any further than the racks that line the exterior of the chemistry building. Even during Wednesday mid-morning campus peak hour, there are almost always racks sitting available on this patch of Eastern Avenue.

The fairly recent addition of a water filter/bubbler in close proximity to the bike lock-up area means readily available re-hydration for cyclists. This is particularly handy for students with a lengthy commute, as it saves the hassle of stopping for water while travelling to uni. Downside: Weaving through dawdling pedestrians.



### Eastern Avenue (near Manning Road)

The racks that have recently been installed alongside the front of the Anderson Stuart building were a bountiful semester-one godsend.

One should always aim for a spot closest to the Quad. Why? This patch provides a river delta-esque-triumvirate of cycling route options, with Manning Road sprawling on either side as well as a close link to the Quad and Science Road. It’s also the perfect spot for a morning park due to its unbeatable proximity to Taste and a hot cappuccino.

### Maze Crescent, outside the SciTech mezzanine

The best part about this spot is the fun

of rolling downhill if travelling from Butlin Avenue. This area is best for those with SciTech, Wentworth, Jane Foss Russell, or Gadigal lawns as a final destination. Although well located, these racks are in much heavier use in afternoons, with cyclists often having to double-up on the same bar. The bizarre spiral design of the racks also makes them supremely frustrating for U-lock users.

This is prime morning or lunchtime parking but you need to get in quick, lest you be forced to awkwardly manoeuvre uncomfortably close to someone else’s bike (or worse, someone else).

Downside: The area around the Sci-Tech mezzanine entrance often smells like sewage (please explain?)

### Outside Wallace Theatre (Science Road)

The subject of many complaints as a result of its distance from the more central parts of Camperdown campus, the Wallace Theatre isn’t often regarded for its superb location. However, frequent users of these racks are indeed privy to the fruits of this small oasis.

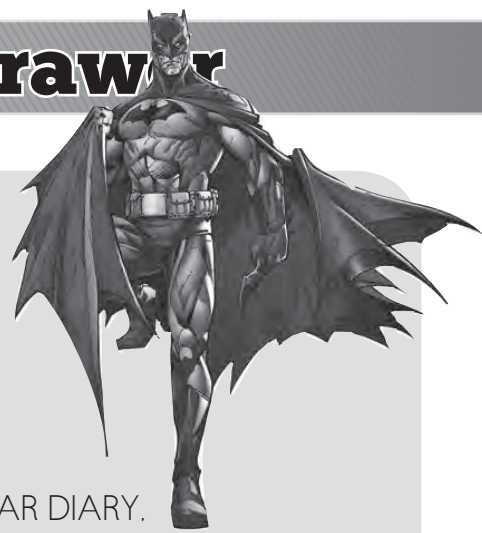
This location’s dismal popularity means that, unlike most other parking spots on Camperdown campus, this is



a location that does not warrant a first in, best dressed approach. This spot is perfect for students headed to Wallace, Woolley, OTC, Holme or even Ralph’s. It’s also close to Parramatta Road, and a service station shall you ever need to urgently pump your tires. Ingenious.

### Fisher Library

Appearing at first to provide ample spots, this long row of bike bars can be incredibly deceptive. Even following the installation of more racks along Eastern Avenue, bookworms and researchers alike continue to flood Fisher parking, with a flurry of Malvern Stars and rusted hybrids often doubled up on the same bar at busy times. Bikes with larger frames and wheels are difficult to position when utilising the secure ‘u-lock-through-back-wheel-and-frame’ locking method. Setting up camp adjacent to the stack should be a last resort.



DEAR DIARY,

*Mood: The Dark Knight is Rising.*  
I took the night off fighting crime. Had the Lamborghini detailed. I made sure Alfred got us great seats for the midnight premiere. Anne Hathaway was my date. We had her catsuit for our own private afterparty (and you thought her arse was good *onscreen*). And for what? I should have stayed home and watched the one with Arnie as Mr Freeze.

Why were the two most epic action sequences both in the trailer? That thing with the plane, the football field exploding beneath the players feet. I couldn't wait. I was sure that the trailer was a taste of better things to come. Is it not a reasonable expectation that something will be kept in reserve for the film itself? Bigger action sequences, villains, femme fatales, nail biting suspense...in the end I would have settled for a coherent plot and some character development.

Miranda Tate hated her Dad. Her Dad tried to destroy Gotham. I killed her Dad. Now she wants to finish his life work and kill me in the process. Cool. For future reference Christopher, buddy, you might want to use more than one line of dialogue to explain the most crucial plot point in the movie.

Also. How does Bane eat? The guy has more muscle than me: how does he drink his post-work-out Protein Shake with that mask? Does he have to hook up to a drip when he isn't blowing things up? Never mind the fact that he wasn't even a compelling villain, and that you couldn't understand what he was saying. For a trilogy praised for its realism, is it not unreasonable that something as basic as eating shouldn't be impossible for a main character?

One more thing. Nolan - are you actually arrogant enough to believe that you can pick the next Batman? That DC comics won't hire someone completely new to re-invent the franchise? Sure, you revolutionised superhero movies, but that doesn't make you God. Not every Batman movie or comic book is going to be based on your movie. And did you have to pick Robin? Seriously? Joseph Gordon Levitt has about three kilograms of muscle on him, what is he going to fight crime with? Boyish charm?

If the *Dark Knight* trilogy was meant to be about anger, then Diary, this entry is about disappointment. Christopher Nolan spent nearly a decade making what could have been the greatest superhero trilogy ever. What probably still is the greatest superhero trilogy ever. But it just wasn't what it could have been. In the end he was just a man. And men can fail.

Yours,  
Batman.

## TOP FIVE

# Kitchen Utensils

By Lane Sainty

Modern society may have brought us many useless things (Cheez Ballz, Being Lara Bingle, Rebecca Black), but the wacky and wondrous kitchen gadgets infiltrating our cooking adventures are not some of them. Here are some of the best!

### 5 Spatula

It may strike you as odd that the humble spatula has made it into this Top 5. Truth be told, more exciting gadgets exist — but the spatula is perhaps the most satisfying utensil of all time. What else can perfectly smooth the icing on a cake, all the way around the rounded base? What else can successfully jiggle its way under the edge of an omelette to lift and perfectly flip? Nothing, that's what.  
Perfect for: Perfectionists, lovers of fried eggs.



### 4 Mortar and Pestle

Mortar and pestles always reminds me of Neanderthals. There's just something delightfully primitive about pounding things between two bits of stone. More convenient ways of grinding food probably exist now, but this one stays just for the novelty value.  
Perfect for: Fred Flintstone, people with lots of feelings.



### 3 Salad Spinner

Salad spinners seem unnecessary but are actually super useful. Far superior to either air drying (too slow) or tea towel drying (just feels wrong), they are the best way to ensure that lettuce isn't carrying excess water.  
Perfect for: Herbivores.



### 2 KitchenAid Mixmaster

The KitchenAid Mixmaster is undoubtedly the Rolls Royce of kitchen appliances. Amazing in both capability and design, the Mixmaster is commanding in size and available in a huge range of colours.  
Perfect for: People with lots of bench space.



### 1 Garlic Zoom

Unlike most times this claim is made, the Garlic Zoom legitimately makes chopping garlic fun for the whole family. It's a small plastic ball with sharp blades inside, powered by wheels on the bottom. You open it up, pop in the garlic, and then zoom it back and forth like a kid with a toy car while your garlic is minced to within an inch of its life.  
Perfect for: Time-poor parents, people who hate the smell of garlic on their fingers.



## Soundtrack to: Awkward Sex

Lucy Watson is still waiting for the lights to go out

Dragon: "Are You Old Enough?"

You don't want your little tryst to land you in jail, or worse, to end up fucking someone your mum's age.

Meiko: "Leave the Lights On"

The key to awkward sex is to be able to see everything. Their weird O face, your weird O face, the little bit of butt fluff, the jiggly bits of flesh... put it all on display.

The Wiggles: "Wake up Jeff!"

Because falling asleep on the job is never a good thing.

Crystal Castles: "Tell Me What To Swallow"

Seriously?

The Shout Out Louds: "Hurry Up. Let's Go"

Get your pants on, find your bra, and just get the fuck out of there.

CHECK OUT OUR ALL NEW WEBSITE AT: [WWW.HONISOIT.COM](http://WWW.HONISOIT.COM)



In a selfish city with significant infrastructure problems, NIMBYism has become the cynicism toward development. **Michael Koziol** meets the

A perfect Sunday morning and I'm sitting on the trampled patch of grass at Taylor Square, watching the city wake and mobilise. To the east, above the courthouse, the sun's light barrels down, flooding the scene with brightness.

To the left, the pub has opened its doors: it is both saviour and tormentor. The regulars, with their unmistakably torn faces, take their seats outside and keep watch over the square as the barman nurses them toward death.

Across the road the barterers set up their stalls, pottering around in the rare quiet. And gradually the picture comes alive, adorned with joggers and Labradorers and coffee cups and the Sunday newspapers.

Darlinghurst has its share of blemishes, but it strikes me as our best attempt at civilisation. You can work and play here all day and all night. There is a 24-hour newsagency. Gays hold hands. The coffee is good. You can indulge your fetishes. The buildings are getting taller. Oporto and Ogalo can co-exist. There is safety in numbers.



If one were to replicate the population density of New York within Sydney's existing geographical boundaries, this city would be home to 128 million people. As it stands, we have about 4.5 million, seemingly shrinking to about 2 million on any long weekend.

And yet, there are plenty who will tell you that Sydney is full. Bob Carr famously declared it to be so: an astounding claim, really, for a Premier to make. In the lead-up to the 2010 election, a not-yet-besieged Julia Gillard took a very deliberate trip to Western Sydney to voice her support for "a sustainable Australia, not a big Australia".

It is ironic, given how sparsely Sydney's west is inhabited, that they would be the ones leading the battle cry against population growth. But it is so. They are joined, too, by a metastasising cancer of NIMBYism within the city's inner villages, the types who don't want their community 'ruined' by a big development, more traffic, and new neighbours.

This intransigence has produced endless sprawl, as Sydney's edge seeps outwards bit by bit in to unchartered, distant terrain. Utterly lacking infrastructure, governments attempt to play

catch-up with ad hoc projects such as the Leppington rail line. This patch of ground west of Macquarie Fields has been bookmarked as part of a major growth centre. But would anyone really want to live there? Or are we just leaving them with no choice?

If only there was someone obvious to blame, but it was a collective effort. The cultural warriors kept alive the small-town ideal of big houses on quarter acre blocks. The councillors blocked every project that might have delivered us from sprawl. And the politicians kept releasing more land.

Urban sprawl might be the one thing human civilisation has achieved despite nobody on earth thinking it is a good idea. One can't imagine the twice-daily,

of our immediate future. But there are many working hard to ensure it doesn't have to be that way: who see an alternative future for Sydney as a growing, sustainable, global city with a vibrant culture and beautiful environment.

Dr Nicole Gurran is an urban planner, policy analyst, and associate professor in the Faculty of Architecture at Sydney University. In her view, Sydney must accept higher density development as a necessity and embrace its lifestyle advantages of proximity and sustainability. Sprawl, she says, is the scourge of good planning, particularly when unchecked by any strategy or framework.

"Condensed living is much better around centres," says Gurran. "Essentially the principle should be that you

saying: we'll just leave it to the market. That's when you get sprawl."

Sprawl also arises when planners and developers are left with little other choice by intransigent councils and residents opposed to higher density development in their neighbourhood. The "not in my backyard" crowd have attained a stinging reputation in this state after high-profile campaigns against urban consolidation in Ku-ring-gai, Leichhardt, and the North Coast.

More recently the citizenry of Leichhardt - marshalled by their local council - have vocally opposed new apartments in Harold Park, a cruise terminal at White Bay, and now the new Rozelle Village, which would see three apartment towers, a shopping complex, and a new



**Above:** Sydney's 'Central Park' development takes shape in Chippendale. UTS has also invested more than one billion in new buildings, including a business school designed by internationally-renowned architect Frank Gehry. **Left:** Does Sydney aspire to be the new Manhattan? Central Park is fittingly located on Broadway. **Photos:** Michael Koziol

two-hour commute makes for optimal living, nor the isolation or the numbing silence. But we have locked these people into a relentless dystopia of working, driving, sleeping, and paying off the mortgage.

In the meantime, those of us trying to enter the rental market are at the coal-face of Sydney's housing crisis. Last week my taxi driver reminisced about living in Glebe in the late 1980s, a privilege for which he paid \$25 per week in rent. That would not buy you half a carspace in 2012. But if you're lucky, \$800 a week can nab you a disintegrating four-bedroom terrace with bad plumbing and an outhouse.

That is a fairly bleak assessment

are able to walk to the places you need to on a daily basis...and you should be able to access everything else by public transport."

That doesn't mean we all need to ditch the backyard and resettle in high-rise, however. Gurran understands the appeal of open space and greenery for young families, and says suburbia can be desirable if done right. She cites Rouse Hill in Sydney's west, derided by many as a semi-rural outpost, as "a really good model" of the traditional town centre.

"It's actually quite a good thing to open up selective new areas," she says. But they require detailed government planning and strategic implementation. "What you don't want is a government

Tigers club replace the defunct Balmain Leagues site in Victoria Road.

The Sydney Business Chamber is pressing for a reduction of Sydney's 41 councils to just 10. As the chamber's Executive Director, Patricia Forsythe, tells me, it is not just about amalgamating councils to make the development process less convoluted. It is also about re-imagining Sydney as a group of networked hubs, each with its own capacity to facilitate life, work, and play.

"Our local government system, including many of the council boundaries, really derive from the 19<sup>th</sup> century...and I think we can do better," says Forsythe. She cites Macquarie Park, Macquarie University, and Ryde area as a prime

# YES, IN MY BACKYARD

has been a loud and at times influential force. But not everyone shares residents and reformers urging on the transformation of Sydney.

example of where “nothing is designed around creating a holistic community because it cuts across multiple councils”.

Forsythe is a resident of Sydney’s North Shore and has seen community reluctance play out in battles over residential and commercial development. She has “railed against” NIMBYism in that area, having argued in favour of development at community forums.

“.....  
Urban sprawl might be the one thing human civilisation has achieved despite nobody on earth thinking it is a good idea.”

But Forsythe believes the duelling prerogatives of growth and conservation can reach equilibrium under due process. Parts of Ku-ring-gai, she says, do possess a “special character” requiring protection, and the planning system needs to “be able to meet the needs of a community, but [with] a recognition that communities do have to change and adapt”.

To that end, Forsythe praises the O’Farrell government’s planning Green Paper released in July. A major review of the state’s planning regulations, its central pillar is a plan to predetermine sites within suburbs that will be earmarked for growth. Then, when a development application for that site does materialise, its passage is essentially automatic. Other areas will be designated for preservation, and it will all involve the input of communities, experts, and government.

The paper’s core strength, in Gurran’s view, is that it intends to break the pattern of site by site debate about development, which is “a very frustrating experience for nearly everybody”.

“We don’t want to have endless arguments about individual rules,” she says. Instead it will be the government’s job to paint in broad strokes, establishing - through community consultation - what land will be protected, what will be reserved for affordable housing and different types of housing, and what areas are suitable for development: and those will be essentially free game.

Speaking at a panel on urban planning at the Seymour Centre last week, Forsythe lamented the “absolute cyni-

cism” with which some media responded to the Green Paper. She said some commentary took the view that if developers and the business lobby liked it, “there must be something wrong”.

It is not the first attempt by Macquarie Street, in recent years, to overcome the intransigence of some councils and their constituents. Labor introduced the infamous Part 3A amendment, which allowed the planning minister to take direct control of major projects away from local government. It was applauded by developers sick and tired of negotiating the bureaucratic spaghetti dribbled out from councils and other government legislation.

Both Forsythe and Gurran are ambivalent when it comes to assessing Part 3A’s brief legacy. The government’s power to approve state significant development was already enshrined in the system, says Gurran, and continues to be. “The issue with Part 3A was that it

happening. Barangaroo – which Forsythe describes as “a game-changer for Sydney” - will deliver the biggest urban renewal project in the city’s recent history. The toxic wasteland at which cruise passengers are presently dumped upon their arrival will at last be transformed into a bustling, modern commercial quarter, with plenty of open space.

There are new apartment towers under construction at Rhodes, and the Rozelle Village – should it survive a concerted campaign by local muesli-chewers – will breathe new life into a shabby grey portion of Victoria Road.

And closer to home, the familiar construction site adjacent to the Abercrombie will soon become Central Park, a multi-purpose urban space combining residential, retail, and parkland. Say what you will about the name and the city’s Manhattan fetish, it is exactly the kind of development we should be encouraging.



Patricia Forsythe: “[Barangaroo] is of such significance in terms of its size and its scale, in terms of the jobs it will create. This is a defining development.” Photo: MOles, licensed under CC BY 2.0

put that decision entirely in the hands of a politician,” she says.

Likewise, Forsythe believes the weakness of the amendment lay not in principle but in execution. “Part 3A demonstrated there was a clear problem with the system, and it was an attempt to fix the problem,” she says. But projects with questionable state significance, which weren’t necessarily envisaged to fall under Part 3A initially, ended up being approved under it.

Nonetheless, the sort of big-picture, state-significant development we must get in order to be taken seriously is still

Paul Karp, a fifth-year law student at Sydney University, lives in Darlington only a few blocks from the looming shadows of the Central Park towers. The Chippendale/Darlington precinct is earmarked by developers and gurus as one of Sydney’s next boom communities, with more apartments, restaurants, shops, and galleries expected to blossom in coming years. Having only recently moved there from the North Shore, Karp says it is a great area which more people should have the opportunity to access.

“People want to live in Sydney. People want to live in the city. Just because

some people got here first doesn’t mean they have a greater right to live in the city than other people,” he says.

“The whole city has to build more apartments, everyone has to deal with having more neighbours.”

Over at Green Square, a new minicity is in its infancy. Beyond glossy brochures and marketing speak, the scale and vision of the development is credit-worthy. It promises 40,000 new residents and 22,000 jobs, plus a \$40 million community centre and library, the design of which will be opened up to local and international architects.

It is an important project because the inner-south is clearly the new frontier for Sydney. The skyline has been inching upwards across the Alexandria-Zetland-Waterloo trifecta, to compliment the car showrooms and homeware empires that have long characterised the old industrial site.

The danger in south Sydney is that it will come to resemble one of China’s overnight mega-cities: glossy and optimistic on the outside, but soulless and empty from within. Planned communities like Green Square, though less organic than Surry Hills or Newtown, at least lock in the amenities from the word go, and we’re getting better at it. We’re just not quite there yet.

Both Gurran and Forsythe name New York as the global exemplar of urbanisation, and it is hard to disagree. London, Paris, and San Francisco all rate favourably. But there is ingenuity to be found the world over. Gurran tells me Kathmandu, Nepal’s capital, has achieved the density of Manhattan with four-storey walk-ups (no elevators). Forsythe admires the waterfront renewal of cities such as Seattle, Vancouver, and Melbourne.

Edward L. Glaeser’s wonderful book, *Triumph of the City*, notes the spectacular rise of urban living in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. 2008 marked the first ever year that the majority of the world lived in cities. And as it turns out, they make us safer, healthier, richer, and happier.

Australia is, in fact, the most urbanised country in the world: our tourism campaigns might lionise the outback, but we choose to live in the big smoke. As the sun sets over Darlinghurst, it’s easy to see why.

Michael Koziol is on Twitter: @michaelkoziol

## POP CULTURE

### Print isn't boring; nor is Adelaide

**Cale Hubble** falls in love with a tiny rag from the City of Churches

Meet *Collect*. If she were a person she would be short but beautiful, smart yet grounded, wearing an impeccably arranged outfit that says style, not fashion. And she would ride a bike. This perfectly proportioned little magazine has its heart in Adelaide but its eye on the globe. I asked Farrin Foster, the recently promoted editor, for her one-sentence summary of the magazine that she gives at parties.

"It changes a lot," she said, "but the one I'm using at the moment is that *Collect* is about the small things that make big things better. So if we're looking at a great city, we go and find the little tailor or the little shop that's really the essence of what makes that place a good place to be."

*Collect* is about craftsmanship, quality products, corner stores and local communities. A single issue will cover a retired biochemist's whisky distillery in Tasmania, a restaurant in Phuket,

Melbourne's suburb of Yarraville, a tongue-in-cheek blueprint for the perfect police force, and an essay on the design principles of Braun.

These disparate interests are tied together by a minimalist yet welcoming aesthetic and an ethos centred on face-to-face contact. "There's something fundamental about human interaction," says Farrin, "it doesn't matter how digital we get, people still crave conversation."

Farrin seems to be the exemplar of the locally connected, community-minded person whose apparent disappearance we so commonly lament. She describes some of her favourite places as where the conversations, or the people, are the best on offer – rather than a product, which may not be as good.

*Collect* is constantly being pulled in two directions: one towards Adelaide, the other towards the world. "One of the reasons that we started *Collect* is

that Adelaide has this horrible cultural cringe about itself.

"We thought there are lots of amazing people in Adelaide who are world standard in what they do, we should make a magazine and tell people about them," she says.

But their international links are equally important – *Collect* is inspired by the globally minded *Monocle*, and real links between the two magazines continue to develop. *Collect* sees itself as having ideological neighbours around the world.

"Whoever we're talking about, whether they're from San Francisco or Adelaide or New York or somewhere in Europe, they're the kind of people that we would want to hang out with. We can all be a cultural group who are interested in the same kinds of things even if we never meet each other."

In a world where human service is being steadily replaced by faceless touch-screens, *Collect* provides a welcome antidote. They even spurn the Internet; Farrin doggedly reads all of her books and news the old fashion way.

Nothing's dead if it's done right, they proudly proclaim. "I think there's a medium for every expression," Farrin says, "and the stories that we tell are tactile. There's something about touching the pages that makes you feel a bit more connected to what we're talking about."

These connections are bringing real success to this little Adelaide venture. It's already sold in Berlin, New York, Stockholm and Tokyo, and is about to expand into England and Canada. It seems there is a global audience looking for a warm re-evaluation of human connections.

Whether it's a traditional shoemaker or an innovative urban planner, *Collect* is about real people. "When you first hear about someone it's the thing that they do that makes you excited," Farrin says, "but then invariably when you get to doing the story and talking to them, the more cool thing is that they are all really wonderful people." I could say the same about you, *Collect*.

*Collect* is sold at Mag Nation, and is begrudgingly online: [www.collectmag.com.au](http://www.collectmag.com.au)

## MUSIC NEWS

### Ocean's outing makes few waves

Frank Ocean's confession marks change in hip-hop's sexuality, writes **Victoria Lui**

Earlier this month, fledgling hip-hop artist and Odd Future member Frank Ocean interrupted the usual flow of ironic gifs and idle musings on his personal Tumblr to announce something a bit more personal. In a screenshot of a Textedit document, in emphatic caps, Ocean told the story of his first love, detailing the unrequited feelings that he had had for another man when he was 19 years old.

The announcement came just weeks before the release of his debut album and, more importantly, it came without one of hip-hop's favourite disclaimers, "no homo".

Coming from a genre that is still firmly entrenched in a very specific idea of heteronormative masculinity, Ocean's confession should have ruined his career.

Instead, *channel ORANGE*, debuted at #2 on the Billboard 200, his performance on *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon* aired to rave reviews and Ocean kicked off a sold-out summer tour across America. Ocean's reception may best summarised by his recent tweet:

*and the women still scream in the front row, contrary to what a naysayer might think. :)*

The overwhelmingly positive reception to Ocean's 'coming out' marks an interesting turning point in mass media. It is tempting to suggest that the relationship between homosexuality and popular culture is no longer fraught with tension, living as we are in an era populated by Lady Gaga and Katy Perry's anthems of almost aggressive acceptance.

Indeed, an understated reception may be the best step toward, and indication of, mainstream acceptance. However, Ocean's revelations have been far more resonant and deservedly so.

Numerous industry luminaries,



including Russell Simmons and Beyoncé Knowles, took to the internet to express their support, and the positive exposure has already done much to defeat hip-hop's tired homophobia.

There is also something particularly poignant about the way Ocean delivered his news, harnessing the very channels of social media to say something a *People* magazine cover could never have so intimately conveyed.

His confession eschews any labelling (the terms 'gay' or 'bisexual' are not mentioned) and launching as it did at the onset of his career, suggests that the old model of professional secrecy no longer needs to be the norm.

In a recent *Guardian* interview, Ocean talked about dislodging "this freakin' boulder on [his] chest", reminding us that while the personal is political, the inverse is just as true.

Whether the summer of Frank Ocean will be the one that launches a new era in hip-hop is hard to say but for a genre that prides itself on authenticity, not only in the character of its music but in that of its performers too, Ocean's music speaks for itself and that's how it should be.

## REVIEWS: MUSIC

### channel ORANGE

**Rafi Alam** is ready to call it: Frank Ocean's new record is a genre-changing masterpiece

are unattainable. Every musical style has something to contribute - Ocean doesn't discriminate. He's just the messenger, the storyteller. The music feels as though it comes automatically, a natural accompaniment.

"Pyramids" is another highlight, one that leaked early. Ten minutes long, the song segues from a gloomy pumping club beat driving the story of Queen Cleopatra's doomed love to the downtempo techno-synth slow jam that backgrounds the flash-forward tale of a stripper with alias Cleopatra who works at The Pyramid. Topping off the song is a Funkadelic-inspired hazy guitar. While this is miles away from conventional R&B practice, Frank Ocean's stunning and versatile voice gives "Pyramids" that sensuality and allure R&B is known for.

But unlike traditional R&B, Ocean doesn't just borrow common motifs, he pares them back to basic concepts – like love, power, sexuality – and rebuilds them into intoxicating tales that are explorative, insightful, and most of all, self-reflective.

Ocean's recent announcement that his first teen love was a man showed that, perhaps, he wasn't like the others. This news imbued *channel ORANGE* with something that is woefully missing from contemporary R&B that only a few artists, like Marvin Gaye, Alicia Keys, and D'Angelo ever really had – sincerity.

Aside from a few dud skits that become unbearable on repeat lists, Ocean has nailed it. With ingenious lyrics and a hypnotic voice, he is more like the new Sufjan Stevens than the new Usher, and *channel ORANGE* is his masterpiece.

Rafi Alam is on Twitter: [@rafialam](https://twitter.com/rafialam)

REVIEWS: BOOKS

## *An Incredible Race of People:* Bob Katter

Felix Donovan is a proud member of the 'herd of brainless bison'

Since the 2010 federal election, several independent politicians have shot to national prominence. Some have clearly relished their new roles as dealmakers or breakers; Andrew Wilkie and Rob Oakshott plangently so. But none more so than the eccentric, mercurial and regularly offensive Bob Katter.

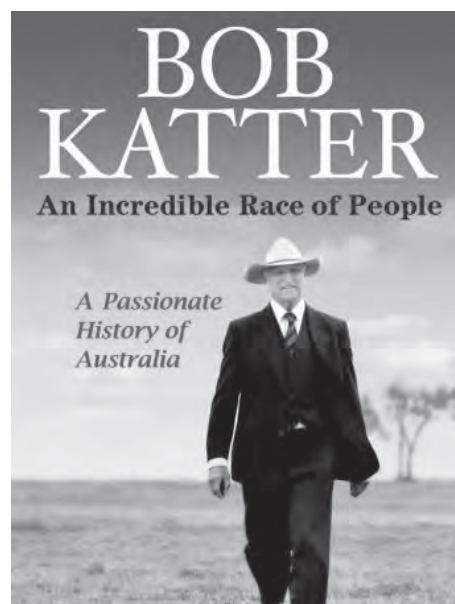
In *An Incredible Race of People*, Katter positions himself as a maverick in a time of cowardly consensus. He bemoans the decline of unionism and of the "typical Australian"; who, in Katter's telling, is a man who hates officiousness, loves mateship and displays a grounded pragmatism. Katter rails against economic rationalism, contending that it has destroyed Australia's economy. The statistics he calls upon to support this claim? The lack of cattle in Australia after the prime ministerships of Hawke, Keating and Howard.

Too often, the book simply reads as a polemic against everything that has happened since 1970. Intended as a 'passionate history of Australia', it instead often digresses into infantile and reactionary bile. He rages against "north shore socialites", calls Whitlam a "big prick" and dismisses university graduates as a "herd of brainless bison". He proudly records that he has been overseas just once in his life.

At times, Katter is quite honest about the extent of his ignorance. He writes unashamedly that, as a minister in the Bjelke-Peterson state government, he was shocked when his closest advisor 'Smithy' told him that the UN, not the Queensland government, decides World Heritage Sites. What emerges from his book is an Australianism remarkably similar to what Rob Sitch's film *The Castle* parodied: emotionally nationalist, viscerally egalitarian and instinctively rural.

Despite the evident paucity of thought in his book, Katter raises serious concerns. It is not necessary to turn to cattle statistics to demonstrate that economic inequality is on the rise in Australia. Gini coefficients and academic studies do so year after year. Globalisation, technological advances and changing corporate culture have left many workers behind in the country's march towards prosperity.

Australia should not revert to protectionism or agrarianism in response, as Katter would have us do. But there is a need for better public policy; more ambitious tax reform; and more concern for those in the 'flyover' areas of rural Australia. If governments cannot muster the temerity to fight the good fight, then more people may end up looking to a nutter from North Queensland for a particularly inchoate brand of politics. And one Bob Katter is quite enough already.



*An Incredible Race of People:*  
A Passionate history of Australia  
Murdoch Books, 2012

REVIEWS: THEATRE

## *A Hoax*, Griffin Theatre Company

A thought-provoking but implausible tale, writes Jack D'Arcy

In his 2011 Griffin Award winning play Rick Viede poses that age old question: How far would you go to get famous? *A Hoax* takes its audience on a rough and bumpy ride to the darkest, most morally bankrupt regions of the human soul. And leaves them in stitches.

Indigenous teenager Currah has impressed literary agent Ronnie Lowe (Sally McKenzie) with her memoir 'Nobody's Girl', a confronting portrait of the sexual abuse she encountered as a child. Currah's sure to make a fortune, but there's just one thing - she doesn't exist and the story is entirely fabricated. Its real author is middle-aged social worker Ant (Glenn Hazeldine) and he has employed Miri (Shari Sebbens), an innocent and precocious black girl, to play Currah and sell his story to the world.

*A Hoax* is wildly ambitious, dealing with everything from the perils of celebrity, to sexuality, gender and race. Viede's dialogue is sharp and hideously funny, if shocking ("I enjoyed it" Currah replies, when asked how she felt about her father raping her). But the play itself does not always hit the mark. Too often *A Hoax* abandons the realm of plausibility, and with so many events packed into a mere two hours, it is left up to the actors to tie together the loose ends of their characters, who might become tiresome caricatures in the hands of a lesser cast.

Hazeldine is pitch perfect as the troubled social worker and would-be author, his tumultuous journey from rags to riches and rags again a convincing balance of pathos and cunning. Sebbens, too, is excellent in her disturbing transformation from Miri to the abused Currah, while McKenzie makes the most of her underdeveloped character, an eerily familiar whore for success and alcoholism.

But it is American import Charles Allen who steals the show as Tyrelle, Ronnie's black, gay personal assistant. Blessed with the play's punchiest one-liners and a series of truly fabulous outfits (set and costumes by Renée Mulder), Allen is instantly likable and makes sense of a preposterous character arc that takes him to YouTube stardom and the brink of insanity.

The action takes place on a sparse black and white set, with occasional projections (by Steve Toumlin, lighting by Jason Glenwright) effective in illustrating the various hotel room settings where the characters interact. Lee Lewis's direction is without the glitz and spectacle that Sydney audiences have grown use to, but her precise staging utilises the challenging Stables theatre well and it is clear from the get-go that she is out to serve the play first and foremost.

One can't help but feel that Viede's play is one rewrite short of brilliant and in need of more rigorous dramaturgy. While many of its twists (and yes, there are many) are genuinely horrifying, some are downright silly, and the play grinds to a halt in later scenes as Viede rummages to find closure for his characters through cringe-inducing clichés and ambiguities ("You don't know me").

But for what it's worth, *A Hoax* will provide most audience members with a thoroughly entertaining, thought-provoking night at the theatre.



*A Hoax*  
SBW Stables Theatre  
Until September 1

REVIEWS: FILM

## The Dark Knight Rises

The dark knight rises, but not to new heights, writes Richard Withers

In the wake of Heath Ledger's mesmerising, posthumous, Oscar-winning turn as The Joker in 2008, Christopher Nolan contemplated the future of his Batman project. After what would have been two painstakingly long years for legions of Batman fans, Nolan finally lifted them out of their quagmire of speculation when in 2010 he green-lit the highly anticipated sequel to *The Dark Knight*. While a third film was always likely to go ahead, Nolan initially expressed hesitation about returning to direct, only committing to the project after he and brother Jonathan had "cracked" the story. Bloated with an influx of cast members (predominantly from Nolan's *Inception*), *The Dark Knight Rises* is an epic, 164-minute finale to the trilogy; one that is grandiose in both scale and stature.

Eight years after the events of *The Dark Knight*, we rejoin a Gotham that while calm on the surface, is dread-

fully unaware of the storm brewing underneath. Fresh from a mid-air plane hijacking and boasting the unique combination of brain and brawn, terrorist leader Bane (Tom Hardy) is meticulously forming a trench-like network in Gotham's sewers and preparing to bring the city to its knees.

Along with the old guard, Bane is just the head of a new ensemble of characters. Though admittedly I spent most of my time wondering how Bane managed to feed enough food through his cagey, gas-filtering mask to maintain his brutish physique, he gets about half way out of The Joker's shadow in a praiseworthy effort. His muffled voice is unnervingly high-pitched and shaky, and while an imposing figure, it's not only Bane's brutish strength that tests Batman, but also his wits, concocting plans that tear apart Gotham from within. The most peculiar character is a cat burglar with typically ambigu-

ous loyalties, Selina Kyle (excellently portrayed by Anne Hathaway), who sets into action the chain of events that extract Bruce Wayne from his 'retired' slumber. Wayne ditches his walking stick and dons his kevlar suit, but this is not the Batman we remember from *The Dark Knight*. Crippled by eight years of inaction and a debilitating knee injury, Batman's chances of 'rising' as Gotham's saviour look ominously bleak from the outset.

This tired Wayne lacks his previous conviction in maintaining the egotistic demeanor that had preserved the distinctions between he and Batman so well. His arrogance and vulgarity when putting on the mask of Wayne is considerably less apparent than in previous renditions. Yet this is, by far, Bale's most memorable performance in the series. At the heart of this story is the struggle of an ageing superhero to defend a city that reminds Wayne of not only loss, but of opportunity as well. An innate belief in the good of Gotham's citizens drives him to again be their saviour, even though Batman has been

cast in Gotham's eyes as an outlawed vigilante. While he previously played second fiddle to The Joker, in this case, Wayne owns the series' final chapter; one that is neatly tied together with the story arc of *Batman Begins*.

Nolan is renowned for making intelligent blockbusters, but *The Dark Knight Rises* does at times frustrate and leave you wondering why a convoluted storyline and eclectic mix of (mostly new) characters are needed to tie together what is a relatively simple premise. The new ensemble does ultimately, however, bring together this eclectic mix of odd balls effectively.

The film is a hypnotically pulsating adventure smeared with action sequences that make a mockery of its lengthy runtime. But it doubles as a compelling insight into the selfless preservation of an alter ego by Gotham's most notorious billionaire. It's a story of sacrifice, where those closest to Wayne have dwindled away or died, he needs to justify their sacrifice. Where Nolan has decided he has a third and final chapter worth telling, his choice is also justified.

## Sydney plays host to robots of the future: quadcoptors and self-sculpting sand

Joseph Wang reports on the robotics conference held at Sydney University over the winter break, showcasing the cutting edge in robotics research.

Leading international researchers descended upon the University of Sydney on July 9 as they kicked off one of the world's largest robotic conferences - the 2012 Robotics: Science and Systems Conference. Spanning five days with more than 60 talks and 12 workshops, RSS 2012 delved into the latest developments in the various fields of robotics, including autonomous navigation, medical robotics, underwater robotics, and humanoid robots.



MIT researchers have designed and built a system of 'smart pebbels' to test their algorithms of self sculpting materials

### Self-sculpting sand

Imagine that you have a coffee mug. You take this mug and you bury it in a bag of this special sand. Moments later, you put your hand in to find not only the original mug, but a scale replica crafted out of the sand.

This is what the researchers at MIT's

Distributed Robotics Laboratory are currently investigating. Each of these cubic grains of sand contains a microprocessor and series of electropermanent magnets, which means that the magnets can be switched on and off by electronic pulses and retain their magnetic state without needing constant power. Using these magnets and an intelligently designed algorithm, they are able to communicate with each other, identifying the shape of the original object and then replicating it in a process similar to a sculptor carving a model out of a block of stone. The necessary particles would remain attached to each other, while the excess particles would simply detach and 'fall away'.

The real world implications for this process are vast. "Say the tire rod in your car has sheared," said Kyle Gilpin, lead author on the research paper, in a recent MIT interview. "You could duct tape it back together, put it into [the sand] and get a new one." The algorithm could also be modified to create multiple copies of a single shape.

It may be a while until we see this reach a commercial development stage, however, as the engineering limitations of size and computational power restrict development. A prototype demonstrated features a series of 10mm cubes with magnets in only 4 of the sides.



University of Pennsylvania's General Robotics, Automation, Sensing and Perception (GRASP) Lab has developed 'swarms' of autonomous flying nano robots

### Micro Quadrotors

What's better than one robotic flying machine? A swarm of 20 in formation, doing synchronised aeronautical flips, zips and dives through the air.

The 4-bladed "micro quadrotors", designed by a team at the University of Pennsylvania, weigh only 73 grams and have a diameter of 21cm. They can perform a 360 degree flip in 0.4 seconds, and move a full body length in one second. And there are no men with joysticks in the back - these machines operate autonomously.

Recently, the flying prowess of the quadrotors was shown off at the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativ-

ity in France. The robots featured in a spectacular display of lights and music titled "Meet Your Creator", pulsing to the beat and bouncing light off specially equipped mirrors, while shuffling in figure-eights and various other formations.

Beyond entertainment, this invention could find usage in military and rescue operations, where the precision, size and customisability (for example, sensors) of the robots would make it a suitable alternative to existing methods.



The nano Quadrotors can fly autonomously and in specified patterns. Check out the video at honisoit.com

Joseph Wang is on Twitter: @jowoseph

With additional reporting by Giovanni D'Urso

## 'Mod'-ern Gaming: the zombie apocalypse game mod you have to try

Rob North on how a forgotten game became a top hit three years after its initial release and why game mods should be encouraged



DayZ Arma II mod places players in a tense, realistic survival against a zombie outbreak where death means the end

Videogames are hardly a passive form of entertainment, by their very nature they require players to actively make decisions that will affect the outcome of the story. But sometimes gamers want more involvement, by taking it upon themselves to substantially change elements of the existing game through the development and sharing of game modifications, or 'mods'. Mods often result in higher quality game play experience, which can significantly influence the industry. Zombie survival shooter *Day Z* is potentially one such mod.

Released earlier this year as a mod for the 2009 tactical shooter *Arma II*, *Day Z* thrust the long forgotten niche game to within the top ten downloaded titles on Steam, where it has remained since May. Countless *Day Z* players have recorded and live-streamed gameplay videos, and others recount their tales on

websites such as reddit and 4chan.

For the majority of us who missed *Arma II*, players control a single infantryman in the post-Soviet nation of Chernarus, a fictional rendition of the modern Czech Republic. *Arma II* is all about strategy and simulation. In Chenarus, one bullet will kill you. Your soldier is slow and can only carry limited equipment. You can commandeer civilian vehicles, drive tanks or pilot fighter jets; but they all drive more or less like their real world counterparts, so you'll have a tough time making a smooth getaway in the bullet riddled rusted jalopy you found curbside. Pray you don't run out of fuel before you escape the frontline.

*Day Z* takes *Arma II* and turns Chenarus into the site of a zombie apocalypse. Survival is the only goal. Players will need to find a weapon, scavenge for food and water to avoid exhaustion, and

in the event of injury procure and apply bandages. Death is permanent. If you lose your life, you'll lose your gear and be forced to start from scratch.

*Day Z* inspires genuine fear, a feat many modern horror games fail to achieve, but not in the way that you would expect. Much like other survival horror games such as *Resident Evil* or *Left 4 Dead* the approaching zombie hoards soon become predictable, and players are gradually desensitised to the surrounding gore.

The real scares in *Day Z* come from interactions with real people - online players from around the world who assume the role of fellow survivors.

Just as in the real world, the players populating Chernarus have their own motivations. Occasionally you'll find a nice group of people willing to cooperate, share supplies, and brave the zombie apocalypse together. More often, however, you'll find that survivors value self-preservation above all else, and will attack fellow survivors and zombies indiscriminately. Others still are complete arseholes who will lure players into traps and steal their hard-earned scavenged gear.

The unpredictability and psychology of fellow players is what makes the mod both scary and successful. You are perpetually surrounded by real life monsters. Since its release earlier this year, close to three million virtual survivors have been murdered by fellow human beings. Average life expectancy: 49 minutes.

Despite the success of *Day Z* and other modifications, many videogame developers continue to view user generated mods with ambivalence or active contempt. Such developers view mods as breaching copyright, or otherwise undermining the integrity of their commercial products.



The real scares in Day Z come from the online players and their hidden motivations

Yet for the companies that support the modding community there are obvious benefits, as *Day Z* shows. A three-year-old game experienced a huge surge in popularity at no cost to the developers and publishers.

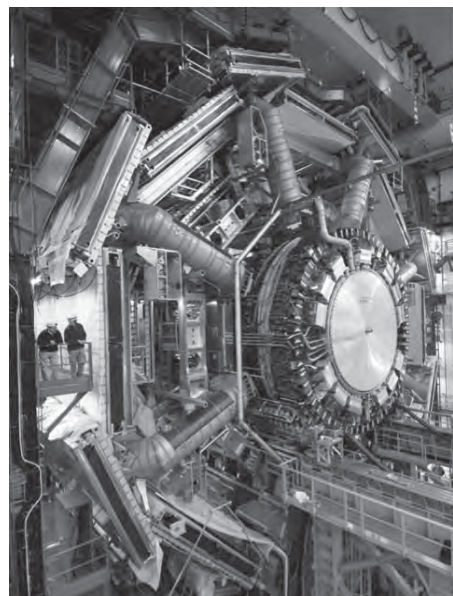
The success of Valve Software's *Half-Life* series is partially attributable to *Team Fortress Classic* and *Counter-Strike*, both of which began as user made modifications, maintaining a considerable player base over ten years since their releases. Similarly, the user-made *Warcraft 3* custom map DOTA was popular enough to spawn an upcoming commercial stand-alone sequel, as well as successors *League of Legends* and *Heroes of Newerth*. *Skyrim*, a game whose user interface was arguably designed to favour consoles, is undoubtedly a better purchase on PC for one reason: mods.



## SCIENCE FEATURE

### Higgs Boson team gets help from down under

Felicity Nelson talks to Mark Scarcella about Sydney University's involvement in the Higgs Boson discovery



The Large Hadron Collider, Switzerland

The Large Hadron Collider buried deep under the Swiss-France border is at the frontier of mankind's quest to understand the universe. Only this month the elusive Higgs Boson was detected, ending the forty-year search for a complete Standard Model.

Sydney University was hardly likely to miss being involved in such a groundbreaking project. We currently have a team of thirteen students and physicists working in collaboration with universities from over one hundred counties to

process the data collected by the ATLAS detector.

I caught up with Mark Scarcella, one of Sydney Uni's PhD students who worked with scientists at CERN for three months, to hear about the University of Sydney's involvement firsthand.

**Honi Soit:** What was it like spending three months at CERN?

**Mark Scarcella:** It's an interesting place – it looks like it's from the 60s, it's all old and there's a maze of buildings there. It's full of PhD students and everyone's always talking about physics.

**HS:** Why is the Higgs particle so important?

**MS:** In the Standard Model there is no way for W and Z particles to have mass. So physicists add a new particle called the Higgs particle and a new field called the Higgs field and it does all this lovely maths to give particles mass.

**HS:** Are scientists certain they have discovered the Higgs Boson?

**MS:** We've definitely found a new particle – there's definitely something there – and as far as we can tell so far it looks like the Standard Model Higgs Boson. At the moment the error bar on our data is still very large so what we're observing could be the Higgs Boson or it could be something else.

**HS:** How does the detector work?

**MS:** The one I work on is called the

ATLAS detector. It's a huge 40m long, 20m tall structure. You can think of it like a camera; when you take a photo with a camera photons come in through the lens, hit the plate and the camera reconstructs the image. That's kind of what the silicon particle detector is, except instead of photons we have electrons and other fundamental particles flying out from collisions. There are also these other structures called calorimeters, which tell us the energy of a particle. On the outside are these huge layers that track particles and give us their position as they fly out from the detector. From that we build back to the very beginning and work out what happened when the particles collided.

**HS:** Does the Higgs Boson and the Standard Model explain everything or are there many mysteries in the universe yet to be discovered by future physicists?

**MS:** Heaps! The big one that people talk about is dark matter. The universe is only four per cent of what we know of matter and around 75 per cent is dark matter. Dark matter is matter that exists but doesn't interact with anything that we know of; it doesn't interact with photons very much at all so you can't see the affect of that matter being there. We can detect it through galactic rotation curves. When galaxies rotate, the rotation speed versus the distance from the center of

the galaxy doesn't make sense in terms of gravity so there must be some extra mass out there causing things to spin this way. That mass we can't see but we assume that there has to be something there and because we can't see it we call it dark matter. And then dark energy is this other mystical thing where they've discovered the universe is expanding at an accelerating rate, that something is pushing everything apart in the universe and that it should be attributed to something called dark energy. We really have no idea – there are a lot of theories and we're hoping to find some evidence of dark matter at the Large Hadron Collider but so far nothing.

**HS:** Does all this physics have any practical applications?

**MS:** In terms of whether the Higgs Boson will help me save money or something – it's hard to say. But so much stuff comes from this research... I mean the World Wide Web was developed at CERN. People do so much research in the development of new particle detectors and all that technology eventually leaks out into the community and can be put to other purposes that people hadn't really considered. The theories we are trying to test and the things we are trying to discover really is knowledge for knowledge's sake at the moment...we don't know where it's going to go.

## SPORT

### A tireless athlete secures his first Tour win

Can Team Sky do it again next year? **Matt Withers** watched as the peloton descended on Paris



Chris Froome looks back over his shoulder at fellow Team Sky rider and 2012 tour winner, Bradley Wiggins.

Cycling is an undeniably complex sport, particularly where grand tours are concerned. To the uninitiated, the Tour de France may appear to consist of little more than a legion of rather effeminate men clad in garish lycra pedalling mindlessly for hours on end, their trance-like masochism punctuated only by the occasional dramatic crash or sprint finish.

You would be forgiven for assuming that each of these athletes would only endure such suffering - and suffer they do - with the hope of emerging victorious when the peloton eventually descends on Paris and brings the 21 days of racing to a spectacular closure on the cobblestones of the Champs Élysées.

Nothing could be further from the truth, however. In actuality, the handful of riders who actually have a shot at donning the coveted *Mallard Jaune* upon reaching the French capital are determined months before the race even begins. The remaining 200 or so participants, the humble *domestiques* (lit: servants), endure the trials and tribula-

tions of the world's greatest bike race with the overriding objective of steering their team captain to glory.

To be sure, the domestiques also compete for lesser glories: time trialists such as Fabian Cancellara will often steal the prologue; monstrously-thighed sprinters like Mark Cavendish will inevitably take multiple stage wins; and the occasional rouleur or breakaway rider will outlast the peloton to claim their 15 minutes of fame, just as the eccentric Frenchman-Thomas Voeckler did twice during this year's edition.

But such specialists can seldom aspire to a podium finish, and instead commit the bulk of their energy towards shielding their team's GC (General Classification) contender, invariably an accomplished all-rounder with the ability to withstand all the myriad challenges conjured up by the legendary race.

During this year's Tour, the resilience of these bonds of servitude was highlighted – and at times called into question – by the intricate relationship between the triumphant Bradley Wiggins and his right-hand man turned runner-up, Chris Froome.

To the dismay of those crossing fingers for another Cadel victory, Team Sky's domination of this year's tour was absolute. So much so, in fact, that Wiggins found himself facing an unprecedented scenario, wherein the greatest threat to his lead came from within his own team. Add to the mix Froome's evident superiority during the gruelling mountain stag-

es and a candid interview in which the younger rider declared himself capable of winning the Tour, and you can begin to understand the media speculation that Sky had chosen to back the wrong man.

Yet despite an unspoken (but nevertheless appreciable) tension between the two riders, Froome played his part dutifully and ferried Wiggins up some of the steeper climbs where he could no doubt have pedalled away to individual glory.

Rumours even abounded that the managing director at Sky would ask Froome to deliberately curb his efforts in the final time trial to help preserve Wiggins's lead, though thankfully any need for such a grotesquely overt sacrifice was resolutely dismissed by a blistering individual effort by the race leader.

Having completed the 53.5km course an entire minute and sixteen seconds faster than his teammate, Wiggins cemented his place as Sky's front man and buried any lingering doubts about deserving his (and Britain's) first Tour victory.

The fact of the matter is, however, that Froome would most likely have begrudgingly sabotaged his own shot at victory if so commanded. Sky has been painstakingly built around Wiggins since the team's professional debut in 2010, and the rigidity of this structure was not going to change mid-Tour on account of an emergent young talent.

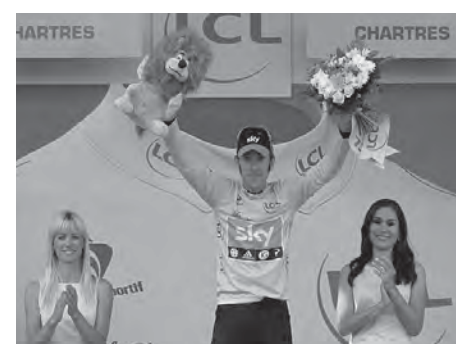
At 32 years of age, Wiggins has spent much of his road career putting in servitude, working tirelessly as a domestique

for other riders before finally earning his shot at winning a grand tour. Queue jumpers will not be tolerated; such is the nature of pro cycling.

That said, with a win now under his belt and with next year's tour - its 100th edition - likely to feature a wealth of gruelling climbs, Wiggins may well step out of the limelight and allow Froome to take his place at the centre of Sky's race strategy.

As Wiggins himself told the BBC, "The guy is capable of winning the Tour for sure...he will win this race one day and I will be there to support him doing that." Thus, by keeping his patience this year, Froome may well have secured his shot at winning his own Tour next July.

Whether he can outclass an injury-free Andy Schleck and a recently returned Alberto Contador, however, is a different matter altogether.



Bradley Wiggins seals the deal, winning his first Tour de France aged 32. Credit: Reuters

# Lecture Notes

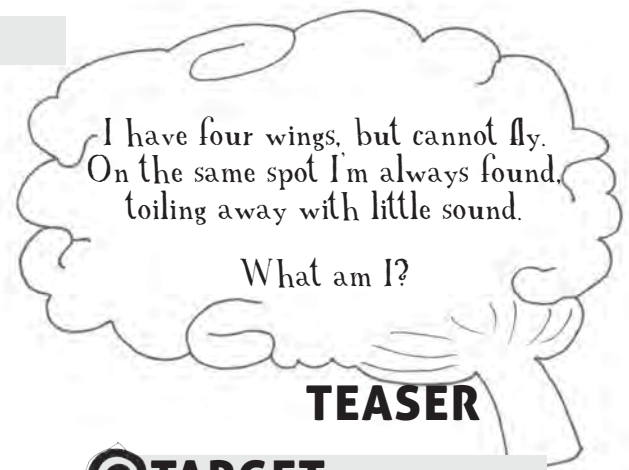
## ? THE QUIZ

- In which television show's theme song would you find the following lyrics: "I whistled for a cab and when it came near the License plate said "fresh" and had a dice in the mirror"?
- What material was used during the Baroque period for violin, cello and viola strings?
- Who composed the 1924 jazz inspired piece 'Rhapsody in Blue'?
- Who carried the Australian flag during the Olympics opening ceremony in London?
- Abuja is the capital of which African country?
- What is the main currency of South Africa?
- Somniphobia is the fear of what?
- The book *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* was originally released in the United Kingdom in what year?
- To the nearest kilometre, how long is Sydney's City2Surf race?
  - 17km
  - 12km
  - 14km
- Who was the overall winner of the coveted yellow jersey in the 2012 Tour de France?
- As of July 29th 2012, what is the highest grossing film in the worldwide box office this year?
- Who is the author of the classic novel, *On The Road*?
- During World War I, the triple entente consisted of which three European powers?
- 'Ga' is the abbreviation for what element?
- Who was the winner of the first ever *American Idol*?
- 'The true story of a real fake' is the tagline for what 2002 film?
- In the Village People's hit 'Y.M.C.A', what does the song title's acronym stand for?
- What is the most populous city in India?
- Which of the following chocolate bars is not owned by Cadbury?
  - Twix
  - FRY'S Turkish Delight Bar
  - Cherry Ripe
- Which Australian painter famously produced a series of 27 works in 1946-7, inspired by Ned Kelly?
 

*Answers below*

## SUDOKU

		9	2			1		
		6						
						4		8
6	1					2		
			3	9		6	7	
	5		1	6			4	
4			2	1				
9				8			6	
			9		7			4



## TARGET

E	E	A
S	T	L
T	R	I

Make as many words out of the letters above, always including the letter in the centre.

29 = You serious.

66 = This is so much fun.

103 = I actually stopped counting at 92.

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## KENKEN

3-	11+	3-		1-	1
		2-			48x
5		7+		9+	
2-		2+	3-		
3÷	11+				75x

- KenKen tips: 1. Numbers can not repeat in any row or column.  
 2. The puzzle is split into boxes called "cages".  
 3. In the upper left-hand corner of each cage is a target number and a mathematical sign indicating how the numerals within a particular cage interact to produce the target number.

## CROSSWORD

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8				9								
			10									
11												
12							13					
14					15			16				
	17		18			19						
20												
21												
22										23		

### ACROSS

- Unable to sound like a philosopher (3'1)
- Substitute X insect for military officer (10)
- Airport contains silly dawdling (15)
- One from North East England, e.g. return, otherwise perish (7)
- Application in chicken will occur (6)
- Change later (5)
- Crazy up dam (3)
- Scrub thoroughly, but sometimes caught out under reasonable initials (5)
- Souvenir is me - French me, right? (6)
- Risk impeded partially by money saved (7)
- Luminosity in rotting hencoops' perches (15)
- Local screwed 13-acr for security (10)
- Body odour, 2-acr. - scram! (4)

### DOWN

- Escape Goa to join patsy (9)
- Pretty awesome above Earth (2,3,2,3,5)
- Matter will sit back and take legal action (6)
- Dune's hip broken and penalised (8)
- Camped badly to leave abruptly (6)
- Brolga deficient von emancipation (6,9)
- Reconcile a note? (5)
- Regard poorly one who marks (6)
- Stuck and coloured? (8)
- \_\_\_\_\_ in time for Lilo's friend (6)
- Annie, Oliver or Phan? (6)
- Perceive and perceived playground equipment (6)
- Blemish of Ali G's respect (5)

Paps

Answers The Quiz: 1. Fresh Prince of Bel Air 2. Sheep guts 3. George Gershwin 4. Lauren Jackson 5. Nigeria 6. The rand 7. The fear of sleep 8. 1997 9. C - 14km 10. Bradley Wiggins 11. The Avengers 12. Jack Kerouac 13. United Kingdom, France, Russia 14. Gallium 15. Kelly Clarkson 16. Catch Me If You Can 17. Young Men's Christian Association 18. Mumbai 19. A - Twix 20. Sidney Nolan Brain Teaser: A windmill

## Libraries, Libraries All Around.

You really shouldn't rely solely on Wikipedia to research your assignments.

Every Faculty has a library that specialises in information relevant to your course. These libraries vary in size and are generally located near your lectures. There is a Faculty Liaison Librarian who is able to help you navigate the resources available to you.

You can ask questions at the help desk or you can email them.

The libraries are also where you'll find some computers and photocopy machines. They also tend to have some of the loveliest sun shiny spots. If you manage to avoid snoring, you should be able to have a little kip there to rejuvenate yourself in time for your next set of study tasks.



## Ask Abe



Dear Abe,

I have received an email from the faculty asking me to show cause. They say that if I do not reply to the email that I will be excluded. I have had a bad semester and I cannot be kicked out of the university. I promise I will work harder, but I need to be given the chance to prove myself. How can I make the university listen to me?

*Avoiding Exclusion*

Dear Avoiding Exclusion,

Show Good Cause is a process that each faculty uses to determine if a student is capable of successfully completing the course they are enrolled in. SRC Help has a detailed leaflet on how to write this letter. Check the website for more details. Basically you will need to explain what problems you have faced for the semesters where you have not done well. There is certainly a variety of different things that this could be, including illness, learning difficulties, and family issues. You then need to explain how this affected your attempt at studying. This might include an inability to concentrate in class, an inability to attend classes, or an inability to complete assessments. The most important part of your letter is where you propose your solutions. That is, how will you be able to overcome all the things that have affected you and how will you ensure that you will pass all of your future subjects, regardless of what happens. Make an appointment with SRC Help to have your draft letter checked. Be sure to do all of this before the deadline.

*Abe*

**Abe is the SRC's welfare dog.**

If you would like to ask Abe a question send an email to [help@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au). Abe gathers his answers from experts in a number of areas. Coupled with his own expertise on dealing with people, living on a low income and being a dog, Abe's answers can provide you excellent insight.

## International Students: Health Insurance Holiday Credit

Did you know you may be able to apply for a "holiday credit" on your health insurance for the time you are not in Australia?

For those with coverage from OSHC Worldcare you need to be out of Australia for 30 days or more, and be able to present your passport, boarding passes

or travel tickets. This credit cannot be paid out until the end of your degree.

If your coverage is with another company call them to see if they have a similar arrangement.

You must apply within 30 days of returning, so hurry.



SRC Legal Service

## Crashed your car? Read on...

You should do something immediately after the crash at the scene! Even though the crash itself might come as a shock to you at first, you should try to minimise your legal risk down the track. Following is a list of things you should do after you secure the situation:

1. Get the other driver's details – full name, license number, address and contact number etc. If the driver fled after the accident, then:

2. Call the police as soon as you can, even if everything is under control. This is because once the police arrive, they will be able to take statements from people who were at the scene in order to record the most accurate account of what happened in the accident. If the police do not attend, you should report the accident to the Police Assistance Line (PAL) within 24 hours on 131 444 so that a record could be made with the information you have provided.

3. See if there are any witnesses around the scene. If there are, quickly approach them and get their details. You can ask them if they could provide statements for you on to support your claim but you should get the statements from them while the incident is fresh in their memory.

Remember to collect evidence. Thanks to modern technology, you could take a few clear pictures of the scene with your smart phone – pay attention to the extent of damages on all vehicles involved in the crash, and any skid marks or debris on the road. You could also voice record the accident from the witnesses and ascertain the exact location of where the accident happened. Get as many details about the accident as you could. Just keep in mind that the purpose of doing this is to help you retain as much accurate evidence as possible which you



think will determine liability for the accident.

After the accident, you should get quotes for the damage to your vehicle if you are the victim of the accident. If you were at fault, you should still contact the other drivers who suffered damages as a result of your fault so that you could arrange for their vehicles to be assessed by an independent repairer to obtain a fair quotation for the damage. Sometimes additional costs such as stand-off fees (being costs of alternative vehicles hired when the damaged vehicles were under repair) will be added to the repair cost. You should find out what will be claimed against you and negotiate to minimise these additional costs.

If you are a victim, and the other person refused to pay up, you can consider sending them a letter outlining what happened at the scene, details of the damage you have suffered and give the person a deadline to pay/respond to your letter. If all negotiation failed, then get some legal advice about recovering the cost of the damages through mediation or legal proceedings. Be aware that if you choose to go down the litigation path, you might have to incur some costs upfront – such as legal

fees if you want a lawyer to act for you, or court filing fees – and you might not be able to recover everything back in the end.

If you think all the above sound too complicated or confusing to you, just come and speak to our solicitor at the SRC Legal Service. We can provide legal advice and court representation for you at free of charge! Contact SRC office to make an appointment at the earliest opportunity to minimise your loss.

### SRC LEGAL SERVICE

[solicitor@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:solicitor@src.usyd.edu.au)  
Phone: 9660 5222

### SRC HELP

[help@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au)  
Phone: 9660 5222

**Drop-ins (Help and Legal)**  
Tues and Thurs 1pm to 3pm

### Satellite Campuses:

**Cumberland:** Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the Library

**Conservatorium of Music:** Thursdays, Room 2125, level 2

**Dentistry:** Fridays, Room 8, Level 8,

## President's Report: Welcome to Semester Two

president@src.usyd.edu.au

Phoebe Drake introduces you to the services of the Students' Representative Council



Welcome back to semester two! I hope all of you returning to study this semester have managed to have some sort of holiday (and I also hope your textbook list is not too expensive!)

For those starting this semester, I'm Phoebe Drake and I'm the SRC President. Essentially, it is my job to make sure your voice is being heard at every level of decision making within the university. The SRC is located in the basement level of Wentworth Building and if you have any specific concerns, or just want to say hi, you're more than welcome to swing by.

The SRC has a number of services available to students, and even if you are a returning student, it is still important you know what they are, in case you ever need them. And, just so you know, all of our services are FREE and CONFIDENTIAL.

### The SRC Legal Service

The SRC Legal Service offers legal advice to students on, pretty much, any issue. In semester one, our legal service worked on 44 files and gave 54 short advisories on a number of issues, including (but not restricted to) the following:

- Motor vehicle accidents
- Negotiations with creditors

- Criminal matters - both possession of illegal substances and Drink Driving
- Employment issues

And, as I said, much, much more. The SRC Legal Service also has a migration agent, who can advise on issues to do with visas and eligibility for migration to Australia.

The most important thing for you to remember is that if you do need legal advice (or just think you might), please come to the SRC and make an appointment. As I said, our services are all confidential.

### Casework and Policy Department



The Casework and Policy Department offers individual advice and advocacy to students on both academic and welfare matters that can impact you during your time at Sydney University.

This includes (but is not limited to) the following:

- Admissions
- Academic appeals
- Show good cause and exclusion
- Centrelink eligibility and appeals
- Tenancy and other accommodation issues
- Harassment and discrimination

Our casework and policy department also provides services on satellite campuses, so if you are from another campus, contact the SRC to find out when our caseworkers are near you.

Last semester, the casework and policy department had 2167 consultations and opened 557 student files. Again, just

like with the SRC Legal Service, if you think you may need to see a caseworker, just call the SRC on 9660 5222 to make an appointment.

### Secondhand Bookshop

The SRC also has a secondhand bookshop, which is on the top level of Wentworth, just near the International Student Lounge. SRC Books works in several ways, as it provides students with cheaper textbooks, but also buys books off students at certain parts of the semester. This gives you a chance to get some cash in hand (which is awesome). Just make sure you check first that it is the right time of semester to sell your books, and that the book you are selling is still on the textbook list for that particular unit of study. If you have any doubts, you can head to the bookshop and ask.

In the last 18 months SRC Books has been an invaluable resource for students, dealing with at least 10,000 students who have either bought or sold books, or come looking for more information. At the start of each semester, SRC Books also provides casual employment for students.

Whilst these are the main services of the SRC, we also provide a lot more for students, such as \$50 emergency loans. So if you have found yourself needing advice, legal representation or a small loan to get through the week, the SRC is the place to come, as it looks after all undergraduate students.



### Campaigns

The SRC also runs campaigns around issues and seeks to raise awareness around concerns that impact students. Last semester, the SRC fought against the staff cuts, ran the NUS Quality Survey, the Students' Money to Students photo petition, and asked students to fill in their thoughts on Honours as part of the Honours Survey.

This semester, the SRC will be looking at ways to get all lectures recorded, travel concession cards for all students, wireless upgrades around campus and issues facing students on satellite campuses.

Semester Two is also election season and provides an opportunity for you to be involved, run for election, and have your say on who should represent you.

So, if you are passionate about an issue, or would like to know more about how the election works, feel free to email me at president@src.usyd.edu.au You can also email me if you would like to be involved, or know more, about any of the campaigns the SRC is running this semester!



## Vice-President's Report: SRC Supports Voluntary Euthanasia

Tom Raue believes in human rights, including the right to die



For those that don't know, LifeChoice is a society recently approved by the University of Sydney Union which lobbies against a woman's right to safe abortion. What has been discussed less is their stance towards voluntary euthanasia – they oppose it. We discussed this at council and have come to the opposite position. I'm going to briefly examine the issue of voluntary euthanasia here and explain why the SRC supports it.

### So what is voluntary euthanasia?

It is a choice made by someone in suffering to end their own life. Often these people are unable to do this themselves so have a doctor either take them off life support, cease feeding them, or inject them with drugs to cause a painful death. It's important to note that this has nothing to do with involuntary euthanasia, which is killing against a person's will.

Voluntary euthanasia allows a person in agony to die peacefully. It is consistent with individual autonomy – a person should have complete control over their own life and body.

There are several arguments against voluntary euthanasia, all of which suck. One is that killing is inherently wrong. I think this is based around a misunder-

standing of what makes killing wrong. Murder is wrong because it denies the victim choice. This is the problem with any form of assault, from a slap to rape, to mutilation. It involves the restriction of another person's autonomy. Voluntary euthanasia is an affirmation of bodily autonomy rather than an imposition from without, so it is not wrong.

Another argument, which I will call the "bullshit argument", is that ending a person's life prematurely is "unnatural". In most cases of voluntary euthanasia, the person's life has already been extended well beyond its "natural" term by medicine and surgery. How could anything possibly even be "unnatural"? Surely anything that occurs is part of the natural order, and thus everything is "natural". "Natural" is one of the most confused adjectives spouted by those who want to curb your freedoms.

It is word used to describe behaviour fundamentalists don't like. Voluntary euthanasia is "unnatural" in the same way that homosexuality is "unnatural" – the bullshit way.

Even though I'm a Board Director of the University of Sydney Union, I am not writing on behalf of the Union, only as Vice President of the SRC. The SRC condemns the Union for funding Lifechoice. This is a society that campaigns against the right to abortion and the right to die with dignity. It is a society that campaigns against human rights.

If you want to help stop it, contact the relevant officers at womens.officers@usyd.edu.au, or welfare.officers@usyd.edu.au.

For more information about the SRC, visit:

www.src.usyd.edu.au

## General Secretary's Report: We Need More Money!

general.secretary@src.usyd.edu.au

**Tim Matthews** believes we need to stop the buck-passing on education



### "Our future is in education. Are you going to invest?"

So asked everyone's favourite Vice-Chancellor, Dr Michael Spence, of Federal Shadow Minister for Education, Chris Pyne, on their recent appearance on ABC's Q&A.

A very good question.

Also a question that highlights the intense buck-passing that characterises the contemporary political discourse

surrounding the issue of education funding. Depending on who you ask, the fault may lie with the Federal Government, the Opposition, partisan politics, greedy Vice-Chancellors, stingy Vice-Chancellors, the Group of Eight, the HECS system, the international education market, teachers unions, student unions, teachers, students or the 'unwashed masses.'

Last year, the federal government's Base Funding Review asked a very similar question to Dr Spence. Namely, who is going to foot the bill for the ever-increasing demand on our tertiary education sector. The answer? The fastest game of 'shotgun-not' since somebody had to tell Kim Jong-un that the Olympic games had put the South Korean flag up for the North Korean football team.

Politics aside, the issue of education funding has been relevant to every person reading this paper in some way this year. From our teachers and lecturers being cut due to budgetary mismanagement, to classes increasing in size, to subjects over-enrolled, to

escalating costs for text books and additional course costs and to the funding given to your student organisations.

The problem of funding arises from a combination of a number of factors: historical underfunding, the business practices of many of our nation's top universities (including our own), decreased private investment in research, fewer international enrolments, and an increase in domestic enrolments.

It is not an oversimplification to suggest that the solution to the problem of underfunding has been evident for years: We. Need. More. Money. Australia's spending on tertiary education is, at present, significantly below the OECD average. Nobody is suggesting that 'pouring more money' at



Dr Michael Spence on Q&A

structural problems in our educational sector is a magic cure-all. But nobody can deny that, in the context of a tertiary sector starved of funds (and getting worse), political bickering over funding models is the last thing anybody needs.

Dr Spence's question ought to be put to government, to business, to the educational sector, to the community, to his own administration: Are any of you going to invest?

## Education Officer's Report: EdCon 2012

education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

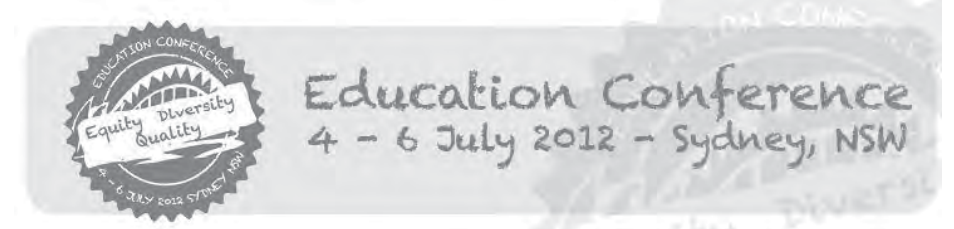
**David Pink** reports on the commitment to a national campaign against staff cuts

Last month, around 40 students from Sydney University took part in the National Union of Students Education Conference. The conference (hosted by Sydney and UTS) was a really valuable three days of organising, discussion and workshops, which everyone said was one the best conferences the National Union of Students had put on in years.

While EdCon concentrated on policy and theory, Erima Dall, political economy lecturer Damien Cahill and I presented a really successful Education Action Group (EAG) workshop on how we fought (and won!) the campaign against staff cuts at Sydney University. It was one of the most popular workshops of the conference, and we attracted education activists from around the country – students facing cuts at La Trobe, ANU, Tasmania and UNSW, as well as delegates as far afield as Melbourne, UWA and Monash,

who all said they took away valuable lessons for building campaigns on their own campuses. During the resolutions session on the conference's final day, delegates overwhelmingly resolved that the National Union commit itself towards building a united national campaign against cuts.

Activists from the EAG have also been helping plan another conference with education collectives around the country. EduFactory! is a conference being held on Ngannawal country in Canberra at the Australian National University from 29 September - October 1. It will consist of three days of radical self-education, criticism and organisation intended to bring together students who seek a way out of the present crisis in university education. All are welcome who reject the ongoing integration of universities into the market, the undermining of student



autonomy and the erosion of essential services such as housing.

But the objective of EduFactory! is not only to critique the university's political-economy; it will have a very real focus on organizing a national campaign against the course and staff cuts happening all over the country right now. Unlike NUS EdCon, the theoretical will take a backseat to the practical: EduFactory! is going to be three days of workshops and skillshares on direct action, media and lobbying tactics, and the gritty planning of a

new national student network which can fight back against an Abbott-led assault on education come 2014. We are calling on students from far and wide to converge at the home of the Australian political class and build a strong student movement on the firm foundations of grassroots democratic organising.

If you'd like to attend just shoot me an email at: [education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au) or register at: <http://edufactoryblog.wordpress.com/register/>.

Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney

## Notice of 2012 Students' Representative Council Annual Election

Nominations for the Students' Representative Council Annual Elections for the year 2012 close at 4.30pm Wednesday 24th August 2012. Polling will be held on the 19th and 20th of September 2012. Pre-polling will also take place outside the SRC Offices Level 1 Wentworth Building on Tuesday 18th of September 2012 from 10 am - 3pm. All students who are duly enrolled for attendance at lectures are eligible to vote. Members of the student body who have paid their nomination fee to Council are eligible to nominate and be nominated, except National Union of Students national office bearers. Fulltime officebearers of the SRC may also nominate as NUS delegates.

**Nominations are called for the following elections/positions and open 1st August 2012 at 8pm:**

- The election of the Representatives to the 85th SRC (33 positions)
- The election of the President of the 85th SRC
- The election of the Editor(s) of Honi Soit for the 85th SRC
- The election of National Union of Students delegates for the 85th SRC (7 positions)

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the SRC website: [www.src.usyd.edu.au](http://www.src.usyd.edu.au), or picked up from SRC Front Office (Level 1, Wentworth Building).

Nominations must also be lodged online along with your policy statement and Curriculum Vitae (optional), by close of nominations at: [www.src.usyd.edu.au](http://www.src.usyd.edu.au). For more information, call 9660 5222.

Signed nomination forms and a printed copy of your online nomination must be received no later than 4.30pm on Wednesday 22nd August, either in the locked box at the SRC Front Office (Level 1 Wentworth), or at the following address: PO Box 794, Broadway NSW 2007.

Nominations which have not been delivered either to the locked box in the SRC front office or to the post office box shown above and submitted online by the close of nominations will not be accepted regardless of when they were posted.

The Regulations of the SRC relating to elections are available on-line at [www.src.usyd.edu.au](http://www.src.usyd.edu.au) or from the SRC Front Office (level 1, Wentworth Building).

Authorised by Paulene Graham, SRC Electoral Officer 2012. Students' Representative Council, The University of Sydney Phone: 02 9660 5222 | [www.src.usyd.edu.au](http://www.src.usyd.edu.au)



# The Sandstone Report

## Another Day, Another Drink with Dr Rupert Thorogood



Another day, another failure – time for another drink! If wine is the nectar of the gods then this cut-price bottle of whisky I shoplifted from Broadway must be their tears. My latest unpublished article is but the last in a long list of rejections from scholarly journals – who was to know that ‘Kant and the Scategorical Imperative’, a field-redefining treatise on our duty to defecate on board-games,

was not what *Woman’s Day* was after? Pah! *Woman’s Day*! Have I sunk so low?!

Oh for my halcyon days, I was revered, respected, and a kingfisher! I had such promise: first-class honours, a university medal, a Rhodes scholarship, and the faculty record for most tutors bedded.

Now look at me: a dishevelled husk of my former self: a corpulent, middle-aged

man masquerading as an academic. I was meant to be someone! I was meant to set the academy ablaze with my incomparable insight and scintillating wit. Instead, I’m ashamed to enter the staffroom these days, aware that my breath reeks of booze and that the elbow patches on my tweed jacket are not just for show. O woe is me, wretched, base, despicable creature that I am!

But enough of this wallowing: I have a class to prepare for, and she will be there. O, she is divine my nymph, my Venus, my Helen, my Cleopatra, my Ophelia, my – but, she is not mine.

Olivia... her name is like a summer’s breeze, playing merrily across my back fat. But how can I possess her?

I have already attempted to entice her with my knowledge, promising her first-year pre-honours, despite no such course existing, if only she would be mine. I pen her sweet missives in my essay feedback, hidden messages of desire, like:

“your essay structure showed joie de vivre, however, there is room for improvement. Meet me in the Quadrangle toilets at five and I shall

continue my instruction.”

But alas, no response. I waited in those toilets for a good four hours, assuring the baffled patrons of the water closet that I need not go ahead of them, as I was merely there to observe. I trudged disconsolately back to my office only to be greeted by Belinda, the PhD student I am supervising, annoyed that I had kept her waiting for more than three hours.

I tried to explain myself, but Eros had my tongue. I stammered incoherently, before motioning for her to leave. I returned to my hovel and there I sat, like a scotch-soaked sponge pouring drink after drink until, like so many nights before, I vomited in the bin and spilt my glass across my marking before slumping forward in an inebriated stupor.

But today is a new day. Today, I shall overcome, as the great William Shakespeare once said: “so long as you’ve had less than six drinks you’ll probably be able to get through your 2pm tutorial without slurring your words too badly.”



Another unsolved case, another day on these mean sidewalks: the call came through from head office (Services Building – *Eds.*) around 1pm.

“Samir mate, we’ve got reports of a violation of the smoking ban in progress over at Holme, we’re gonna need you to check it out.”

So I strapped on my helmet, jumped on my mountain bike and smashed it (obeyed the relevant speed limits – *Eds.*) over there!

Sure enough, when I got there, there were some fucking uni students having a

cigarette on their own campus! I skidded to a halt, spraying gravel into the eyes of an innocent old lady. No time! Justice must be done!

“Oi, what the fuck?!” I yelled. They looked around, evidently scared and confused. “Excuse me?”, they said, but before they could get another word out I dropped one with my military-issue nightstick then elbowed the other in the throat. I winded the last guy so badly that he swallowed his cigarette. I took a step back, dusted my hands and rode off, knowing justice had been done.

I’ve gotta say this job was a bit of a step-down for someone with paramilitary training (an orange-belt in Aikido – *Eds.*). But after I received my dishonorable discharge from RailCorp – honestly, I still don’t get why fracturing a fourteen-year olds eye-socket is that



big of a deal if it means he’ll take fare evasion seriously from now on – and what with the police and the army discriminating against me because I’m Muslim (Samir failed both the physical and psychological evaluations, twice – *Eds.*), I decided that protecting this campus was my true calling.

I’ve already shaken things up a bit at the Security Office with my requests

for tear-gas and tasers – let’s see you fuck with us now, you ibis! But I figure, there’s no price too high to pay to ensure that the Vice-Chancellor can walk from his office to his chauffeur-driven car in peace.

I’ve already had some big wins against the anti-social elements of this uni. In my first three days on the job I fined 15 students for riding without helmets: of course, this was after I’d rammed my flashlight into their spokes and taught them a few street smarts.

Sorry, a call just came through on the walkie-talkie: some featherbrain punk’s just been caught littering on the Gadigal Green. Time to go fuck shit up, Samir-style!

And remember: wherever you are, whatever you do, I’m out here and I’m comin’ for you!

## TV Guide: with guest editor Gina Rinehart



### 9.00am Insiders

Lefties sit on a couch and talk shit. It’s like a Newtown frat-house without the hash. Except when that vile David Marr is on.

### 9.00pm The Gruen Transfer

Beloved by east-coast lefties for hating on my anti-mining tax ads. Todd Sampson is a bit of a babe though.

### 9.30pm Q&A

Hacks from the University of Sydney ask questions of older hacks once from the University of Sydney. Moderated by an ex Paul’s boy.



### 6.30pm A Current Affair

Why we need special economic zones in Western Australia. A must-see. The lid will be lifted on this loony East Coast notion of employees’ rights once and for all.

### 7.30pm 60 Minutes

Special economic zones would be the first step toward WA finally seceding from the cesspit of sin, amorality, and leftism that is the East. In the short-term, they’d help us keep our hard-earned mining profits out of the hands of greedy workers. Now with an extra half-hour of Peter Harvey’s xenophobic mail bag.



### 10.00am The Bolt Report

Fair and balanced analysis from Australia’s leading buster of career-Aborigines.

### 7.30pm Masterchef

The MasterChef contestants are set their most gargantuan task yet: cooking my morning tea.

### 10.30pm Ten Late News

We’re doing very well with gay men under 30 but not anyone else. Can we get Hamish Macdonald and Sandra Sully to pash? It’d be a hit.

### 11.00pm Poetry from the Pilbara



with



# Dear Ms Rinehart,

In recent months you have generously come to the aid of that ailing Trotskyist publishing house, Fairfax Media. You have patiently increased your stake to become the company's largest – in a myriad of ways – shareholder. Each step of the way, their ignorant custodians have rebuffed, resisted, and ridiculed you and your vast oceans of money.

We here at *Honi Soit* would not dare to be so stubborn, nor so proud. Indeed, we write to formally ask – if not beg – that you might consider a full takeover of our newspaper.

We can promise neither a positive return on investment or influence over mining legislation. However, we can guarantee our full support for any prospecting activities that your company may want to conduct on this campus. Sandstone is in particular abundance, and there may be, if rumours prove correct, a large deposit of blood diamonds under the Vice-Chancellor's office.

Indeed, editorial independence is a concept so foreign to us as to be negligible. In return for your riches, beloved Gina, we gladly turn our pages over to your infinite wisdom and experience in the field of journalism.

In particular, your enormous war chest and capacity to fund ongoing legal action is highly sought after by the editors of *Honi Soit*. May we express our complete solidarity with your cause of denying your children any share of your unfathomably large fortune.

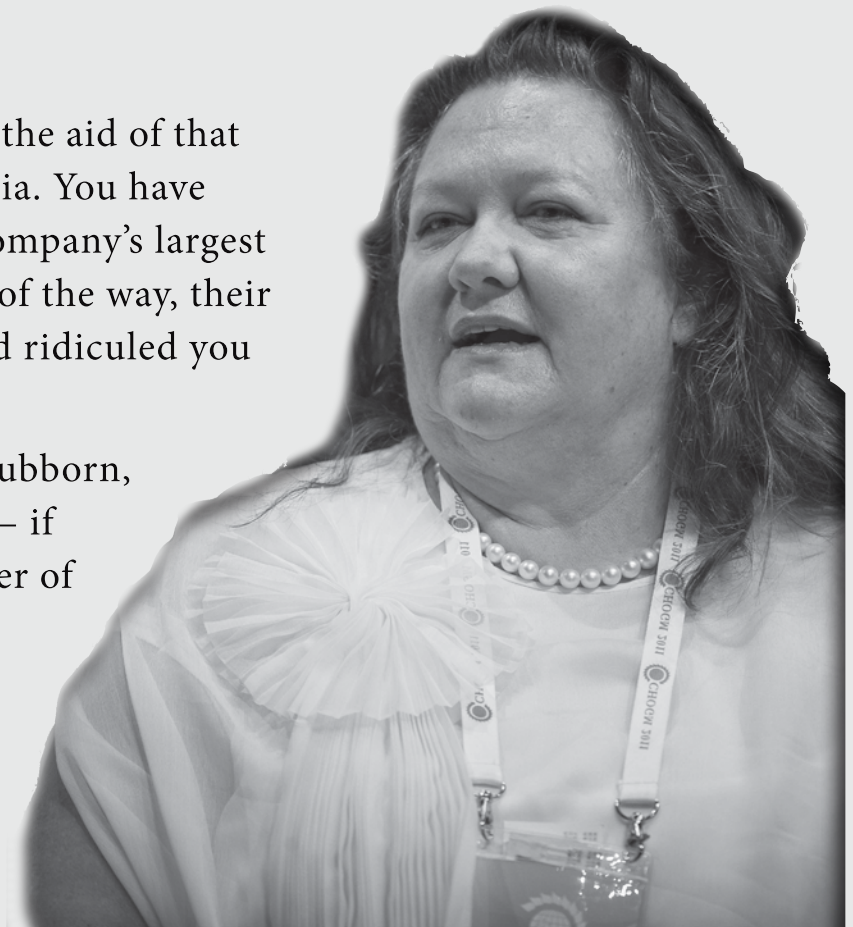
Like your noble family, our newspaper has a strong and proud tradition of serving this ungrateful nation. *Honi Soit* comes from the French “Honi soit qui mal y pense”, meaning “shame on he who thinks climate change is real”. Shame also on he who lives on the East Coast, and shame on he who votes for Juliar.

Not since the great Gina G. sang “Ooh, Ah, Just A Little Bit” has a Gina brought such joy to the world as you, Ms Rinehart. You have lifted this nation to become the world's foremost quarry, and now we hope you will make just one more sacrifice, by buying our humble newspaper and delivering us from the crippling impoverishment of SRC ownership.

As publisher, we are confident you would not have denied us a fully-funded junket to cover the London Olympics, and permanent membership of the Canberra Press Gallery, The Australian Club, and the H. R. Nicholls Society. No – life would be so much sweeter in your vast shadow, Gina, and we hope you will see fit to make the necessary expenditure and acquire our assets. It should take about eight seconds of work for you to acquire the necessary cash.

Yours obsequiously,

*The Editors*



# HONI SOIT OPINION COMPETITION 2012

## LIMBO

The 2012 Honi Soit opinion competition is now underway. it's your chance to get your voice heard and be handsomely rewarded!

Entries will be between 700 and 800 words on the theme of 'limbo'.

Our judge for this year is none other than journalist and TV host **Joe Hildebrand**, and the top three will receive **cash prizes** and will be published in **Honi Soit**.

Deadline: midnight, Wednesday 26 September 2012, emailed to [opinion@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:opinion@src.usyd.edu.au).

Include: full name, year, degree, faculty, student ID number, email address and phone number.

The opinion competition is made possible by the generous donations of one of the university's most supportive alumni.