

HONI SOIT

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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

I don't know what the first game I played was. I remember clambering over walls near Meadowbank train station when I was five, pretending the floor was lava and that I was, I don't know, Jack climbing a beanstalk or something.

I'm not sure if this counts as a game — but there were rules (don't fall!), and a way to win (touch the top!), and a girl in my neighbourhood who would climb with me.

People don't really think about playing pretend, when they think about games. They think about Minecraft, and people yelling on YouTube, and sweaty, emaciated boys with headsets. I mean, these are games too, but so is learning Xiangqi from my dad, squinting at a tangled cat's cradle, and being bad at soccer.

I think in all these disparate instances, games brought us together, whether in rivalry or in camaraderie. Games were a new form of narrative, one that we could participate in. In this edition of *Honi*, we pay homage to games abstract and physical — games that taught us art and games that became art in their own right. The feature investigates a competition into AI progress, and the consequences of cheating ethics. There are the escapades of people that game the system.

If you think about it hard enough, almost anything could be a game. Any obstacle a final boss, and social norms the rules of the game, any joy the reward of a well-completed quest.

Getting to the end too easily is dissatisfying, but if it's too hard it's frustrating. It's a difficult balance. But I think all we can hope for is a game without too many glitches, some cool NPCs to hang out with and some interesting levels to explore.

Game on.

LW

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Conflict-ed

Disclaimer: I am not an authority on conflict in the Middle East. Newsflash: Neither are you.

It is safe to assume that for most people reading this, fire drills were a normal part of your school experience. Stop, Drop and Roll. You never questioned it. Fire was a potentially very real threat so it only made sense to practice what to do in case of one.

How about bomb drills? Seems ridiculous right? Yet as clearly as I remember lining up on the basketball court to get my name marked off after a fire drill, I remember waiting to do the same thing in the school's bomb shelter, which on any other day doubled as our hall. Clearly I didn't grow up in Australia. Expect I did, in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney no less. Why then can I file bomb drills away in my primary school memories along with being greeted by armed guards and a 3m high fence each morning when I got out the car? Oh that's right, I'm Jewish. For 22 years, I lived in a bubble.

We weren't encouraged to look too far beyond it and we certainly didn't make a habit of inviting others to look in. It was a happy bubble but a bubble nonetheless. I won't lie, there were occasions as I got older that I wondered what life on the other side was like. Even times where I wished I could escape. However, these fantasies were always met with a firm and unwavering response: the outside is a dangerous place for people like us, you're safer in here. A.k.a forget about it, you're not leaving. However, children grow up and the bubble couldn't protect me forever. I left school and went to university. My bubble rapidly expanded, causing its walls to grow more transparent by the day. I felt like for the first time I could clearly see the world around me.

By the beginning of this year, my third of uni, I had started dating a guy on the outside. I felt like such a rebel. Look at me, I couldn't help but think. I'm proving you all wrong. Inside and outside can coexist, it was a heady feeling. I truly believed that I didn't need the bubble anymore, right up until the moment he popped it. "I think we can agree that Jews around the world control everything and that they are too powerful". Better yet, that "Israel as a Jewish state doesn't have the right to exist". Since then I've been struggling to put my bubble back together. Let me tell you, its been a difficult task and the more time that passes the less hopeful I am that I'll ever be able to recapture the innocent naivety that came with being so insulated. Maybe that's a good thing, maybe it's not. What I can say though is that until that fateful evening, anti-semitism had been a discussed yet intangible concept. We had been brought up on a steady diet of Holocaust studies, so we knew full well the deadly power of such sentiments. However, for the most part it was dealt with in a retrospective lens.

We lived in Australia where diversity had become somewhat of an anthem - it didn't feel like it was our burden to carry. Sure there was that time on year 4 camp when a group of kids from another school somehow found out we were Jewish. They started yelling at one of my friends that her grandparents deserved to die in the Holocaust and that Hitler had the right idea. Their principal cried when she apologised to us though so at that age it felt like a pretty isolated, open and closed case. It took comments like those above, coming out of the mouth of a boy who I'd gone to high school with, who sat at my kitchen counter and who moments before I had been kissing, to wake me up to the pervasive reality of anti-semitism and by extension anti-zionism in our modern Australian society. In isolation his words may appear relatively harmless. To that I'll tell you what I told him that night after he had, upon seeing the tears of shock and anger burning in the

corners of my eyes, jumped to assure me the topic meant nothing to him. I am one of the most irreligious people I know. That being said, my heritage and my culture are of the utmost importance to me and my identity. Israel and all it stands for might be something you consider with blind hatred and only in passing but to me it represents so much more than it is given credit for. It represents the home of a people who refuse to submit to persecution, who continue to fight for empowerment and self-determination. Citizens of all other nations are granted these rights without complaint. Why then are the rules so different for Israel?

I feel it's important to say here that just because I support Israel as the Jewish people's right to a homeland, does not mean I support, without question, every action carried out by its government. It has made it's fair share of mistakes. Just like Australia has. That being said, I am still a proud Australian. It is hard then to open up my university's student publication and see articles like On Netta, Eurovision and Israel's State Propaganda and Queers For Palestine. I take pride in being a part of the Sydney University bubble. However, it's articles like these, with their blatant disregard for fact in favour of an undeniably anti-Israel message that makes a Jewish student on campus feel unwelcome. Rather that contributing to a dialogue, they create an environment in which it feels unsafe to be anything but silent.

In the end, like I mentioned at the start, I am no authority on the Middle East conflict. I am keenly aware of its complex nature and that no easy solution exists. This is why I believe it is more important than ever to make every attempt to educate ourselves on the realities of all sides. We need to stop propagating fake information, encourage constructive discourse on the topic and dig a little deeper to find some compassion for those who may sit on the outside of our immediate bubbles. We can do better, we just have to try.

Chelsea Slender, Media and Communications III, (Wom*n's and Queer Honi, Semester 1)

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Honiscopes

Jenny Cao is wise ... everyone best not be sleeping!

Artwork by Garnet Chan



Aries
“The under construction penguin that has the hard hat lol”

It's time to take your revenge on the Disney construction company for destroying your home among the glaciers. Now you're left on some island and also in 3D now which has a been a really disconcerting experience.



Taurus
“Most definitely a goal defence”

You're always ready to lunch-tray-smack any opportunity that comes your way because I think deep down you're secretly scared of failure.



Gemini
“Hanzo and Genji”

It feels like you're always at war with the two sides of your personality. Let one of them destroy the other and let them be reborn as a cyborg ninja. It's probably cheaper than therapy.



Cancer
“Green slime from Maplestory”

It's not easy being green but you know what's worse? It's 2006 and you're downloading a new patch with your dial up internet and your mum decides to use the phone line.



Leo
“That Bitch who just mashes the buttons in smash brothers”

I'm not here for a good game, I'm here for a GOOD TIME. Subscribe to my Twitch! I'm here every Tuesday & Thursday 7pm AEST.



Virgo
“Literally the castling move in chess”

This week has just castled you King side. Fuck it. Castle Queen side – start a pawn storm. Open the position, sac the exchange and let's just see what happens.



Libra
“The Storm in fortnite”

Why sit on the sidelines and watch drama in your life unfold when you can be the drama. Be the destructive force that brings people together just to watch them fight.



Scorpio
“Scorchio from Neopets”

Semester's back in full swing and you're in need of a break already. You know what they say – change is as good as a holiday so spice up your look with a Rainbow Paintbrush.



Sagittarius
“Crimson balrog”

Everyone loves surprises so throw a party for all your BFFs! A boat party perhaps? That way they have to stay for the full duration and can't escape.



Capricorn
“Probably like a warlock”

I don't really know much about D&D but it looks like you can cast spells so that's kinda neat.



Aquarius
“You would be a Carry but you're actually just Support cos you keep d/cing”

Wow – someone's been a bit of a flake! How can you be seen as part of team when you're just not there half the time? Maybe you should consider going back to Warcraft or a better internet connection.



Pisces
“Mei from Overwatch”

There's nothing better than some #selfcare. There's no shame in putting up ice walls to block out toxic people. Take a moment to chill literally encase yourself in ice to heal.

NTEU elections to be contested by two rival factions

Janek Drevikovsky reports.

For the first time in recent years, opposing tickets will face off in the National Tertiary Education Union's USyd branch elections. Positions are normally uncontested, but this year, two new groupings—respectively 'USyd Union Action' and 'Members Together'—are competing in the biennial poll.

The NTEU represents all tertiary sector employees. Most universities have a local branch, which elects an executive and committee every two years. These officeholders organise industrial actions, support staff through workplace disputes and negotiate an enterprise agreement on behalf of university employees.

This year, USyd's NTEU elections will run as a postal vote between August 3 and 24. In total, 15 branch positions are up for grabs: long-term president Kurt Iveson, a founder of Members Together, has been re-elected unopposed, and two autonomous branch committee roles have been filled by default.

But the remaining 12 positions are contested. These include major roles like branch secretary and vice-president.

In contrast, no roles were contested during the last round of elections, according to the Australian Electoral Commission, which conducts the vote.

Union Action is responsible for shaking up this status quo. The grouping, which came together after last year's

enterprise agreement negotiations, decided to contest the elections as a ticket—an “unusual” step, as their own website acknowledges.

Key Union Action figures include outspoken English lecturer Nick Riemer, who is running for vice-president (academic staff); Jen Harrison, a research officer, running for vice-president (general staff); and strategy analyst Josh Hayes, running for secretary.

Riemer, who spoke on Union Action's behalf, explained the “group is about fostering a campaigning, activist union branch—one that sees our strength [...] in our ability to exert political pressure through a campaigning membership.”

Members Together appears to have emerged in response to Union Action and is a less formal grouping. It consists of four figures already heavily involved in the Sydney NTEU.

Other than Branch President and Associate Professor of Urban Geography Kurt Iveson, these figures are Professor of Anthropology Linda Connor, running for vice-president (academic staff); current vice-president (general staff) Mark Johnston, a software and assets officer; and School of Economics Manager Laura Wilson for secretary.

Iveson, speaking in a personal capacity, explained Members Together's key concerns: “We're especially focused on issues of job security, on issues

of over-work for both academic and professional staff, and on the underlying problem of managerialism”.

Combating managerialism is also one of Union Action's policies. In fact, many of the two tickets' priorities are similar, including growing union membership, engaging members in campaigns, and fighting casualisation.

Despite these similarities, Iveson pointed to “a difference in experience” between the groups. All four Members Together candidates have either served on the executive or have been part of the NTEU's enterprise agreement negotiation team.

Union Action's experience lies largely in activism, though Riemer, Harrison and another ticket member Christ Hartney have served on the branch committee.

Another point of difference is the 2017 enterprise agreement, or EA. Iveson, who oversaw negotiations as president, called the EA “the leading agreement in the higher education sector in Australia”, pointing out that it had been “endorsed by a large majority of members” at a 450-strong members' meeting last year.

Union Action, in contrast, says EA negotiations were settled “before our core demands on job security, wages, and protecting the teaching-research nexus had been won.”

Nonetheless, Union Action vows to work with the EA. Riemer told *Honi* his

ticket will “continue to campaign for the best possible conditions for [NTEU] members” in hopes that the next EA will achieve better outcomes.

No roles were contested during the last round of elections

Branch democratisation is also looming large as an election issue. According to Riemer, members' meetings currently function as “information sessions, where the membership are informed about actions” the executive have taken in advance. Union Action, he said, would like to see “members' meetings carry much more influence” and believes they “should be held roughly monthly.”

But Iveson was adamant that branch democracy is already strong: “The union leadership is fully accountable to the membership—our leadership positions are voted on, and so are our actions.”

He also insisted that members' meetings are frequent enough: “This year, we have held general members meetings every month during semester.”

The two tickets are in full campaign mode, with Union Action conducting lunchtime forums and leafletting sessions. All USyd NTEU branch members are automatically enrolled and have been mailed postal ballots.

Weird scenes inside the goldmine

Liam Donohoe reports on the internal tensions gripping Sydney University Sport and Fitness.

In May last year, Sydney University Sport and Fitness (SUSF) saw its first ever change in leadership: long term President Bruce Ross retired, precipitating an election as fiercely contested as something out of the *USU* or *SRC*. This was not the first time there had been an election for the SUSF presidency, but it was the first to bring about a change in leader. Eventually, former *USU* Board Director and Senate Fellow James Flynn emerged victorious, getting eight times the votes of his competitor, former SUSF Vice-President David Jordan.

Despite being a SUSF outsider, Flynn developed a campaign strategy that ensured a landslide win. As *Honi* reported at the time, Flynn promised college residents “free gym memberships”, a move that recognised their status as eligible voters: all college students gain automatic SUSF membership as part of their college fees.

And now, ructions among SUSF staff suggest Flynn's tenure has been no less controversial than his rise to power.

SUSF, along with the *USU*, *SUPRA*, and the *SRC*, is one of the big four student service providers on campus. The organisation is funded partially by members: a basic membership costs \$60—a fee that gets your foot in the door and no further—with access to facilities like gyms and pools only available after the purchase of a more expensive membership tier. In addition to membership fees, SUSF normally takes the lion's share of Student Services and Amenities Fee, which the University distributes between SUSF, the *USU* and the *SRC* every year. And, as its name suggests, sport is serious business for SUSF: the organisation's mission is to “manage the sport, fitness and recreational activities at The University of Sydney”, according to its website.

But this charter has little currency with the new president, some staff say. [Flynn] is not invested in sport”, one source told *Honi*, suggesting that Flynn sees SUSF as a stepping stone in his career. And it's a career that's off to a racing start: beyond his student leadership

roles, Flynn was once a staffer for NSW Minister for Planning and Housing, the Liberal Party's Anthony Roberts. Flynn only resigned from this role in 2016 after a controversial Facebook post saying Malcolm Turnbull should “return to the Labor Party”. His association with the Liberal Party is well-known, and his LinkedIn reveals an ongoing but unexplained role as a “political consultant”. And last October it was revealed that Flynn funded the registration of 90 people to the NSW Liberals constitutional reform convention, in an apparent attempt to increase support for the “Warringah Motion”, reforms to party decision-making processes pushed by Tony Abbott and the state's right.

The most controversial item on the agenda is a push to turn SUSF into an incorporated entity

Whatever his motivations, Flynn's actions as president are causing real concern within SUSF. There's a perception that Flynn is pushing a corporate agenda emphasising revenue raising schemes which see SUSF hiring out its venues to third parties. Even his language, some staff say, reflects this corporate bent: he allegedly refers to SUSF's “management committee” as “the board”, vice-presidents as “directors”, and his own role as “president of sports”.

The most controversial item on his agenda, though, is a push to turn SUSF into an incorporated entity. Currently, SUSF describes itself as an “unincorporated body affiliated to the University under a resolution of the Senate of the University” and as a charity registered under the name “Sydney University Sport”. If a body is incorporated, that means there is a fictional legal person who can act and be sued on its behalf, whereas an unincorporated entity only exists insofar as its actual members do. Flynn maintains that a 2016 University review recommended incorporation, in particular because it would shift legal liability away from the

SUSF management committee and onto the organisation itself. However, Flynn hasn't yet shown this review to the rest of SUSF's management, despite assurances that he will. Whatever the University's position, one source made it clear: incorporation has been discussed many times before, and consistently deemed unnecessary.

It's thought that incorporation will spell changes to the makeup of SUSF's management committee. A source privy to discussions around the proposal told *Honi* it would likely make Executive Director Robert Smithies' position in the organisation more tenuous.

Indeed, Smithies seems to be a barrier to Flynn's plans. One source said that Flynn “wants Rob gone”. Should incorporation go ahead, Smithies is not expected to be reappointed to his current role. Either way, *Honi* was told that things are so acrimonious between the pair that SUSF can't continue with both—“one has to go”.

These divisions appear to have split the organisation's management into two camps. The same source told *Honi* that Flynn's support is limited—likely no more than four out of 30; while some are apathetic, the majority—including senior management—are on Rob's side. But Flynn allegedly has support from the University itself, in particular from Chancellor Belinda Hutchinson. According to former SUSF President Bruce Ross, Senate Representative Annie Corlett, is also a “major supporter” of Flynn, whom she interacted closely with while Flynn was a Senate Fellow.

Hostile though some parties may be, by all reports Flynn's experience as a political organiser has helped him hold his own. During May's vice-presidential elections, Flynn successfully managed the campaign of Boat Club President Sarah Cook in an apparent attempt to increase support within the organisation. Following a tested formula, Flynn made promises to college voters, including upgrades to Oval No. 1, a bridge over Western

Avenue and a new basketball court for the Arena Sports Centre—which is where voting occurs and collegians hang about Ralph's cafe. Wallaroo Emily Chancellor, who lost that election, claims Flynn told voters she was “anti-college”, the same description that was directed at David Jordan, Flynn's competitor in last year's presidential race.

Honi was told that [President] Flynn refused to do an acknowledgement of country

Flynn is believed to rely on voting as a way to resolve disputes on the management committee, rather than consensus. This contrasts with former President Bruce Ross, who told *Honi* he “never once asked people to vote”. While Flynn's approach may seem democratic, he allegedly holds regular “pre-meeting meetings” to help swing votes. Whereas Ross told *Honi* he made it a priority to reduce factionalism within SUSF—telling people to “leave their club at the door”—Flynn allegedly plays clubs against each other. In one example of this approach, Flynn apparently allowed the Kendo and Netball clubs to butt heads in a dispute about access to training space.

Honi understands Flynn is not especially open to criticism. Earlier this year, another management committee member complained that Flynn was bullying them; in response Flynn created a new sub-committee to deal with bullying complaints and, *Honi* was told, appointed himself the chair. Unsurprisingly, the committee member did not pursue their allegations.

All these maneuvers, if true, seem well-placed to advance Flynn's agenda, especially as tensions escalate. But an incident earlier in the year, during SUSF's annual sports award night in the Great Hall, may have been a misstep. *Honi* was told that Flynn refused to do an acknowledgement of country, telling SUSF staff in the lead up that his “Indigenous friends” thought it'd be insincere coming from a white man. In spite of this, the agenda still called on Flynn to do an acknowledgement at the start of the event, a specification he ignored on the night. Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence later delivered an acknowledgement through gritted teeth, and refused to sit next to Flynn on the night.

That Spence chose Smithies as his chaperon for the night perhaps reveals his position on these affairs.

James Flynn and sources close to him were approached for comment and did not reply.

Business School fails students through grading error

Janek Drevikovsky reports.

Students who took a semester one Business School unit had their grades incorrectly calculated, causing at least 15 to fail who otherwise would have passed. The error, which has now been corrected, came after an entire assessment task was left out of students' final results, the Business School claims.

The affected unit of study is ACCT6007, or Contemporary Issues in Auditing, a postgraduate coursework subject often taken in the final semester of a Masters of Accounting. According to Business School Deputy Dean John Shields, 744 students completed ACCT6007 in semester one this year. The unit is popular with international students, who pay about \$5250 for this subject alone.

Of those enrolled, about 75 students were told they had failed when semester one results were released on 18 July. Shields described this fail rate as “not really higher than it normally is”.

But soon, the ACCT6007 coordinators began receiving a higher than usual number of informal appeals, which allow dissatisfied students to contest an assessment mark through an online form, and must be submitted within 15 business days of receiving their results. Normally, the teaching team would “expect to receive about 20” informal appeals, said Shields; instead, “approximately 100” were received.

In response, the coordinators launched a grade audit, which, according to Shields, revealed that an assessable quiz, worth 5 per cent of the subject total, had not been uploaded onto the internal mark calculator.

Shields described this as an “error in the management of data”—a “human error”, and one the Business School was “apologising for”.

An entire assessment task was left out of students' final results

On 31 July, unit coordinator Angela Hecimovic sent a Canvas message to all ACCT6007 students: after explaining the error, she said “the good news is that all marks will increase by 1 to 5 marks (depending on your assessment mark previously awarded)”.

After the recalculation, 15 students who had previously failed moved to a pass grade, leaving about 60 with a fail.

However, questions remain over the Business School's explanation.

Some students maintain that their total grade increased by an amount different from the mark they initially received for the forgotten assessment task. Lisa* said that when the assessment's marks were released on Canvas, she received three out of five.

After the recalculation, however, her grade only went up by two. Another student, Bob*, had the same experience.

Shields said he had “no idea” how the discrepancy might have come about and invited any students with this issue to contact him directly.

Bob, however, doubted the Business School's explanation. “I think the problem is not relevant to [the forgotten assessment task],” he said. “Maybe the teacher only wanted to give low marks.”

Whatever the explanation, there are ongoing complaints over the Business School's handling of the miscalculation.

Honi understands that many students formed grievances after an exam script review session on July 23, five days after the final results were released. This is often the first step in the informal appeal process, allowing students to gauge whether they have grounds for appeal. Lisa, who reviewed her paper, explained there was no feedback, and that she had received zero for lengthy answers: “My answers did not deserve full marks, but they were reasonable,” she said.

Some students, however, were unable to make the July 23 viewing. Robert Morley, one of the unit coordinators, offered these students a time slot on August 9—one day after the cut off for launching an informal appeal.

Shields has since extended the deadline for students who attended the

August 9 viewing.

Nonetheless, 70 students took their complaints to Weihong Liang, the president of the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association.

Liang told *Honi* that some students had cancelled flights back home or turned down job offers after failing.

Liang contacted the Business School on the aggrieved students' behalf. Six days later, Associate Dean (Student Life) Juliette Overland informed Liang the grade error had been fixed, before refusing Liang's request for a meeting.

Liang then reached out to student media, and *Honi* began contacting Business School officials on August 2. Overland sent Liang a further email later that day: “While allowing the informal appeals to progress separately, we are happy to meet with you to discuss the additional items raised.”

Shields met with Liang and a *SUPRA* caseworker on August 3. Their “discussions were fruitful”, Shields said, explaining that he would “represent the school in fortnightly meetings with *SUPRA* officials”.

He further promised to apologise for the Business School's handling of ACCT6007. “I will write a formal apology on my own letterhead to every student affected explaining what we've done wrong and what we've done about it.”



Artwork
by Liam
Donohoe

Tag yourself—study maps USyd social groups

Andrew Rickert on a study that shines a light on the social fabric at USyd.

A recent study has revealed the complicated social fabric behind the sandstone, steel, and glass at USyd. The study, published last month in *Computers in Human Behaviour*, was designed as a way to make USyd more welcoming to new students, and shows the diverse interconnections between student groups. Dr Petr Matous, Associate Dean (Indigenous Strategy and Services) in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies (FEIT), and Dr Faezeh Karimi, a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the FEIT, used data from the University of Sydney Union (USU) to create a snapshot of university life.

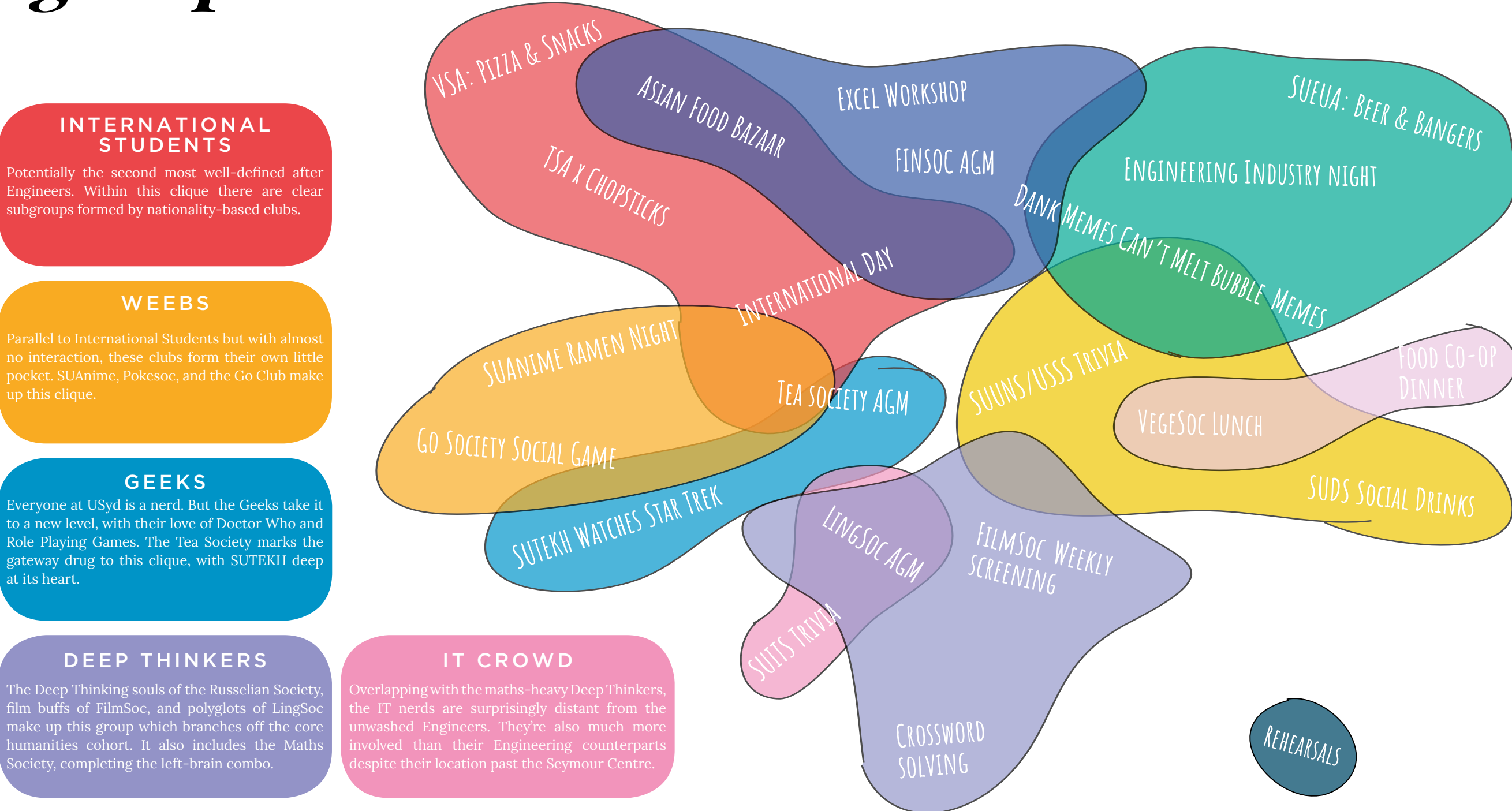
The study uses membership data from 240 USU clubs and societies, which accounts for 52,971 student records, and was anonymised by the USU before being shared with USyd for the study.

Dr Matous told Honi that the project began “in the Indigenous Portfolio, [and was] about trying to make the University a more welcoming space for anyone for any background.”

The study used social network analysis to provide four density or heat maps showing the interconnection between the different societies. The first heat map shows the overlap in club and societies memberships, the second shows the overlap in students who actually attend each society's events, and the third density map shows overlap and co-participation in specific events. A fourth map shows the geographical location of these events based on co-participation.

The researchers have another map in production, which shows the distinction between alcoholic and nonalcoholic events. “There is such a stark gap between engineering and non-engineering,” said Dr Matous.

Dr Karimi told Honi that although the data they had was comprehensive, further studies should include data about student's gender or area of study to better connect the results to the university context. “That would give a clearer idea of exactly what's going on.”

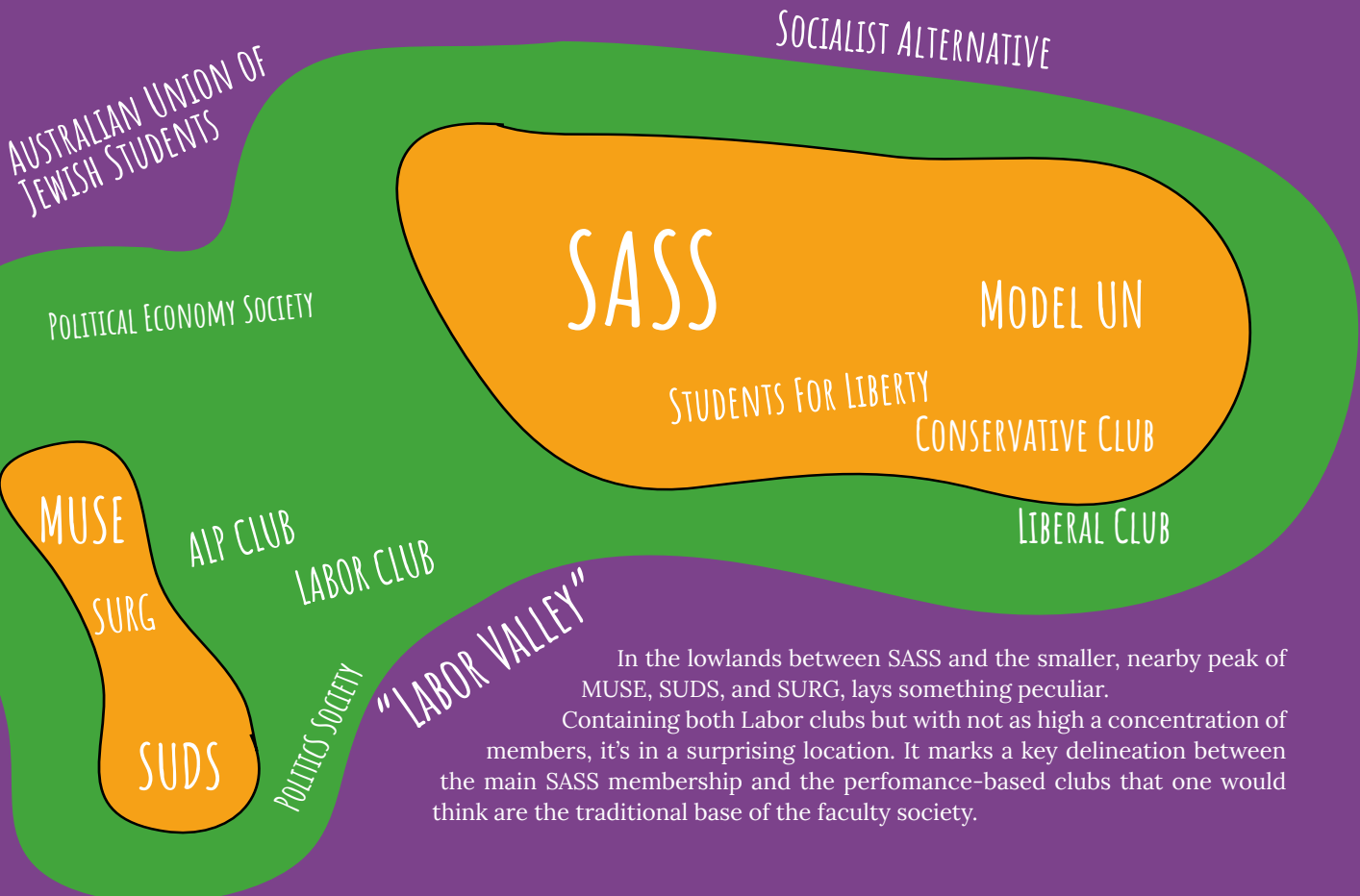


SASS Mountain

One thing that emerged from the data was the congregation of the political clubs and factions around SASS - the Sydney Arts Students Society.

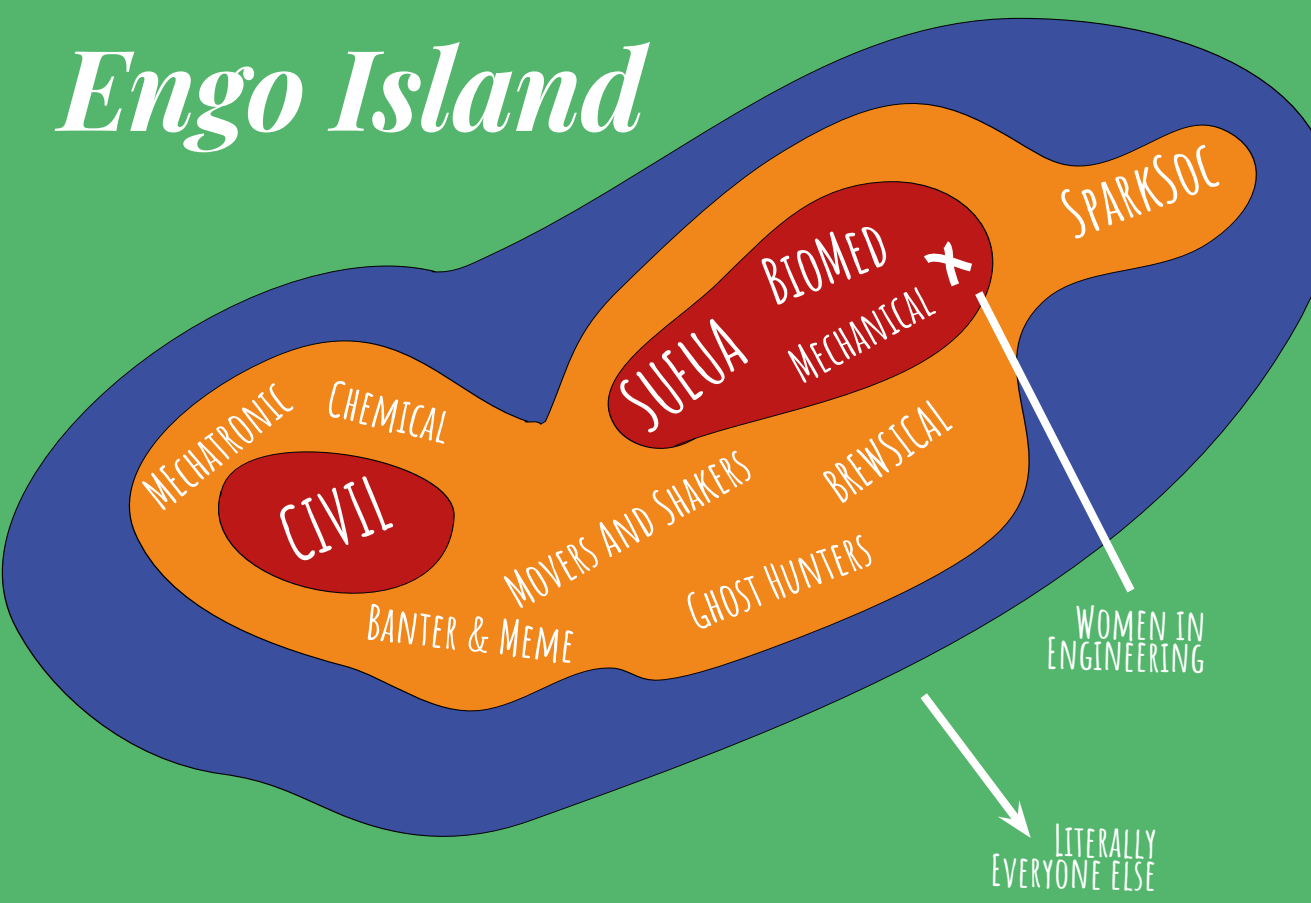
A lot has been said about SASS, and there's no denying their pivotal role as a membership base for USyd's stupol elite.

We here at Honi couldn't help but notice that the largest overlap with any political clubs was with right-wing and Liberal-adjacent societies. As the data used in this study is from 2016, a time when rumours of 'stacking' within SASS first surfaced, we can only infer the correlation. We would also point out the opposite, as SASS recruits were allegedly crucial in a Liberal Club leadership spill.



In the lowlands between SASS and the smaller, nearby peak of MUSE, SUDS, and SURG, lays something peculiar. Containing both Labor clubs but with not as high a concentration of members, it's in a surprising location. It marks a key delineation between the main SASS membership and the performance-based clubs that one would think are the traditional base of the faculty society.

Engo Island



It's clear from two of the maps that Engineering students are almost completely isolated from the rest of campus life.

“First we thought, maybe its geographical,” said Dr Matous, “it looked as if there was City Road cutting through the middle of the picture.”

“But then you notice that, for example, Hermann's Bar is not within the Engineering cluster, so it's not because of City Road. People don't mind crossing City Road to go for a drink to Hermann's Bar—it's really social division rather than physical or geographical.”

The heat map showing co-participation was the most stark, with engineering and engineering-related clubs completely removed from the rest of the map in what we at Honi have nicknamed 'Engo Island'.

Also dubbed “the furthest thing from Love Island you could possibly imagine,” the joke societies are the closest to the “mainland”. In the membership map, the two create a causeway and a tenuous link to the rest of the student body.

But as you can see in the participation-based map on the left, the active members of these societies are as isolated as they are job-secure upon graduation.

In the land of drought

Mikaela Tilse has some ideas to help drought-stricken Australians.

Pipes screeched and ran dry. Taps across NSW poured out a trickle—water had finally run out. It's a strange feeling, though not unfamiliar, to know that with each shower and dish washed, you're playing a game of roulette with a water shortage-shaped bullet. But this is a common dread: for most of rural Australia, this is only one of the many issues caused by the most recent drought gripping the nation. Now at 100 per cent drought declaration, many parts of NSW are at crisis point in the face of this natural disaster.

All across Australia, the drought has slowly trickled into the mainstream news, generating an outpouring of solidarity and assistance. Strangers from around the country are purchasing bales of hay and providing vital goods to rural communities. Thousands of dollars have been injected into alleviating the scourge of drought. But even if it were to rain tomorrow, produce and sales would be seasons, even years, away. As graziers and farmers crawl their way back to profitable margins, what are the solutions?

In a drought, many producers are left in a Catch 22. Despite environmental activist groups such as PETA arguing that “if you can't feed them, don't breed them”, there are far more implications to destocking than at first glance.

By stretching every cent and trucking in thousands of dollars of feed, livestock producers hope to retain breeding stock to see through the next few months, though the Bureau of Meteorology has indicated no substantial rainfall moving into spring. Developed over decades, key breeding lines of sheep and cattle have been nurtured to provide the highest quality produce in supermarket stores. Without these high quality sales, there is no income. Without this income, there is no feed, and no feed means breeding lines are lost and production forced to a standstill. It's a vicious circle that worsens in trying times, as more and more farms go down the gurgler trying to stay afloat.

The agricultural industry remains at the mercy of Australia's diverse and variable climate. In response to the recent droughts, some graziers have embraced this unpredictable climate and adapted to the inevitable future by implementing drought management plans. The NSW Farmers Association estimated that 94 per cent of Australian farmers are actively undertaking natural resource management: many are looking to match stocking rates and carrying capacities to their land in order to reduce stress in dry times.

Speaking with the ABC, Nigel Kerin, a sheep producer from Yeoval, has adopted a flexible business model. By maximizing

land utilisation in good periods and ensuring rest and recuperation during dry spells, Kerin ensures he “sets [himself] up for when the dry breaks” by “flogging it [the land]” when it rains.This way, Kerin ensures maximum yet sustainable productivity. He, like many others, are beginning to focus on a stewardship mentality of property management, acknowledging the role of farmers to ensure the health and sustainability of their land.

It's a vicious circle that worsens in trying times, as more and more farms go down the gurgler trying to stay afloat

Despite this, there are questions about the role of government in tackling the issues of funding and sustainability for the industry. Australian Farm Institute Executive Director Mick Keogh addresses the cultural gap between Australian and American agricultural attitudes.

“In the US, agriculture has been treated as a public service, rather than an industry sector for a number of years” says Keogh. In 2015, 25 million acres of land were included in the US Conservation Reserve Program, providing farmers sustainability and stewardship incentives in the form of land rent for up to 15 years.

Similarly, across the European Union, the Common Agricultural Policy provides farmers with income assistance, but only if they “maintain land in good environmental and agricultural condition”. This is a stark contrast to Australia's policy setting, built upon a history of indirect support mechanisms and knee-jerk reactions to industry threats.

Perhaps it is time for Australia to look to its foreign counterparts and adopt more direct support mechanisms like those in the US and EU. A direct translation of such programs may not be a reality, but the financial and political landscapes of the US and EU should still be considered when addressing Australian agricultural policy.

We all know the power of consumer confidence. Mass coverage of the emotional and

social toll of this drought may have brought charity, but many producers including Bryce Camm for Queensland Country Life argue that “the doom and gloom does nothing to inspire confidence”. Despite often being perceived as being in terminal decline, the agricultural industry has drastically improved its sustainability and coping capacities when faced with droughts and other natural disasters. Perhaps it is time we address the issue of sustainability, drought management and food security on a broader scale.

“An economic rationalisation of the industry appears to be the way forward” says Sydney University Associate Professor Willem Vervoort.

“But drought and national food security goes beyond producers and our rural communities. It will require a social and economic restructure of the nation.”

Already targeted by the ABC in *The War on Waste*, overconsumption and loss of food along the production line are areas of concern. With an estimated 20 to 40 per cent of fruit and vegetable products rejected prior to supermarket sale, customer preferences and marketing often drives much of this wastage. By educating consumers to appreciate the value of food beyond visual appeal and putting pressure on the production line to maximise efficiency, producers can ensure that maximum returns are provided for product input, suggested Vervoort.

There is a divide between rural and metropolitan Australia. Geographically yes, but mentally and emotionally as well, extended through a lack of mutual understanding. Without taking a moment to sit back and ask ourselves where our food and fibre comes from, we cannot truly have an appreciation for the extent the drought impacts each and every one of us.

While water may run freely and fresh goods are are readily available here in Sydney, we must spare a thought for the many in the grip of this natural disaster. With people calling out for help, it is time for civilians, government and the industry to not only get behind our primary producers and communities, but also secure a better equipped future. We must work with, not against, this “land of drought and flooding rains”, and it is our role as a nation to support the agricultural industry now and into the future.



Artwork by
Jess Zlotnick

LOG IN

Name the fallen reader.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
H	I	J	K	L	M	N
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
V	W	X	Y	Z		

a	b	c	d	e	f	g
h	i	j	k	l	m	n
o	p	q	r	s	t	u
v	w	x	y	z		

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Quit Backspace Done

Character Selection

Long ago, young readers ventured across the University of Sydney, seeking adventure, glory, and nangs. Legends say those who proceed return, changed.

Young one. You have a treacherous road ahead of you. Now, you must decide which alliances you need to form and which skills you must build to succeed?

Where is your Starting Location?



A: Courtyard



B: SIT



C: PNR



D: ABS



E: Cellar Theatre

Which Skill Tree will you Maximise?



A: Walk and Talk



B: Hacking



C: Drinking Goon



D: Networking



E: Acting

What is your Armour?



A: Comme Des Garcons



B: Uniqlo



C: K-Mart



D: Ralph Lauren



E: Costume

Class Results:



Mostly A's:
You're an
Honi Reader!



Mostly B's:
You're an
IT nerd!



Mostly C's:
You're a Grimy
Engineer!



Mostly D's:
You're a Ladder
Climber!



Mostly E's:
You're a Gleek!

Gaming: A gateway drug to a life’s passions

Janek Drevikovksy is high on HP.

When I was 12, I decided I wanted to learn Latin. At first, my family were puzzled: we were more likely to eat dinner in front of the TV than muse over Cicero. It didn't take much to win them over.

Latin was all you needed to understand history, I confidently declared. It was the basis of most modern languages. And it was really useful for studying the law, which everybody agreed was a Good Thing.

I kept my real reason for wanting to learn Latin hidden. I wanted to study it because it was ancient and cool, and my favourite video game, *Age of Mythology*, was about ancient and cool stuff.

Age of Mythology, or AoM, is a real-time strategy game, a darling of the real-time strategy golden age. Produced by Ensemble Studios, the (now fallen) titans behind the *Age of Empires* series, AoM turns the player into an omniscient super-general. With a bird's eye point of view, you control an army and the economy that rears it—gathering resources, building infrastructure and training troops to defeat a hostile enemy.

I wasn't very good at any of that. When I got AoM as an eighth birthday present, computers still daunted me. I blazed through campaign mode on the 'very easy' difficulty setting and made liberal use of cheat codes.

I may have removed all challenge, but the game still engrossed me. Unlike *Age of Empires*, which has a historical setting, AoM throws you into the world of myth: you fight in the Trojan War and build the famous horse (you have to gather 1000 pieces of wood first).

You gather and recombine the body parts of Osiris,

the slain Egyptian god. You save Odysseus from life as a pig on Circe's island. You prevent Loki from unleashing Ragnarök, (Marvel was nine years too late). And, after traipsing through Greece, Egypt, the Nordic countries and the underworld, you watch Atlantis sink into the endless blue.

Of course, if you move with the main currents of culture discourse, then video games are only ever a waste of time. They are anodyne distractions—*Angry Birds* for the train commute at best, and at worst, corrupters of youth.

For young gamers, these fictional worlds were not just childhood pastimes

Fortnite can only ever be, it seems, an addiction risk or a path to gun violence. Children who play games are instead told to read or exercise or socialise instead. But screen time seems to have taken my gamer friends to a lot of new places: many of us stumbled on interests, cultural pursuits or even passions through games.

Liam, a drummer and music enthusiast, told me he "wouldn't be wearing a single band t-shirt were it not for *Guitar Hero*". For context, Liam's standard outfit features a 'King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard' top.

After hours staring down an onslaught of primary coloured notes, Liam started downloading *Guitar Hero*'s catalogue so he could hear the original songs.

Visualising video games

Connor Parissis paints your Playstation as High Art.

Artwork by Theo Delaney

Video games, and their cultural and artistic value, have been studied, analysed and appreciated for some decades now. However the field of 'game studies' is not taken as seriously as other cultural disciplines such as literature, music or visual arts. There exists a stigma against video games in academia; it's generally dismissed or considered lower on the cultural value spectrum.

However, this stigmatisation does a great injustice to the growing and influential field of game production. Today, we see developers innovate with interesting storylines or the implementation of new, immersive technologies to sculpt very profound games that deserve to be considered among the highest works of art.

Purists would argue video games differ from traditional 'aesthetic art'

The concept of video games as art is not a new idea, however, when we think of art, the likes of Van Gogh, Shakespeare or Beethoven spring to mind. Traditional understandings of what constitutes art continue to dominate the cultural conscious and the creative efforts of game developers continue to go unnoticed.

Video games struggle to gain inclusion in the rigid categories of art. Purists would argue video games, immersive in nature, differ from the traditional, socially understood ethos of 'aesthetic art'. The latter is observed and not 'done' or performed by its audience in the same way that a video game is.

But consider the individual factors that make up a game.

Video games increasingly are at the forefront of engaging storytelling. *Bioshock* won several gaming

awards for its depiction of a dystopian underwater city and malevolent plutocrat, which drew influences from the work of George Orwell and Ayn Rand. Games such as *Assassins Creed*, *Tomb Raider*, and *Prince of Persia* have storylines so rich and intriguing that they've been reworked into films and books for wider audiences.

Through the expanse of art forms available in gaming, these stories are told in visually incredible ways. While we may look towards big games such *The Elder Scrolls* series or *Final Fantasy*, which feature life-like art and gameplay, simpler art forms are also widely admired. *Minecraft* and *Stardew Valley* have received success and admiration for their clean, recognisable art forms, which provide a sense of nostalgia for many gamers.

Many games have also received praise for their musical scores. In *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time*, the soundtrack draws inspiration from not only jazz and Latin but even Arabic musical influences. These game soundtracks are now a regular feature of high culture music, and outlets like *Wall Street Journal* credit games for "saving" symphony orchestras.

From an aesthetic point of view, the coalescence of these art forms alone lends legitimacy to the idea of video games as art. However, gameplay is perhaps the most underrated artistic element of these games.

Immersive gaming technology has grown immensely, from the PlayStation EyeToy, to Nintendo's motion Wii Controller, to the use of augmented and virtual reality in games. This constant pursuit towards an almost literal insertion of the audience into a simulated reality is what metaphysics philosopher Baudrillard described as our generations navigation of the digital universe.

Audiences are

But it didn't stop there: "It guided the way I sought out music," he explained to me.

"I got exposed to a lot of classic rock and guitar-based music, which presumably conditioned my young and ignorant brain," Liam said.

Guitar Hero not only had an effect on his taste, but also invited him to investigate back catalogues, and familiarise himself with the tropes and lore surrounding rock music.

"I already harboured ambitions to go into music to some extent, but it crystallised those ambitions."

For young gamers like Liam and I, these fictional worlds were not just childhood pastimes, but gateways into future passions. I still study Latin today, along with Greek, and I harbour foolhardy ambitions of becoming a classicist.

I often wonder if I would be studying classics if it weren't for AoM. And, even if I were, would the ancient world still seem quite so alive without it? I also wonder if my intellectual life is cheap since its foundation is something as flimsy as a video game.

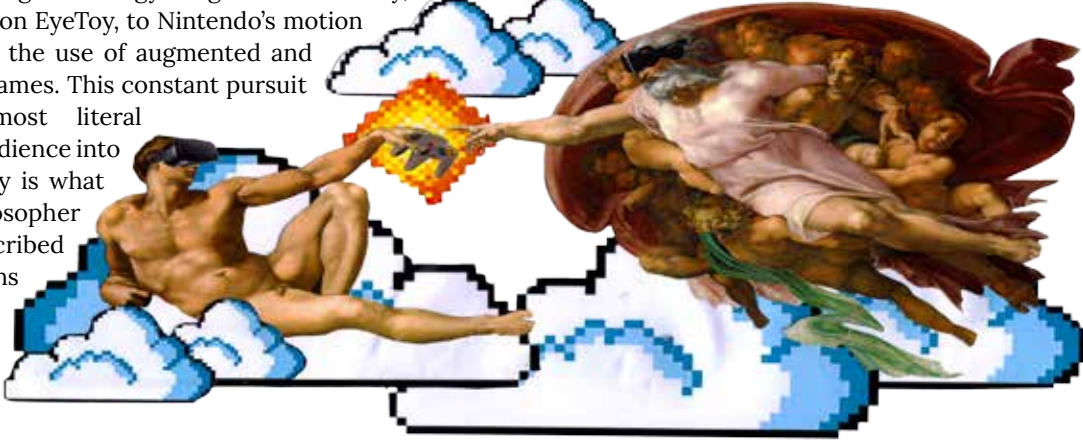
Yet, whenever I imagine the ancient world, AoM is my touchstone—the images, sounds and landscapes I spent hundreds of hours with as a child.

As unscholarly as it may be, I still return to AoM's pixelated evocations of sun-parched Greece, its guttural cyclops, its off-white colonnades and wind-swayed temple groves. The ancient past is a familiar country, however essentialist and ahistorical that familiarity might be.

being exposed to a mixture of immersive technologies, plot, art and music, suggesting a means of experiencing art in ways it has never been consumed before. We are speeding towards a future where the games we play are not something just admired from the surface—the screen—but rather, a beauty we engage with physically, and surrounded by on demand.

Art, from paintings to film to virtual reality, has always intended its audience to get lost in the medium. The level of attention given at every level, towards every facet of the gameplay—animation, level design, voice acting and, even motion capture—reveals a commitment to artistic realisation that, when paired with story and duration rivals film production quality.

The possibilities of video games rival what artists have attempted to do since time immemorial. By being able to recreate or fabricate reality, these products suggest that society has sadly ignored a highly influential field in the art world. While not all are convinced of gaming's artistic worth, this platform has the ability to not only simulate, but instead create a competing, embodied world; the gaming industry is edging eerily closer to this possibility, and developers are using the wealth of artistic tools available to make hyperreality, an actual reality.



What's the name of the game?

Georgia Tan explores how *The Hunger Games*, *Ender's Game* and *Game of Thrones* are underpinned by alternative history.

What has made these three seemingly unconnected, universally-known novels turned epic movie/TV franchises so successful and addictive? Is it due to society's fascination with gamification? Is it because of our obsession with escapism—our desire to be transported into dystopian worlds and fantasy realms?

Or maybe it's something else entirely. Let's consider for a moment the concept of counterfactual history—"what if", alternative versions of the past toyed with by historians to better understand what actually transpired. Could counterfactual history be the elusive ingredient that gives blockbuster series their appeal? While it's common for writers to take inspiration from the past, *The Hunger Games*, *Ender's Game* and *Game of Thrones* (GoT) have all used history in unorthodox ways. Their settings may well be different: *The Hunger Games* takes place in a dystopian future, *Ender's Game* is technologically optimistic sci-fi and GoT establishes itself as medieval fantasy. But they are similar in one respect: they use alternative history to construct compelling, fictional worlds grounded in reality.

In Susanne Collin's *The Hunger Games*, fans have long speculated that the lead protagonist Katniss is actually a modernised version of Joan of Arc. Joan of Arc, a 15th century peasant girl, is remembered for being burnt at the stake after encouraging the French to fight off the English forces during the Hundred Years' War. Like Joan of Arc, Katniss is associated with fire—in fact called the 'Girl on Fire' and is depicted as a martyr figure for her people. *The Hunger Games* is set 73 years since the rebellion against the Capitol; Joan of Arc was executed 73 years after the French peasant uprising, the Jacquerie. Collins seems to ask questions like "What if Joan of Arc lived in the future?" and "Would Joan kill if she was fighting for her life?"

Collins also draws from Greek mythology, especially the myth of Theseus and the Minotaur. In that story, King Aegeus of Athens has to pay a gory tribute each year to King Minos of Crete: seven men and women to be sacrificed to the Minotaur, a half-man, half-bull monstrosity. Collins also turned to Ancient Rome and its affluent, slave-owning imperialism. Here, she

found inspiration for the shallow, tribute-hungry wealth of the Capitol, and, in Roman gladiatorial games, for the Hunger Games themselves.

Like Collins, George R. R. Martin's GoT also embraces counterfactual history, this time with a firm focus on the late medieval period. There are real medieval elements, like accurate depictions of arms and armour, and a sense of the brutal violence that was common in people's everyday lives. In fact, GoT is allegedly based on the War of the Roses, England's bloody, 15th century civil war, fought between the Houses of York (Stark) and Lancaster (Lannister).

Nevertheless, Martin does not purport to write a historical novel. GoT's magical world asks astute, 'what if' questions through the lens of key characters who parallel real-life figures. Examples include: what if Richard III was really innocent of killing the princes in the Tower (like Tyrion is innocent of attempting to kill Bran and later killing Joffrey)? What would have become of Edward IV's siblings if he had died (like Robert Stark) in 1461? What if Elizabeth of York had married her uncle, Richard III (like Sansa married Tyrion) instead of Henry VII? And what if Henry VII, as the conqueror across the Narrow Sea and founder of the Tudors, had nuclear weapons, just like Daenerys has fire power and dragons?

Perhaps less obviously, Orson Scott Card's *Ender's Game*, also toys with alternative history. Scott has said he conceives of Ender as a 'moral opposite' to Hitler, Stalin and Amin. Like these dictators, Ender is, in the public's eyes, a hated mass murderer who directed his troops to wipe out humankind's enemy, the alien race known as the Formics. And yet, unlike them, Ender is no calculating villain: he believed he was merely playing a computer game, not commanding a real-world genocide. Card plays on the critical idea of whether it is possible for Ender to be innocent of murder, given his pure intentions, and questions public perceptions of power by showing Ender's reputation is based on a false representation of the reality.

Through another lens, *Ender's Game* can be interpreted as an alternative history allegory for America. Like mankind in Ender's universe, America is a superpower—and one which always sees itself under attack: take the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, the

Vietnam War, and 9/11. In retaliation, America tends to reduce its enemies into oblivion still believing in its own innocence, victimhood and pure, defensive intentions.

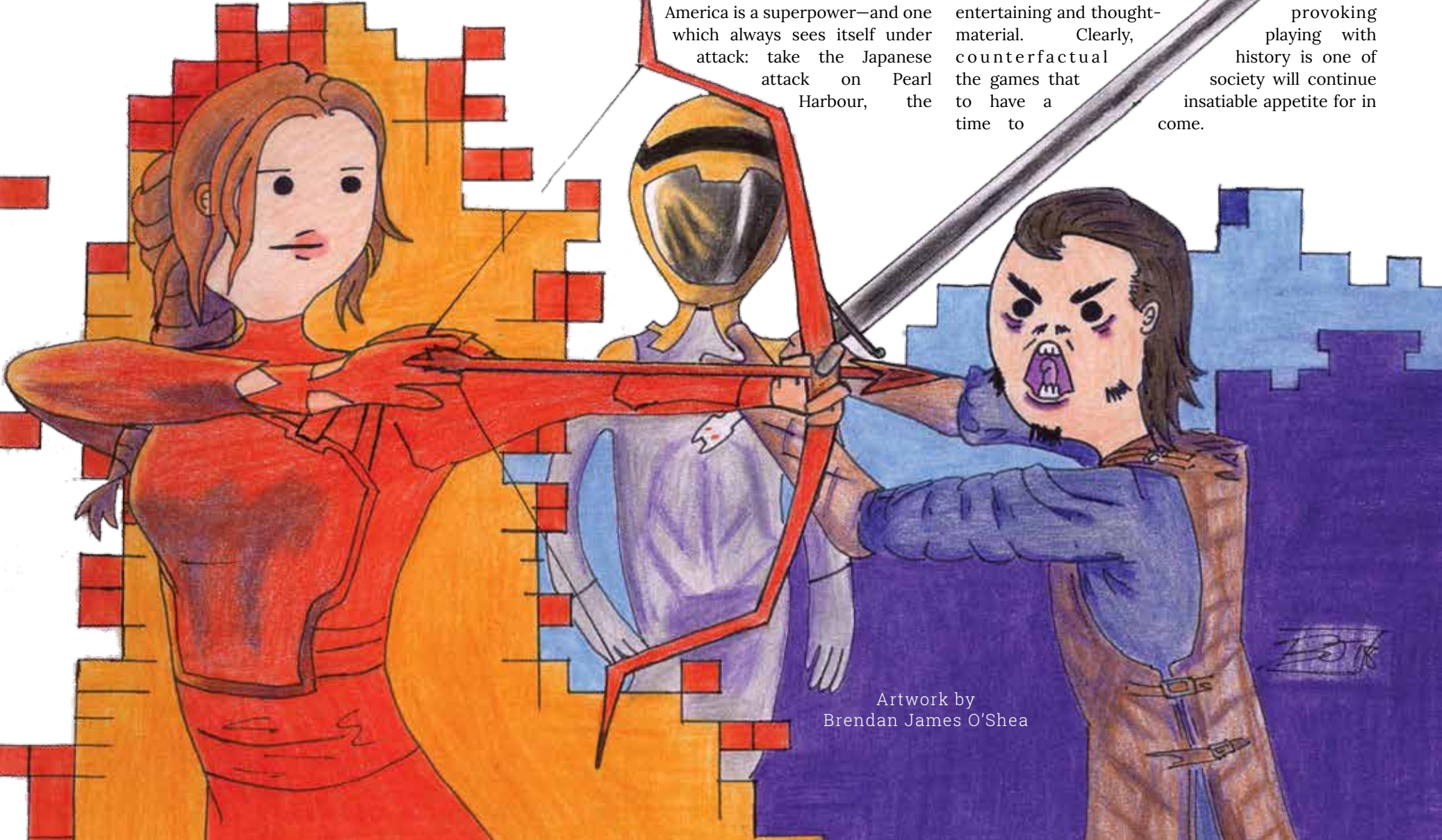
History is not rational, and neither is the way we think about it

Ultimately, the real appeal of Collins, Martin and Card's works lies in their unconventional use of alternative history—their ability to take the "what if" questions from history and reimagine this in elaborate fantasy worlds. The critical question that remains, then, is why we are so captivated by alternative history.

One reason is that alternative history is provocative: it can confront us with bygone injustices and challenge us to reconsider our construction of the past. At the same time, alternative history is often fundamentally presentist, exploring the past to critique the present.

But, underlying this, counterfactual history holds a simpler attraction: curiosity—the allure of the unknowable—drives us to speculate about what might have been. When it comes to pivotal historical moments, we cannot help considering 'points of divergence'. History is not rational, and neither is the way we think about it: our speculation is a form of play, a sandbox in which we create different realities and worlds.

Alternative history has surged massively in popularity, with complicated or seemingly impossible premises seeping into mainstream entertainment and pop culture. Ultimately, the play on counterfactual history cleverly utilised in *Hunger Games*, *Ender's Game* and GoT is what has made these franchises so remarkably appealing to readers. Counterfactual history allows us to toy with our deepest, most burning 'what if' questions and critically explore complex, present-day issues through that play. That being the case, it is not surprising that society cannot seem to quench its thirst for such entertaining and thought-provoking material. Clearly, playing with counterfactual history is one of the games that society will continue to have a insatiable appetite for in time to come.

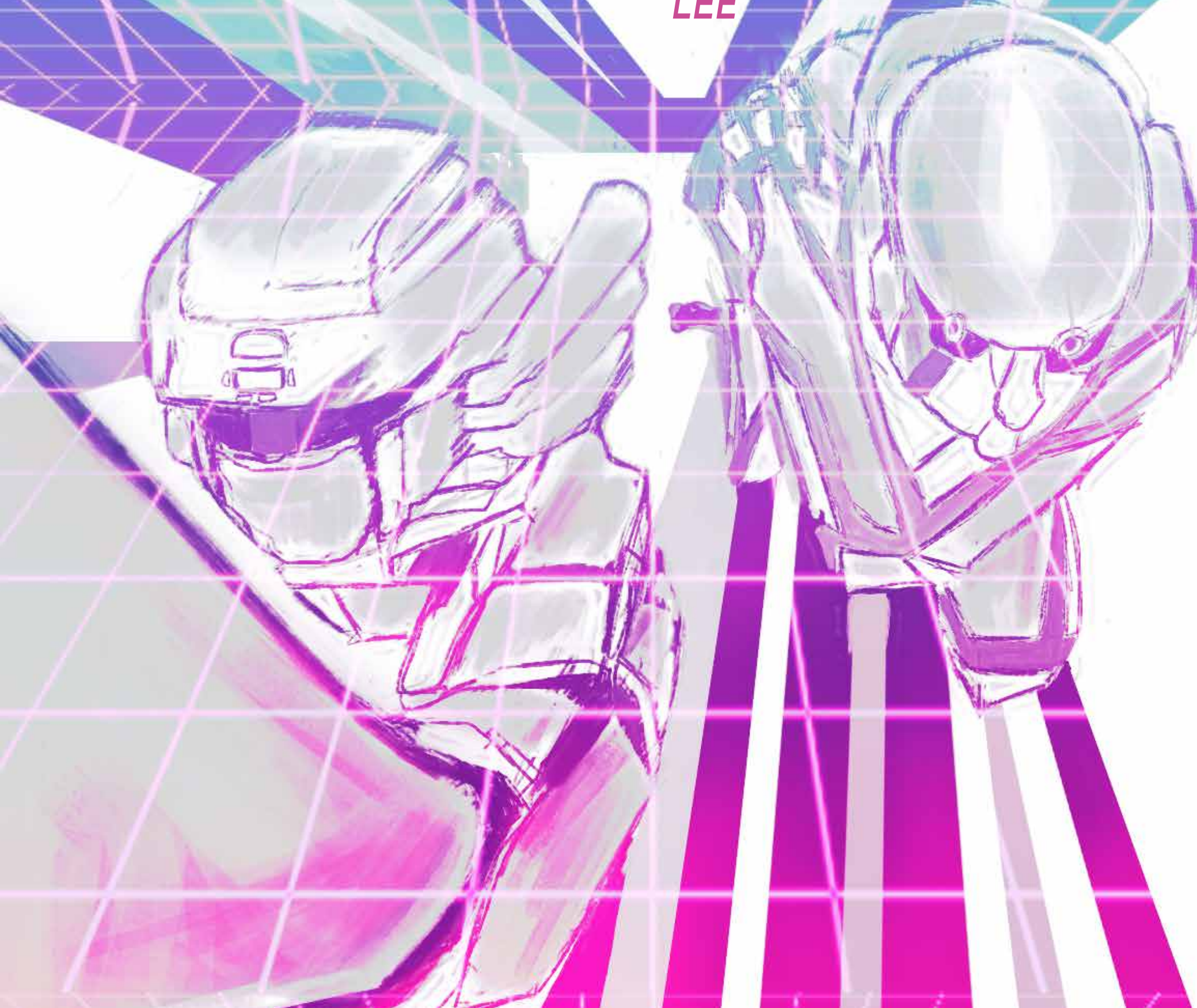


Artwork by
Brendan James O'Shea

THE RACE FOR AI

WORDS
LAMYA RAHMAN
& LENA WANG

ART
ALISON XIAO
& VICTOR
LEE



In April this year, over 50 academics from around the world sent a letter to KAIST, a top South Korean science and engineering research university. The letter announced a boycott: the signatories were refusing to work with KAIST and its partner, defence manufacturer Hanwha Systems. This was not a campaign undertaken lightly. Professor Toby Walsh, an artificial intelligence Researcher at the University of New South Wales, says this was the first time researchers had taken direct action.

Led by Walsh, the brief but effective campaign had one focus: to prevent KAIST and Hanwha, a known developer of internationally banned cluster munitions, from developing an AI weapons lab and autonomous weapons. The creation of autonomous weapons is a “Pandora’s Box that will be hard to close if it is opened”, the letter warned. Hours after the campaign began, the president of KAIST announced that the university had no intentions to conduct such research. Four days later, the boycott was lifted.



Over the past few years, public and private interest in AI has surged. AI research concerns itself with making programs ‘smarter’. There is a particularly strong interest in the subfield of machine learning—its algorithms allow programs to teach themselves: from large datasets, self-teaching machines can extract useful patterns, allowing them to make increasingly accurate predictions and classifications.

AI has already been used in university settings: Dr. Danny Liu, a senior lecturer at USyd, has implemented the Student Relationship Engagement System (SRES), an analytics system that applies machine learning algorithms to help teachers “uncover patterns that may be difficult or impossible for a human to see”. For example, analysis of one class revealed that the more students engaged with online discussions, the worse their grade outcomes were. Mechanisms like this allow education to be personalised for each student.

This mirrors a wider, global trend of incorporating AI use into university teaching. Take the 2017 Georgia Tech AI class, for instance. Unbeknownst to students, their favourite teaching assistant, Jill Watson, was a software bot created by Professor Ashok Goel, based on IBM’s Watson supercomputer.

But as Walsh says, “AI, like most [things], is dual use.” Walsh is a member of the national Artificial Intelligence Ethics Committee and his AI-centered book, 2062, is being published this Monday. He is hyperaware of how AI has the power to help and to harm. Negative consequences were apparent earlier this year, for instance, as USyd saw outcry over possible privacy breaches on the learning management system Canvas. Students discovered that Canvas-based class surveys, which were described as anonymous, could easily be de-anonymised, allowing lecturers to see the names of students who had left potentially critical feedback.



Aware of both the benefits and risks of AI, the Australian government has allocated \$30 million to AI research in its most recent budget. Part of this sum is marked for building a national Ethics and Standards Framework that “will guide the responsible development of these technologies”. The difficulty comes from agreeing on where to locate the ethical focus, in the short or the long term.

The short-term focus is on how automation will disrupt—and already is disrupting—traditional labour dynamics. For some, like New Scientist journalist Alice Klein, it’s not all doom and gloom: “As intelligent machines take jobs, they’re also going to create them—and potentially more interesting ones.” But for others, the prospects are bleak: USyd Professor of Philosophy

David Braddon-Mitchell believes that automation will launch us into an era of “neo-feudalism” where control over goods and services rests solely in the grasp of future “robobaron”.

One widely-discussed long-term risk is a distant but chilling scenario: a world where AI can create better AI programs than human programmers can, and by creating every-improving iterations of itself, generates an explosion in intelligence. Think tanks like the Centre for the Study of Existential Risk, led by USyd alumnus Huw Price, focus on preventing the existential threat a superintelligent AI might pose to the human race. But Professor Marcus Hutter of the Research School of Computer Science at the Australian National University argues that this focus is misplaced. “Established philosophers seem to be mostly out of touch... [with] assessing realistically what is possible,” he says.

While philosophers and computer scientists diverge on the realisation of long-term risks, they seem to agree on the importance of a regulatory framework in the short-term—something to ensure that AI is developed with purpose and control.

“AI is not an actual existential threat”, Walsh agrees, “we should worry about stupid AI.”



We don’t need to imagine social cataclysm to see ethical questions in AI research—the question of who does the research and how it is done raises problems in itself. As Braddon-Mitchell notes, AI research is no longer centralised in universities. Before, “you could keep good track on what was happening, who was doing it, and if you wanted it deregulated or controlled in some way.” Now, however, “the vast bulk of AI research is now in the private sector, and it’s being done by the giant and incredibly wealthy tech companies”. Many of these companies, like Google and Facebook, have their own internal ethics guidelines, but Walsh argues their high revenue turnover means “there’s immense temptation for them to behave badly”.

Even when research is done in universities, it is often sponsored by industry groups, and so it is vulnerable to their interests and aims. USyd’s AI research hub is named after UBTECH, an AI and humanoid robotics company, who funded the centre with a \$7.5 million donation last year. Google has also established a presence, setting up four fellowships for computer science PhDs at different Australian universities.

Walsh suggests the significance of how AI is applied, beyond how its funding is sourced. Meanwhile Professor Manuel Graeber, of USyd’s Brain and Mind centre, does not believe the source of AI funding can be divorced from its application. “It should not be left to the mercy of companies,” he says. Instead, he criticises decreases in public tertiary education spending, arguing “funding for universities... should primarily come from governments” to ensure autonomy.

Both Walsh and Graeber agree that AI research must be rooted in public interest scholarship. The pair decried the current lack of research focusing on the social impacts of AI. This has ramifications for risk management and policy, as it’s difficult to pinpoint what to regulate when the risks of AI remain uncertain.

But the emphasis might be shifting—Walsh has recently received a government grant to set up the Centre for the Impact of AI and Robotics at UNSW, which will be tasked with studying AI impact and promoting its benefits. This pattern is playing out worldwide: last year, the UCLA School of Law established an AI legal course after receiving a \$1.5 million non-profit grant to study “disruptive societal and legal changes stemming from artificial intelligence.”

Hutter remains a dissident voice, arguing funding is too heavily skewed towards “useful AI systems in the short to mid-term” and instead believes “we should pour more money in long-term...fundamental, basic research.”

It’s difficult to convince donors to sponsor this

kind of research, Hutter explains, because the immediate benefits are hard to demonstrate. “Even with government funding, you have to add a paragraph about the social benefits of your research,” he says. “It’s very hard to get funding.”



As automation proliferates, the study of AI is changing from a standalone discipline into a multi-industry field. Its applications now extend from helping retail companies target their advertising to improving leak detection in the water industry.

With this development, the importance of AI-literate graduates is increasing, as is the role of universities in creating them. Perhaps recognising this shift, part of the Australian government’s AI budgetary allocation is towards PhD scholarships, to increase knowledge and develop the skills needed for AI and machine learning.

Currently, Australian students who want to specialise in AI have three options: undertaking a Bachelor of Computing (Data Science and Artificial Intelligence) at Griffith University, a Master of Computer Science (Machine Learning and Big Data) at the University of Wollongong (UoW), or specialising in artificial intelligence through a Master of Computing at the ANU.

These degree programs share a commitment to teaching fundamental skills in intelligent systems, perceptual computing, data mining and robotics. What they also share, however, is the absence of any mandatory study of AI ethics.

Salah Sukkarieh, Professor of Robotics and Intelligent Systems at USyd, notes in last Tuesday’s Outside the Square Ethics in AI panel that a national ethical framework must go hand in hand with education reform.

“Engineers perceive AI as a set of tools we want to advance, and see how far we can get,” argues Sukkarieh. “There is no value system around [AI]—we’re not trained to think about that,” he says, stressing the importance of teaching AI ethics and human rights.

In the United States, Carnegie Mellon

University is one of the few institutions following Sukkarieh’s approach. In the next few months, the university will launch the first undergraduate AI degree in the US. Students enrolled in the new course will be required to complete at least one elective in AI ethics. There will be three electives on offer: ‘Artificial Intelligence and Humanity’, ‘Ethics and Policy Issues in Computing’ and ‘AI, Society and Humanity’. While the range of ethics subjects is not particularly broad, Carnegie Mellon is so far outdoing ANU, UOW, and Griffith, which have no courses in AI ethics.

For Manuel and Walsh, incorporating ethical frameworks into the study of AI is rooted in a basic principle: engineering and science cannot be learnt without engaging in the ethics of their application.

“These [engineering and science fields create] technologies that change our society, and you need to worry about that,” says Walsh.

That’s particularly the case, he notes, as the rate of change has been exponential—now far greater than even 20 years ago. With the growth and spread of technology in our everyday lives, the potential for drastic impact is high.

Carnegie Mellon’s School of Computer Science appears to agree with Walsh’s belief in the importance of studying science’s social impacts: the course guideline for their AI major emphasises “AI for social good”. To apply that philosophy, students enrolled in the degree can take part in “independent study projects that change the world for the better—in areas like healthcare, transport, and education.”



It’s difficult to evaluate whether studying ethics at university will carry students into better employees in the workforce. Can individual programmers and developers nestled within large corporations

really pursue responsible programming? Can they really refuse to work on projects that contravene their ethical codes—even when their employment depends on it?

This question came up at the Ethics, Safety, Industry and Governance panel held at an Artificial Intelligence / Human Possibilities event at Melbourne last year. AI researcher Peter Cheeseman echoed Braddon-Mitchell’s arguments that control over AI will be concentrated

in the hands of a few, arguing that the owners of technology make the decisions. He referred to the Manhattan Project, where the US government deployed the atomic bomb in spite of scientists’ pleas. “What the scientists think doesn’t really matter,” Cheeseman says.

CEO of SingularityNET Ben Goertzel agreed with Cheeseman, saying one person who quits an objectionable project does little to stop that work going ahead, especially if it’s successful. “It’ll have to be a big team effort,” Goertzel said, almost as an afterthought.

Goertzel’s comments were prophetic. In June this year, Google announced it would not be renewing Project Mavern—a research partnership with the Pentagon focusing on AI that could recognise faces and objects in drone footage. The announcement came after thousands of Google staff protested the project, citing fears the technology could be deployed for warfare, following the footsteps of Walsh’s campaign in only one month prior. Over 4,000 Google employees signed a petition calling for a clear policy that “neither Google nor its contractors will ever build warfare technology”. A handful of employees also went a step further and resigned to protest the breach of ethical codes.

If AI ethics is so important, the question remains why have Australian universities have been slow to include it in their overhaul of science education? Of course, general AI courses are new, and anything new will always have teething problems. But part of the failure to embrace AI ethics may be attributed to the context in which universities operate today. In a market oriented education system, universities are places where students go to become the best possible option for the labor market in their chosen field of study. Trends in engineering and science studies therefore aim at what’s profitable rather than what’s ethical, reflecting industry metrics for ‘employability’.

There’s no clearer example of this paradigm than Griffith University’s new drone-focused engineering major. The Unmanned Aeronavehicle (UAV) major,

offered for the first time this year, produces graduates who are not only qualified electronics engineers, but also certified drone pilots.

In its press release announcing the new major, Griffith stresses the variety of industries which have started using UAV technology: UAV graduates will possess unique, in-demand skills, the argument seems to run—they will be profitable,

attractive employees. There is no mention of the ethical problems around drones, not least their potential to invade privacy and wage war.

The Griffith experience reveals an opportunism in universities’ behaviour, where sudden changes in industry represent marketing angles for cash cow degrees. Unless there is a shift in approach, further expansion of AI education risks continuing on the same path.



In a society increasingly reliant on data and algorithms, it is clear ethics have become non-negotiable. As Sukkarieh notes, AI is a tool—one that is powerful, but morally neutral: whether it does good or evil depends entirely on the user’s mindset and motivations. The future of AI, according to Walsh, is a function of the choices we make today—whether right or wrong.

“It’s a mistake that people tend to think you just have to adapt to the future somehow,” says Walsh. “Depending on the choices we make, there are many good futures we can wake up to.”

Perhaps there is a reason why so much academia surrounds the AI doomsday: fear may well be the only way to jolt ourselves awake—to make choices now rather than let the future just happen to us. Braddon-Mitchell agrees: “talk to your friends, scare the crap out of them about the future.”

“Exaggerate if you have to.”



Incubate grads are scoring 4-pointers

Adam Philpott interviews the founders of Basketball Forever.

When two high school friends were chatting at the back of class, lamenting the lack of basketball content on social media, they could not have imagined that several years later they would be at a Hong Kong summit for the Forbes 30 Under 30, for transforming the competitive world of sports media.

Jaden Harris and Alex Sumsky, both now aged 22 and studying at USyd, co-founded the Forever Network, a digital sports media company specialising in publishing aesthetic and curated sporting commentary and illustration on social media.

Basketball has one of the lowest median ages of any sporting audience, which complements their social-first, mobile-focused approach

Its flagship innovation, Basketball Forever, is the largest publisher of curated basketball content on social media, boasting a global audience of 60 million across multiple social platforms and a place in the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list for Media, Marketing and Advertising.

Recognition by Forbes “was a tremendous honour that definitely wouldn’t have been possible without all of the great people we have on the team who have been able to elevate us,” Sumsky says.

At 17 years old, while working a part-time job at a motel, Sumsky began creating aesthetic basketball content in his spare time. He then worked as a content producer for a tech start-up, before reuniting with Harris a year later to take their high school idea to the next level. Now operating out of a sublet office with plants hanging from the ceiling, the fresh-faced entrepreneurs have had to adapt to an unfamiliar world of boardroom meetings.

The business is based around basketball because they love the game; Sumsky used to play competitively, while Harris fondly remembers watching Sydney Kings as a child. The choice was also strategic: basketball has one of the lowest median ages of any sporting audience, which complements their social-first, mobile-focused approach.

Sumsky and Harris are quick to express their gratitude towards the University of Sydney’s Incubate program, which they say was severely instrumental in helping them find their feet.

Founded by two students in 2012 and fostered by the USU, Incubate has nurtured over 80 student start ups by providing funding of up to \$5000, office space and workshops.

The award-winning program also connects students with mentors, experts, and investors. One of Incubate founders, James Alexander, told Sumsky “‘Look around. There’s no windows, but you’ve got to get used to it because this is where you’ll be for the next three months. This is the first day of the rest of your life with your startup.’ I remember that moment as it was like ‘alright we’re actually going to do something now.’”

Incubate provided the pair with a lifeline—\$250,000 investment from Tempus Partners, a Sydney-based venture capital firm with an ethos of backing high growth startups.

They have been told that potential investors are unwilling to gamble on inexperienced 20-somethings

They were introduced to Alister Coleman, the managing partner, through Incubate.

Of course, Basketball Forever’s quick success has not come without setbacks. Harris says that their relative lack of experience was the main barrier to attracting investment earlier in their journey.

In 2016, the Forever Network planned and failed to distribute an ambitious sports short-film, *Clutch*, which shortly fell out of production after failing to crowdfund the funds. Similarly, they have been told by multiple marketing and communications consultants that potential investors are unwilling to gamble on inexperienced 20-somethings.

At some point in the future, Sumsky and Harris hope to move to their own office and establish sister networks, publicising soccer and the relatively new world of eSports. It will be a step up, but they’re going to miss the plants on the ceiling.

GAME OVER

stay determined....



SURG x HONI

BONUS ROUND

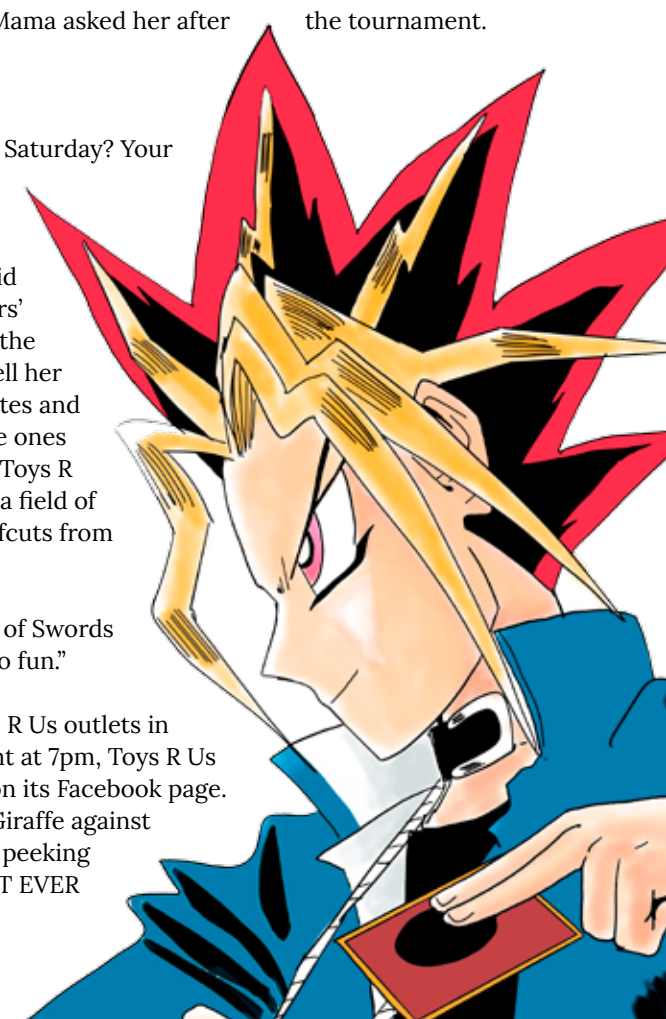
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The Lady Hampshire
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7PM-LATE



Somewhere only we know: Alligator Creek

Madeline Ward wasn’t scared off by the eels.

When I was little, I split my time between two houses: my Mum’s, in the suburbs of Townsville, and my Dad’s, a small mango farm on the outskirts of town. I loved going to Dad’s house—a two bedroom donga—because the farm had horses and a ride-on mower. And it was close to Alligator Creek.

I used to spend my weekends wandering around the farm, weaving through mango trees. A distant family member told me that there were wallaby ghosts lurking in the dams on the property, so I never strayed beyond the front paddocks and the sheds where we kept the farm animals. We had a seemingly limitless supply of animals, which gave me heaps of playground cred, and insight into the goriness of birth and death. Sometimes, family would come over to help us kill and eat the pigs and chickens. I remember finding a feather on a roast chicken, once, and telling Mum that we’d eaten Plucky. Mum, with her hippie inclinations, was horrified; I liked Plucky, in life and in death.

In the tropical heat, we’d go down to a popular swimming hole called Alligator Creek. It wasn’t the nicest creek in North Queensland. For one thing, it has an unnerving amount of eels. I wanted to go snorkeling to look for lost jewellery, but I also wanted to pretend

that the eels didn’t exist. The beach was made of gravel, just dumped there with no explanation from the local council. It had dangerous jumps and rapids, and a propensity to flash flood in the wet season, which means that it claimed a lot of lives over the years. This never deterred us, though, or any of the locals we knew. I was always more worried about losing a toe to an eel than losing my life to the rapids. I used to go swimming with my Dad and stepmother, until something dark snapped inside my stepmother, and everything got messy.

On the way home I’d ask Mum to drive past the farm to see what it looked like now

Alligator Creek is one of the few places in Townsville that hasn’t been the site of a major family drama, and that’s probably why I’m so fond of it.

After Dad moved to the suburbs, I went to the creek with my Mum and sisters during the school holidays. Going back at the creek felt like returning to the earlier,



sunnier days of my childhood. On the way home I’d ask Mum to drive past the farm to see what it looked like now—something I still do, eleven years after we moved away.

A while ago, my boyfriend and I drove from Sydney to Townsville, so I could show him where I grew up. We spent a very hungover day at the creek, hanging out with my younger brothers and doing our best not to vomit.

It was fucking delightful.



Rebooting the revolution-ALP style

After a brief flirtation with the far left, NLS (Labor Left) has come back to the ALP fold: on Thursday last week, they signed a deal to work with Centre Unity (Labor Right) for the upcoming SRC elections. The two factions will work with the Independents and will run Adriana Malavisi (Unity) as their presidential candidate. Rumour has it that they’ll run on ‘Reboot’ branding, promising a more services-oriented SRC.

education campaign about student support services. The event itself was a success—no thanks to Malavisi’s organisation skills, according to some. Highlights include a mad dash up to Newcastle the night before to pick up a forgotten pair of marquees.

Just a fortnight ago, NLS was said to be on the brink of joining forces with Grassroots and Socialist Alternative. Though that ship has sailed, the Groots dream is still alive: after an unopposed preselection, Lara Sonnenschein will be the bloc’s presidential nominee.

Making an Honi-sized splash?

There’s been some aquatic noise

coming out of Honi land. So far, only one ticket looks set to contend this year’s election. But early this week, MeCo personalities Haydn Hickson and Abbey Lenton have been dropping hints about something involving splashes, stupol and Honi. On Monday, Hickson’s Facebook story read: “Keen to make a SPLASH on Wednesday”. Nominations for the Honi election close on Wednesday. A coincidence perhaps?

But there’s more: on Monday afternoon, Lenton was spotted doing a photoshoot knee-deep in the Victoria Park pond, garbed in a lifejacket. And then the Facebook page USyd Fashion Police posted a version of the ‘confused maths lady’ meme with the words: “Stupol hacks trying to figure out who’s running for Honi like...” Accompanying the meme was the caption: “Who’s making a SPLASH this season?” Could Splash for Honi be imminent? Or is this an elaborate troll? Lenton and Hickson have known Honi ambitions: both ran on last year’s unsuccessful ticket, Mint. They currently serve on the SURG exec and report for Pulp, with Hickson also working a media job at MTV.

If there is a ticket, its other members are so far unknown. In fact,

the only certainty is that its branding will be eerily similar to that of 2017’s editorial team, Wet.

MADSOC is mad

This weekend, the Movement and Dance Society held their 2018 major production *Chronos* to great fanfare and accolade. Some punters over at Pulp weren’t quite so impressed, publishing a harsh and questionable review.

“Professional dance showcases are full of the same type of body—the stock standard ‘perfect dancer’ physique,” the reporter wrote.

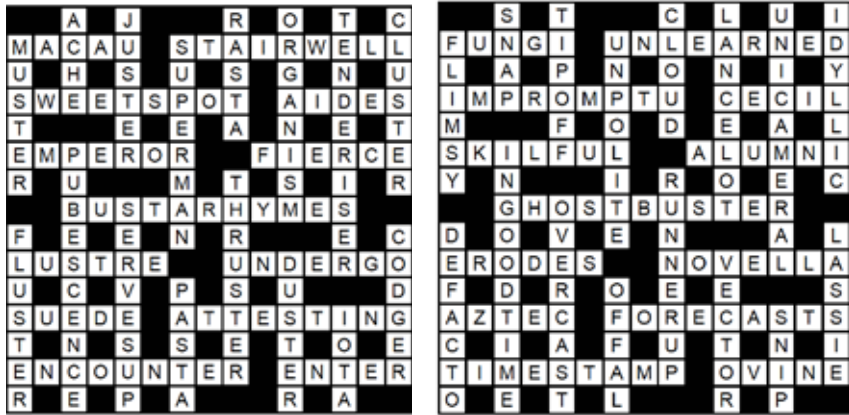
“As a student production, there are a wide variety of body types, compositions and heights, which works to the benefit of the show, and reminds the audience that this is an all-amateur ensemble.”

The MADSOC executive are said to be extremely unimpressed by the write-up, and are considering penning a letter in response.

The writer in question originally auditioned for the production and was accepted—but was only included in a handful of dances. They later dropped out of the show, for their own reasons.

Solutions

Target: Despacito

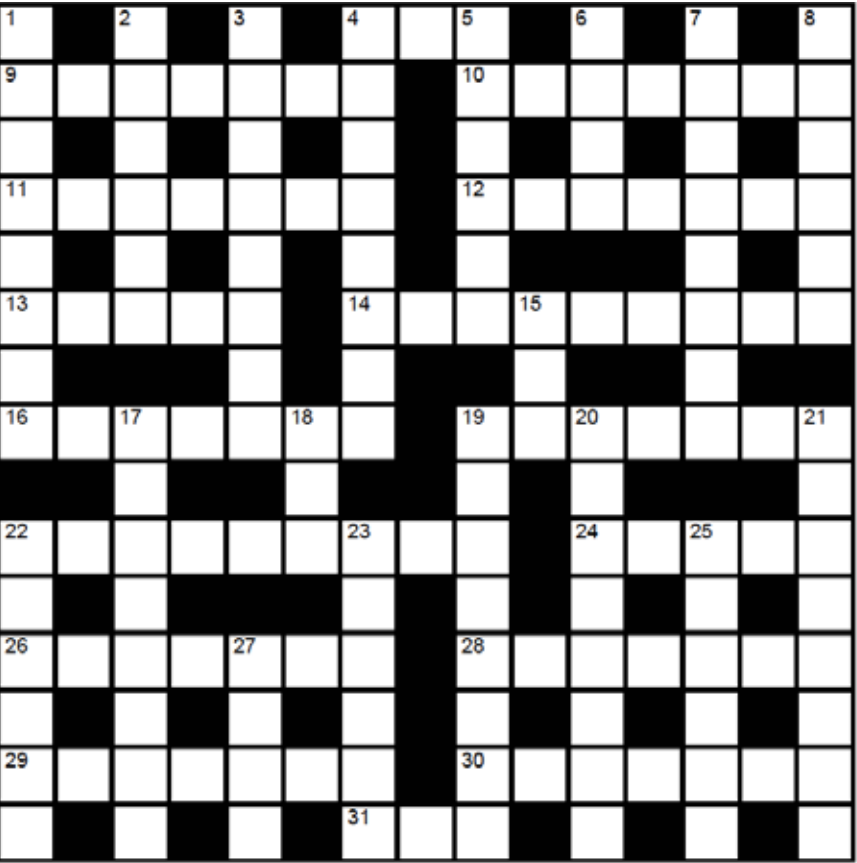


Quiz

1. Sonic the Hedgehog’s good friend Tails has a first name. What is it?
2. What is the name given to heads of the Eastern Orthodox Church?
3. What country is Street Fighter character Chun-Li from?
4. Beginning with I, what is the study of fish called?
5. What is considered the first computer game and when was it developed?
6. Which is the only of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World that remains intact?
7. Who won the last ICC Cricket World Cup?
8. How many stations are there in the Sydney Trains network?
9. What year was Super Smash Bros. Brawl for the Nintendo Wii released?
10. Which English Premier League team plays at Anfield as their home stadium?

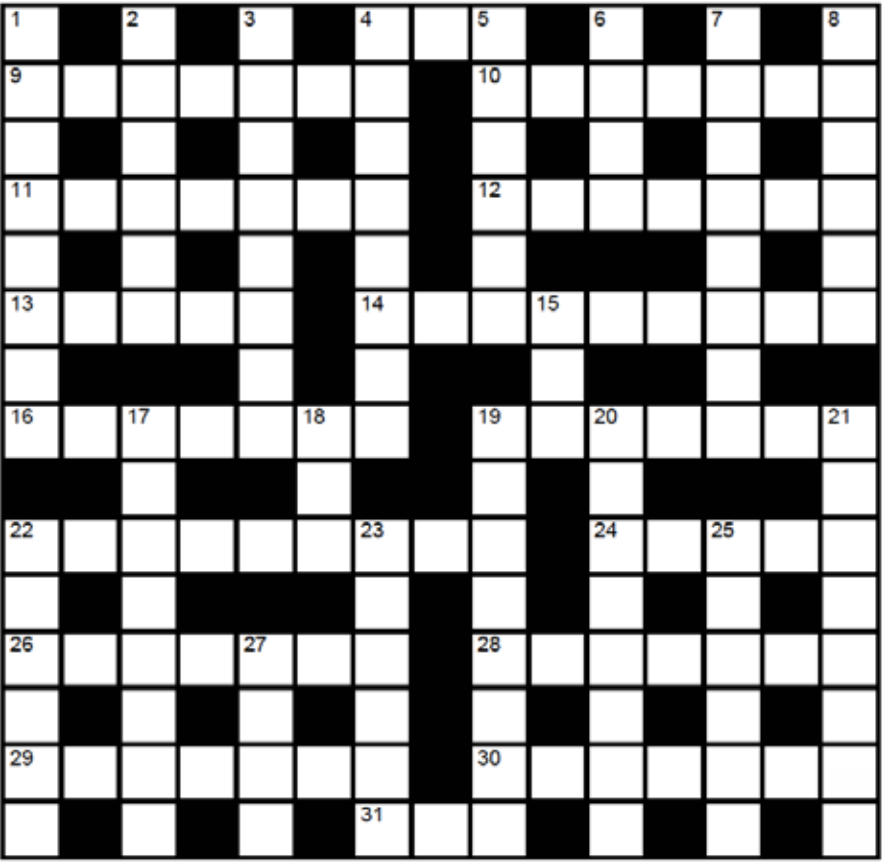
1. Miles 2. Petrarch 3. China 4. Ichthyology 5. Spacewar! 1962 6. Great Pyramids of Giza 7. Australia 8. 178 9. 2008 10. Liverpool

Cryptic



- Across**
- 4 Variety of bus! (3)
 - 9 Embark first from Epping, heading north, end at Waterfall? (7)
 - 10 I am surrounded by a nobleman and the queen—like before! (7)
 - 11 Some snob liqueurs show an angled approach (7)
 - 12 Confidential cop operation to uncover popular teen drink (7)
 - 13 With first hops, Asia brews a beer (5)
 - 14 File process of existence (4,5)
 - 16 Blend the odd peanut and grape juice (7)
 - 19 Said to be very disappointed with toiletries gift (4,3)
 - 22 Grape juice heard fair complaints (5,4)
 - 24 Dance with spirit and a degree of art (5)
 - 26 Taking shots beats gin nips! (7)
 - 28 Perhaps beat Ed’s arguments... (7)
 - 29...with most sides differing, I get Ed’s (7)
 - 30 Elastic material is the most frilly (7)
 - 31 I’m Spanish, give some milk? (3)
- Down**
- 1 Beyoncé’s new album consists of EDM alone? (8)
 - 2 Astle drinks Port mistaken for Belgian beer (6)
 - 3 District Attorney drops Senator from inquiries into Cuban cocktail (8)
 - 4 Provide base to peacekeepers’ regular dreary falsehood (8)
 - 5 ‘e’ representing one’s interest (6)
 - 6 Cook rice for Andre (4)
 - 7 Spooner chooses bags as drink receptacles (8)
 - 8 For real, pap smear comes with English chilled drink (6)
 - 15 One of a kind producer (3)
 - 17 Identical pair drink a cocktail from English tea maker (8)
 - 18 Return colourless, informal negative (3)
 - 19 Unfortunately, it delays constantly (8)
 - 20 Exercises for flying pens? (8)
 - 21 Modes of transport for variety of nits and rats (8)
 - 22 German drink used to be regular sherry (6)
 - 23 Cocktail found on even softest bars (6)
 - 25 V absolutely tops other energy drink? (6)
 - 27 Trendy type of tea that is merged with old technology (4)

Quick



- Across**
- 4 British version of the ABC (3)
 - 9 New (7)
 - 10 What McDonald’s calls a pancake (7)
 - 11 Crazier (7)
 - 12 Annie Hall, Say Anything, and Breakfast at Tiffany’s (7)
 - 13 Someone who lives in Riyadh or Jeddah (5)
 - 14 NaCl (5,4)
 - 16 Molluscs (7)
 - 19 Interminable (7)
 - 22 Hotter than blondes (9)
 - 24 Sticky, dank, muggy (5)
 - 26 Turn off (7)
 - 28 Ring-shaped (7)
 - 29 Hotter than brunettes (7)
 - 30 Smooth over (4,3)
 - 31 Half a mint (3)
- Down**
- 1 Personification of the US (5,3)
 - 2 Overrated puzzle (6)
 - 3 Settling once and for all (8)
 - 4 Tortillas with filling (8)
 - 5 Flying fat naked baby (6)
 - 6 Couple (4)
 - 7 Sporty drink (8)
 - 8 China collection (3,3)
 - 15 Scottish waterfall (3)
 - 17 Pygmalion, Moore, or Donatello (8)
 - 18 A great deal (3)
 - 19 Euphoric (8)
 - 20 Sovereignty (8)
 - 21 Soak (8)
 - 22 Sections on a book cover (6)
 - 23 Push (6)
 - 25 Cold houses (6)
 - 27 Ties the knot, gets hitched, takes the plunge (4)

Puzzles by Cloud Runner



Aha!

by Yasodara Puhule-Gamayalage



2018 Polling Booth Times and Places

POLLING LOCATION	WED 19TH SEPT 2018	THURS 20TH SEPT 2018
Fisher	8:45 - 5.15	8:45 - 5.15
Jane Foss Russell	8:45 - 5.15	8:45 - 5.15
Manning	10:45 - 3.15	10:45 - 3.15
PNR Building	11:45 - 2.15	No polling
Cumberland	9:45 - 2.15	9:45 - 2.15
Conservatorium	9:45 - 2.15	No polling
SCA	No polling	9:45 - 2.15

Pre-polling will also be held outside the Jane Foss Russell Building, on Tuesday 18th September from 10am-3pm.



2018 SRC Elections Postal Voting Application Form

POSTAL VOTING

If you wish to vote in the 2018 SRC elections but are unable to vote EITHER on polling days Wednesday 19th or Thursday 20th September at any of the advertised locations, OR on pre-polling day (on main campus) Tuesday 18th September, then you may apply for a postal vote.

Fill in this form and send it to:

Electoral Officer
Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney
PO Box 794, Broadway NSW 2007.

PLEASE NOTE: postal vote applications **MUST BE RECEIVED AND IN OUR PO BOX by Thursday 23rd of August** at 4.30pm or they will not be considered. **No exceptions.**

You may use a photocopy of this form.

Name of applicant: _____

Student card number: _____

Faculty/year: _____

Phone number: () _____

Email: _____

Mobile: _____

I hereby apply for a postal vote for the 2018 SRC elections. I declare that I am unable to attend a polling booth on any of the polling days, OR on the pre-polling day, for the following reason:
(please be specific. Vague or facetious reasons will not be accepted. The Electoral Officer must under section 20(a) of the Election Regulation consider that the stated reason justifies the issuing of a postal vote.)

Signature: _____

Please send voting papers to the following address:

State: _____ Postcode: _____

I require a copy of the election edition of *Honi Soit*: YES / NO

For more information:
Contact Karen Chau,
Electoral Officer
02 9660 5222



What did Western Civilisation mean in Vietnam?

The Ramsay Centre wants to whitewash the
history of colonisation, genocide and occupation

PROTEST: AUGUST 15 EASTERN AVENUE 1PM



President

Imogen Grant

BIG NEWS! This Tuesday at 12:30pm outside NSW Parliament House, the “International students need travel concessions” campaign group will be handing over their petition to be tabled in Parliament. See event here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/243138486506764/>

NSW is home to the largest number of international students studying in Australia – 300,000 in 2017, and the number is set to rise. In 2016-2017, international education raised \$7.2 billion for the state. It is now NSW's biggest service export, and the NSW government is keen to grow it further.

NSW benefits from having international students study here – culturally, educationally and, of course, financially. Yet, it is the only state in Australia that does not offer international students concession prices on travel.

International students pay at least twice as much for their degrees as domestic students and we do not believe that they should have to pay higher transport costs. The fact that they do is discrimination.

Come along with the SRC and international student activists as they hand over the petition to NSW Parliament. Follow it live through the twitter hashtag #FairTransport.

On another note, last week we co-hosted a forum with the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) on “No to Ramsay, The Myth of Western Civilisation”. Keynote speakers included Raewyn Connell – a prolific author, prominent sociologist and gender theorist, former University Chair at University of Sydney – and Lily Campbell – SRC Education Officer. The event was a complete success and proved that USyd SRC continues to set the example

for political organising on campuses in Australia.

Raewyn Connell spoke at length about Western civilisation as an educational concept and traced it back to the early 1900s during attempts to codify the ideology of empire and the idea of a supreme ‘Western Culture’ into a library and curriculum which gave birth to the ‘Great Books’. The curriculum proposed by the Ramsay Centre seeks to revive the ideology of empire and has racism embedded in its agenda. Universities should be a place to challenge dominant ideas, institutions and systems – not a place where billionaires can buy influence over curriculum, staffing and pedagogy in order to pedal racism disguised as appreciation for “Western Culture”.

At the forum we also unanimously passed a motion stating “That the Sydney University EAG and Sydney

Branch of the national tertiary education union wholly reject the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation. We condemn Sydney University management’s decision to continue with ongoing negotiations with the Centre. We commit to protesting the centre on August 15 and continuing our campaign into the future.”

Come along to our protest against the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation THIS WEDNESDAY 1PM, Eastern Avenue. See event here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/398552780634589/>

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.

General Secretary

Nina Dillon Britton

In Week 1, the SRC passed its yearly budget—prepared by yours truly.

This is the year operating budget for the SRC and funds all our administration, publications (like this paper!), caseworkers, legal service and the important activism and campaigns of our elected student office bearers. Since Voluntary Student Unionism was implemented, the SRC and student unions across Australia have had to downsize heavily. Only now have we begun to grow through painfully slow increases in our funding from the University.

That said, we’ve been able to do some great new things with our budget. Here are the highlights:

The budget has a small surplus, we’re very proud of this. We’ve also increased our affiliation contribution to the National Union of Students by \$1000 to \$64 300. This is the SRC has increased its affiliation fee since before VSU.

We will be hiring of a new research officer for the Casework Department. This new officer will help student representatives to better represent students’ interests to the ever more complex behemoth of the University’s management; be able to help office bearers with research for key campaigns; and pursue research projects concerning students’ interests such as affordable housing, welfare benefits and student services. This will also take some of

the load for this research from our overworked Casework team, allowing them to better serve students.

We have included substantial training budgets for both the Legal Service and Casework Department. This will allow the Casework team to send at least two caseworkers to a international student focused conference at the end of this to better equip themselves with skills to support international students and face the unique challenges that arise for these students. In addition this will also allow the Legal Service to be able to enrol themselves in a number of online courses that will equip them with the skills necessary to better support our students.

Finally, we were able to commit an additional \$650 to the Office Bearers this year. This helps support the work of elected student representatives in fighting bodies like the government and the University to better represent student interests.

There’s a lot more in there! If you’re interested in seeing the full budget (also available at our website) or have any questions, please shoot through and email to general.secretary@src.usyd.edu.au.





Get free help with your tax return from a Tax Help volunteer

> Are your tax affairs simple?
> Do you earn around \$50,000 or less?

Available to USyd undergraduate students through the Students' Representative Council (SRC)
To book an appointment call: 9660 5222
Available until the end of semester 2.





Create your myGov account and link to the ATO before your Tax Help appointment.

Ask Abe

SRC caseworker HELP Q&A

Have you been accused of Plagiarism?

Where you have been accused of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, SRC Caseworkers are able to help you to prepare a response to your faculty.

Dear Abe,

I’ve been told that I’m in trouble for plagiarism, but I don’t think I did anything wrong. The Turn It In report has highlighted a lot of my essay, but I put references in. What am I meant to have done?

Not Sure.

Dear Not Sure,

Plagiarism is where you are passing off someone else’s ideas and words as your own. The Turn It In report only highlights the parts of your essay that appear exactly in someone else’s work, whether that is published work, or an essay from another student,

somewhere else in the world. Where you use someone else’s ideas you are meant to paraphrase what they have written, and note the author’s name, both in the actual text and in the reference list. Where you use someone else’s words you must use quote marks and note the author’s name, both in the actual text and in the reference list.

Where you have been accused of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, SRC Caseworkers are able to help you to prepare a response to your faculty. Call 9660 5222 to make an appointment, or send your details, together with the Turn It In report to help@src.usyd.edu.au.

Surely,
Abe

Keeping Track of your Tenancy paperwork

There are so many bits of paper involved in renting a house. Some of these can end up being worth thousands of dollars to you, so it’s definitely worthwhile knowing about what to keep and what to throw. If you think you might lose these pieces of paper, you could scan and email them to yourself.

Contracts and Leases

You should get a lease or contract outlining the conditions of the home you want to rent. This lease/contract should be written in English and signed by the landlord. It is also important that you know your landlord or agent’s full name, and where you (or the Sheriff) can contact them. Please read your lease / contract BEFORE you sign it. Regardless of whether you do not understand or agree to a clause in the lease/contract, once you have signed it, you are bound by its conditions. You should definitely keep a copy of your contract/lease.

Receipts

You should get a receipt for any cash or bank cheques that you give to the landlord. Your receipt should have the amount that you paid, why you paid it (eg, bond, rent for February etc), and what the address of the home is. The landlord should also sign it. Again, it must be in English. If you have paid by electronic transfer you should still ask for a receipt. There are some situations where the landlord is not required to give you a receipt, but there is no harm in asking. You should definitely keep all of your receipts. It is not necessary to keep the bills themselves, after you have paid them and received a receipt.

Condition Report

The Condition Report is what you agree, with the landlord, as being the condition of the property at the time that you moved in. If there is damage to the property, beyond reasonable wear and tear, you will be liable to pay for its

repair, unless it is noted in the Condition Report. In addition to the Condition Report it is a good idea to take photos of the property (eg, each wall, the floors, the oven, the windows, etc), showing any broken or dirty items, and email them to your landlord. This will “timestamp” those photos and will allow you to refer to them at a later date to show that whatever damage you are being blamed for, was already there when you moved in. You should definitely keep a copy of the Condition Report and the photos.

General Communication

It is a good idea to email your communications to the landlord. This will give you a record of the time and date that you spoke, plus what was said. If you have a telephone conversation with the landlord it is a good idea to send a follow up email that might reiterate the outcome of your phone conversation. It’s a good idea to keep these on your email account.

Bond

Always make sure you get a receipt when you pay your bond, or a security deposit to someone. If you did not get a receipt, it will be difficult to prove that you did pay the money. After all, why would you hand a large sum of money to someone you do not know or trust, without getting a receipt. If you transferred the money electronically, or paid by cheque or money order, there might be a paper trail. If you paid by cash in front of someone else, you might be able to ask them to be a witness for you. All of these options are not as good as having a receipt.

The SRC has caseworkers trained in many different aspects of accommodation laws. You can email your questions to help@src.usyd.edu.au, or if you prefer a face-to-face appointment call 9660 5222 to book a suitable time.

Students' Representative Council,
University of Sydney

Notice of 2018 Students' Representative Council Annual Election

Nominations for the Students' Representative Council Annual Elections for the year 2018 close at 4:30pm on Wednesday the 15th of August 2018.

Polling will be held on the 19th and 20th of September 2018. Pre-polling will take place outside the Jane Foss Russell building on Tuesday the 19th of September 2018 from 10am–3pm.

All undergraduate students who are duly enrolled for attendance at lectures are eligible to vote. Members of the student body who have paid their nomination fee to Council are eligible to nominate and be nominated, except National Union of Students national office bearers. Full-time officebearers of the SRC may also nominate as NUS delegates.

Nominations are called for the following elections/positions and open on the 25th July 2018 at 4:30pm:

- (a) The election of the Representatives to the 91st SRC (33 positions)
- (b) The election of the President of the 91st SRC
- (c) The election of the Editor(s) of *Honi Soit* for the 91st SRC
- (d) The election of National Union of Students delegates for the 91st SRC (7 positions)

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the SRC website: www.srcusyd.net.au/elections, or picked up from SRC front office (Level 1, Wentworth Building) from 4:30pm July 25th 2018.

Nominations **must also** be lodged online along with your policy statement and Curriculum Vitae (optional), by close of nominations at: www.srcusyd.net.au. For more information call 9660 5222.

Original signed nomination forms and a printed copy of your online nomination **must be received** no later than 4:30pm on Wednesday 15th August, either at the SRC front office (Level 1, Wentworth Building), QR at the following postal address: PO Box 794, Broadway NSW 2007.

Nominations which have not been delivered (printed, signed, hardcopy) either to the Electoral Officer at the SRC front office or to the post office box shown above **and** submitted online by the close of nominations **will not be accepted** regardless of when they were posted or received.

The regulations of the SRC relating to elections are available online at www.srcusyd.net.au or from the SRC front office, (Level 1, Wentworth Building).

Authorised by K. Chau, Electoral Officer 2018,
Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney
Phone: 02 9660 5222 | www.srcusyd.net.au



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NEWS

USyd Introduces Census Date for Emotionally Checking Out of Unit

Nick Harriott Half-Asser



Inspired by the success of census dates that allow students to drop subjects without financial or academic penalty, the University of Sydney has announced it will now introduce a census date that

allows students to mentally and emotionally check out of a unit (without dropping it), starting this semester. “The way it’s always worked is that if students don’t intend to

continue with a subject, they won’t have to pay for it provided they drop that class before the census date,” explained University spokesperson Tetty Hadron. “This new census date accommodates students who are obligated to complete a certain unit, but want to formally flag that they will be expending minimum effort.” The census date for giving up—but not dropping out—is Friday 24 August, which should give students plenty of time to decide if this path is right for them. “Traditionally, decisions about how much energy a class is worth are based on how students feel after submitting their first assessment. It’s important that they get a feel for just how soul-crushing, but unfortunately necessary, a unit is before they officially lodge their apathy with the university.” Some students have already taken

the opportunity to visit the Student Centre and emotionally drop out of some of their units. “I’ve looked ahead at the amount of readings I’ll have to do in LAWS1015 and, to be honest, I won’t be able to get through this unit if I actually care about the standard of my work,” explained second-year Arts/Law student Tina Chang. “My plan is to become a shell of a person, physically attending tutorials but with an off-putting vacancy in my eyes—and the University’s been a great help in making that happen!” “Time and time again, students put off visiting the Student Centre and end up missing the census date entirely,” warns student advisor Arnold Ragg. “If you forget to register your disinterest ahead of time, don’t come crying to us when you feel obliged to meet the high standards you should have lowered weeks earlier. It’s simple stuff.”

Jamberoo Management Lose Control of the Action

Bruno Dubosarsky Slippery Dipper

“It just sounded like a good slogan at the time,” said Jamberoo co-founder Jim Eddy in his final transmission after going into hiding on Saturday, August 11th. “We had a pretty good run but someone finally called us on our apparently legally binding slogan. We no longer control the action.” At 1:30pm last Friday, during the the 1-hour-after-lunch rush, 2,200 like-minded nylon-draped individuals rose up and revolted against the Jamberoo management team. After only three hours, the pools had turned red and the heads of over 30 Outdoor Ride Attendants and Safety Officers decorated pikes surrounding Banjo’s Billabong. Marianne, the Goddess of Liberty who led the French lower class against Charles X in 1830, returned to show her support for the revolters.

In a very funny french accent, she said “For far too long, the common man had to line up for over an hour to enjoy the thrills of The Taipan. Vive l’eau!” The bourgeoisie have long criticised the iron fist of the Jamberoo Management team. What started as a small bucket of water in the Eddy family garage back in the 70s slowly turned into a capitalist wasteland where people were constantly reassured that they were in control, despite the Eddy dynasty retaining complete authority over of the park. But now, the action is finally in the hands of the people. All thanks to an advertising executive who didn’t think that far ahead. “At least we aren’t Thredbo who literally just thought Australians hadn’t heard of Vegas.”



Pictured: The embattled masses of the lower class struggle against an aerial water assault from the Jamberoo establishment



GAMES

Parents Pay Me \$20/h to Not Fucking Destroy Their Kids at Fortnite

Dirk Rumble Professional Pwner

To some, Fortnite is that crazy new game that the kids are going mad for. To others, Fortnite is just a way to unwind for a few hours a day. To me, Fortnite is a cash cow. Plump and ready to milk. Some parents have taken to spending good money on Fortnite tutors for their children in the hopes that they will one day become e-sports stars—but that’s not how I make my money. No, for a small fee of \$20 an hour I will stop fucking demolishing your children every time I see them online.

You may think it’s worthwhile trying to upskill your kid with expert tutelage. Maybe you think with enough practice they’ll be able to take on the big dogs. Think again. Your kid will never have a chance against me. Your best bet isn’t building your kid up, it’s lowering the fucking bar. If you’re willing to pay, I’m willing to not RPG the shit out of your kid all the way back to Flush Factory. You’re welcome. You might be wondering how this all works. You might be wondering how it is that I know which player is your kid and not

just some other no-skin jumping around. Well, I don’t. \$20 buys you an hour when I promise not to play Fortnite. There’s no way for me to play and guarantee your child won’t just get fucking slaughtered the second I see them. I’m talking boom—blue pump—headshot—quick switch—boom—blue tactical—headshot—and they’re out of here! I don’t care if they’ve got full health and shield, they’re fucking mincemeat. That’s the service I offer—and baby, business is booming. So, if you want your kid to have half a chance: direct debit me \$20 muy pronto, cucks.





I Ran City2Surf the Wrong Way and Nobody Told Me

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DOON & ANDY’S HOT BOX

Having a SULC

The Sydney Uni Liberal Club hosted the third round of the prestigious Howard Cup last Monday, welcoming Christopher Pyne as guest judge. Though the event was not well-advertised, Mr. Pyne was still able to draw a large audience of supporters. Chief among them were the police, at least 10 of whom convoyed down in 4 cars. Evidently bored by the debate inside, the police decided to wait outside in the cold. Thankfully, a band of protestors soon arrived to keep the lonesome officers company. SULC members could be seen on a high balcony photographing the protest, which has since been posted to their Facebook page. “Wow, a whole 10 protestors,” wrote David Hogan from on high. Sure, David—but when your own images only show around 30 Liberal-adjacent bodies at a debate only Liberal-adjacent bodies knew about, letting them through the doors would have done a lot to boost your own numbers. Either way, the irony of self-confessed libertarians attracting, and depending on, state enforcement to silence critical speech was not lost on this motley duo.

Ma’am President

SRC Presidential hopeful Jacky He committed a grievous faux pas this week, asking current President Imogen Grant what her name was. We apologise in advance to Jacky if this was a genuine mistake, but many suspect that this was an infamous stu-pol ‘power move’. Jacky is, after all, a calculated and well-informed operator, and (at least theoretically) a student housing officer in the

very organisation Imogen leads. This is not the first time such a power move has been whipping out this year. A similar inquiry was directed at one of your correspondents by NLS’ USU Board candidate on the hustings, though their name currently escapes us.

All the news that’s fit to print

It’s always good to have your work recognised by others. That’s why us eds were truly humbled to be noted in the AFR’s ‘Rear Window’ column as a lead for the story we published last week regarding the Australian Republican Movement’s rent-free use of the Great Hall. In fact, TurnItIn analysis has shown that the Fairfax rag more or less syndicated our story in its entirety, adding nothing novel whatsoever. We appreciate the link to our coverage, Myriam, but we’d be even more grateful if you acknowledged that we in fact broke the story, and didn’t merely comment on one facet of it. Though we understand that in your day plagiarism was much harder to police, we millenials are far more vigilant—we have the internet. Let it be known that the AFR has made a not so powerful enemy. In other media news, ex-Honi ed Kishor Napier-Raman will join Crikey next month as a Junior Reporter. Meanwhile, your current eds continue to be ostracised by the mainstream media, with one of our own being admonished by Network 10 publicist Tim Wall for directly Facebook messaging former-USU-pres and current Bachelor contestant Alisha Aitken-Radburn.



In shadows of our sandstone home,
this fearsome killer tends to roam.
They skulk about on city road,
stalking those with full course load.
In wentworth's halls they can be seen,
harassing Hermann's bugs so keen,

and chief among their helpless prey,
are commerce kids who've lost their way,
an ultimatum spoken thus:
you give your life, or parents' trust.
But even those who gave away
the riches of their working day
found naught but steel betwixt their ribs;
they fell in vain for a spectre's fibs!

This killer creeps and oft gives chase,
their cursed footsteps fill this place,
on every full moon in the year,
you must beware, they will be near,
and though this place cannot be said,
you'll find the answer clear in red,
within these pages, you will see:
where will this ruthless killer be?

send in your answer to
editors@honisoit.com
the first to answer correctly will win
an Honi tee