

# HONI SOIT

VOL 90 SEM 1 WEEK 5



CHANGE

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. The University of Sydney – where we write, publish and distribute *Honi Soit* – is on the sovereign land of these people. As students and journalists, we recognise our complicity in the ongoing colonisation of Indigenous land. In recognition of our privilege, we vow to not only include, but to prioritise and centre the experiences of Indigenous people, and to be reflective when we fail to. We recognise our duty to be a counterpoint to the racism that plagues the mainstream media, and to adequately represent the perspectives of Indigenous students at our University. We also wholeheartedly thank our Indigenous reporters for the continuing contribution of their labour to our learning.

## EDITORIAL

Welcome back!

It's cruel, isn't it—that our 'mid-sem' break is determined by the moon, rather than falling in the 'middle of semester'. Semester had barely even started, and the ink on our initial font choices not yet dried.

Yes, we've changed a bit. Better to own up to it than to make you question your sanity as you compare our serifs and margins from pre-break and post-break editions. We hope it's for the best.

It's great that we changed for this edition, because that also happens to be our theme. When putting this edition together it became clear that a great deal of change is happening at this University. It always is, unsurprising for a community this large, but it seems like we have been able to capture it at a brief moment of maximum transition.

Sydney is moving West, and the University may well move with it. Autumn is here, and so is the anticipation (or dread) of a fresh cast of student politicians and new elections. The USU has changed polling booths, some which, had they not been changed, would have been demolished around the ballot box.

The SASS saga continues. Keep track of how many times it is mentioned within, there's a hidden one.

We've got a treat for you on page 20, and a party for you to come to on Thursday night. From 6pm onwards at the Lord Gladstone. You're welcome to attend. Please come to our party.

Thanks to Rose, Mum, Dad, Emma, Spike, and Charlie. Daisy and Muffy: the cover is yours in Sem 2! **AR**

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## THANKS TO

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### Apologies:

We sincerely apologise for the modification and subsequent incorrect use of AUSLAN in the image used for 'Spoken word without the spoken word' (S1:W4).

## Ten Quick Questions M'Lord

1. Which Bollywood actress featured in *The Pink Pather 2* (2009)?
2. Which two Sydney Trains stations are the most recently opened?
3. What is the capital of Switzerland?
4. The 'Hand of God' was a controversial football goal scored by which famous player?
5. Drake runs through 'the 6' with his woes. Where is 'the 6'?
6. What is Pokemon #666?
7. What is the largest internal organ in the body?
8. Game beginning with 'p' played on a billiard table?
9. In *Naruto*, what reason does Itachi initially give for murdering his entire clan?
10. What is the name of the meme with the differing levels of cognition?

1. Aishwarya Rai 2. Edmonson Park and Leppington 3. Bern  
 4. Diego Maradona 5. Toronto 6. Vivillon 7. Liver  
 8. Pool 9. 'to measure my abilities' 10. The expanding brain meme

Disclaimer: *Honi Soit* is published by the Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney, Level 1 Wentworth Building, City Road, University of Sydney NSW 2006. The SRC's operation costs, space and administrative support are financed by Sydney University SSAF. *Honi Soit* is printed under the auspices of the SRC's directors of student publications: Vincent Wang, Charlotte Hounton, Rebecah Miller, Alexi Cassis, Sarah Cutter-Russell and Chanum Torres. All expressions are published on the basis that they are not to be regarded as the opinions of the SRC unless specifically stated. The Council accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any of the opinions or information contained within this newspaper, nor does it endorse any of the advertisements and insertions. Please direct all advertising inquiries to publications.manager@src.usyd.edu.au.

# Autopilot or Strength

This article contains depictions of sexual assault.

## Anonymous

On the morning of December 8, the day after same-sex marriage was legalised, a social worker gave me \$4.60 to get home. The police had brought me to the hospital after finding me on the Story Bridge, drugged out of my mind, braless and not wearing any underwear or shoes. My drink had been spiked. I remember three boys in a club, an apartment and a carpark. I could not find a way out of the carpark, so I contemplated curling up on the cement. The next thing I remember is the Bridge.

The night began with four Brisbane school friends, catching up over cheese and champagne after a year apart. I came out as gay to them, and was persuaded to come out and celebrate. We took the same Uber and bought a booth. Splitting up or staying together was never part of the discussion. It should have been.

At the hospital, I am shaking in a plastic chair, concentrating on the mantra “Shoulders back!” to stay sane and maintain my dignity. My phone and wallet are still at the club, so I cannot call anyone or order a taxi. A social worker with smudged eye make-up appears and gives me a handful of silver coins, along with the names of two bus routes to get home. Then I am outside in the sun, muddled with tears and still wearing yesterday's dress.

The sun is too bright and I am stunned to learn the time is 9am, not 4am. I start to cry again, because this means Mum will have left for work and noticed my bed is unslept in. I will have questions to answer, but right now I lack the energy to concoct an explanation and getting home is a mammoth task.

I live interstate, so I have no idea where I am. I ask strangers on their way to work for directions to the nearest station. A woman clocks my hospital bracelet and glazed eyes and asks if I am safe. Two wrong buses and an early stop later and I am shuffling up the homewards hill. The hospital's donated sandals are too small for me, and I am still not wearing any underwear, so I tug down my dress under the stares of traffic controllers.

I slip into bed, tie back my hair and cry torrents. This is the last time I will cry in weeks. I tell no family members. I cancel work, steady myself and, in no fit state, drive to the club to collect my phone. My parents come home, I brush my dog's teeth and we eat salmon for dinner. On Saturday, a friend drives me to the pharmacy for the morning-after pill. It costs \$15.

On Sunday, I re-order my favourite leather boots—the ones I was wearing that night and never would have removed of my own accord. They arrive three days later. Wearing them when I return to the police station weeks later feels like a stupid, stamping victory.

It turns out that policemen all wear body-cameras these days. I sit in the Constable's office and watch back footage of myself on the Bridge, halfway down a lane of oncoming traffic in a barefoot trance. A little black slip, bare feet, dark curls, and a freakishly calm stare.

I know few details about that night, but I know I do not want to feel weak. So it feels natural that my instinct is to appear strong.

I construe 'strength' as self-sufficiency, a 'confront-it-but-ultimately-suck-it-up' attitude that justifies not telling my mother. This 'strong' choice means that Mum instead finds out a month later, when a \$1000 medical bill for life-threatening intoxication arrives in the mail (an administrative error—a story for another time). I am at Kings Cross Station when she calls. She chokes when I explain that I could have called her at the hospital and chose to take a bus instead. I have hurt her so much more than I needed to. Strangers avoid eye-contact with the girl crying by the Opal Card machine.

The hospital bracelet is now in my scrapbook. I consider putting it on display in my room as a visible reminder. It seems like something a strong, unaffected person would do.

I consider my other options.

If I call my friends, they will say the right things. Then I book a psychologist appointment.

*Support network:*

I hate the idea of losing money from this, but I should take the day off work.

*Time for myself:*

It will be traumatic to watch the police's footage, but it is worth filling in the gaps from that night.

*Closure:*

I did all the right things, I promise.

Generally, I avoid labels. But right now, I need a descriptor to process what happened and explain it to my friends. In a lecture months later, it strikes me that this “traumatic event” is better described as a “near-death experience” than an assault. “Near-death” sounds melodramatic. Am I exaggerating? I reassure myself that walking halfway down a bridge into a busy lane of oncoming traffic, without any bearing of where you are, is life-threatening. I really could have died that night. Where would I have been without the police, or the pedestrians who called them? Gratitude is a strong antidote.

As Semester continues, I continue to tick the boxes, though who knows when a resolution will transpire. My instinct was to reject the 'distressed victim' trope. Instead, I unwittingly mimicked the 'stoic untouchable' model so often lauded in television crime dramas. In hindsight, I have no idea which choice is healthier. I still do not know if auto-pilot means strength.

# What is a faculty society anyway?

Brendan O'Shea on the role and changing character of SASS.

The Sydney Arts Students Society (SASS) is the largest faculty society on campus. It aims to provide a "vibrant experience and dynamic opportunities" for its 17,000+ members, a figure that represents around 30% of the total student body. With these sorts of numbers, a rich history of contribution to the campus' cultural life, and a reputation for attracting current and aspiring Big Names on Campus, SASS is a landmark institution at this University. And yet, increasingly, it does not appear to act in a way becoming of an institution that represents the Arts or USyd's Arts students.

Three weeks ago, on the 23rd of March, campus observers were stunned to learn that the University of Sydney Union (USU) had declared last November's elections for the SASS executive invalid. The background is detailed. In the lead up to those elections, the SASS executive attempted to pass several constitutional changes, notionally designed to prevent the "stacking" of elections. One of these changes, the introduction of clause 9.a.iii, aims to restrict eligibility for the key roles of President and Secretary to individuals who had previously served on the SASS executive. A similar mechanism exists in USyd's Science Society. So far so good.

In July 2017, however, the USU Board of Directors vetoed this proposal. But despite then SASS President Jacob Masina also serving as a Director, his executive nonetheless administered the SASS elections as if clause 9.a.iii had been instituted. The subsequent election of Masina's friend and fellow Young Liberal, Lachlan Finch to the SASS Presidency, may not have occasioned if the election was open to more competitors. As such, the Directors invalidated all executive appointments.

Many were pleased to hear this. Some, especially stupol hacks, watched on with *schadenfreude* as some

of the most electable Liberals in many years jeopardised their control over a crucial base. Others, especially those Arts students craving improvements in campus life, hoped for a better, more representative SASS. One can hardly blame them—Finch's SASS, like Masina's and Ed McCann's before his, isn't really all that arts-y. So, with the deposed SASS executive now appealing to their prior efforts in their bid for re-election, it's worth considering their record.

**While the image of Arts students as radicals is somewhat stereotypical, the generalization comes from a real place**

For many, a society is only as good as the events that it holds. For that reason, and the fact that events choices reveal important things about society's priorities and preferences, it makes sense to examine the events this SASS executives organised. One would hope that their events are sufficiently varied, diverse, and obviously relevant to Arts students. Yet, by considering the events linked to and bolstered by SASS's official Facebook page and newsletters, one might consider that they've run afoul of that consideration.

So far this year, SASS has held two sports events, one bar party, a first-year camp, and a "Leadership Night + LinkedIn Photoshoot". Of these, only the first-year camp and pub crawl seem at all consistent with the historical SASS zeitgeist. For starters, a "Leadership Night + LinkedIn Photoshoot" has a distinctly corporate bent to it. While no one is suggesting Arts students shouldn't have jobs, nor that they shouldn't be in the best position to compete for those jobs, Arts students seem among the least likely to go into fields where corporate networking and inorganic headshots are crucial to success. One may even question whether this way of going about promoting employment is in the spirit of the Arts. It certainly seems at odds with both the Arts disciplines' traditional commitment to learning for its own sake, and the romantic image of Arts students as intellectual rebels.

Equally, sports events seem like odd things to prioritise. Though inter-faculty sport was not suddenly invented when Ed McCann was President in late 2014, since then, successive executives have attempted to cultivate a culture of weekly participation in these events. While many Arts students obviously enjoy sport(s), it's unclear why there aren't opportunities for things that seem, you know, arts-ier. In 2014, for instance, the SASS executive organised poetry slams in Hermann's as early as March. While SASS has never exclusively been about promoting academic or creative concerns, there seems something quite off about a society that doesn't promote or engage in creative activities whatsoever.

That leaves us with the first-year camp and the bar party. The SASS welcome party in Week One was the latter. It makes sense—this is a university after all—with one only left to wonder why it received very little promotion in SASS

channels. Whereas the first-year camp was relentlessly advertised, taking pride of place as the SASS cover photo, the welcome party got a minor mention in a weekly newsletter and a few plugs on the Facebook page. That the Facebook event for the party was only created one week in advance, while the camp and other events received far more space in the newsletter is all the more puzzling when its considered that the camp is only an opportunity for first-years. For many of SASS' 17,000 student-members who aren't in first year, who aren't into sport, or who think leadership nights are as boring as they are irrelevant, it's hard to see what this SASS executive offers them. Heaven help the ones that don't drink.

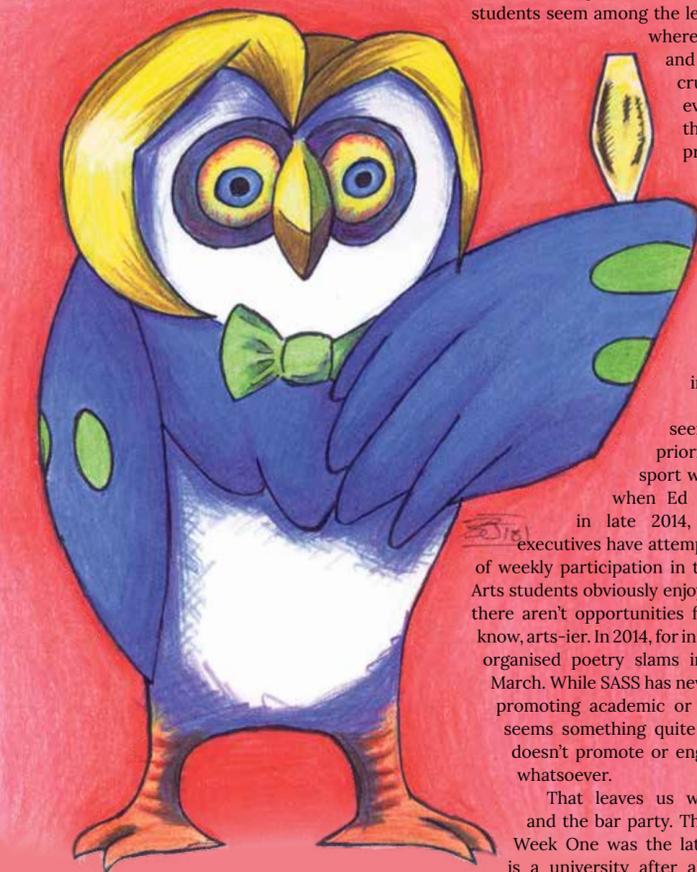
But events only tell part of the story. The importance of SASS' literary journal, ARNA, cannot be understated, especially in this its 100th year. And yet, SASS did not seem especially keen to promote their call-out to "all aspiring editors and creatives" very widely, or with nearly the same gusto as they promoted other events. Despite falling later in the year, ARNA's editor application deadline was plugged twice on the SASS Facebook page, compared to the Welcome Party's four. Similarly, SASS did not even mention the deadline in their weekly newsletter, the organisation's most direct way of reaching the Arts community, until 3 days beforehand. That this deadline—March 25th—was itself a one-week extension, makes the radio silence before the original deadline all the more concerning.

While ARNA's independent Facebook page picked up some of the slack, their ~670 likes are pale in comparison to SASS' 4,700. So, while ARNA's editors will likely do a fantastic job with the century edition, the executive does not deserve any credit for it.

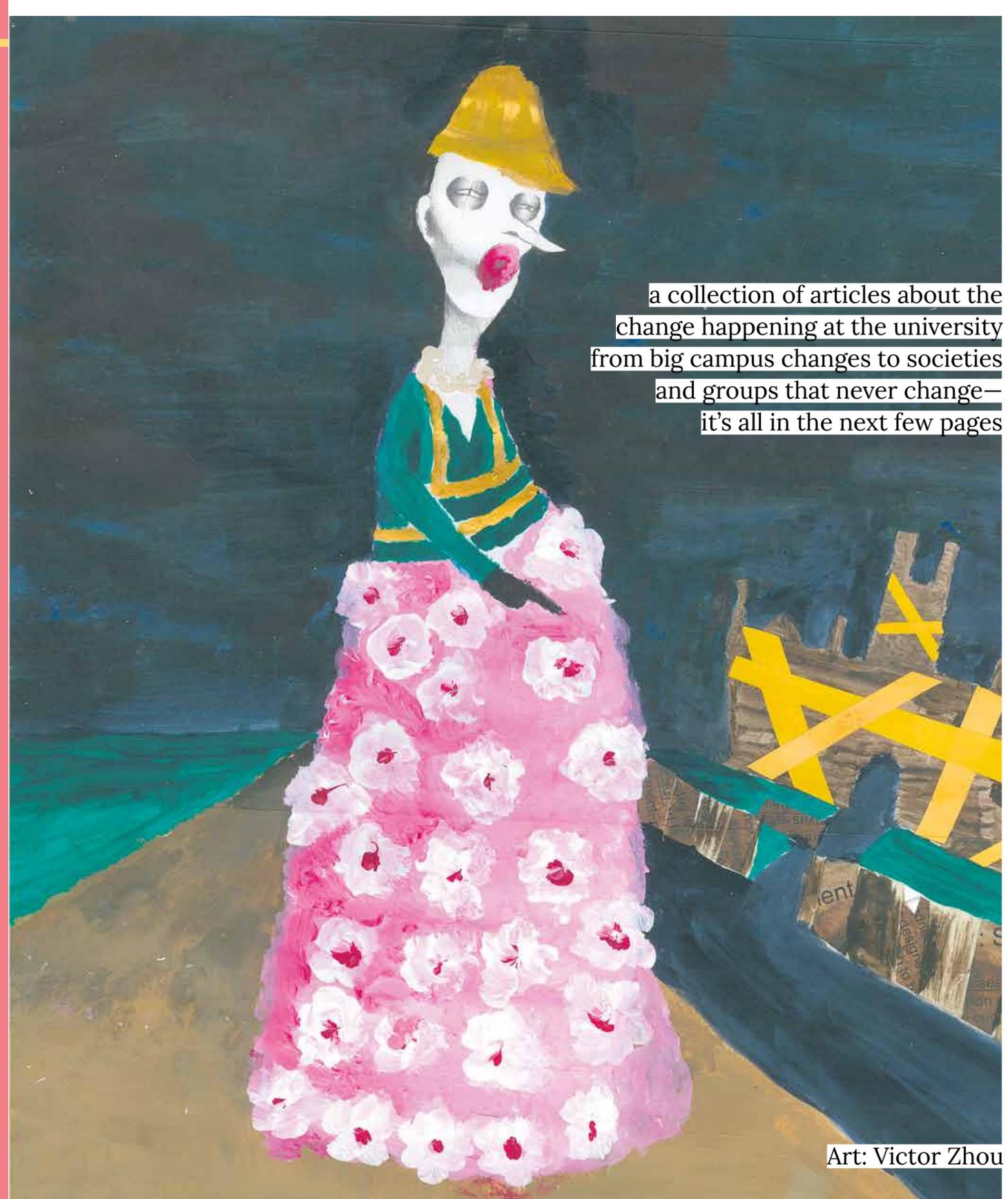
**This apolitical bent exemplifies what's so off about the Liberal SASS dynasty of the past few years—it is boring, gutless, and dishonest about its motivations**

There seems to be one final way in which the SASS team seem out of step with the Arts students they claim to represent. While the image of Arts students as radicals is somewhat stereotypical, the generalization comes from a real place. Arts disciplines often converge on progressive / left-wing conclusions. Though some complain that this is the function of brainwashing, there seems to be something about these disciplines attracting students already committed to these conclusions while also converting many of the remainder. And while it's easy to dismiss the perception of 'Arts students = left-wing' as distorted by the vocal, radical minority, few would doubt that—were there are comprehensive survey of Arts students' political opinions—more would identify with these sorts of conclusions than not. In that context, it seems puzzling that SASS has done little, if anything, to promote progressive causes. There has been no promotion of protests, no identification of injustice and no solidarity campaigns.

To be fair, to this most recent executive, they have not obviously aided right-wing ambitions, though the LinkedIn photoshoot veers dangerously close to doing so. But in many ways, this apolitical bent exemplifies what's so off about the Liberal SASS dynasty of the past few years—it is boring, gutless, and dishonest about its motivations. Sadly, it is unlikely that this will undermine their prospects of re-election at the premature AGM to be held at 5pm on Thursday 19th of April, in Quad Philosophy Room S249. At least I'll always have the memories of what once was.



Artwork by Brendan O'Shea



a collection of articles about the change happening at the university from big campus changes to societies and groups that never change—it's all in the next few pages

Art: Victor Zhou

*the autumn collection:  
change at USyd*

# USU election shakeup to affect international students

Janek Drevikovsky

In a break with previous years, this May's USU Board elections will not feature polling booths in the Merewether building or on Cadigal Green, and the International Students' Lounge (ISL) booth will operate only for pre-poll, staying closed on election day itself.

And in a further change, the USU will require all campaign material written in a language other than English to be accurately English translation into English directly below. This rule has been in force since 2016 as an ad hoc ruling of the Returning Officer, but has only now been incorporated into the formal regulations.

These two decisions, passed unanimously in March's Board meeting, have sparked concerns over international students' engagement with the election.

Board Director Hengjie Sun spoke out against the polling booth closures during the March meeting. He questioned why the Merewether booth was being shut despite its proximity to areas popular with international students, like the Abercrombie Business School and SciTech Library. Sun went on to suggest international students might be "disenfranchised", since awareness of USU politics was already low in that community.

Sun eventually voted in favour of the closures. Honi understands that it is Board practice for the Directors to either vote with the majority or abstain.

Sun, an international student himself, is a member of the Chinese students' political grouping Panda. He is part of a recent surge in international student involvement in both USU and SRC elections, which saw Yifan Kong elected to Board in 2016, and Sun and Zhixian Wang in 2017. Panda took seven council seats at last year's SRC election.

Board Director Grace Franki rejected suggestions that the closures had anything to do with international students. "The Merewether booth has been closed due to concerns that the placement of the booth at the top of a long flight of stairs was dangerous," she told Honi.

Of the ISL booth, Franki said "complaints of unpleasant overcrowding" meant the booth had been "moved down the stairs to the JFR [Jane Foss Russel] Courtyard on voting day."

In fact, the new JFR booth will have to do triple duty, servicing an area once shared between Merewether, the ISL station and the old Cadigal Lawns booth.

Between them, these three booths recorded 785 votes at the 2017 election. The Cadigal Green and Merewether booths were the second and third most popular polling stations, with ISL lagging behind PNR as the fifth most popular.

SRC General Secretary Yuxuan Yang, a Panda member, argued the booth closures would make it difficult for voters, particularly international students, to find a place to vote. "Voting places should be equally distributed in different areas of campus via population

density and the different groups of people's percentage," he told Honi.

Yang also criticised the requirement for non-English campaign material to be translated into English. "Some international students will think they are discriminated against," he said. "Why is my mother language worse than English?"

Other international students defended the regulation. Kida Lin, an international student who supported Liliana Tai's successful 2017 Board bid, told Honi "the translation requirement seems sensible to me as it increases accountability and transparency."

Though the rule has technically been in force since 2016, observance has been patchy. During the 2017 elections, Zhixian Wang courted controversy by chalking Chinese graffiti alongside campaign slogans on the City Road footbridge. The graffiti ("办证", "迷药") were alleged to mean Wang would "provide you with fake ID and drugs that make you sleep if elected".

Wang did not chalk an English version of the graffiti—a clear breach of the rule. Yet she argued the slogans were impossible to literally translate and could only be understood as a reference to Chinese graffiti art. They were intended to resonate with Chinese international students, she said, and involve them in the political process.

The USU hopes that the Returning Officer, Penelope Crossley, who is a fluent Mandarin speaker, will be able to navigate the complexities of accuracy and equivalence in translation. She faces a big task: as Franki explained, "the rule applies to any written material which in any way publicly comments on the election (including electronic communications)". This means Crossley may have to consider complaints involving social media and off-campus publications.

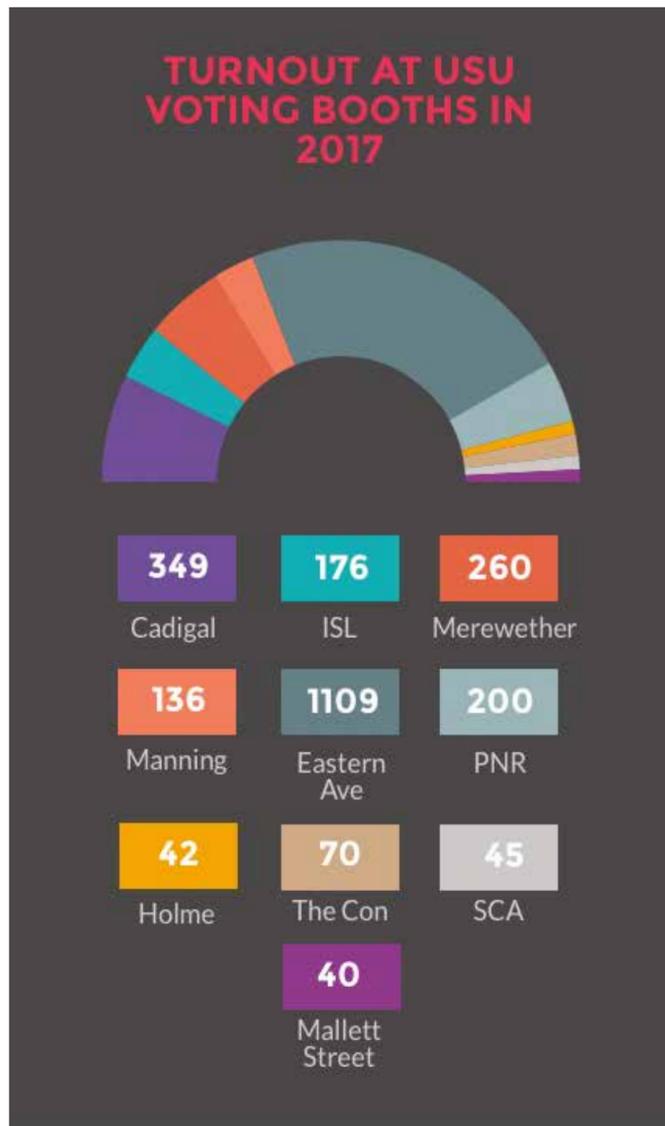
Since the rule is now formally on the books, it will be uppermost in candidates' minds when they are looking for grounds to complain against rivals' campaigns. With rumours that at least two international students will contest this year's election, the rule seems certain to be invoked more frequently.

Whatever the intention behind the polling booth closures and the enshrined translation requirement, Yang didn't think they would weaken the international student movement. "It will only make candidates and voters more tired and dissatisfied."

Lin likewise hoped for increased, rather than diminished, international student involvement, arguing broader politicisation could remedy the very lack of transparency the Board is trying to fix. "Now you perhaps only get candidates supported by one group representing the international students. You will have a more transparent and accountable system if international students are being represented by different competing groups."

Booth Rank	Candidate	First Count	%
1	Koko (Yifan) Kong	618	68.8%
2	Vanessa Song	67	7.5%
3	Esther Shim	57	6.3%
4	James Gibson	41	4.6%
5	Sam Kwon	31	3.5%
6	Grace Franki	29	3.2%
7	Courtney Thompson	24	2.7%
8	Cameron Hawkins	16	1.8%
9	Dom Bondar	15	1.7%
	Total	898	

Hands up if you like data: the ISL booth has delivered substantial victories to candidates running on a pro-international student platform. Yifan Kong took the booth in 2016 with 68 per cent of the vote, including pre-poll.



# Liberal Club tensions: members allegedly excluded

Elijah Abraham

The USU has stepped in after members of the Sydney University Liberal Club (SULC) submitted a complaint last Monday claiming exclusionary behaviour.

The complaint, submitted by first-year Hartley Dhyon, alleged several students who had paid to join SULC at OWeek had not been included in the club's membership list, nor had been invited to SULC events.

After inquiring at the C&S office, Dhyon discovered the club's membership list had "far few [sic] members than [he] expected" and realised he and other members had not been updated onto the list.

SULC President Josh Crawford confirmed that the membership list hadn't been updated, however advised it was the result of a clerical issue.

During OWeek, he said many of the club's sign-up forms had not been correctly categorised into paid students who were members of the club and non-paying students who had expressed interest but not officially registered. Only the former are uploaded onto the membership list and invited to club events.

Some forms had been correctly marked, and those members were uploaded onto the list without any issues. For the forms that weren't marked, Crawford had planned to cross-check them with the receipt book to see which of those unconfirmed members had paid, and update the membership list accordingly.

"We put the other forms to the side and we said we'd reconcile them by next week and then we'll sort it out," said Crawford.

Despite the lack of an up-to-date membership list at the time, the club still ran events including the 'Liberal Students Pub Crawl' and the 'SULC New Members Dinner'.

Dhyon was not invited or informed of these events and found out about them through friends.

Crawford stressed that such events should not have been impacted by issues with the membership list and that this was a separate issue he would be investigating.

**Only two years ago, an almost identical complaint was levelled at SULC.**

"Sometimes the email is wrong or someone doesn't get invited to a Facebook event cause the person organising it is not organised enough to invite everyone. I don't know what the specific reason for [the missing invitations] was."

Despite not being formally invited, Dhyon showed up at the New Members Dinner after being forwarded the event details on social media. He was let in initially, but was soon turned away for not having RSVP'd to the event.

"Nowhere on the event does it require you to RSVP, it only asks that new members pay \$25 cash at the door, which I did," Dhyon wrote in the complaint.

Crawford says he spoke with C&S about this event. He said the RSVP requirement was enforced because venue space was tight, and Dhyon had

been turned away as the event was full.

On the night of this dinner, Dhyon and Crawford spoke on the phone.

In the complaint, Dhyon writes that during this phone call "the president ... suggested that I could be invited to future events but ... before he could get me 'on board' he would need to have a coffee to discuss things."

Crawford disputed this, saying the offer was only if Dhyon "wanted to" and was purely to talk and clear things up—not a requirement for him to be involved with the club activities: "it certainly wasn't anything like that. I'm not sure how he managed to construe [the call] like that."

Dhyon in response said, "my complaint to C&S accurately describes what occurred."

For the most part, SULC has played down the complaint, saying the issue is purely administrative. They have been working with C&S and it is in the process of being rectified.

In response to the complaint, the USU has given SULC a deadline of a week to have the membership list updated. What's more, the USU has now mandated the club needs to advertise all events on the USU website 5 days from the event date, or RSVP date. The USU also advised it would also be monitoring the club closely going forward.

Crawford emphasised that there are various impracticalities with these measures and he would be working out the kinks with C&S in the coming weeks.

"The 5 day thing isn't going to be super feasible for everything because the club's been exposed to large protests before. C&S understands, so we're working through that."

One of the club members who had not been updated on the list, Manning Jeffrey, praised the USU's response.

"SULC has got additional requirements on it that no other club on campus is subject to" he said. "This is what was needed to ensure transparency."

Many people included in the complaint as having been excluded, including Jeffrey and Catherine Priestley were all part of Dom Bondar's ticket, aligned with the centre right faction, which infamously contested and lost SULC's 2016 AGM against Crawford's 'wolf pack'.

While refusing to confirm whether this latest bout was a factional issue, Jeffrey said that "if this was just an honest mistake, the club would have apologised in writing and corrected the issue immediately. The fact that it had to go to C&S, for them to actually impose restrictions on the club—this whole honest mistake thing, is a bit thin."

Crawford maintained that no one was intentionally excluded for any reason. It was an issue which Crawford said affected even people who were "supportive" of him, including his own brother.

Only two years ago, an almost identical complaint was levelled at SULC. Jeffrey, then a first-year, complained about exclusionary practices from Crawford and the club had been cautioned by then USU President Michael Rees to be more open and communicative.

Even prior to Crawford and the wolf pack's reign over SULC, exclusion was a tactic employed by the soft-right to prevent mobilisation from the insurgent moderate faction at the time.

## Déjà vu, from the annals of 2016

# First year students allegedly excluded by new Liberal Club executive

Elijah Abraham

Dysfunction continues to plague the Sydney University Liberal Club (SULC), with a recent complaint made to the USU claiming club members were excluded from an event on factional affiliation grounds.

This is the latest in a string of internal issues for SULC. A recent controversial AGM, which was specially administered by the USU, saw Josh Crawford seize control of the SULC executive with a faction that had splintered from the club's centre right. In June, a chaotic O-day produced alle-

gations of stacking, non-student sign-ups and misleading advertising. Earlier in the year, in May, the club was dissolved by the USU following sustained factional in-fighting.

The most recent complaint was lodged by Manning Jeffrey, a member of Dom Bondar's ticket that competed against Crawford for SULC control. In an email to Clubs & Societies, provided to Honi, Jeffrey alleged that he and other first year students were excluded from the "New Members Dinner" which took place on September 8.

The first year officers, Niamh Cronin and Nam Nguyen,

wrote to Manning "We have prioritised attendance based on how early people RSVP'd, and their level of engagement with the Liberal Club and the Liberal Party more broadly."

"As part of the new executive's plan to re-energise the Club we feel it is important that we provide new members with the opportunity to meet and network in a safe and casual environment."

Jeffrey claims he and other first years have been "repeatedly and systematically excluded from participating in the club in the short time since the AGM". While Jeffrey conceded that he had been involved

with the party for some time, he expressed concern for other first years, who he claimed had little club involvement and had supported Bondar at the AGM, saying "they are all clearly being excluded for exercising their simple right to support who they wish in a Club they're passionate about."

Crawford told Honi, "No one was excluded from the event on any factional grounds or any other issues other than that, we were prioritising genuinely new members in order to create a safe space for them."

It was alleged that Jeffrey and the other students were not "genuinely new mem-

bers" and that a SULC executive member had put Jeffrey on notice for allegedly continuously messaging multiple executives regarding this event. He denied having ever engaged in harassment.

USU President Michael Rees advised Honi that in response to the complaints, the C&S office had asked the SULC executive to communicate more clearly with C&S and with its members when events were targeted at a particular cross-section of its roster.

"I do not believe that the complaints related to this event are indicative of a systemic problem," Rees said.

# The universities co-opting activism

Liam Donohoe has some questions about your university marketing strategy.

There's something utterly surreal about Monash University's latest effort to win students to their campus: a minute-long YouTube clip with a name as self-defeating as its glossy production: 'Change It'. Vignettes of protesters and radicals from all loci of the Anarchist-Stalinist spectrum jump into each other with a freneticism that would humble Michael Bay. Not to be outdone, the coda of the montage—to enroll at Monash and help fix this godforsaken neo-liberal hellhole—faithfully adheres to Bay's formula of 'telling' rather than 'showing'.

One could not imagine university marketing departments playing up their progressive credentials during other periods of heightened radicalism. A campaign incorporating the imagery of the Anti-Vietnam War movement, Indigenous rights activists, and drug-addled Hippies of the 1960s, for instance, would have been untenable at a time when this paper would stir controversy for even touching on those themes. That is, of course, if there was a marketing department in the 1960s.

Prior to the expansion of tertiary education around the mid-1960s, the ivory tower marketed more subtly through reputation and inculcation in elite networks and carefully manicuring their alumni through scholarships and strong ties to private schools. But while the first signs of corporate marketing strategies were noticed decades ago, the total emulation of American universities' methods—replete with animal spirits—is a more recent phenomenon.

USyd's marketing outlay reflects broader trends within Australian universities, with three-fold increases like the one USyd saw from 2009 to 2016 not uncommon. Some suggest the Gillard government's changes to funding arrangements in 2012 motivated this increase. Prior to the change, the government would only provide enough funding to a university to sustain a predetermined number of students in each degree. By removing this effective 'cap', that policy expanded the number of students that could go to university. At the same time, cost pressures arising from cuts to the Federal government's funding of higher education decreased universities' main source of revenue, leaving increased intakes, especially of international students, one of the few ways to increase revenue. It is no coincidence that the largest year-on-year increase in the marketing budget occurred after the Abbott government declared its intention to deregulate.

When each marginal student enhances profitability, universities have an incentive to bring them on board. When each university has an incentive to bring them on board, competition results. And in order to win that competition, universities look to pitch themselves in all manner of ways to all manner of students. The 'Change It' campaign, for instance, was thought up by a marketing firm called Y&RANZ.

For precisely this reason, Monash's

most recent campaign is merely the exemplar in its field, not a lone example. Closer to home, the University of Sydney has used marketing as an opportunity to virtue signal for years now. The "INSPIRED" campaign, launched in 2013, paraded alumnus famous for their socially conscious contributions to science, law, and politics in an effort to increase donations. It was a creation of ATMC, formerly Alexander Thomas Media Co. The more recent 'Unlearn' campaign, a product of Sydney advertising firm

## One could not imagine university marketing departments playing up their progressive credentials during other periods of heightened radicalism.

The Monkeys, uses images of same-sex couples interloping and cannabis leaves to punctuate their invocation to "reimagine the world". Though it is more recent, that campaign has already accomplished the seemingly impossible feat of being found racist by the courts and evoking the wrath of conservative rags like *Quadrant*, *The Daily Telegraph*, and the USyd Conservative Club's "The Sydney Tory". Many cynics even view USyd's connections with ostensibly progressive organisations like 'Pride in Diversity' and campaigns like 'Racism. It Stops With Me' as part of this trend.

These changes in outwards appearances may appear well-intentioned. Monash's Chief Marketing Officer told various news outlets that through the campaign the university is "acknowledging [they] have a role to play in solutions", coated in language from the activist vernacular. And there's no doubt the university is committed to spreading that message: a quick Google search of the campaign reveals three identical articles from three different websites, and many more that essentially paraphrase. One is left to wonder whether these were based on a Reuters wire, or whether they represent another red line in the marketing budget.

But the more progressive universities make themselves out to be, the more intense the disdain of those attempting to 'Change It'. While universities have a reputation for being progressive spaces, in recent years that reputation has been perpetuated solely by student activists. There is a certain moral bankruptcy in implying a commitment to social justice while at once responding reluctantly to progressive agitation. Given USyd's own failure to publicly support same-sex marriage, it seems they have much to learn from their own marketing materials. Given Monash's own habit of honouring hawkish interventionists like Robert Menzies, perhaps they should consider ways of being more sensitive

to the refugees whose suffering they are so willing to use as marketing fodder. And given USyd's meaningless response to sexual assault issues in colleges, including the suppression of the most damaging Broderick Review, even claims to support student safety seem questionable.

This phenomenon also has the consequence of 'window dressing' the university, erasing the legitimate concerns raised by oppressed groups on campus and in the process winning progressive social capital. This social capital not only converts to financial capital via alumni support and marginally more student enrollments, but also makes the prospect of reforming universities much harder. Students are less likely to engage in activism when they've been led to believe there's nothing wrong in the first place. Worse yet, the sense that the university is guided by some kind of progressivism makes protesters on Eastern Avenue seem animated by a puritanical contrarianism, as if they are making unreasonable demands of a compassionate force doing their best. This is especially impactful at a time when the right gains support by labelling activists as 'snowflakes' with victim complexes.

But while this window dressing is bad enough, it is made all the worse by the fact that it is premised on a lie. The stubbornness of USyd in response to the demands of Sydney College of the Arts students in 2016, the ferocity of Monash's ongoing cuts to their Arts faculty, and the reluctance of Vice-Chancellors to publicly defend free, or at the very least, affordable education demonstrates that, in at least these respects, students cannot 'change it'. Or, perhaps more accurately given the successful legacy of student activism, that these universities will not help students change it. In fact, it almost seems as if consumer rights impute an obligation to disclaim: "Monash University gives no refunds in the event one's labour does not succeed in changing us."

So, while those outside of tertiary institutions may view these campaigns through rose tinted frames, not least the nascent anarchist high school grads who naively enroll in their preferred purveyor of cultural Marxism, it seems that now more than ever, universities should heed Monash's dictum. Their quest to change the world, then, should begin at their own doorstep.



## When does your student visa run out?

It is your responsibility to ensure that you comply with all your student visa conditions, especially the length of stay allowed under your visa entitlement.

You can find out about all the applicable visa conditions and your visa expiry date using the online service (Visa Entitlement Verification Online – "VEVO") on the Department of Immigration and Border Protection website. Use this URL: <https://online.immi.gov.au/evo/firstParty>

When accessing this online service, you will need your passport number and other identification details which can be found on the visa grant email sent by the Department.

If you are not sure how to use VEVO or have trouble with this online service, you can get FREE help from the SRC registered migration agent by contacting 9660 5222.

Make sure you put the visa expiry date in your calendar and remember to NOT overstay your visa! Overstaying leads to serious legal consequences which in some situations may require you to leave Australia immediately and you will not be able to come back again for 3 years.



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# USyd in Westmead: Expanding or contracting?

Samuel Chu maps out the future of the University.

Over the next few years, USyd will undergo some major changes. Wentworth and Merewether will be rebuilt; the F23 Administration and LEES1 buildings will emerge to greet visitors from City Road. However, some impending changes to USyd are even more drastic than building renovations—chief amongst these are proposals to expand the University's Westmead campus.

The Westmead campus currently plays a small but important role in USyd's operations, acting as a teaching space for some of the University's medical and health sciences courses. Many of USyd's research partnerships also have a presence at Westmead, including the Charles Perkins Centre and the Brain and Mind Centre.

However, USyd wants its Westmead campus to be more than just a health sciences precinct.

In its 2016-2020 Strategic Plan, the University proposes that Westmead should gradually become a multidisciplinary campus, accommodating 6,000 students by 2030. The University's submission to the Greater Sydney Commission (GSC) also outlines proposals for the Westmead campus, which suggest the campus could grow by 2030 to accommodate anywhere from 10,000 to 50,000 students. Previous Honi reports have indicated that some of these students may be undergraduate science and engineering students.

The proposed expansion of the Westmead campus is being accompanied by the closure of other satellite campuses. On the chopping block is the Cumberland campus, which has overlap with the Westmead campus both because of its Western Sydney location and focus on health sciences. The University has attempted to justify this closure: according to a spokesperson, USyd's "education and research offerings are increasingly [focused] on multidisciplinary work and

not on single faculty offerings". Further, the University argues that co-locating "health sciences and other health disciplines ensures the best outcome for both staff and students".

## However, USyd wants its Westmead campus to be more than just a health sciences precinct.

Cumberland Council, the local council with jurisdiction over the Cumberland campus, would disagree. In September 2017, the Council published a *Draft Employment and Innovation Lands Strategy and Land Use Planning Framework*, focusing on economic planning over the next ten years. The framework proposes that "the Lidcombe TAFE and University of Sydney Cumberland Campus [become] a specialised 'Education and Health Quarter'" and that the Council work "with educational institutions to ensure the long-term viability of the Quarter for educational purposes".

The University told Honi it was looking for government support for its Westmead plans, but the Land Use Framework potentially indicates that the University already has government support for an education precinct on its still-useable Cumberland campus. As a consequence of this, one wonders whether the University could work with Cumberland Council to foster the long-term growth of the Cumberland campus, instead of chasing a Westmead "super-precinct" and throwing away its years of investment in infrastructure at Cumberland.

Another major issue facing the University's Westmead expansion is transportation.

If the University is serious about its desires for multidisciplinary education,

students will need access to both the Westmead and Camperdown/Darlington campuses, and the different opportunities each is likely to offer. Existing connections from Cumberland, the Conservatorium and the Sydney College of the Arts to the Camperdown/Darlington campus can take anywhere from twenty minutes to an hour.

Given that Westmead is 26 kilometres from Sydney CBD, travel times from Westmead to Camperdown/Darlington are likely to be at the upper end of this range. Commuting from one campus to the other is likely to be time consuming and, given the current state of Sydney's trains, inefficient. The University recognises this issue, telling Honi that "we need to ensure [Westmead] is well-connected with different transport options".

But is the University acting to solve it?

## Previous reports have hinted that USyd may be looking to use its Badgerys Creek landholdings as a second campus, an engineering hub, or even a site for commercial activities related to the second Sydney airport.

In a submission to the GSC, the University lobbied for direct rail connections from the Camperdown/Darlington campus to Westmead to "transport high volumes of people efficiently between the Camperdown/Darlington and Westmead super precincts". However, the NSW Government has since rejected the University's proposals for an on-campus train station in favour of a station at

Waterloo (as a part of its Sydney Metro City & Southwest project), denting the University's hopes for a rail connection between Camperdown/Darlington and Westmead.

If the University's plans for a multidisciplinary Westmead campus proceed, it's easy to imagine some students will have classes at both Westmead and Camperdown/Darlington on the same day. The resulting transport nightmare could see students spend up to an hour travelling across Sydney between two large campuses just to get from one class to another.

The separation of one large multidisciplinary campus from another doesn't just cause issues with transport options. The University's proposal to house some science and engineering students at Westmead may see staff and faculties split over campuses, which could impact collaboration between staff. Student life may also be radically changed: it's an open question how the University will lay the groundwork for a campus culture (societies, parties, eateries etc.) at Westmead, which is currently a health teaching and research precinct.

The questions don't stop at Westmead. Previous reports have hinted that USyd may be looking to use its Badgerys Creek landholdings as a second campus, an engineering hub, or even a site for commercial activities related to the second Sydney airport.

Honi requested comment from the University about the *Land Use Framework*, its plans at Badgerys Creek, staff and faculty allocations at Westmead and transport connections to Westmead from Camperdown/Darlington, but received no comment by the time of publication. However, the issues posed to the University remain—the University will eventually have to answer these questions as it progresses further with its Westmead expansion plans.



# Marauding to the top: The secret map of USyd

Jess Zlotnick goes on an urban explorer's guided tour of the University.

L greets me outside the Woolley Building. We hug, catch up, and then, without missing a beat, he asks if I'm ready to head in. He leads me into the Woolley Building, striding down the carpeted halls with purpose. We talk for a bit. About him, about the building. But as we near other people his voice drops to a low whisper and he gestures for me to do the same.

He beelines towards a door in a perfectly inconspicuous corner. Were you to walk past and not look from a precise angle you would completely miss it. The door opens into a storage room, dark and dusty and stacked full of old chairs. L climbs a metal ladder up to the next level, on which there are blueprints for the University's Hydrodynamics Lab. I try to steal a closer look at these artefacts but L isn't interested. He keeps going, up onto the next ladder. This one takes us to a room with what L hypothesises is a mill of some description. L points out a bell from 1884 and the mechanism for the clock on the Woolley facade. I didn't even know the Woolley Building had a clock. These are all mentioned in passing; L has a destination in mind. We reach a final wooden ladder that leads to a sealed hatch. I use my iPhone as a torch while L climbs this last ladder. With a practised ease, L grips two small handles at the bottom of the hatch and pushes up, lifting the hatch over his head, and lowering it onto the surface above.

***L's advice is to walk with purpose: if you look like you belong somewhere, you're less likely to be stopped.***

We've made it onto the roof of the Woolley Building. It's a low platform tucked in between the peaks of the roof and from up here, the setting sun is an awesome gold against the lavender sky. We can see out to Parramatta Road, the college sports fields. We watch people walk along Manning Road below us and talk in soft voices. L doesn't stand up, he ducks low in a squat and I mimic him. While the rooftop is hard to find, anyone could spot us were they inclined to look up. We're hiding in plain sight.

L is the creator of USyd's very own Marauder's Map: a handmade map containing only first-hand information about the best hidden and inaccessible rooftops on campus. I met him in 2015 through a mutual friend. While killing time on campus he took us to the Woolley rooftop and showed us the map.

Each spot is marked out on an OWeek map of USyd, with site-specific instructions for each one scribbled in the margins. L found these places on his own, no one showed them to him. The Marauder's Map was a project of passion, research, and dumb luck. L has something of a reputation among those who know him. When someone placed a sign in the window of the hidden room at the top of the Bank Building reading "Law Revue Sucks", fingers were pointed at him. He swears he had nothing to do with it though: the Bank Building roof is one of very few he has yet to crack.

L spotted the Woolley rooftop from the Education Building. While at the Education Building gazebo, one of USyd's not-so-secret-secret spots, he noticed a

service ladder on the roof of the Woolley Building that he concluded maintenance must use to access the antennae. L's mentality is that if someone can access the roof, there must be a way to get there. Instead of studying, L spent a day combing the inside of the Woolley Building for the route he would eventually show me. He smiles as he remembers spotting the Wooley rooftop from the Education Building gazebo, and subsequently from the Woolley rooftop he spotted a way onto the roof of the Education Building. When you're up there, you see the other places no one thinks to go to.

L remarks that a lot of the offices in the older buildings are completely abandoned because they're

not fire safe, a lesson he learned while exploring. The Madsen Building roof is one of his favourites on the map: there's a cupboard in one of the abandoned offices which opens up to a staircase which takes you up to a protected castle-style roof with a view of Eastern Avenue. The day L went up there, he found a case of Coronas and a chair. He laughs at the idea of someone just sitting up there and punching beers, unseen by the walkers below.

Before embarking on this expedition I looked into the University's policy for some kind of Code of Conduct which could get you expelled for going to these places. There are a lot of Health and Safety documents, but nothing explicitly about the ramifications of climbing onto roofs. L says it's mostly just common sense. The Macleay Building's roof features on the map but he advises against it, because it requires climbing over a guardrail on a ladder, and scaling a wall, and more leaping and falling than most people are comfortable with. L also tends to stay away from places where falling could get him or someone else killed, which excludes a couple but not all of the places: he once fell from the roof of the Carslaw Kitchen into a pack of students while trying to rescue a football.

In general, avoid places with signs that say 'Authorised Personnel Only'. When this is not the case, but you're still uncertain, L's advice is to walk with purpose: if you look like you belong somewhere, you're less likely to be stopped.

L recommends going with a friend, not only do you get to share the experience but should you run into trouble or get stuck somewhere you'll have someone to bail you out. As we walk past the Quad he describes an Ocean's Eleven type scheme for accessing the belltower, which involves someone acting as distraction while you sneak in through a door that is not so much secret as it is unintentionally guarded by the Quad's staff.

L has only been caught a few times. In the Quad he once opened the door to an office he thought was unoccupied only to come face to face with the owner. Claiming a wrong turn, he shut the door and bolted. While exploring the bowels of Manning House he somehow found himself behind the bar, during mid-semester break, while the bar was closed. The bar manager spotted him and asked for his name. The first name L thought of was Chris, which is not his name. I asked if he'd often given a fake name to people who'd caught him going about his business and he immediately responds in the affirmative. Never tell them your name and never give them your ID. It might have worked had the manager not immediately responded that L's name couldn't be Chris, because his

own name was Chris. Unlucky.

Those are the more confrontational experiences. L says that for the most part people are just confused by his wandering around. Part of the way he finds these places is just by asking questions and gathering folklore. The best way to get a free pass while exploring is to claim you're writing an article. He did a lot of research and asked a lot of people about the tunnels that are rumoured to exist underneath the Quad. These tunnels feature in the map with the suggestion that they're in a storage room at the Nicholson Museum and might require keys. This spot caught my attention, and I asked L if he'd ever seen the tunnels himself. He hasn't, and never found anyone who had. He offers the theory that the so-called "tunnels" are probably a sewer pipe that urban legend has blown out of proportion. When I enquired with the staff at the Nicholson Museum they denied the tunnels' existence, saying they have ghosts, but no tunnels.

***People tend to look just at what's in front of them. When you look up, you'll see things others might have missed.***

Our final stop of the evening is the roof of the Carslaw Building. We take the elevator up, chatting loudly, but as soon as the doors open, L gestures for me to be quiet. This is one of the places that we could get in trouble for visiting. On the top level, L drops his backpack and climbs up onto the handrail so he can swing himself onto the very thin ledge of the window that leads out onto the roof. One false move and he could fall backwards down one and a half flights worth of stairs. He doesn't make a false move, his form is practised and perfect as he angles himself sideways to slip through the window and out onto the roof. He opens the fire door from the outside for me, grabbing his backpack.

The Carslaw roof is one of L's favourite date spots, and it's not hard to see why. Victoria Park is spread out like a picnic blanket in front of us, and at night, the city is lit up in a display of lights and industry; the view spreads from UTS, Centrepoint Tower and the Anzac Bridge all the way out to the Western Suburbs. L says during the day you can even see partway down to the Eastern Suburbs and Bondi Beach. I take a photo of the twinkling panorama of Sydney. L says that from here you really get a sense of the scale of Sydney, the sheer spread of the city in every direction.

When I ask L how he got started and why he kept going, he talks for a bit about the history contained here. Marking 'L was here 2016' makes you feel a bit like a dickhead, he says, but there are things like 'John was here 1916', and building on the history of that one secret place is pretty remarkable. There's a mythos about the University, something magical. He says that every single person who attends uni here has walked down Eastern Avenue, and gone to class, but only a handful have seen the things he's seen from the rooftops of the campus: it feels special and sacred. As we walk around, things come back to him: balconies and corner offices. We try a few of them and they're mostly locked, abandoned, left to gather dust and have their doorknobs rattled by curious students.

L graduated a few years ago. He says he was going to leave his map to SASS until a stacked election robbed him of the Vice Presidency. Instead, he's handed it off to another society (he won't tell me which) leaving the magic of USYD's rooftops to those out there with the same curiosity he once had.

I ask how he even thought to go looking for these places and his final piece of advice is startlingly simple: just look up. People tend to look just at what's in front of them. When you look up, you'll see things others might have missed and ask yourself the question: "Can I get there?"

The answer is usually yes.



Artwork by Jess Zlotnick

# Escaping Amway

Momoko Metham explores the on-campus presence of America's biggest pyramid scheme.



They call it "the business". An elusive unnamed company which often lures in young adults to pay for membership, with the promise of "retiring at 30"—but only if they successfully manage to recruit other members and sell their products. They make you "confident" through "effortless" practices, but in reality, generate a cycle of hopeful entrepreneurs who try, and fail, to earn the big bucks.

If you've ever been in this situation, alarm bells should be ringing. This is a pyramid scheme. Amway is one such example which has made its way onto the grounds of USyd.

Amway is an American health and beauty care company which relies on a multi-level marketing scheme to recruit members into selling products. They describe themselves as "... an organisation that combines progressive, modern, innovative business practices with strong traditional values and ethics". Founded in 1959, Amway operates in over 100 countries and its parent company had a \$8.6 billion turnover in 2017.

The notorious business model involves recruiting members most often through meetings, seminars, or over the phone. Amway Australia and New Zealand boasts 12,200 followers on Instagram, and nearly 89,000 hopefuls on Facebook.

In a typical pyramid scheme, you pay to join. The actual amount is withheld until you break into an inner circle. Amway works on commission, promising members payment for their efforts in selling products or recruiting others into the business themselves. However, it does not supply any real investment or sale of products, which often leaves people profitless, then broke.

On the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's (ACCC) scamwatch website, these structures are considered "illegal" because they consist of "very risky 'get-rich-quick' schemes that can

end up costing you a lot of money".

Amway's website describes their members as, "... entrepreneurs [who are] able to use Amway's products, training and support to build their own business and share in the profits". Their members may also become "independent business owners" or IBOs to receive discounts off Amway products.

Amway's network is close-knit, exclusive and selective, as people interested in joining Amway must be approached by another member, rather than personally seek membership. A prospective member must provide proof of this with the recruiter's "sponsor code" and "IBO number" upon registration.

This is a result of Amway's network seeking individuals with a certain mindset, said science student Maya\*, who was approached by Ashley\*, a recent Amway recruit and business student at USyd.

Ashley tried to recruit Maya when they met up for lunch during a break between classes. "I thought it was just an innocent catch up" she said feeling ambushed into a meeting.

At first, Ashley flattered Maya. "[They] sort of complimented me and said how I had ambition" recalled Maya. At another cafe meetup, Maya observed Ashley use the same flattery on a waiter, in an attempt to recruit him as well. Ashley then commenced phase two, which included introducing themselves as being part of a "business".

Ashley asked Maya, "would you be interested in growing yourself in a business?" Maya recalled constant elusive references to this said 'business', however, Ashley "didn't say it was Amway [at the time] and didn't explain what it was", pressuring her to commit to the unknown.

She added that they "were really secretive about things and not too upfront". Most new recruits only find out the company is Amway when they are taken to their branded physical stores or when they've proven sufficient interest after a certain point in time.

When Maya arrived home, she opened her

Messenger app to see a message from Ashley. They had moved onto stage three: meetings. "When do you think you'll be free for a short meeting... The point of this first meeting is to see if our frequency and the way we sort of think matches," it read.

Maya's alarm bells rang loud, and she declined the offer. "They sounded so brainwashed", she said. "But the scariest part is that they believe in it". After two or three meetings, recruits are invited to attend speaker seminars, and are given introductory packages.

Maya said Ashley plans on dropping out of their degree as they are convinced that their Amway earnings will increase and provide financial stability.

When she questioned the legitimacy of Amway, Ashley replied, "I believed what I heard [at meetings] and not what [skeptics] talked about...why listen to others [who are mostly inexperienced] when they don't understand it".

A source has confirmed to Honi that Ashley was recruited into Amway by Oliver Lawton, President and founder of the Random Acts of Kindness Society (RAKSoc). Ashley is also themselves a RAKSoc exec member.

The newly founded society aims to spread "positivity and generosity while helping and empowering individuals, communities and organisations". It hosted an event during OWeek encouraging passersby to take a free doughnut, but pass it on to someone else instead of personally eating it as an act of goodwill.

The link between RAKSoc and Amway is a two way street: getting involved in one has the potential to join the other. "Whether it's Amway members joining RAKSoc or RAKSoc members joining Amway, it's the same deal" the source said.

Due to the hesitation of people to comment and Amway's secretive recruitment process, it's hard to say whether paying ACCESS members are being invited to Amway as well, or whether it's restricted just to RAKSoc executives.

When RAKSoc's Vice President, Victoria Chen, was asked whether the President had ever approached her about joining Amway, she denied any correlation between RAKSoc and the pyramid scheme.

She described Oliver as "a close friend" who approached her with the idea of RAKSoc towards the end of 2017, and was adamant that "the exec[utives]... joined RAKSoc for the sole agenda of achieving the objectives outlined in the society's constitution. We have no relation or association with Amway".

Oliver did not return Honi's request for comment. He is also the President and founder of the "soon-to-be" USyd Millennial Society (MILLSOC), which has a closed Facebook group of 329 members.

Amway has been targeting USyd students for a while now—comments on a USyd Rants post in 2016 accused an engineering lecturer of recruiting high achieving students to a pyramid scheme. However, the lecturer in question personally commented back to vehemently deny the rumours.

"Throughout history, any person who is doing anything beneficial or different, has always been under attack and been the target of malicious gossip," he said. "Those who really know me, on a much deeper level, know the high ethical and moral standards to which I uphold myself."

A year before that, another rant comment called out Amway and similar pyramid schemes as means to "make you spend hundreds of dollars a month on products you don't need and make you pay to go to motivational speeches that teach you nothing".

It finishes with a word of caution: "Stay away from the pyramids. They are illuminati".

\*Names have been changed

# Freeing Jock: An activist behind bars

Liam Donohoe profiles an imprisoned Australian working to reform the Bulgarian jail system.

Profiles of this sort often start with an extended meditation on the circumstance surrounding the interview, layering descriptions of the environment and subject into a personal narrative. Regrettably, I can't describe Jock Palfreeman's environment or even what he looks like. For one, Palfreeman is in another country, Bulgaria. For another, he's detained in Sofia Central Jail until 2029, sentenced in 2009 to 20 years' imprisonment over the fatal stabbing of Andrei Monov. I have been following his story since I was first told of it by my Year 8 homeroom teacher back in 2011, and the lack of visceral interaction makes his insights no less pertinent.

As a self-confessed socialist, Palfreeman explains that his involvement in the formation of the Bulgarian Prisoner's Rehabilitation Association (BPRA) naturally follows from his belief that "all workers should be unionised". "The union", as inmates call it, began in 2012 in order to end "massive amounts of human rights abuses" by improving Bulgarian prison conditions. Legal support assist prisoners "too uneducated and poor to afford lawyers", translations assist foreign prisoners who are "more often targets of beatings and torture than other demographics", and general solidarity assists prisoners through the provision of aid, support networks, and unified resistance.

**Thought they account for 7 per cent of the population, Roma [people] make up over 70 per cent of the prison population.**

Given Palfreeman's experiences with the Bulgarian legal system, it's little wonder that he is so committed to eliminating its worst dimensions. For starters, his initial conviction seems dubious. Palfreeman maintains that he acted in self-defence after Monov, whose parents were well-connected to Bulgaria's ruling class, set upon him after he defended two Roma people Monov and his inebriated mates had been attacking.

That Roma people were subject to abuse does not seem unlikely. During our exchange, Palfreeman called attention to the oppression that Roma people face in Bulgaria. Though they account for 7 per cent of the population, Roma make up over 70 per cent of the prison population, with "de facto segregation" consistent with his claim that "the majority of Bulgarians are overwhelmingly fascist." But despite inconsistencies and alterations to the testimonies of prosecution witnesses, various arms of the Bulgarian legal system have not seen fit to review CCTV footage and forensic evidence that, according to Palfreeman's defence, vindicate this claim. In any event, the legal proceeding runs afoul of norms crucial to producing true and just outcomes, an all-too-common occurrence in Bulgaria.

Though many more injustices were committed in the process of his conviction, the experience of prison itself has only amplified their repugnance. General conditions in these prisons are substandard, with inadequate access to basic material

necessities, limited protection from violent inmates, minimal privacy, insufficient hygiene, and limited regard for inmate health. But more worryingly, Palfreeman has been subject to beatings at the hands of guards. Prisoners are, he notes, often tortured "for information or even just for fun."

Organising a union is hard enough in a developed country while enjoying democratic freedoms. Palfreeman notes that because the BPRA is a registered NGO, legal obligations make their activities a "logistical nightmare", with each active member of the union acting as a "jailhouse lawyer" to other members who are unofficially considered part of the group. Despite the formality demanded by these registrations "so far the organisation's processes are really grassroots and practical." By avoiding empowering any particular member with authority and delegating work on the basis of ability, the group seems concerned to avoid the 'tyranny of structurelessness'.

This is not entirely surprising—even before his imprisonment, Palfreeman was a committed anti-fascist, and he maintains connections with left-radicals in Australia. When my Year 8 teacher—a contemporary of Palfreeman's in high school—first introduced his case to us, one of the first things mentioned was Palfreeman's success in convincing their headmaster to let students march in uniform during 2003's anti-war protests in Sydney's CBD. In fact, Palfreeman's stabbing of two fascists in my home suburb of Chatswood back in 2004 would later be used by his Bulgarian prosecutors to suggest a violent character.

With this political background, it's little wonder that Palfreeman has learnt valuable lessons in political organising from his time in prison. Specifically, he says it has taught him "that a small group of dedicated people can get a lot done". Given that progressives are almost always aiming to build mass movements, and regularly stumbling in the process, this is a refreshing take. While building mass support is critical, a consistent focus on that end can inspire lassitude and ultimately pessimism when groups are unaware of their power to affect change as things currently stand.

Palfreeman does not expect mass support from the Bulgarian public anytime soon, and for that reason the BPRA directs little energy towards winning them over. This seems reasonable given both the preponderance of fascist thought and the existence of an enthusiastic minority "that even want the death penalty returned because feeding prisoners is too expensive." Moreover, as the people in charge of making reforms are "the most corrupt in the

system", attempting change from within seems difficult.

As such, a large part of their platform appears to be targeting "sympathetic ears" outside of Bulgaria. This explains why most of the BPRA's Facebook page is in English, and why their "biggest goal is the never-ending task of reconciling Bulgarian prison conditions with the European Recommend Prison rules". Palfreeman points out that in Bulgaria there is still massive support for the European Union. Given what we already know about the country's legal system it is little wonder that Bulgarians are more inclined to trust the body orchestrating the "only real push for reform" ahead of their own state and authorities.

**Palfreeman was a committed anti-fascist, and he maintains connections with left-radicals in Australia.**

In the interim, though, the BPRA hopes to expand to other prisons. The biggest barrier to that is a lack of lawyers to support those inmates. In order to offer protection in spite of this, the organisation also hopes to create a database of legal documents relation to Bulgarian prisons. Their hope is that it aids lawyers and families in their fight for justice, making accessible laws and information surrounding rights that are often intentionally concealed from prisoners.

Palfreeman's commitment to the welfare of prisoners is nothing short of inspiring, and these injustices are not nearly as far removed from Australia and the western world as we might like to think. Oppressed racial groups are in many instances as over-incarcerated as Roma people, and often as segregated. Indigenous people continue to die in police care, and only the occasional footage of police and prison guard brutality finds its way to mainstream audiences. Conditions are often suboptimal, and prisoners are neither compensated fairly for their labour nor encouraged to unionise in order to remedy that. But despite the obvious benefits that could accrue to prisoners through the establishment of more prison unions, Palfreeman's insights are useful for all political organising.

Jock Palfreeman's imprisonment is one of the many around the world that stem from flaws in criminal justice systems. Each night and in every country many people put their head on the pillow facing the prospect of another day without freedom, deprived of material necessities and exposed to violence that robs them of their bodily autonomy. A large portion of these people don't deserve to be there, violating laws only out of necessity. Many more, disproportionately members of oppressed groups, only violate laws because of structures that fail them. But some, like Jock Palfreeman, just should not be there to begin with. In light of this, it is deeply troubling that prisoners remain one of the most stigmatised and disadvantaged groups in our society. By showing more solidarity with prisoners and the oppressed, we can transcend that stigma in our own lives and improve conditions in the process.

The BPRA could always do with more support, so please consider supporting their social media or contacting them to see if they need assistance with other matters. Their Facebook page is called the 'Bulgarian Prisoners' Association'. In Australia 'Justice Action' performs a similar advocacy role, and they are always looking for extra volunteers.



# Different spheres—popping the Western social media bubble

Jamie Weiss reflects on social media platforms across the world.

From Recife to Curitiba, Brazilians are angry. It's 2015 and WhatsApp has been shut down for the third time in eight months. A Rio de Janeiro judge has ordered mobile phone companies to block access to the social media service. Hundreds of millions of Brazilians are affected. WhatsApp, now owned by Facebook, has refused to comply with Brazilian police demands to intercept messages sent by organised crime. Hours later, Brazil's Federal Supreme Court reverses the decision, anticipating widespread unrest. WhatsApp doesn't enjoy a particularly high profile in Australia, but in Europe, Asia and South America, it forms an essential part of the social media landscape. Brazilians are especially prolific users of the app, which allows you to message and make calls for a fraction of the cost of a typical phone plan. It's hard to function in South America without WhatsApp, making its bans in Brazil all the more significant.

**WeChat exists in a social media ecosystem that most domestic USyd students don't inhabit, yet it's an essential part of daily life for many others.**

It's an interesting case study: in Brazil, WhatsApp is a foreign company that has refused to comply with local laws—something worth questioning. At the same time, millions of Brazilians rely on WhatsApp for cheap communication. Is WhatsApp a digital coloniser, flouting local authority to reap the rewards of Big Data? Or do they provide a vital service for this developing nation? Are they a net good?

It's easy to believe that Facebook is the only service that matters if you follow the nightly news bulletin, but the reality is that the global social media landscape is far more complex. The conversation around social media in the West revolves around privacy; a discussion gaining even more traction in the aftermath of the Cambridge Analytica scandal.

Yet there's a whole other world of platforms, ideas and cultures that we're ignorant of,

and concerns that go beyond the public attention over personal data. The value of a broader social media literacy can be found on our doorstep. During the 2017 SRC elections, USU Board candidate Zhixian Wang was temporarily suspended for gifting students cash in the form of "red packets" on WeChat, a popular Chinese messaging app. It's easily understood how perhaps the issue might have been handled differently if there was a more broad understanding of the social norms that underpin this feature of WeChat—the gifting of red envelopes to celebrate holidays or special occasions is a common Chinese custom. At the time, Wang explained, "These packets contain a small amount of money (equivalent to [a] few Australian dollars), and when intended for multiple recipient ... the amount in each portion [is] randomly determined. With elements of fun, luck and tradition, it [is] a social norm for users to send 'red packets' in group chats." WeChat exists in a social media ecosystem that most domestic USyd students don't inhabit, yet it's an essential part of daily life for many others.



Social media platforms are imbued with the cultural values of the societies from which they are born and in which they inhabit. Japanese society, for example, places heightened importance on privacy and discretion. It comes as no surprise, then, that Japan's 2channel (the highly influential message board that inspired Western websites like 4chan) by default sets all communications to anonymous. In fact, posting non-anonymously on 2channel is taboo, and users who do so are sometimes subject to extreme abuse. Take the so-called "HaseKara incident", notorious in Japan: an online troll chose to post using an identifiable username, which allowed other 2channel users to figure out his details and begin sending him death threats. The troll hired a lawyer, whose vigorous litigation only attracted more scorn from Japanese netizens, who then orchestrated a cyberbullying campaign, culminating in bomb

threats and the lawyer's family graves defaced by trolls in the real world. Jokes about HaseKara are commonplace on Japanese social media—the poster and their lawyer face ongoing harassment and the incident was so notable that it's received mainstream media coverage on multiple occasions.

We can analyse western social media through the same cultural lens. Many prolific social media companies originated from the US, so it may be argued that quintessentially American values of free speech and the free market inform how these platforms operate. Understanding these values may explain why, for example, WhatsApp was so reluctant to engage with the Brazilian state—instead adopting an American skepticism towards government oversight. Conversely, contempt of government perhaps explains why these companies commit personal liberty infractions on a grand scale, as evidenced by the Cambridge Analytica situation.

**The Russian and American examples are essentially two sides of the same coin—too little versus too much government influence.**

Sometimes it's the opposite case and governmental intervention is the cause of injustice. Pavel Durov, the founder of VKontakte (a Russian Facebook analogue with over 460,000,000 users—more than double Snapchat's user base, for comparison) was dismissed by his own company's board as CEO after he refused to hand over users' personal details to Russian security services. Durov alleges his company has been gradually taken over by Vladimir Putin's allies, and his ousting was politically motivated. The Russian and American examples are essentially two sides of the same coin—too little versus too much government influence.

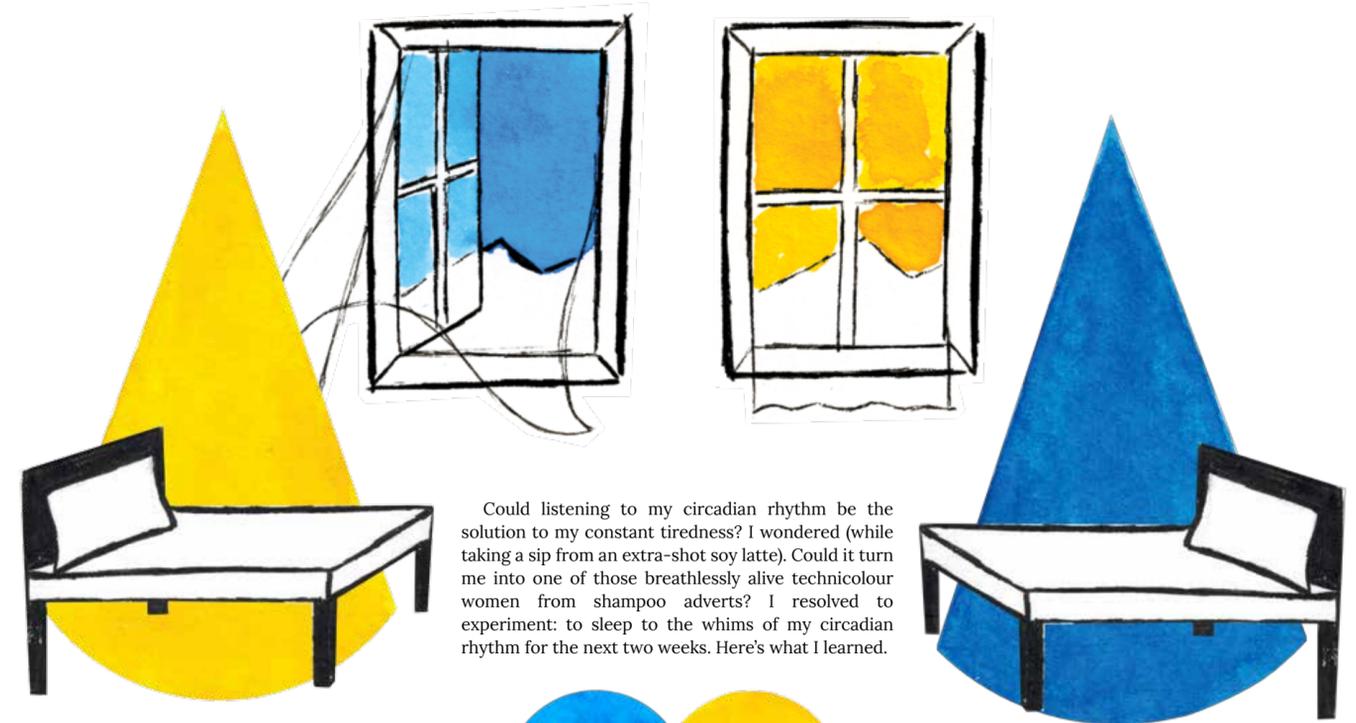
The West is primarily obsessed with one harm that social media poses—invasions of liberty. But our scrutiny of social media shouldn't be so solely focused. In reality, there are many discussions regarding the status of social media in society, informed by the social contexts in which different platforms originate and operate. We should be aware of the dangers in that intersection, like possible e-imperialism in Brazil, and reflect on our own social media woes as just one product of a social environment, not as the inevitable and sole struggle at the centre of digital regulation. There's lessons to be learnt from the precedents set in other social and legal environments and a need to come to a broader consideration of the modes of modern human interaction.



Artwork by Victor Lee

# Sweet dreams are made of this

Brigitte Samaha finally gets a (few) good nights' sleep.



Could listening to my circadian rhythm be the solution to my constant tiredness? I wondered (while taking a sip from an extra-shot soy latte). Could it turn me into one of those breathlessly alive technicolour women from shampoo adverts? I resolved to experiment: to sleep to the whims of my circadian rhythm for the next two weeks. Here's what I learned.

I am a woman who is profoundly exhausted. Not in the sense of being exhausted from cat-calling, or from men telling me to smile—though these all make me tired—but in the literal sense. I have yawned chronically and expansively throughout all the major milestones of my life: first dates, graduations—even funerals have been subject to my boorish brand of chronic fatigue. At the tragic denouement of *Atonement*, I yawned so hard my jaw actually ached. Reader: please do not think me insensitive, my bed is my theatre of pathos: sex, sickness, and sleep—glorious useless sleep.

For the longest time, I'd pondered the cause of this exhaustion. Was it genetic? Or was it from a lack of routine? The answer arrived, one bleary morning over brunch with a friend, a self-styled 'Bondi lifestyle expert': "Well of course, darling!" she exclaimed. "It's because you're not sleeping to your circadian rhythm." "My circadian what?" I squawked (eloquently).

The circadian rhythm is the biological clock inside of us, which dictates not only how much sleep we should get, but also when we should be sleeping and waking. It means listening to the susurrations of your 'inner being' and sleeping and waking whenever your body tells you to. The circadian rhythm requires an extraordinary exertion of self control: demanding you sleep as soon as you feel tired (instead of blearily watching Netflix into the early hours) and getting up immediately upon waking (instead of when generalised anxiety forces you).

The point, you may have been wondering, is to align yourself with your inherent sleep patterns, which are essential to alertness and cognitive function. Teenagers, for example, are naturally more alert in the late hours of the evening, purportedly because evolution encourages them to have late night sex during the prime of their fertility. The circadian rhythm is a process inherent to all organic life, from fields of wheat to Amazon river dolphins. It is a natural timescale incompatible to the dictates of late capitalism: our unmetables, all important appointments and, grandly, our entire livelihoods.

For the first few nights, the greatest struggle is placing your phone outside your bedroom to forestall the inevitable Instagram/Facebook scroll. You will feel the absence of the glowing screen, an omniscient presence, but once untethered, you're hit with a sudden and overwhelming diplomacy with the world. Some kind of large karmic shift, akin to sleeping under the stars or listening to Enya.

**When I was suffering from chronic fatigue, I mostly worried about the birthdays, the holidays, the big events I was missing through watery half-closed eyes.**

You have an extraordinary amount of dead time at ungodly hours of the morning, which may compel you to watch five episodes of *Bachelor in Paradise* or *Keeping up with the Kardashians*, have an elaborate four-course breakfast, and take all of the personality



quizzes, including 'What Burrito Are You?' (answer: large carnitas with guac).

For most of the experiment, it is not a sense of wellbeing driving you to persevere, but an emergent moral superiority: that same toxic smugness which seeps out of Teslas and independent cinemas, infecting you with the belief that you—and you alone—have unlocked a superior way of being.

Your 'friends' will get sick of hearing you wax lyrical about the circadian rhythm, because it is not a "solid talking point". They will then declare a moratorium on discussing "the most self-involved thing you've ever done" (which you think is not only rude, but demonstrably untrue).

Then one day, in about the second week, you'll wake up, glance over at your alarm clock (impotent, a husk of its former self) realising you slept at 11pm the previous night and woke up at 7am this morning. You will, at that moment, have somehow spectacularly bluffed your way into the perfect sleep pattern; feeling incredibly alert after an honest-to-god Good Nights Sleep.

So, in the unlikely event this wholly anecdotal account leaves you unconvinced, I'd just like to amend my opening statement and proclaim: I AM NOW A WOMAN WHO IS PROFOUNDLY AWAKE. Did you feel the verve, the real *spice for life*, the capitalisation conveys? (My editor didn't).

It is strange because, when I was suffering from chronic fatigue, I mostly worried about the birthdays, the holidays, the big events I was missing through watery half-closed eyes. But now I see the significance of the small things—those interstitial moments of beauty. Our little lives, interspersed, then rounded with sleep.

Artwork by Jess Zlotnick

# Somewhere only we know: Mount Albert

Lamya Rahman revisits a hometown she'll probably never return to.

My school in Mount Albert, New Zealand was located on a large piece of real estate, donated by a rich old lady with no children of her own. Her will had outlined the idea of a primary school—young children were her favourite. But the donated land was so big that the council divided the plot into three sections: a primary, middle, and high school.

There were 600 students in total the year I enrolled. Not a lot for an educational facility with its own pool, sports field, and multiple libraries—the kind of facilities you'd only get in Sydney if you went to a private school. The small number of students meant everyone, in some way or another, knew each other.

If you were a primary school student with a sibling in the middle or high school, you were kind of cool, a gatekeeper of all the shitty adolescent gossip little pre-teens craved. If you were in middle or high school with a sibling in primary, they were a liability. One ill-advised anecdote was all it took to damage a reputation. It was that kind of school, and that kind of town.

My sister and I never worried about each other at school because we were an academic year apart. 15 months' difference in age. "Almost friends," my mum liked to insist. Plus, most of our companions lived in our apartment block. We were all children of newcomer immigrants—a coincidence which I realise now was not a coincidence at all.

The six of us, the neighbourhood bandits (a name facetiously bestowed by my mother and which we ironically accepted) attended the same Auckland academy, but our different ages made it hard to hang out at lunch. Instead, we rode our bikes together after school. We would drag our two wheelers (a four wheeler in my case—I was still on training wheels) up the steep slope leading out of our apartment complex. A five minute ride northwards, and we were pedalling

fast on the main road, racing each other while trying to avoid looking directly at the golden afternoon sun. In Sydney, a main road is an infinite line of cars, a constant rage, a disregarded speed limit. In Mount Albert, a main road is a flat space that gets you from A to Z.

Or A to R. R was Rocket Park, a sci-fi themed playground named after two, bright orange rockets that towered over the entire park. We would climb them for fun, and play together until the sun set. Then we'd ride home, have dinner, and sleep, before repeating the schedule the next morning.

In this sense, every day in Mount Albert was much like the rest. The same show with the same old characters—but with a surprisingly high quality set. This is after all New Zealand, the country with mountain ranges running down its spine.

Most people would find something unsettling about knowing your entire life—or at least life from the ages six to 18—was right there in front of you, in a little suburb seven kilometres southwest of the capital city and at the bottom of North Island's third highest volcanic peak. Yet I liked the certainty, the stability. I found it comforting to know I could wrap my whole life up in a blanket.

When we moved to Sydney, there was not one local park but four—and at least three of them only accessible by bus or train. Cycling was out of the question. The lack of designated cycling paths made it a dangerous activity for adults, let alone two eager-eyed children,

aged 11 and ten. While my sister and I adjusted over time, it was hard not to miss a suburb that stretched only 18 miles, and a country that had everything from fiords to sandy coastlines to vast plains.

Maybe hometowns are less a point of return and more of a relic, something to remember ourselves by. I'll probably never go back to Mount Albert, but that's not what matters anyway.

In my gut, I know Mount Albert has changed. Every hometown does. There are hipster cafes now. You can no longer climb the rocket at Rocket Park. And the local population has jumped from 2,000 to 5,000 in the last couple of years. But in my mind, the suburb stands untouched by the rest of the world: the same evergreen suburb of small town gossip and childhood stupor, where anyone could walk to the summit of a local mountain and through haze and mist see the 48 extinct cones that dot Auckland city's skyline.

surface of the photograph by embroidering it, making the photograph a physical, living object. In fact, the photographs that are embroidered have been chosen because they contain some 'error' such as bleeding light, double-ups or over-exposure. While in the digital realm, these photos would immediately go into the bin (alongside my 300 rejected selfies), analogue photography is fragile, unstable and mercurial. Indeed, they are far from static.

So why does analogue, with all its unpredictability, continue to seduce and entice us? Why does everyone suddenly own one of those K-Mart purchased polaroids? It seems that the trend runs deeper than mere novelty, to a more profound psychological tendency. After all, photographs are often associated with the nostalgia of family albums. SAARA138 recognises this same sentimentality when we think of textile objects associated with the halcyon days of childhood. Whether it be the teddy bear, the hot wheels, the barbie or the tamagotchi, a single object remains indelibly imprinted in our memory. It is for this exact reason we all wept at the end of Toy Story 3: it was a signifier of the loss of childhood in an increasingly virtual world. SAARA138 combines the photographic and textile medium to show the vital role that these objects play in human experience and constructing personal subjective histories. They are catalysts for questions around memory, identity and permanence.

SAARA138 rightfully identifies a parallel between technological and human redundancy. We take photographs to capture a particular moment in time because we know that our memories will inevitably deteriorate. We take film photographs, specifically, so that we may create an object that will last beyond our

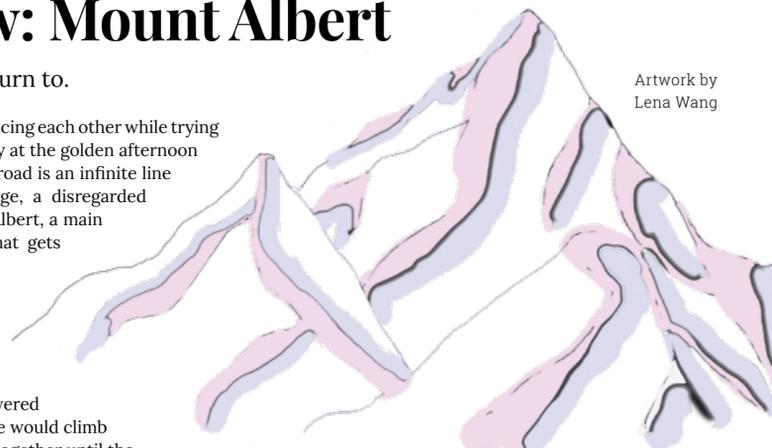
own corporeal limits. However, these too will eventually decay and entropy. *After Image* is not a fixation on morbidity though, but an invitation for contemplation. The delicate embroidery forces us to look at the images in depth. These moments of contemplation seem scarce as SAARA138 points out "in an image-saturated world... everyone is a photographer." The quick click of the shutter is visually juxtaposed with the labour of needle and thread. We can imagine the time and energy used in the human gesture.

For many, embroidery is associated with simply 'hobby' and 'craft', existing in a separate domain from 'high' art. Indeed, textile art has been alienated from 'high' art due to years of historical bias based on gender. Historically seen as 'women's' work, embroidery and textile was never exhibited in the white walls of the gallery alongside paintings, sculptures, and photography, which were mediums seen as conventionally 'masculine'. Contemporary art has challenged this historical hierarchy, and SAARA138 amalgamates two mediums that have been separated for so long.

Whilst the operative term in the title of the work, 'after', references SAARA138's artistic process of manipulating image, it also raises a number of existential questions. What happens post-analogue, post-digital, post-human? Do objects (and by extension people) evolve just as the photographs in the work? Or do they (and we) dissolve into oblivion? Concerned with these issues of temporality, *After Image* lends new meaning to the adage, 'a stitch in time', purely with a spool of thread and a spool of film.

[www.saara138.work](http://www.saara138.work)

Artwork by  
Lena Wang



## Deep Tea Diving



### Board Breakdown

Nominations for USU Board Elections closed this Tuesday, and the candidates will be officially announced on Thursday. At press time, Maya Eswaran of Grassroots, Connor Wherrett of Unity (Labor Right), Lachlan Finch of the Libdependents (Moderate Liberals), and Rebecca Miller of NLS (Labor Left) have been confirmed as candidates. Two male international students are rumoured to be running, supported by Chinese international students' group Panda, and one female international student supported by current Board Director Zhixian Wang. It remains to be seen if SLS, another Labor Left faction, will support NLS candidate Miller or run their own candidate. In total, nine candidates are set to contest the race—four women and five men.

Maya Eswaran (Arts/Law II) was elected in a Grassroots preselection battle against Liam Thorne (Arts/Law III), the partner of USU presidential-hopeful Lilianna Tai. So intense was the stoush surrounding preselection that it sparked something of a Grexit: eight senior Grassroots members left the faction, namely Madeline Ward, Anna Hush, Aiden Magro, Connor Parissis, Jazzlyn Breen, Maddy Norris, Ray Stachurska and Seth Dias. Grexiteers and Gremainers alike downplayed the mass exodus, claiming it was "not that newsworthy". It is understood the members left for various reasons, and before pre-selection took place, with many keen to step away from the imminent electioneering.

Grassroots has a complicated relationship with the USU, which the faction's more radical members see as a corporatised sellout—"a useless scab union". The decision to run a candidate at all is fiercely debated, with some preferring to focus resources on protest and activism, rather than electoralism. Punters will remember a similar debate erupted last year, which saw current USU President Courtney Thompson leave the faction, along with senior members Liam Thorne, Pranay Jha and Nina Dillon-Britton, who all supported Grassroots putting up a candidate for Board. In the end, Grassroots did not run anyone last year.

The tensions in Grassroots are a reflection of the internal dysfunction that follows the faction each year when Board elections roll around, with a seemingly inevitable fluctuation in membership. A member of Grassroots said the six Grexitors all "left on good terms" and a few may later rejoin.

Meanwhile, in Labor land, there had been early rumours that NLS would not field a candidate at all. Instead, they were slated to campaign for Unity's Wherrett now, so that Unity would in turn support NLS' Harry Gregg in a predicted SRC presidential bid later this year.

Before electing Miller (Arts II), NLS was said

to have been in talks with Grassroots to support a second Grassroots nominee, given the lack of female candidates in play at that time. Grassroots had no second female candidate available to run, and no agreement was reached, presumably when it looked likely Miller was a viable option for NLS.

In contrast to previous electoral cycles where a clear candidate has emerged well in advance, NLS uncharacteristically scrambled to find a suitable nominee this year. This suggests underwhelming recruitment patterns in recent times, and a lack of nurturing of fresh talent. For a time, they're said to have even started looking outside Labor membership for their nominee. X-Factor contestant, Latifa Tee (Arts/Law II) was approached and is said to have considered the offer deeply, despite her heavy ties with Grassroots, before deciding not to swerve into a career of student politics just yet.

Both these rumours have now given way to a confirmed run by Miller, NLS stalwart and SRC welfare officer, but relatively unknown candidate. In a contest where affirmative action can be decisive, it makes sense for NLS to put forward a non-male identifying person—particularly when two of the confirmed candidates are men.

As always, the election will play out against the broader squabbling between Labor's three factions. Though diminished by recent walkouts and the failure of its 2017 SRC presidential candidate Bella Pytka, SLS has scored a recent win. Former Board Director and SLS heavyweight Shannen Potter beat out NLS opposition to secure the presidency of Labor Club, the USU political club dominated by the two Labor Left factions. Control over the executive is prized, as, unlike the informal campus factions, Labor Club can secure generous USU funding for its events, which are useful Labor Party and factional recruiting tools. The presidency became vacant after Caitie McMenamin, formerly of SLS, resigned. Potter's win was a blow to NLS who either gave up battling for the club, or were distracted by the need to find a board candidate.

### Our next USU President

Even before 2018 Board nominations are formally announced, the race has begun for USU president. In late May, the Board will elect this year's president from the six directors who began their term in 2017. Independent Lilianna Tai is set to vie with Moderate Liberal Jacob Masina for the role. At the same time, there'll be elections for the executive: vice president, honorary treasurer and honorary secretary, as well as various other positions.

It's early days but the most likely executive team at present looks to be Tai for President, Adam Torres

for Vice President, Claudia Gulbransen-Diaz for Treasurer and Zhixian Wang for Secretary.

That said, Masina is sure up a fight for the top job. That's despite his recent setbacks with the two societies that arguably got him elected in the first place: the Sydney Arts Students' Society (all members of the 2018 executive have been removed after Masina, who was 2017 SASS president, mismanaged last year's AGM), and the Sydney University Liberal Club (which has faced allegations of deliberately excluding first year members).

The Board has voiced clear disapproval of Masina's conduct, and was at one stage threatening to censure him over the mishandled SASS AGM. The backlash has been so strong that it's said Labor Right-aligned Gulbransen-Diaz has pledged not to vote for Masina, her former ally, at all.

It might all come as a rude shock for Masina, who is said to have been confident of his prospects. So confident, in fact, that he cut short a winter trip to the Russian FIFA World Cup from six weeks down to two—all so he could take up his presidential duties on time.

There's a glimmer of hope for Masina, though—perhaps about as realistic as the Socceroos being crowned this year's FIFA champions. The 2018 batch of Board directors, to be decided in the upcoming USU elections, will also cast a vote in the executive race. At this stage, the Liberals look certain to run Lachlan Finch, so it's in Masina's interests to do everything he can to help Finch over the line. Masina, who has close ties with Hengjie Sun and Panda, will be looking for any edge he can get.

How this all plays out is still to be seen, but USU President is an important role, an office that has been held by the esteemed Herbert Vere Evatt, Michael Kirby, and of course, Bachelor-contestant Alisha Aitken Radburn.

### Laterz, debaterz!

With the confidence of a Grammar boy on the GPS Firsts team, USYd's debaters have swaggered their way to victory at the last two Australian Intersarsity Debating Championships, affectionately known as Easters. But this year has brought a mortifying halt to the our debaters' streak of success. Not even home side advantage could save them: USYd played gracious host to this year's tournament, held across three days of midsem break and drawing hordes of pseudo-intellectuals from all over the country.

USYd prides itself on its particular brand of pseudo-intellectuals: our debaters are frequently touted as some of the best in the world, winning the Worlds Championships in 2017 and dominating on the Australasian circuit. But in a shock performance at this year's Easters, only one team, USU 1, made it as far as the semifinals, to be beaten by Macquarie 1, the eventual champions.

There the horrors do not stop. Easters has a rule that no more than three teams from any given university can progress or 'break' from the preliminary rounds to the finals. This rule is known as 'the cap'. Teams which should have enough wins to progress, but are not in the top three from their institution, are 'capped out', their place taken by a team from another uni, even if it has fewer wins. Historically, the cap has plagued USYd debaters, in that kind of burdened-by-greatness way. Up to three USYd teams have been capped out at previous tournaments, and our contingents have taken to chanting "fuck the cap" whenever a team—from USYd or otherwise—is barred from breaking.

This year, not one USYd team was capped out. Which left USYd debaters chanting a downcast "fuck the cap" for their UNSW rivals instead.

# DID YOU KNOW?

The SRC can help with accommodation and landlord problems



Need help or advice? Your SRC is here to assist you. Phone for an appointment. The service is FREE, independent and confidential. We are located at Level 1, Wentworth Building (G01), University of Sydney (02) 9660 5222 | help@src.usyd.edu.au | src.usyd.edu.au | facebook.com/srchelp



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We have a solicitor who speaks Cantonese, Mandarin & Japanese



\*This service is provided to you by the Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney and is available to USyd undergraduates

## International Students Transport Concession

In 1989 the NSW government withdrew access to transport concessions for International Students. Since then international students have had to pay full price to use public transport. The SRC has always opposed this discrimination.

As a result of students' vocal opposition to this discrimination the Government made a small compromise giving international students the opportunity to buy long-term travel passes at a slightly discounted rate. However this concession is no longer available. That means international students, while being full time students, and being unable to earn full time money, and still contributing to the Australian economy as our 3rd biggest export, still have to pay full fare.

So having said all of that, the SRC strongly advises students to only use correct tickets (e.g., Adult Opal card) when travelling. Transit police frequently check buses and trains and will fine anyone who has not paid the correct fare for their journey.

If you would like advice about a fine you've received, you can contact the SRC's free Legal Service. Email help@src.usyd.edu.au or call 9660 5222 to book an appointment.

**The Government made a small compromise giving international students the opportunity to buy long-term travel passes at a slightly discounted rate.**

The SRC will continue to fight to international students to have the same rights to transport concessions as local students. To join this fight contact the International Students' Collective on 9660 5222.

## Ask Abe

SRC caseworker HELP Q&A

Tenancy: Air B&B



Dear Abe,

I'm going away at the end of the semester for four weeks, and need to rent out my room to help me pay for my holiday. Is there anything I need to know about what I can and can't do, and do you have any tips for how to get someone in.

Looking for air in my b&b.

The Ask Abe column runs in every edition of Honi Soit. It allows you to ask whatever question you might have that affects you as a student, gaining the best advice that a very worldly mutt can give.

Dear Looking for air in my b&b,

Most lease agreements state that you need written permission from the landlord to sublet your house. I am unclear about whether subletting just your room would be illegal or not. If you do decide to go ahead with your plan, there are many facebook pages and websites that you can use to advertise your room for free. It would be a good idea to ask the person for a deposit for any damage and check their references. Any damage that they do to the house will be your responsibility.

Abe

The SRC's guide to living on little money is available here:

srcusyd.net.au/src-help/money



## President

Imogen Grant

Last week the union representing staff at USyd, the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU), voted in support of the right to strike. The NTEU believes - as does the SRC - in the right of working people to exercise their industrial power and strike at any time they democratically determine to do so.

This comes at a time when workers' rights are under vicious attack by employers, the Liberal Government, and the (un)Fair Work Commission. Employers are tearing up legally binding Enterprise Agreements and locking out workers who try to negotiate better wages and conditions. Construction workers face special laws that try to prevent them from organising. Unions that exercise their right to strike face massive fines. Wage growth is at historic lows and 40% of Australians are in insecure work.

Notably, the FWC recently ruled against the Equal Pay rise for early childhood educators who are being paid around \$21 per hour with diploma-level or university-level training. To add insult to injury, with the new

reduction in the HECS repayment threshold these workers - many of whom are university graduates - will be paying back their debt whilst they're barely earning above the minimum wage and are struggling with daily expenses. Early childhood educators are the working poor. It is clear that the system is broken and in favour of bosses.

But workers are preparing for a fight back. The Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) has recently launched the Change the Rules campaign which hopes to give all working people the basic rights they need to improve their living standards.

However, there is no prospect that the rules will change in any significant way without a serious industrial campaign by the union movement. That is the lesson of the entire history of the union movement.

As a result, the left of the union movement are calling on the ACTU to escalate the campaign against the FWC and to push for the right to strike. It is only through the right to strike that we will rebuild the power of workers

and their unions.

Come along to a public meeting next week 3pm April 14 at the Maritime Union of Australia and discuss how workers can win the right to strike and how we support workers and unions that break bad laws. See the Facebook event here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/151027342231900/>

At the May Day rally on Sunday May 6, the SRC will be organising a 'Strike to Change the Rules' contingent for students, workers and community groups. The event will launch shortly on our Facebook page. Stay tuned!

Feel free to email me at president@src.usyd.edu.au if you have any concerns or wish to get involved with the SRC. If you are experiencing any academic, personal or legal issues and wish to seek the advice of an SRC caseworker or solicitor, contact us at 9660 5222 or help@src.usyd.edu.au.

## Environmental Officers

Zac Gillies-Palmer and Natalie Berry

Climate change and other concurrent environmental disasters must be stopped but who will be the political subjects of an ant capitalist climate revolution? Who will lead a new radical left movement against the vested interests of the 1 percent and the social structures which sustain them? Sadly history has shown that the state alone cannot be relied upon to deliver the systemic change necessary to build a sustainable and equitable society. How then do we forge a new environmental movement with the capacity to contend with the overwhelming resources of capital?

Different tendencies may bicker about the particulars of a new anti-capitalist environment movement but the overwhelming consensus is that the answer to all of these questions lies in the collective intelligence and material power of ordinary people. Grassroots organising, non-violent direct action and disciplined collective opposition to injustice will deliver the radical change we need to build a sustainable future. The responsibility lies with us as organisers and activists to engage ordinary people in this struggle as a united

movement against our mutual enemy, the 1 percent.

The environment collective is uniquely situated in this ongoing process of politicisation and struggle. Students and young people who engage with the collective are both naturally predisposed to radical political ideas and acutely aware of the implications of climate change. Through outreach trips, workshops, skill shares and direct action members of the collective are actively cultivating the skills and activist culture which will sustain our movement.

In January a sizeable contingent of the collective attended the Australian Student Environment Network's (ASEN) training camp on the Tucoerah (George's) river south-west of Sydney. At the camp we had the opportunity to accumulate invaluable knowledge and skills from other front-line activists over the course of 7 days. Simultaneously, members of the collective have been coordinating and participating in direct action against Adani. Lilli, Nic, Natalie & Anna all engaged in militant arrestable direct action despite the immense personal and legal implications of doing

so.

Members of the collective have been driving all over the state reaching out to other students and ASEN chapters in an effort to build solidarity between Sydney students and our comrades elsewhere. We've held fundraisers, organised rally contingents and stood behind our friends and mentors in the Aboriginal community in their struggle against colonial dispossession and violence. It's been a busy few weeks.

Until you next hear from us we'll be continuing to support action against coal and CSG across Australia. Recently, new members of the collective have taken the initiative to reactivate the student campaign against USyd's ongoing investment in weapons, mining and fossil fuel companies; stay tuned for their upcoming #fossilfree launch. If you'd like to get involved and share some food with us/have a chat come to our weekly meeting at 12pm on the Manning Lawns, we'd love to see you.

## Disabilities & Carers Officers

Robin Eames, Mollie Galvin, and Ren Rennie

The NSW government has decided to cut funding to disability advocacy services from July 2018. The warped logic underlying this decision is that the NDIS is expected to take over the responsibility for funding disability advocacy via individual ILC (Information, Linkages, & Capacity Building) supports. However, the NDIA ILC commissioning document states that the ILC will NOT fund individual or systemic advocacy.

NSW has legislative obligations under its recently released Disability Inclusion Plan to encourage the inclusion and participation of people with disability. Cutting essential funding supports and forcing disability advocacy services to close down goes against the government's stated commitment to support disabled people to live full and equal lives.

The USyd Disabilities Collective and Caregivers Network oppose the advocacy cuts and support the

NSW Disability Advocacy Alliance's "Stand By Me" campaign.

On Tuesday 10 April we will be joining multiple disability organisations at the NSW Parliament to protest the cuts. We will be meeting at the Macquarie Room at 10:30am, but you are welcome to join us at any point during the day until 4:30pm.

If you'd like to support the campaign, here are some useful actions you can take!

Sign the petition: <https://www.change.org/p/gladys-berejiklian-standbyme-to-ensure-that-people-with-disability-in-nsw-have-a-voice>

Email Premier Berejiklian: [nsw.gov.au/contact-us/contact-the-premier/](mailto:nsw.gov.au/contact-us/contact-the-premier/)

Call Premier Berejiklian: (02)9439 4199

Contact your local MP: [http://standbyme.org.au/Meeting\\_MP.pdf](http://standbyme.org.au/Meeting_MP.pdf)

More information: [standbyme.org.au](http://standbyme.org.au)

Contact your local MP: [aph.gov.au/Senators\\_and\\_Members/Guidelines\\_for\\_Contacting\\_Senators\\_and\\_Members](mailto:aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Guidelines_for_Contacting_Senators_and_Members); [https://www.nswtf.org.au/files/nsw\\_mp\\_contact\\_details.pdf](https://www.nswtf.org.au/files/nsw_mp_contact_details.pdf)

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, call through the National Relay Service: [internet-relay.nrsccall.gov.au/](http://internet-relay.nrsccall.gov.au/)

Our tentative date for our non-autonomous screening of Defiant Lives, a documentary about disability rights activism in Australia and abroad, is Monday the 7th of May at 6pm.

Check out our Facebook groups for details of meetings, events, and collective activities: [facebook.com/groups/USydDisabilities2018/](https://facebook.com/groups/USydDisabilities2018/) & [facebook.com/groups/USydCaregiversNetwork/](https://facebook.com/groups/USydCaregiversNetwork/).

# Sexual Harrassment Officers

Nicole Leong, Nicola Haggerty Mayers, Adam Ursino and Briget Neave-Cowley

The student campaign for action is gaining rapid momentum, particularly following the deeply alarming revelations of sexual assault in Anna Hush and Nina Funnell's Red Zone report. It is clear that the university must instigate immediate, effective, and rapid change. Past responses have been insufficient, and as demonstrated by the Red Zone protest at O-Week, students are demanding answers.

This year, the sexual harassment office bearers will be campaigning for change by protesting in support of sexual assault survivors and victims. We're also work-

ing with the Safer Communities Working Group, and we're committing to pushing through more inclusive and effective reforms to current university policies. As you probably know, Consent Matters has been introduced as a compulsory module for all incoming students in 2018. We're looking to extend the scope of the course, and to encourage actual participation and greater enforcement.

We need everyone's help to fight for change. Join rallies, read the Red Zone report and Broderick Review, and attend meetings about the issue. Read about

the work done by End Rape on Campus. Non-male identifying people can join and attend the meetings of the Wom\*n's Collective, an autonomous space to share ideas and insights into activism.

The deadline to complete Consent Matters has elapsed, but you can still complete the module. If you still haven't enrolled/completed the course, know that its implementation depends on everyone's participation.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please email [harassment.officers@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:harassment.officers@src.usyd.edu.au).

# Education Officers

The Education Officers did not submit a report.

# Indigenous Officers

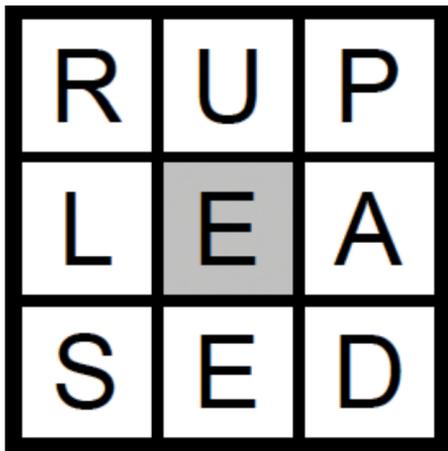
The Indigenous Officers did not submit a report.

## PUZZLES

Puzzles by Cloud Runner

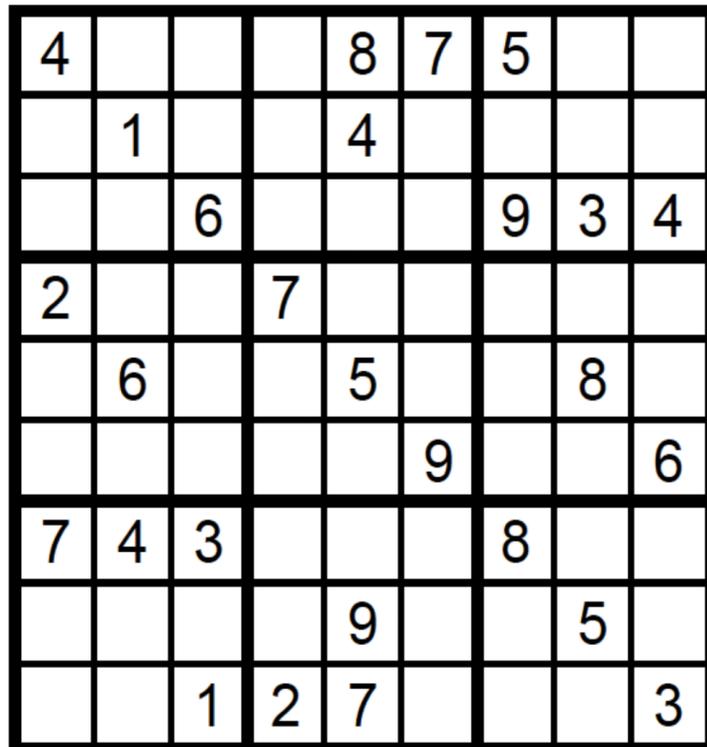
# Target

Minimum 4 letters per word (no 3 letter words, abbreviations or acronyms). 5 words: far too obvious, 10 words: missed the mark, 20 words: no small task indeed, 30 words: undoubtedly my favourite



Last week's solutions:

HOWSOEVER, WHOSOEVER

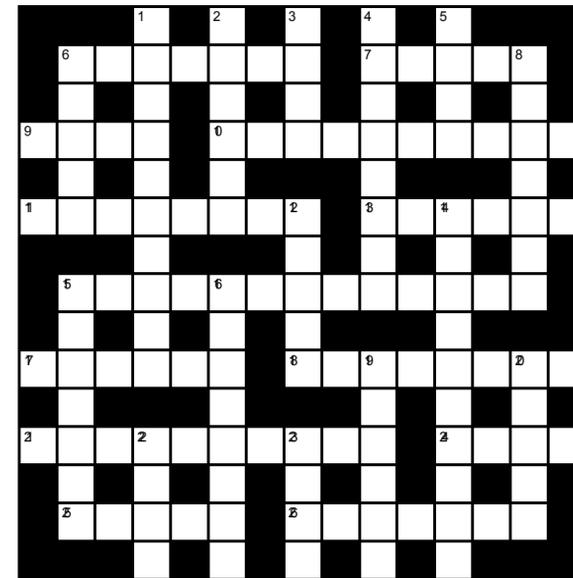


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# Quick



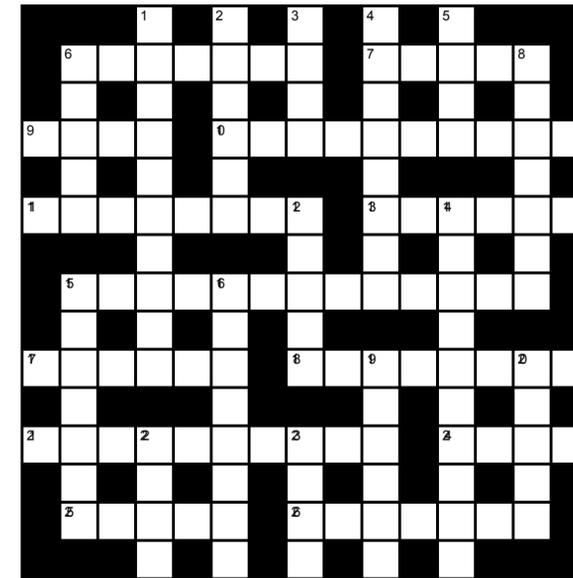
Across

- 6 Antagonist (7)
- 7 Moral principle (5)
- 9 Kill violently, or make a good impression (4)
- 10 Brief deviation from the main story (10)
- 11 You might find a partridge in here (4,4)
- 13 Not sunk (6)
- 15 8 (6,2,5)
- 17 Speaks publicly (6)
- 18 Skeptic (8)
- 21 Harbour Bridge's nickname (4,6)
- 24 World's largest furniture retailer (4)
- 25 Artefact (5)
- 26 Unwavering (7)

Down

- 1 Arthur Miller was one (10)
- 2 Scale (6)
- 3 Cosy (4)
- 4 Representative or ambassador (8)
- 5 Volts divided by amperes (4)
- 6 Appreciate (5)
- 8 Colourful fluid that goes in a radiator (7)
- 12 Virus which originated in Africa (5)
- 14 Relating to organisation and planning (10)
- 15 Passion or zeal (7)
- 16 The 'R' of R&D (8)
- 19 Standard (6)
- 20 Helium and argon could be described as this (5)
- 22 Building material found on roofs or in bathrooms (4)
- 23 Satan's animal form (4)

# Cryptic



Across

- 6 Country located between Burkina Faso, Mali, Algeria; (7)
- 7 Audibly AF? (5)
- 9 Sounds like right thing to do at church (4)
- 10 Rang over a small distance (5-5)
- 11 Roughly calculate discrepancy in time (AEST) (8)
- 13 Substitute otters at zoo display (6)
- 15 Diverse Greek character lets odd head of ideological cult say you are a lughead (13)
- 17 Lecture started and maths forum went down (6)
- 18 Side to side twerking: fad or not? (2,3,3)
- 21 Sinister person dropped off heroin and ecstasy before start of rave (4-6)
- 24 There's nothing like Ovid's *Metamorphoses*! (4)
- 25 Botox injections could contain poisonous substance (5)
- 26 Rescues, perhaps?! (7)

Down

- 1 Endangered Irish politician and queen killed (beheaded) (10)
- 2 'Land of the Midnight Sun' in the style of early reggae (6)
- 3 May go on top of oysters! (4)
- 4 Best tasting sides of tuna and sauerkraut on building site (8)
- 5 Scholar rejects SRC address (4)
- 6 Gets demoted from cricket position (5)
- 8 Concerning fingers but not using hands? (7)
- 12 Throw lava everywhere. Are you inept? (5)
- 14 Violin expert raised some debonair, avid art students (10)
- 15 Is French—below average, and very unkind (7)
- 16 I, in kinda weird way, make black liquid (5,3)
- 19 Very right, I put up air conditioning for a hot place (6)
- 20 Destroys archaeological relics (5)
- 22 Up at 11? Get a cab (4)
- 23 Record distributor ideally sells chart toppers (4)

# Solutions



## Autumn Outfits

Pumpkin spice up your wardrobe with these fresh threads!



1. A whimsical beanie that says "I know I'm boring but I'm trying."
2. An infinity scarf is a crime against physics—but not a crime against fashion!
3. Never miss a chance to wear one of your big jumpers by wearing them all at once.
4. Gingham shorts are going to be the big unisex trend of 2018. Trust me.
5. Grab a pair of children's gum boots. If your feet don't fit, seek a larger child.

## Autumn Essentials



1. Deciduous trees
2. Shorter days
3. A temperature range of 15°C to 22°C
4. The months of March, April and May

## Autumn Must-Haves



### Apple HomePhone

Apple have once again revolutionised the telecommunications industry with their latest release: The HomePhone. Designed for use by families and sharehouses, this slick cousin of the iPhone plugs straight into your wall, allowing people to call your house directly. This elegant device can be shared by an unlimited number of tenants, but its range is limited to the general area of the home.



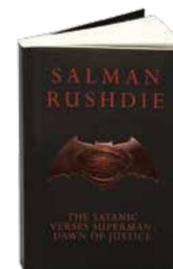
### Spinach by Supply+

We've all been there. It's a long day and your mental health is in decline. What you really, really need is a quick dose of the modern wonderfood spinach, but it's nowhere to be found. Enter Australia's latest subscription service: Spinach. Just open up the Supply+ app and a military cargo jet will be called to your area to deliver a load of fresh spinach via free fall airdrop. You're welcome.



### Warheads® Reusable Family Stones

Worried about what you're going to put in the kids' lunch boxes that's fun and healthy? Well, Warheads® have got your back. Simply open up your jar of Family Stones, coat them in the Warheads® Sour Dust (sold separately) and let your kids have at them. Once they're done, wash the stones and stick them back in the jar, ready for another workout tomorrow!



### Salman Rushdie's The Satanic Verses Verses Superman: Dawn of Justice

In the explosive sequel to his 1988 novel *The Satanic Verses*, Rushdie is back to tackle such pressing contemporary questions as: does Superman bleed? And the even more pressing issue: will he? No stranger to controversy, people have already started boycotting Rushdie's novel on the grounds that Superman would never fight *The Satanic Verses*, but Rushdie maintains that they're not true fans anyway.



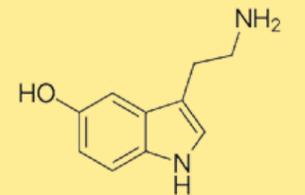
### Dugout EXP

Ever wanted to just disappear and be in a hole for a few days? These people will put you in a hole for a few days. There's a lot more to it, and they sell the idea with a lot more panache, but the broad strokes are that these people will put you in a hole and pull you back out again. There is a cost, obviously, but surely there is no price too high for this service if you are someone who wants it.

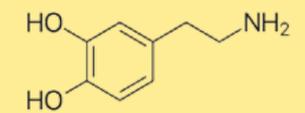
## Autumn Neurotransmitters

Cop a load of the brain chemicals that people just can't get enough of!

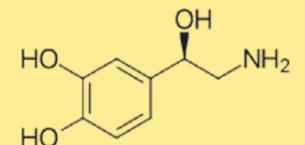
Supplies are running pretty low at the moment so stock up on as many as you can when you get the chance.



Serotonin



Dopamine



Norepinephrine

## Autumn Friends

Out with the old and in with the new. It's time to ditch your summer friends and start making plans with their sexy new autumnal replacements.



Faulkner



Camille



Ibrahim



Jannetje



This Dog

This British bombshell is an environmental lawyer and devout pantheist who believes we can all make the world a better place. Faulkner loves spooning (platonic or otherwise) and will always be available to service your needs, any day or night.

Sure, she studies too hard and doesn't have a lot of free time, but the moments you spend together are precious. You wish Camille could make it to a few more parties than she does, but deep down you're proud of her and know she's living her best life.

Ibrahim knows where all the bodies are buried—because he's the groundskeeper at the local cemetery. Get ready for sunset walks around the tombstones and sombre chats on the steps of the church. Ibrahim is a man who's seen it all, but takes nothing for granted.

Say hello to Jannetje, your personal Dutch chocolatier. She's training to take over the family business, so she's always got plenty of praline to go around. She's not just a little chocolate girl though, Jannetje loves live music and knows about all the hot new bands.

Literally just this small dog.

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***thurs april 12  
upstairs at the lord gladstone  
from 6pm***

***free***