



UNSW Student Life
College of Fine Arts



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Beth Dillon
Imaginary Cities:
Central Park, June 2011
Photo by Joe Van

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PRINTING

Arc Office @ COFA

THANKS

Arc @ UNSW Ltd

THE OFFICIAL COFA ANNUAL AFTER PARTY



PHOTOS BY JIMMY LE

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EDITORIAL:

Welcome to or back to COFA!

COFAtopia is our local student zine published every three weeks. For many, the campus of COFA is a beautiful place of creativity, collaboration and community that inspires student life like no other - yep even now when it looks like hell!!! Hundreds of students pass through here every year, amazing people, doing and seeing incredible things that largely go untold. Similarly so many opportunities available to students here, missed. This Arc@COFA publication aims to capture and share some of these stories.

Our first issue for 2012 alooks at two insipring COFA collectives, the new SRC, a fascinating COFA project involving birds and some weird 2012 predictions for the cataclysmic inclined. Enjoy!

Arc@COFA xx

GET MORE OUT OF UNI LIFE
JOIN Arc TODAY
ONLINE OR Arc@COFA OFFICE

MAKE SPACE COLLECTIVE



Beth Dillon, Primavera 2011 Hiromi Tango Project, Hiromi Hotel - Mixed Blood Photo Documentation by Yu Fang Lai



Jess Stewart, Park Bound, September 2011, Photo Documentation by Tully Arnot



4 Beth Dillon, Housebound, September 2011, Photo Documentation by Joe Van

Beth Dillon is a Sculpture, Performance Installation student at COFA and recently co-founded a very interesting group of artists and students at COFA, by the name of Make Space. After feeling disempowered by the COFA redevelopment last year they decided to take space (or the lack of it) into their own hands. 2012 is set to see the rise of this collective, keep an eye out for kamikaze roll outs in public and disused spaces and experimental festivals all year round. To get all the goss read below...

What defines the Make Space Collective?

B.D: We are interested in creating works through collaborative art practice that combine elements of sculpture, performance and video. In particular, we are interested in making works that are activated outside the confines of the art institution. Most of all we want to create art that is ephemeral, exciting and requires active participation from the audience.

Is the lack of space as a result of the COFA campus as construction site frustrating or inspiring?

B.D: Negotiating the mess of scaffolding, dust pollution and headache-inducing construction noise on campus was a major source of anxiety during 2011, as was the mass relocation of students off-campus. On a more positive note, anxiety about lack of space inspired a bunch of the sculpture students to fashion some amazing shelters and rooms of their own during

semester, evident in many of the works on display at the COFA Annual last year. The poverty of space at COFA has influenced us to create performance works that are easily transported, easily stored and ephemeral in nature.

The experience of studying in a construction zone influenced our need for a collective. We were motivated by a shared frustration with cramped studio conditions and lack of access to COFA facilities during the redevelopment project. Unable to make the sort of work we wanted to make on campus or at home, we decided to form a collective and start searching for alternative studio spaces.

How did you all meet and who is in it?

B.D: So far our members include Sophie Clague, Gabrielle Dillon, Nick Fox, Corinne O'Keefe, Sebastian O'Reilly, Cindy Rodriguez, Samara Shehata, Jess Stewart, Lizzie Thomson and Costa Vakas. The majority of us met amongst towering piles of paper mache and chicken wire in the sculpture studios at COFA. After bonding over a common propensity for whining about the unaffordability of Sydney real estate and the COFA campus construction, we decided to try and do something about it and start up a collective.

What sort of things can we expect from Make Space Collective in 2012?

B.D: In 2012 we'll be experimenting with different

modes of collaboration and collective art practice. As a recently formed group we have yet to figure out how we work best together. We're hoping to create works for local emerging arts festivals and events such as Underbelly Arts, Tiny Stadiums and Sydney Fringe. In the meantime, our members have their own projects in the works, including short films, music videos, raw food collectives, performance works and desert pilgrimages. Much of our collective activity will involve assisting each other on these projects and finding common ground in our individual art practice.

You recently joined the COFA SRC, what made you want to get involved?

B.D: This being my second degree, I really wanted to get involved in university life this time around beyond the academic bounds of studio work and assessments. Some of my best experiences last year were spent in the COFA Common room, stretching out in free yoga classes, indulging in free lunches with complimentary cider and experimenting with raw foods during R.O.C.K.E.T Collective meetings. Also, some of my projects were made possible through Arc funding and support through the van borrowing system. So although COFA was a rather depressing place to study in 2011, and looks to be similarly chaotic in 2012, I think there's still a whole lot of potential for COFA to be an exciting place to make art and hang out and I want to be involved in making that happen.

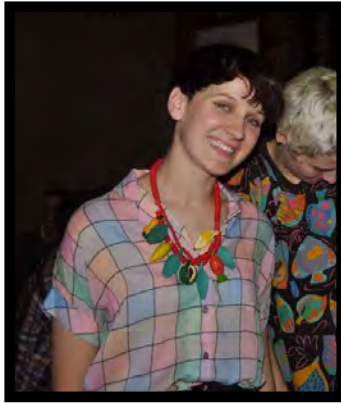
COFA STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL



In 2012 we have a full SRC! Yep that's right, every role is filled (except for Indigenous Officer, if you think this sounds like your bag *please* email us*!) with a keen bean full of energy and things to say. This is particularly cool as this has not happened since Voluntary Student Unionism was introduced as an attempt to abolish student politics and connectivity. Yay - fight the power, we win! Well sort of...

The Student Representative Council (SRC) is your student representative and advocacy body within Arc and the University. It is comprised entirely of democratically elected students whose role is to represent and campaign for student interests within the University, to Government, as well as the community at large. The Student Representative Council is linked to every aspect of university life, by: putting pressure on the university to improve the quality your education; providing a voice to students through the Tharunka newspaper; representing UNSW students on a campus, state, national, and international level; providing support for special groups all across campus through various departments; providing essential services such as advocacy; and striving to ensure that your education doesn't cost you an arm and a leg.

Meet your new candidates. If you have any problem at Uni to do with the areas that these students represent be sure to get in contact and they can help you out!



COFA REP OFFICER - Beth Dillon

COFA Rep is there to represent COFA at all the Kenso SRC meetings and is able to have input into the big decisions that affect us as COFA students, go Beth!



EDUCATION & WELFARE OFFICER - Melanie Crawford

Ensuring an accessible and affordable uni experience regardless of socio-economic status and to rally for and engage with national campaigns issues that affect the education and welfare standards of COFA students.



DISABILITIES OFFICER - Angela Butler

Education and welfare Officer is there to make sure that there is enough facilities and support for people with disabilities in terms of access & learning support. Represents all students living with a disability (including those living with mental illness).



QUEER NON-FEM OFFICER - Edison Chen and QUEER FEM OFFICER - Samara Shehata

Queer officers are there to represent students who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, tran, intersex, queer or questioning, to make sure they are treated equally at university and minimise discrimination on campus.



ENVIRONMENT OFFICER - Jessica Stewart

Represents the environmental priorities of students at COFA and campaigns for environmental sustainability and responsibility on the COFA Campus.



ETHNIC AFFAIRS - Natalie Soontornvinate

Natalie is here to celebrate the rich melting pot of cultures that makes UNSW unique by helping other students create a safe and friendly environment where everyone is welcome.



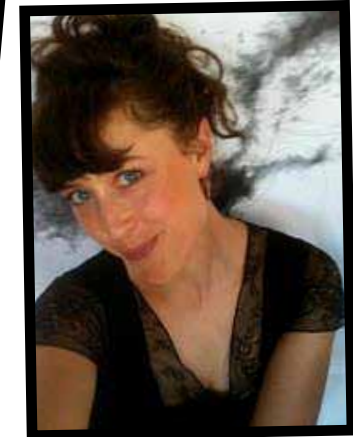
WOMENS - Clare Nicholson

Represents the needs of female-identifying students, the Women's Officer represents the voices and needs of COFA women such as childcare and safety on campus, and help facilitate a safe and autonomous space for women on campus.



INTERNATIONAL - Alan Fernandez

The International Officer represents the wide and diverse community of international students at COFA by promoting the presence of the international students around campus through various activities and bring more tolerance toward cultural difference.



POSTGRAD - Freya Zinovieff

Postgrad Officer provides support for all postgrad students and campaign for postgrad student rights with particular emphasis on social and professional development events, advocacy such as after hours access, food, academic support, and for stopping university course cuts.

You can stay in touch with all their activities and events via facebook, just friend them at COFA SRC. OR email *cofasrc@arc.unsw.edu.au.

Also, join our newsletter it comes out fortnightly and there will be all the info on what they are up to. Email k.doley@arc.unsw.edu.au to subscribe.

WHAT'S ON



O WEEK

MONDAY 20 FEB

COFA Faculty Welcome and Info Session

11:30am-1pm
Matthews Theatre A
UNSW Kensington

Arc@COFA Welcome Lunch

1-1:30pm Pavilions
Free!

UNSW Campus Tours for COFA students

1:30pm Pavilions

Vice-Chancellor's Welcome to Parents & Students

6:30-7:30pm Sir John Clancy Auditorium (C24)

TUESDAY 21 FEB

Degree Information Sessions

EG02, COFA Paddington
9-10:30am BFA
10:30am-12pm BDM

COFA Computing Wkshops

9:30am-4:30pm 45min sessions, places limited, sign up early at CSU Support Desk, Level 1, F Block

COFA Library Tours

9:40am-4pm 20min sessions COFA Library, A Block

COFA Campus Tours

Every hour 10:30am-1:30pm E Block Foyer
4:30pm E Block Foyer

Arc @ COFA Free Lunch

12-1:30pm Student Common Room, Level 1, E Block

COFA Peer Mentoring Welcome

1-2pm Student Common Room, Level 1, E Block

BDes student Workshop:

Design Think Tank 1.30-6pm E101, Level 1 E Block - sign-up on Monday, places limited

Screening of previous

years BDM student's work 2.30-3.30pm EG02

COFA Postgraduate Coursework Student Welcome

5-6pm EG02

"I EXIST, I INSIST"

Alexander Poulet

5-7pm Kudos Gallery, 6 Napier St, Paddington

WEDNESDAY 22 FEB

Degree Information Sessions

Central Lecture Block 1
9-10:30am BArt Ed (students in the combined BDes/BArt Ed should also attend)
10:30am-12pm BDes
1-2:30pm BArt Th
UNSW Kensington

COFA Computing Wkshops

9:30am-4:30pm CSU Support Desk, Level 1, F Block

COFA Library Tours

9:40am-4pm COFA Library, A Block

International Print Exchange exhibition

Ben Rak
6-8 pm
COFAspace
ground floor, E Block

THURSDAY 25 FEB

O-Week Dance Party

in the Roundhouse

WEEK 1

TUESDAY 28 FEB

12-1

Soccer

Meet in Moore Park, balls etc provided

WEDNESDAY 29 FEB

4-5

Nintendo 64 Tournament

Too good to be true! Come play and win prizes.
COFA Common Room, Level 1, E Block

5-7

Start of Session

Tropical Paradise Party

Come get jiggy and have some start of session punch and nibbles. DJ Summer Love spinnin all arvo.
COFA Common Room, Level 1, E Block

THURSDAY 1 MARCH

5-LATE

Nintendo 64 Tournament

Too good to be true! Come play and win prizes.
COFA Common Room, Level 1, E Block

7-9

Tharunka & The Culture Club UNSW Present:

The Rocky Horror Picture Show Free, BYO
Studio One, UNSW

Nominations for Directors on the Arc Board will be opening soon and this year there is a CoFA Director position up for election! www.arc.unsw.edu.au/about-us/arc-board/elections

WEEK 2

TUESDAY 6 MAR

12-1

Soccer

Meet in Moore Park, balls etc provided

5-7

"Site"

Sophie Clague

Exhibition opening
Kudos Gallery, 6 Napier St, Paddington

WEDNESDAY 7 MAR

4-5

Nintendo 64 Tournament

Too good to be true! Come play and win prizes.
COFA Common Room, Level 1, E Block

5-7

Mid-Week Social

Games, prizes, booze and food. Oh plus cool peeps. What more can a student ask for?
COFA Common Room, Level 1, E Block

THURSDAY 8 MARCH

12-2

International

Womens Day Brunch

To celebrate we will have cake. Lots of cake. Guest speakers to be announced. See FB for deets...
COFA Common Room, Level 1, E Block

2-4

Sketch Club@Kenso

BYO sketch stuff. Model provided.
Level 1 Blockhouse. UNSW

WEEK 3

MONDAY 12 MAR

COFAtopia #2 is out today...

TUESDAY 13 MAR

12-1

Soccer

Meet in Moore Park, balls etc provided

5-7

"Site" Talks

Sophie Clague

Artists discuss the COFA re-development's influence on their work.
Kudos Gallery, 6 Napier St, Paddington

WEDNESDAY 14 MAR

4-5

Nintendo 64 Tournament

Too good to be true! Come play and win prizes.
COFA Common Room, Level 1, E Block

5-7

Mid-Week Social

Games, prizes, booze and food. Oh plus cool peeps. What more can a student ask for?
COFA Common Room, Level 1, E Block

NEXT WEEK! NEXT WEEK! DEADLINE!! DEADLINE!

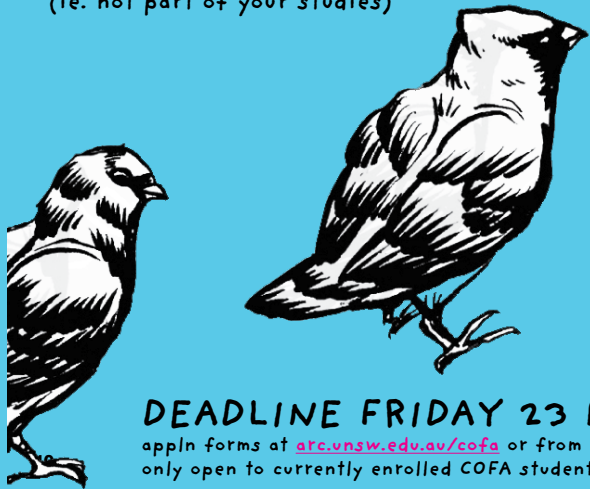
Art & Design Grants. Greenhouse Residency and Kudos Exhibition applications are due 23 MARCH. Get forms from <http://cofa.arc.unsw.edu.au> or come into the office, E105, Level 1, E Block COFA

Arc @ COFA ART & DESIGN GRANTS

help your creative ideas take flight

UP TO \$500 FOR...

- field trips
- opening night expenses
- transport / travel costs
- exhibition invites / event flyers
- materials, framing, printing costs
- catering for events
- equipment hire
- document artwork
- registration fees for conferences
- **ANYTHING CREATIVE & EXTRACURRICULAR**
(ie. not part of your studies)



DEADLINE FRIDAY 23 MARCH 2012

appln forms at arc.unsw.edu.au/cofa or from Arc Office @ COFA, E105
only open to currently enrolled COFA students who are Arc members

Arc
UNSW Student Life
College of Fine Arts



Song for Pardon

Alyse Behringer caught up with one of our 2011 grant recipients Freya Zinovieff, a current Masters of Sculpture/ Performance Installation student here at COFA. Freya was awarded an Arc@COFA Arts & Design Grant to help fund her ambitious expedition to Tasmania to collect the bird calls of vulnerable Australian Bird species. This is to be the core of her Postgraduate (Sculpture) Research Thesis. She intends to exhibit her collated work as a sound installation called 'Song for Pardon', in 2012.

So firstly, tell us a bit about your project, Song for Pardon.

For forty thousand years, stories have woven together the fabric of Australian Aboriginal communities and as the languages get forgotten these stories, along with Indigenous ecological knowledge, will die out. As with all Indigenous peoples throughout history, birds and the creatures of their land have featured significantly in the construction of language and cultural identities. *Song For Pardon* is an exploration into the ethno ornithological history of Australia's 152 vulnerable bird species, and their representation in Aboriginal storytelling.

As there is no one homogenous body of Indigenous knowledge, there is no central database of Australia's birdsong. I have taken it upon myself to collate the songs of these 152 species which will be used in a sound installation piece next year. I still have some fundraising to do so no date is set yet.

The title is quite poignant, how did it come about?

The title *Song For Pardon* refers to all the beauty that I see being plundered; Aboriginal languages, land, clean water, birds, animals, trees-it is a terribly sad thing. I see my job as an artist to speak out about our ecological crisis, if I can make one person think then I've succeeded.

Have you always had a passion for conservation?

I have always been interested in ecology, the conservation of biodiversity, and people's relationship to land. Connection to place, whatever your race or background, is very important. When I was a teenager I lived in English tree houses to protect ancient woodland from being covered in concrete motorways. We used to lock our necks to diggers and sing protest songs through the night till sunrise.

Is there a bird species that you are determined to find on your trip to Tasmania?

I would love to get a recording of Orange Bellied Parrot, a critically endangered bird who spends his time between South Australia and Tasmania. There are thought to be only 40 or so left in the wild. In May 2011, 10 of these birds were captured and taken from Tasmania to a bird sanctuary near Melbourne in a last ditch effort to save the species from extinction.

How has Arc helped you to undertake this project?

Arc have been amazing. Not only have they made a financial contribution towards my trip to hunt down Orange Bellied Parrot - they have also, on numerous occasions, lent me projectors to build video installations with. I would like to say an official thanks and to anyone who hasn't joined up to Arc - do it! You will be surprised at how much is offered as part of your membership, not to mention the endless support with art projects, and free tea in the common room!

To apply for an Arc @ COFA Art & Design Grant download a form from www.arc.unsw.edu.au/cofa



2012: CATAclysmic OR TRANSFORMATIVE?

It is widely known that 2012 is an auspicious year. For many religious groups, astrologers and ancient cultures 2012 signals the end of the world. The first to envision December 21st, 2012 as the end of the planet were the Mayans, a race that were good at building highly correct astrological hardware out of stone. Thousands of years ago they managed to calculate the length of the lunar moon as 329.53020 days, only 34 seconds out. The Mayan calendar envisions the Earth will end on December 21 2012. Given that they were pretty near to the mark with the lunar cycle, it's widely predicted that they might have got the end of the planet right as well. Keep in mind that none of the end of the world 2012 theories have been verified by mainstream scholars or scientists...Hmmm.

But, if the Mayans are right, is it all doom and gloom? Surely the 'end of the world' means not just destruction and environmental disaster but could be a metaphor for out with the old and in the new? A fresh start at civilization perhaps? A utopian ideal? A new pair of socks? Y2K flashback? Either way, put down the tins of baked beans hastily shoved into your arms and read what others are predicting about 2012:

1. "The Earth will encounter an Apocalyptic situation and all life on Earth will be destroyed. The north and south pole will "flip" due to the Earth being completely in line with the Milky Ways equator. The Earth and the Sun will "wobble" slightly due to the magnetic poles being disrupted and ultimately "flip" whereby the North pole will be the South and vice versa. Human life will not be able to survive in such a dramatic course of events" www.2012predictions.com.au

2. "The world won't come to an end on December 21, 2012, but certain elements of current human civilization may certainly be coming to a close around that time. The global money system, in particular, is headed for a total collapse." Mike Adams, the Health Ranger Editor of NaturalNews.com

3. "For the ancient Maya, it was a huge celebration to make it to the end of a whole cycle. To render Dec. 21, 2012, as a doomsday or moment of cosmic shifting, is a complete fabrication and a chance for a lot of people to cash in." Sandra Noble, executive director of the Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies

4. "2012 is about transformation and renewal. It's certainly

nothing as simplistic as the end of the world."

John Major Jenkins, Maya Cosmogenesis 2012: The True Meaning of the Maya Calendar End Date

5. "2012 is the end of a certain world and the beginning of another, a new spiritual world." 2012 believer, Jean quoted in For End of the World A French Peak Holds Allure, by Maia de la Baume, New York Times 30 Jan 2011.

6. "2012 will bring a whole shift in consciousness toward enlightenment that is going to wipe away everything negative." Gina Kissell, director of the Metaphysical Research Society, Florida

7. "Nothing bad will happen to the Earth in 2012. Our planet has been getting along just fine for more than 4 billion years, and credible scientists worldwide know of no threat associated with 2012." NASA Scientist, www.nasa.gov

8. "In 2012 there will be an Apple branded television set with App Store access." Juli at Pad Gadget.com

9. "We're calling it now. Everyone will be wearing socks with pointy-toed heels in 2012" Nandini D'Souza on www.harpersbazaar.com

COFA SOC

In 2012 COFAsoc is rebirthing with an all new Executive and exciting events for 2012!

But- WE NEED A NEW LOGO!

If you're interested, suggested graphics will be considered over the next few weeks and one will be selected at the COFAsoc's General Meeting The winning graphic will be on shirts, badges and fliers this year. Keep in mind this sort of experience will look great in your portfolio!

Email your graphics to cofasociety@gmail.com
So get designing COFA, we can't wait to see what you've got!



R.O.C.K.E.T. Retreat
Sat 10 + Sun 11 March
Firstdraft Depot
13-17 Riley St Woolloomooloo

R.O.C.K.E.T. is Raw Organic COFA Kids Eat Together. We meet collectively each week to prepare and share delicious food and discuss all things RAWsome. Through sharing meals and discussing approaches to whole-some, active and environmentally responsible living we hope to form a vibrant community healthy in mind and body.

Over the R.O.C.K.E.T. Retreat weekend, the R.O.C.K.E.T. team will occupy the Firstdraft Depot interior and car park, investigating modern methods of body and mind worship through a 48-hour program of unique dietary, fitness and cleansing rituals.

R.O.C.K.E.T. Retreat Program:

Raw Chi Stretching Class
10am-11am, 5pm-6pm Sat + Sun
 Stretching and meditation class specially formulated to prepare the body for feasting and aid in post-feast digestion. Free and open to everyone!

Costumed Banquet
12pm-3pm Sat + Sun
 The R.O.C.K.E.T. team will be preparing and sharing delicious raw food dishes with all attendees. Learn how to prepare raw food cuisine in the comfort of your own home. Food and materials provided. Bring your appetite!

You and the New You: Workshops in Personal Energy Management and Dynamic Self-Regeneration 10 minute private sessions will be running between **10am-12pm** and **3pm-5pm** on both days.

Dr. Fanny Foetal, Life Mastery Professional, will be conducting **private self-regeneration sessions** in her custom-built Port-A-Womb. Tired of being plain old you? Enter the new you universe today! Free pamphlet included.

Exorciser
Installation open 10-5pm Daily
 Feeling polluted in mind and body? Take a spin on R.O.C.K.E.T.'s revolutionary bicycle-powered fitness purification machine to rid yourself of toxic demons and witness an incredible transformation!

All activities and workshops are free of charge and open to everyone.

R.O.C.K.E.T. was established with a GROUP WORK grant from Arc @ COFA

I EXIST, I INSIST

Alexander Poulet

An exhibition of reoccurring emotions and passions as inscribed in space and time upon the walls of the abandoned Queen Mary building of Sydney.

Opens 5-7pm Tuesday 21 February
Closes Saturday 3 March 2012

SITE

Sophie Clague

As scale collapses and is rendered ambiguous, a third place existing at the point of friction between the ideal finished and the temporal unfinished is exposed, recorded and validated.

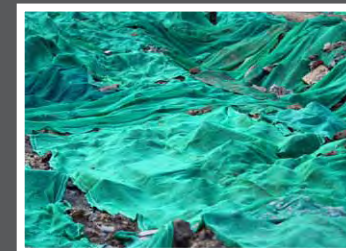
Opens 5-7pm Tuesday 6 March
Closes Saturday 17 March 2012

BECAUSE WE CAN

Tully Arnot, Andrew Burford, Alexandra Clapham, Lydia Dowman, Benjamin Holdstock, Bridie Moran, Stella Rosa McDonald, and Zoe Robertson

My uncle once received an award from the City of Melbourne for the person who has most contributed to making Melbourne 'a living city'. He told an interviewer on radio that his father had gone down to Eastern Beach in Geelong every Sunday morning, regardless of the cold, to volunteer to teach the local kids to swim. When my uncle asked him why, he said: "because I can". My uncle said that since his father's passing a year ago, he had come to realise the importance of service to the community. My grandfather had actually died three years previous to the interview. When my mother asked my uncle why he had lied to the interviewer, he said: "because it made for a better story". BECAUSE WE CAN.

Opens 5-7pm Tuesday 20 March
Closes Saturday 24 March 2012



KUDOS GALLERY

6 Napier St Paddington NSW 2021

11am-6pm Wed to Fri, 11am-4pm Sat

T 02 9326 0034

E kudos@arc.unsw.edu.au

W arc.unsw.edu.au/kudos

Run by COFA students & funded by Arc @ UNSW Ltd



GO OUT THERE 2012

The Green House studio residency, Fowlers Gap
arid zone research station in far western NSW

APPLICATION OPEN TO ALL COFA STUDENTS

ONLY ONE DEADLINE THIS YEAR!!!!

DON'T MISS IT!

FRIDAY 23 MARCH 2012

info + appln forms at arc.unsw.edu.au/cofa
or from Arc Office @ COFA

