

# THARUNKA

05.

Making Superannuation Work  
for the Living / Gold Town  
Road: Redefining Success in  
the Music Industry / All That  
Glitters Is Not Gold

gold



*Tharunka* acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land, the Gadigal and Bedegal people of the Eora nation, on which our university now stands.

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# dear reader,

Welcome to the fifth issue of Tharunka 2019: Gold.

As expected, and intended, our contributors for this issue took the chosen theme and ran with it, exploring Gold in all its glory, its beauty, its garishness. And its danger.

If there is one golden thread tying together the pieces in this issue, and running through the big questions of our time, it is the tension felt between eschewing the fundamentally flawed economic system within which we exist and simultaneously trying to survive and flourish within it.

In the month or so leading up to the publication of this issue, we have seen an increase in protests calling on policy-makers to take serious action on climate change by shifting priorities away from profit and economic growth and towards sustainability and the protection of our environment and communities. On page 28, Marc Sidarous explores the danger of the neoliberal approach to climate action, which places the onus on the individual and ignores the realities of poverty, and looks at

how the Green New Deal might tackle that with a combination of social and climate policies. Following Marc's piece, L-A Benoit's series of photographs from the September 20th Sydney Strike for Climate captures the energy, emotion and collective spirit of the day.

Aside from the rapid and looming destruction of our planet, our capitalist economy also manages to make life difficult, dangerous and unfair in our daily lives. The worst of times and the blurriness of times. Thao Pham ('All that Glitters is Not Gold', pg.12) and Stephen Melhuish ('Making Superannuation Work for the Living, pg. 16) both do us the favour of taking a deep-dive into a few of the most common ways that institutions and/or scam artists take from our bank accounts, and offer important information and advice on how to navigate your way through these shark-infested waters.

In times of overwhelming cruelty, despair, and destruction, it can feel like an indulgence to feel pleasure or to concern yourself with art. But remembering the beauty of the

world and the people around us is an integral part of saving it. In 'Gold Town Road' (pg. 24), Georgia Griffiths reports on how young musicians like Lil Nas X are subverting the way we have typically perceived value in the arts, while the richly layered poetry of writers Axel-Nathaniel Rose ('Gold Sonnets', pg. 20) and Ivana Marija Devcic ('The Serpent' and 'Apotheosis' pg. 36) beautifully capture the sensations of being and remind us that living is an act of bravery, and an act of love.

Gold may symbolise our planet's plundered resources, but in the glow of the sunset and the bark of a tree and the light dancing on the hair of a loved one, it also symbolises what we don't want to lose. As with most things big and complex, we may just have to live with that dichotomy.

**Lydia Morgan**  
Managing Editor

## Levent

In September, while editing this issue, I was reminded of the duality of what ‘striking’ gold means. There are fools at this very university studying Petroleum Engineering, planning one day to strike oil to refine into golden diesel, that will inevitably contribute to our Earth’s continued destruction, all in the hope of lining their pockets with gold. Though in that strike another one is born.

The estimated two million people in 150 countries that powerfully took a stance against the corruptly intentional inaction on climate change of money-hungry politicians globally. The demands of the strikers are bold, necessary, and achievable. No new coal, oil, or gas (Stop Adani), 100% renewables by 2030, and a funded transition for all affected workers and communities.

This was a strike against the individualistic lust for gold that is destroying our planet (\*cough\* neoliberal capitalism \*cough\*) and I think Greta Thunberg spoke for all us politically and scientifically acute folk at the UN Climate Action Summit when saying:

“We are in the beginning of a mass extinction and all you can talk about is money and fairytales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!”

It was fantastic working with Marc Sidarous on a piece about this very topic. He discusses the perception of climate change in Australia during the 2019 election and the

importance of mitigation being aligned with the working class.

Georgia Griffiths wrote about Lil Nas X and the place of old and new commercial success benchmarks in the meteoric rise of the artist who wrote the sweet tune of Old Town Road that was stuck in my head the entire time editing this brilliant piece.

Think about what Gold means to you whilst reading this issue of Tharunka. But also think about how Rihanna once said “let me cover your shit in glitter I can make it gold.”

## Axel

“All that glisters is not gold / Often have you heard that told. / Many a man his life hath sold / But my outside to behold. / Gilded tombs do worms enfold.” (The Merchant of Venice 2.7.69-73.)

As the gold-standard of English language writing, a gilded idol of human history, and the first-place-medaled bisexual of my heart (even if nowhere else), I assume that William Shakespeare knew what he was on about when he reminded us of the dangers of coveting gold. Speaking from the 21st Century, though, ‘gold’ has come to mean so much more than just straight-forward material wealth: cultural power; the capriciously competitive nature of sports and academia; beauty, or indeed non-beauty, and the line between the two; what the future might look like and if the sun will still set gold after a climate crisis.

Tharunka Gold is a vivid exploration of what 'gold' means today, and demonstrates the vibrancy of student voices at UNSW; as is appropriate to an institute of learning, there is informative, historical, archival, and incredibly graceful work. I was thrilled to work with Thao Pham on her eminently-relevant inquiry into monetary scams and schemes, 'All That Glitters Is Not Gold', which outlines the risks of online capital and provides a practical approach to staying safe in the 21st Century. I was also blessed by Lungol's editorial prowess on my three sonnets White/Rose/Yellow Gold. I've been thoroughly galvanised by Tharunka Gold as the fifth installment of the Tharunka Colours series and the first edition I've been a sub-editor with the amazing Tharunka team. I hope you, too, enjoy this poignant and glistening publication (there may or may not be worms).

## Lungol

gold is both everything and nothing.

our lives are ruled and limited by the golden chains of modern neoliberal capitalism, metal canines that gnaw on our ankles and wrists, making us believe that we're only valuable if we're making more of its teeth. many have killed for it. many more continue to die for it. death for not having enough. for having too much. too many can't connect their teeth to make a mouth, so most of us remain voiceless anyway.

before the wolves, my gold was pure.

it was the sun in the skies and the sand between my toes. sometimes it was green. oftentimes it was blue, turning clear under my hands.

now my gold is dirty. the sun is violent and the sand is drowning. rarely is it ever green. most times, it turns cloudy, swallowing my hands beneath its surface.

gold is worth nothing, but has cost me everything.

## Sunny

Gold is the warm sunshine of early spring, the afternoon light that shines through my window at 3PM, the necklace I wear around my neck.

The cover design of this issue of Tharunka was inspired by Kintsugi ('golden joinery') - the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery by mending areas of breakage with gold. I wanted to create an abstract pattern with lines of gold to reference this technique. The colour palette is warm: deep yellows, ginger, ochre, brown. The gradients are reminiscent of the golden light at sunset.

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

## Response to ‘National Reconciliation Week’

*This letter from student Ganur Maynard is in response to an opinion piece published in the July 2019 ‘Foundation Day’ issue of Tharunka.*

In the wake of this year’s National Reconciliation Week and the lead up to NAIDOC Week, Mr Palanirajan’s opinion piece in the July 2019 edition of this publication was a disappointing reminder of how poorly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are understood in Australia, not least by those who profess to champion our cause. For those who haven’t read the piece, Mr Palanirajan was underwhelmed by this year’s National Reconciliation Week and believes that it and programs like it—including the contemporary practice of non-Indigenous people giving acknowledgements of country—accomplish little for reconciliation.

Ganur Maynard



Unsurprisingly, Mr Palanirajan offers very little insight into what would achieve reconciliation, nor does he conceptualise what reconciliation and National Reconciliation Week are. He fails to identify that, at its core, reconciliation is about improving the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Each year, programs are run under the auspices of National Reconciliation Week in the hope that Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians might learn about our shared histories and explore how we can all contribute to achieving reconciliation in our communities. The events are held from 27 May to 3 June to commemorate two significant achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' agency in the pursuit of

“Each year, programs are run under the auspices of National Reconciliation Week in the hope that Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians might learn about our shared histories and explore how we can all contribute to achieving reconciliation in our communities.”

reconciliation. The first is the 1967 referendum, which followed Charles Perkins and others' exposé of the anti-Indigenous racism that plagues some parts of Australian culture. The second is Eddie Koiki Mabo's successful native title campaign in the Torres Strait, which overturned the legal fiction of terra nullius to recognise that we owned our land when Europeans arrived in this country.

The message made by the choice of dates is clear: we are not passive objects of government, but have an active role to play in reconciliation in this country. Consider this year's theme, which focused on 'truth-telling', drawing on the 2017 Uluru Statement's call for the establishment of a commission to conduct a comprehensive national historical account of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' experiences in this country. It's a common focus for a week that is all about understanding where we came from to know where we're going. More importantly, and especially with respect to the Uluru Statement, the week is about giving Indigenous people the agency to make the changes to this country that we know would improve the conditions under which many of us continue to suffer today.

However, Mr Palanirajan believes that a reconciliation week just isn't "the right way to go about" reconciliation. His evidence: the fact that he didn't pay attention to the Aboriginal guest speakers during a high school event. I'm sorry that Mr Palanirajan doesn't remember any National Reconciliation Week except for the one that had the atmosphere of "a funeral with an interesting soundtrack", but I think that the problem isn't the program itself. Rather, his attitude toward Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples comes across as problematic. Take the anecdote in which Mr Palanirajan regales us of the heady, "horny"(?) years of his high

school career, when a group of “20 Aboriginal people suddenly appeared at [his] school” to talk about reconciliation. In this tale, Mr Palanirajan adopts the age-old allegory of the childish Aborigine and the mature non-Indigene. In his eyes, the twenty Aboriginal men and women, who ostensibly expected to be respected while talking about their culture during a formal event, become 7-year-olds who are giddy with the prospect of watching Disney’s *Frozen* for the fiftieth time. Meanwhile, the inattentive teenagers in the audience play the role of the bored parents who are forced to sit through yet another rendition of an animated but

vacuous performance. It’s a role reversal of epic proportions and a deeply disturbing metaphor.

“... when an acknowledgement of a country’s Traditional Owners is made, an ancient and powerful custom is kept alive and all Australians get a chance to express a shared connection to the world’s oldest living culture.”

But I’m not convinced that all non-Indigenous Australians share Mr Palanirajan’s paternalistic brand of boredom during cultural events. Despite the sad fact that the majority of non-Indigenous Australians think that they have little day-to-day interaction with their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander compatriots, almost all of them believe that the relationship between the

cultures is important. Further, 64% agree that cultural diversity makes the country stronger,<sup>1</sup> notwithstanding the popular media’s unrelenting war on multiculturalism and ‘identity politics’. I’d go so far as to wager that the majority of the students of this institution appreciate the value of what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have to say when talking about culture and reconciliation.

I’d also hope that most people don’t share Mr Palanirajan’s ignorance of the cultural protocols that inform an acknowledgement to country. However, on this count I fear that his opinion piece was depressingly symptomatic of a growing misunderstanding in this country. Many well-meaning critics might agree that the acknowledgements we’ve started to hear before events are absurdities, whose failure to address the ‘real’ Indigenous disadvantage that the Closing the Gap metrics measure is all the more egregious for the irony that the acknowledgement of ownership is not accompanied by an actual return of land. In fairness, I agree that acknowledgements might appear incongruous with the reality of colonialism, which has ripped the land from First Nations peoples except where there was no (usually economic) imperative to do so. But how does denigrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture remediate this, or repay the “200-year-old debt” that Mr Palanirajan believes First Nations are owed?

The truth is, when an acknowledgement of a country’s Traditional Owners is made, an ancient and powerful custom is kept alive and all Australians get a chance to express a shared connection to the world’s oldest living culture.

<sup>1</sup> Reconciliation Australia, *The State of Reconciliation in Australia: Summary* (2018) 8 (available at <[https://www.reconciliation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/State-of-Reconciliation-Report\\_SUMMARY.pdf](https://www.reconciliation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/State-of-Reconciliation-Report_SUMMARY.pdf)>).

<sup>2</sup> Reconciliation Australia, *‘It’s simply about respect’* (2010) 9 *Reconciliation News* 16 (available at <<https://www.sarmy.org.au/en/Resources/Articles/reforming-society/Its-simply-about-respect/>>).

<sup>3</sup> Editors, 'Not welcome here, Tuckey' (2010) 472 Koori Mail 20 (available at <<https://aiatsis.gov.au/collections/collections-online/digitised-collections/koori-mail/koori-mail-issues>>).

<sup>4</sup> Incidentally, recently collected data indicate that there have been significant reductions in alcohol consumption among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 6.5 Health Behaviours of Indigenous Australians (Australian Government, 2018) 2 (available at <<https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/9677d3dc-c48e-4bef-8c26-9ecea8e1fc8/aihw-aus-221-chapter-6-5.pdf.aspx>>).

<sup>5</sup> Stephen Cornell, 'Indigenous Peoples, Poverty and Self-Determination in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States' (Research Paper No 2006-02, Joint Occasional Papers on Native Affairs, 2006) (available at <[http://www.udallcenter.arizona.edu/jopna/pubs/jopna%202006\\_02\\_indigenous.pdf](http://www.udallcenter.arizona.edu/jopna/pubs/jopna%202006_02_indigenous.pdf)>).



Ganur is a final year Arts/Law student at UNSW and proud descendant of central NSW's Kamileroi people. Fan of candid discussions on Indigenous affairs that incorporate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices. Not a fan of the all-too-common experience of being spoken down to by those who think they know better.

An acknowledgement hearkens back to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations' practice of seeking permission to visit the land of another tribe.<sup>2</sup> Giving an acknowledgement involves participating in Indigenous culture and educating oneself and one's audience of the history of the land on which people meet. It is different to a Welcome to Country, in which a member of the land's Traditional Owners grants that permission to people who are visiting. And, when it is made from the heart, it is not the empty gesture of political correctness that Mr Palanirajan and other patronisingly 'edgy' commentators would have you believe, but a sign that Australia is moving toward a more multicultural and therefore stronger future. If Mr Palanirajan had bothered to research the purpose of an acknowledgement, or asked an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community of its thoughts on the practice, he might have learnt that it is fundamental part of what we should expect from visitors to our lands.<sup>3</sup>

There will be many who, like Mr Palanirajan, still doubt whether National Reconciliation Week and acknowledgements of country do anything to improve the statistics that cultural conservatives love to hold out as the ultimate and exclusive indicators of Indigenous wellbeing—alcoholism<sup>4</sup> and literacy. I'd remind them of what these practices of reconciliation are really about: self-determination and genuine respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. In fact, while embracing Indigenous culture and granting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples the respect to determine our own affairs might not always appeal to the universalist liberal logic that reduces cultures to a measurement of their deviation from the non-Indigenous norm, it might actually lead to better outcomes for our peoples, even those quantified in conservatives' reductionist terms.<sup>5</sup>

To that end, if you find yourself wondering whether you should acknowledge Indigenous peoples' connection to land, you would do better to avoid Mr Palanirajan's mistake. Instead, why not start by listening to and engaging with Indigenous voices? You likely spend more time around Indigenous people than you might think. Contrary to Mr Palanirajan's suggestion that "there's no one to receive" UNSW's Indigenous scholarships (I've never held one personally, but I would be eligible to apply for them and know plenty of brilliant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who do), there are many Indigenous students on campus who would be happy to engage in a frank but respectful discussion with you.

If these discussions start happening on a larger scale, even Mr Palanirajan might realise that something exceptional can come from acts of reconciliation.

ALL THAT

Tharunka 05.

12

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Thao Pham

# Staying safe from scams of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

The economy's everyday mantra is, 'money makes the world go round.' Technology gives way to increasingly complex means of income, investing and monetary transfers. However, exponential advances mean a lack of proper regulation and security, making many financial inventions susceptible to scams.

Let me ask you: how smart are you handling and managing money? You may think yourself savvy, but the reality is that millennials are more prone to losing money in financial scams than any other age group, as reported by The Federal Trade Commission of America. There are more reports of fraudulent activity from those under 34 than any other age group in Australia. With increasingly intricate schemes developing, it is increasingly critical to be cautious with your money management.

One of the most prevalent schemes encountered are known as 'Phishing' scams. In simple terms, 'Phishing' is a deceptive attempt to obtain sensitive information, including passwords and credit card details.

You've likely seen comedians trolling scammers making claims to 'need iTunes gift cards'. You might think, 'I would never be foolish enough to fall for that,' but phishing scams have evolved from the days of Nigerian princes asking you to finance unbelievable investments. The ACCC 2018 report on scams indicated over 24,000 phishing scams with losses of almost a million AUD. So, how have they become so effective?

These schemes work by preying on fear while disguising themselves as legitimate organisations. Scammers often pose as banks and government institutions, and create a sense of urgency by claiming that there has been a breach in your account or that your service will be discontinued if you do not act immediately. They ask for personal information and account details as confirmation of your identity in order to help fix the 'issue'. Ironically, these callers are the criminals they are warning you against, conning you out of both your money and information. Almost 50% of all scammers connect with victims through phone calls and around 20% through emails, suggesting that phone conversation can further emphasise the sense of urgency. Current alerts to be aware of include NAB bank impersonation and NBN service disconnection schemes.

If you are sceptical about an alarming call or email, do not be afraid to call the organisation in question, using only critical contact details, like their main website, to confirm whether the alarm is real. Tips that ScamWatch recommend include making sure that email addresses and links are legitimate by hovering your mouse over them to see the hyperlinked URL, and searching



websites yourself before clicking a link. A way to stop most unsolicited phone calls is to join the Do Not Call Register, which is a government database that removes your number from receiving unsolicited calls from telemarketers. This option is not foolproof however; stay on alert as scammers will find strategies to unlawfully gain your contact details.

In the world of money of money management, financial gurus will give one key piece of advice: invest early. As tech-savvy adults, a booming option is cryptocurrency. But in the wake of The Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) crackdown on cryptocurrency, this unregulated world can be a gamble. It is important to extensively research the platform of your choice before investing any money into cryptocurrency. Fake Bitcoin exchanges and cryptocurrency can be identified through Bitcoin forums, opening an account with a professional broker, or using more mainstream platforms such as Coinbase. Additionally, it is important to note that initial coin offerings are the most risky and many turn out to be illegal schemes. They may seem legitimate and impressive with sophisticated platforms, but if a deal is too good to be true it usually is.

Regardless, many people are still falling for the oldest swindle out there: Ponzi Schemes. Essentially, they are fraudulent investments that rely on new investors to generate profit for the old. Repackaged with a modern look, investors are, of course, initially

sceptical of these 'low risk, high returns' cryptocurrency investments – but when money appears to be pouring into their accounts, victims lower their guard and begin to invest higher and higher amounts. Behind the scenes, criminals are simply depositing the money of new investors to earlier investors as 'dividends' and stashing the rest in private bank accounts until they are unable to find any more investors – at which point the scheme collapses. The ACCC reports that Australians lost over \$38 million to investment scams in 2018, including \$6 million in cryptocurrency scams.

Something that I am certainly guilty of is binge-shopping online, where

“The world of cryptocurrency is alluring but be careful of being blinded by false bling.”

you can find anything from bubble tea lip balm to doggy sunscreen. We are in love with low prices and well-designed websites. But online shopping scams are one of the most effective ways for criminals to get their hands on your money, making up 57% of all reported online scams reporting monetary losses. The ACCC totalled a loss of \$3 million in 2018 for online shopping scams. Via fake ads on eBay and Google, scammers promote their sites to draw in victims, accepting payment without providing the product, and use your payment and shipping details for identity theft, further scamming you or selling your details on. Norton Security tips include having

up-to-date cyber security software and browsers, making sure that the site uses encryptions that protect personal data, using shopping sites with 'HTTPS' rather than 'HTTP' URLs, and using a Virtual

MLM, products sold range from health and fitness vitamins to make-up and skincare, which are overpriced and of poor quality, making them difficult to sell.

“Pyramid schemes do not offer any real product or service on their own but when disguised as an MLM, products sold range from health and fitness vitamins to make-up and skincare, which are overpriced and of poor quality, making them difficult to sell.”

Privacy Network (VPN) on public Wi-Fi to avoid hacking.

If I'm not going to be buying into scams, I'll need another form of income to feed my online shopping addiction. In this economy, it's a free for all. Become an Uber driver, tutor kids, house-sit, but whatever you do, do not fall for the 'get rich quick' schemes.

'Be your own boss! Earn thousands a month from home!' Sound familiar? You'll hear those phrases often in Multi-Level Marketing (MLM) schemes. MLM are a legal form of business, but most are pyramid schemes in disguise. Pyramid schemes thrive on recruitment, enticing people to join by promising riches and a lifestyle of luxury. They tend to target the most financially vulnerable, very often stay-at-home parents and students, and rely on members leveraging their close relationships to recruit. Pyramid schemes do not offer any real product or service on their own but when disguised as an

Be critical of suspiciously enticing job adverts, even if you are desperate for income.

If there is one thing I hope you take out of this article: always be mindful of where your money is going, especially as students with what little extra cash we have. Always have at the back of your mind a level of scepticism in your money management. It may be funny watching scammers get trolled but it's not so fun when the scammer trolls you out of your own money.



Thao is a first year commerce student feeling constantly overwhelmed, even when it's the holidays. She will talk your ears off about Sherlock and/or her Dachshund, Rosie. You can find her on campus by following high-pitched screaming.

# MAKING SUPERANNUATION WORK FOR THE LIVING

If you haven't changed any of the default options of your superannuation, you could be hurting your retirement by hundreds of thousands of dollars. Even if you have very little in super currently, spending half an hour to understand your choices can bring great benefits over the length of your working life. While much of the public debate around super is spent on rules that are only relevant close to or after retirement, the system affects all Australians. Earlier this year the Government passed a much-needed piece of legislation helping young people in particular, including making insurance opt-in for those under 25, removing exit fees, and capping fees for accounts with a low balance. Nevertheless, there are still several areas in which super can be improved for workers with low balances or who are many years from retirement.

Stephen Melhuish



From the perspective of young workers, there are some quick and easy steps which bear repeating that everyone should take to secure their super:

- Check the fees for your account. Even for very low balances, if you are paying more than one or two percent of your total account value there are almost certainly better options out there.
- Wherever possible, shift your entire super balance into a single account. This will save you from doubling up on fixed fees, and following the Government's recent changes, there will be no exit fees when making this consolidation.
- Check whether you are paying for life or income protection insurance, which are often included by default. If you don't have any particular reason to think you need insurance, you probably don't.
- Think carefully about which strategy you are invested in. 'Growth' options are more risky than 'Balanced' options but will provide higher returns on average. Over a period of decades, this difference is likely to be significant to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

One key issue that many people may give no thought to is the investment strategies that their contributions are placed in. When thinking about super, it's important to remember that there is a relationship between risk and return – to gain higher returns on average, you need to be willing to face more risk. Nevertheless, over a long period of time, high risk investments are likely to outperform low risk investments. The result of this is that higher-risk investments can be beneficial earlier in life, while closer to retirement a more conservative strategy will avoid market fluctuations destroying your savings. Despite this, the vast majority of default super funds use a moderate-risk 'balanced' strategy for all members across a 40+ year age range. So while most superannuants are placed into this strategy, it is likely being invested to suit somebody ~10 years out from retirement, disproportionately disadvantaging people with longer horizons.

Super funds themselves could also be better in helping younger members. 'Lifecycle' funds, which automatically change the risk profile of your investments as you grow older, are surprisingly uncommon in Australia, despite qualifying to be a

default strategy under the current regulations. Similarly, many funds fail to offer enough passively-invested, low-cost, or high-risk options despite countless equivalents being available outside the superannuation system. It is also a shame that there are essentially no leveraged options available in super funds regulated by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA), as such options could significantly increase returns for superannuants with decades until retirement, who may be more willing to bear the higher risk.

The most important changes, however, need to be made by the government with amendments to legislation and APRA regulations. Firstly, there is further room for improvement in the allowable default arrangements for workers who make no decisions at all with respect to their super. The choice of default funds is a contentious issue with the Productivity Commission's recent suggestion of a 'Top 10' system provoking much backlash. Regardless of the specifics of any system or whether such defaults should exist at all, there is no convincing justification for this choice to be held in the hands of employers, as it currently is. Neither is there any justification for workers being placed in multiple default funds over their life.

Within each fund, the Government would not be amiss to further extend its earlier improvements to default rules by completely removing opt-out insurance, capping excessive fees, and mandating more appropriate investment strategies. Given a lack of financial literacy and the fact that few people make active choices about their super, competition clearly fails to keep these things in check.

Secondly, super funds need to be required to disclose more information about their investments. Even for people who have the time and knowledge, it is difficult to determine the most appropriate fund due to an extreme lack of transparency. Simply having the highest return, even over a long period, doesn't necessarily say much – indeed if you were invested in a low-risk strategy, you should be worried to see high returns. Measuring performance depends on what return the fund is targeting and how much risk it's exposed to. Most investment funds in the broader market will provide their investors with a raft of risk statistics, as well as information on strategy, holdings, and a relevant benchmark – super funds should be no different. This is not to say that carefully choosing a fund is a moot exercise – some fees are clearly too high and returns too low – but greater disclosure requirements would certainly help.

Thirdly, every single worker in Australia should have the option to choose their own super fund. It is simply absurd that some workers under certain enterprise agreements are still unable to do this. This not only forces workers into poorly performing funds, but also particularly hurts young people who, by working multiple jobs, are forced to have multiple super accounts; thus paying dramatically higher fees than they might need to. Imagine an employer telling new employees that they will only receive their salary if they create a new account at a specific bank - this is no different. As an example, UNSW forces its casual employees to use UniSuper as their fund. This arrangement is in place as a result of the UNSW Enterprise Agreement, which was negotiated by the National Tertiary Education Union. The NTEU holds a seat on the UniSuper board and receives direct payments from UniSuper in the form of director fees. UniSuper has historically performed relatively well, but this is no excuse for what is clearly bad policy driven by conflicted interests.

Finally, the governance requirements for super funds need to be overhauled. Almost every large listed company has a board with a majority of independent directors. These independent directors are people with no connection to the company whatsoever, and thus are better able to make decisions free from conflicts of interest and ensure that nothing is going awry. Independent boards have been standard in companies for decades now, largely in response to various corporate scandals, but many super funds are still holding out from what is widely considered to be best practice. Given the systematic importance of super funds to Australia as a whole, they should be held to at least the same standards in order to protect members' interests. Some funds have cited their good performance as a reason why they don't need to follow proper governance practices, but this is simply no excuse. Indeed, most of Australia's banks had strong financial performance prior to the Banking Royal Commission finding any number of issues left ignored.

Young people are often apathetic about super, but even very small changes today can have a huge impact decades down the line. It is important to remember that compulsory super contributions are not some sort of bonus payment gifted by employers, but real dollars being deducted from your salary. Superannuation is by no means a broken system, but there are plenty of ways to improve outcomes in retirement without seizing further wages from Australian workers.



Stephen is a fourth year commerce honours student majoring in finance. He is particularly interested in public policy and its interaction with business and financial markets.

# GOLD

Content warnings: non-explicit self harm and bulimia;  
reference to AIDS; reference to the Postal Vote.

Axel-Nathaniel Rose

# SONNETS

## Yellow Gold

Gilded crowns first place medals golden child  
Blood drips like honey down her arms, his thighs  
Don't see the shame; how a rotting corpse thrives  
Violet-dyed children traverse through the wilde

Guilt-filled cavities overflow with praise  
Works half to-death; no witness to their cries  
Time refines fifteen year old lovers' lies  
Lights out, time's up, in guilt and love they pray

Prays: 'if I'm good enough will they love me?  
Will they forgive my sin? Can I be clean?  
Can I give in, can I live out this pride?'  
This skill they command: to purge 'til they're free  
This golden child shines but it goes unseen  
how they fight the sweet call of suicide.

## Rose Gold

How they fight the sweet call of suicide!  
Queen of the Ball vogues, reclaiming her crime  
Glitter fills the cavities; pulsing pride,  
Night marries these bodies moving through time

We encase ourselves in silver and gold  
History relived and torn from the page  
The secret to pride continues untold  
Raw and pristine as we are, centre stage

Read meaning of gowns and hankies and shades  
The band plays on, silk frays, heart breaks once more  
Pink triangles drift; the spectre of AIDS  
We take on the broken and build our corps

In this beauty we've made down we will lay  
To you I am bound, forever I'll stay.

## White Gold

To you I am bound, forever I'll stay  
Take my hand, take my heart; pulse against pulse  
We are standing in the light at the gate  
as we rise from ash, silver from the grey  
Have we lived forever to make this choice?  
For you, love, a thousand years I would wait

I fought not for the right to love you, not  
to speak it aloud. But the calm thereof  
the moment of our shared heartbeat, shared thought  
The world falls around us to witness this love

The triumph of love! to this world we've taught:  
blessèd matrimony of queens and kings  
Ashes to ashes we fall, leaving nought  
to history but vows and golden rings.



Axel has been writing since the tender age of five, his debut novel *The Evle King* dedicated to his brother's tyranny over the household armchair. Since then, his writing has expanded to short stories, poetry, and oration, with particular focus on queer narratives, mental illness and social media.

Instagram:  
parsleyandives  
Wordpress:  
augustcooper

# GOLD TOWN ROAD

Redefining Success in the Music Industry

Georgia Griffiths



It's late 2018, and in the South-Eastern US state of Georgia, a 19-year-old man is looking to break into the music industry. He buys a 30USD beat that samples an old Nine Inch Nails track, and gets to work producing the song he hopes will make him a star. A native user of the Internet, he drums up support for the track by making more than 100 short videos on TikTok, an app primarily used by teenagers to share homemade videos. Most of these promotional videos tap into the hottest memes of the moment. Soon after its release, the track goes viral as millions of TikTok users embrace it as the backing track to the latest online challenge. It quickly makes the jump from TikTok's online bubble to the 'real world', as it begins to climb *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart. With no record label and no physical sales, the young man from Georgia becomes the name on everyone's lips: Lil Nas X.

The music industry, like most, revolves around sales. While accolades like the Grammys and the ARIA Awards recognise creative endeavours, it is ultimately money keeping the music industry's wheels turning. Over the past century, two methods have been developed for recognising an artist's commercial success: charts and music certification.

Charts are pretty straightforward: whichever artist sells the most records in a given week will be #1 for that week, with everyone else ranked in descending order of sales made. Most markets divide these lists into singles and albums. As more genres of music have developed, more niche charts have arisen. In the US, the *t* charts are the authoritative charts. The Hot 100 is the primary all-genre chart, with its rankings currently calculated based on sales, radio airplay, and streaming data. There are also close to 100 individual charts published by *Billboard*, tracking everything from dance and electronic singles to ringtones.

Music certification rewards an artist for hitting a sales benchmark. Most markets have gold, platinum, and diamond levels of certification, with each level reflecting a different benchmark. In the US, the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) designates that a gold record is awarded for 500,000 sales, platinum for 1 million, and diamond for 10 million. With the advent of the Internet, online sales were either given their own award (e.g. RIAA's Digital Single Award) or added into album award numbers.

However, from 2004 to 2006, RIAA's digital single certification had a much lower threshold than the standard certification – 100,000 downloads equalled a gold certification, and platinum was awarded for 200,000 downloads. This splintered system was a small indication of an issue that would only get bigger in the coming years, as streaming became increasingly popular. The Internet has completely changed how consumers access music, and the traditional gatekeepers of the industry are struggling to stay in control.

“The Internet has completely  
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struggling to stay in control.”

In 2005, YouTube completely changed the game by allowing consumers to listen to music for free. Suddenly, there were no sales to track, and anyone could self-publish their music. While DIY pockets had existed within certain genres for a while, it had been tough to find worldwide success. Now, acts like Justin Bieber and Lily Allen, who were both ‘discovered’ online, could reach an international audience on the back of home videos and low-fi demos. YouTube also redefined the way artists and fans interacted, giving a more ‘authentic’ feel to a musician in a way that record labels are still trying to emulate.

A few years later, Spotify, Apple Music, and their competitors came along, reintroducing a version of paying consumers, although with much lower returns for artists than traditional sales. Most recording associations only began counting digital streams towards certification in the mid-2010s. A common criticism is that the maths doesn't add up as a high number of streams are required to equal one sale for certification. Charts have adopted a similar method to the certification process, by counting multiple streams as if they were one sale. Last year, *Billboard* tweaked the algorithm to put more weight on streams from premium subscribers than those from free listeners. They now count 1250 streams from paying consumers as one sale, whereas non-paying users are worth a third of that, with 3750 free streams equaling one sale. Competing charts are catching up though, including from the digital platforms themselves. The Spotify Viral 50 chart aims to capture songs that are gaining traction online, in an attempt to predict the next crossover hit à la ‘Old Town Road’. It currently has over 1.5 million followers, and

according to various online how-to guides has huge potential to launch the Next Big Thing.

Despite trying to accommodate streaming as best they can, the traditional charts still struggle to keep up with the quickening pace of the industry. This struggle is encapsulated by *Billboard's* initial treatment of 'Old Town Road'. *Billboard* uses the metadata provided by the artist to classify the genre chart a song enters. Lil Nas X had tagged his track as 'country', so *Billboard* placed it in the Hot Country Songs Chart. But in March, just as he had signed with record label Columbia, *Billboard* decided to remove the song from the chart. The reason given was that it lacked 'country elements', although many pundits questioned whether it had to do with Lil Nas X not fitting the typical white, heterosexual template of an American country star.

There was, understandably, an uproar from the public and the industry alike, although *Billboard* defended it as "purely an internal decision". As a result, Billy Ray Cyrus jumped on the first of many remixes of the track. The logic was that the remix would then have to be classified as 'country', because it featured one of the world's biggest country stars. As we now know, it did much better than that. It made it all the way to the top of the Hot 100 chart, and stayed there for 19 weeks, breaking the record for longest-running Hot 100 leader. The record was previously jointly held by Mariah Carey and Boyz II Men's 'One Sweet Day', and the Justin Bieber remix of Luis Fonsi's 'Despacito'. Eventually 'Old Town Road' was dethroned by Billie Eilish, the first artist born in the 2000s to hold the top spot in the Hot 100. *Billboard*, stuck within the traditional boundaries of genre, had been somewhat beaten at their own game, and now the rules were changing.

Looking back on Lil Nas X's meteoric rise, it's hard to believe no one has done it before. With digital natives coming of age and beginning to knock on the music industry's door, it's very likely that we will see more genre-bending artists promoting their music in increasingly innovative ways. *Charts and certification have already lost some of their influence in the industry, and success may no longer be able to be measured in terms of how much money an album makes.* To paraphrase Smash Mouth: all that glitters is gold, until a shooting star breaks the mould.



Georgia is a final year Law/Journalism student with a passion for all things music and culture. She is the current Managing Editor of Blitz UNSW. When she's not at a gig, you can find her watching NCIS or reading niche Wikipedia articles.

# HOW THE GREEN NEW DEAL C CLASS AND PREVENT OUR

According to a report by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released in 2018, we had 11 years to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5°C, otherwise the risks of catastrophic natural disasters will increase significantly. That report was released one year ago and as of yet, nothing has changed. Fossil fuels continue to be used at record levels and temperatures across the globe continue to rise every year. The last five years have been the hottest five years on record. If this continues, humanity is in grave danger.

That is not to say that some are not taking action. The recent global climate strikes, held between the 20th to 27th of September 2019, were an unprecedented statement by over 7 million concerned citizens to our leaders: “You need to do more”. The rise of teenage activist Greta Thunberg is a testament to both her own passion and her unwavering commitment to mitigating climate change. She, and the strikes, represent the increasing acknowledgement of climate change as a serious problem.

As with any movement that agitates for change, there was an inevitable backlash towards Greta and the climate strikes. It has been fierce, dishonest, and bruising. It peddles in xenophobia, isolationism, resentment and conspiracy mongering. It’s dangerous and toxic but depressingly, it’s succeeded.

Take, for example, the results of the last federal election. In simple terms, Scott Morrison

won the un-winnable election (or Bill Shorten lost the un-losable election). Pundits have focused on factors such as the role of money in politics or the unpopularity of Bill Shorten as a political figure. Others have looked to Labor’s policies on superannuation and taxation to explain their seemingly momentous loss.

These analyses miss a fundamental principle of politics. Voters do not respond to any one policy and won’t be shifted by one ad they see on TV or Facebook. Voters respond to narrative. They will support the narrative that they identify with the most. It is the job of the two main parties in Australia to shape their narratives, with policy and messaging that interact and complement each other, to appeal to a majority of the electorate while being anchored to their ideals and beliefs.

Some issues can dominate these narratives during any particular campaign. In 2007 the prevalent issue was Industrial Relations and it affected the narrative of both campaigns. Labor’s narrative argued the government could not be trusted to provide you with a secure and stable job, but Labor could. Labor won a thumping majority that year. Climate change policy became a dominant issue in the narratives of both campaigns in 2019.

The results of the 2019 election showed that there was a 1.17% swing towards the Coalition in two-party preferred terms. This broke down to a swing towards the government

## Marc Sidarous

# CAN WIN BACK THE WORKING R CLIMATE CATASTROPHE

in every state and territory except for Victoria and the ACT, the least rural and suburban states/territories in the country. In Queensland (the most rural and suburban state), the Liberal National Party obtained a devastating swing of 4.34%. The Liberal National Government returned with a two-seat majority (a net gain of two), with the ALP losing one seat on net, the crossbench remaining at six and the parliament growing by an additional seat.

Demographically, there was a clear trend of middle/lower-income suburban, regional, and rural seats swinging to the Liberal and National Parties. Conversely, higher-income, inner city seats swung to the Labor Party. This was consistent in every state and territory. For example, in the seat of Brisbane there was a 1.08% swing to Labor while the rest of the state swung heavily to the government.

The seats that had the largest movement to the government by far were those where coal reigns supreme economically. In the electorate of Capricornia, which is anchored by the mining towns of Rockhampton and Bundaberg, no non-ALP member had ever been re-elected except for in 2016. It was the government's most marginal seat going into the election. Labor's primary vote collapsed by 14% and there was an 11% swing to the sitting LNP member in two-party preferred terms. In Flynn, another Central Queensland seat dependent on coal, the same pattern emerges. The Labor vote collapsed, there was a

severe swing to the incumbent member and the seat transformed from extremely marginal to remarkably safe, overnight.

In the formerly safe Labor seat of Hunter, the results were a carbon-copy of the aforementioned seats. Shadow Agriculture Minister Joel Fitzgibbon held on to his seat by the smallest Labor margin since 1906. Unlike Capricornia and Flynn, Labor had the advantage of incumbency, it is not in Queensland, not next to the proposed Adani Carmichael mine, but is subsistent on the coal industry.

Climate policy was discussed extensively during the campaign. The media dubbed the election 'The Climate Election' and the impending Labor victory was supposed to be a repudiation of the existing government's inaction on climate change.

The narrative of the ALP became 'we will implement the hard but necessary changes needed for governing and for taking action on climate change.' The Coalition narrative was simple: 'That's too hard and too expensive, we will not do that.'

We were told that the man who so lovingly embraced coal inside parliament, who is seemingly perplexed by Santa Claus giving coal to the naughty children and not the good ones, was to be punished for his beliefs. That Shorten's narrative would best Morrison's.

Except that didn't happen. ScoMo won.



The best explanation as to why comes from the most prominent climate sceptic in the country, Tony Abbott. On election night, when the former prime minister lost his once safe, high-income, Northern Beaches seat to an independent, he told the ironically jubilant crowd:

*When climate change is a moral issue, we Liberals do it tough. But when climate change is an economic issue, as tonight's results showed, we do very, very well indeed.*

Polls show voters recognise climate change as a serious issue. Almost two thirds (64%) of a June, Lowy Institute poll listed climate change as a critical threat to Australia. This number will continue to grow as global temperatures continue to rise. Yet, recent history tells us that when in the privacy of the ballot box, voters place their faith in those that minimise the issue.

The ALP is currently in the middle of reviewing their abysmal performance in the last election. In the infamous words of Hillary Clinton, "What Happened?"

Shadow climate minister Mark Butler stated that, while Labor's principles on the issue were 'unshakeable', all policies were up for revision if necessary. What cost Mark Butler a seat in cabinet was not the 45% renewable target in and of itself. What cost the ALP government is what has been plaguing the centre-left around the world when it comes to climate policy—which narrative does the average voter identify with?

The current rhetoric used by those advocating action in the climate debate is moralistic in nature and frames climate action as costly and sacrificial. Almost all mainstream talking points include the words 'hard but necessary' and 'there will be a cost'.

For the single mother living in Gosford who worries about how she is going to pay her bills, that is the last thing she wants to hear. She

understands that climate change is a serious issue, but so is putting food on the table. For the coal miner in Central Queensland, when you present her with the choice of denying climate change and maintaining her livelihood, or accepting it and entering poverty, that is no choice at all.

For many in this, or similar situations, climate change is seen as an issue for those who can afford to do something about it. Fairly or not, it's seen as those who can afford to buy a new Tesla, or install solar panels and even purchase a reusable coffee cup. Climate change is seen as an issue of the elites and not the working class. The current messaging on climate change makes action sound like a cost we must bear, no matter the price. Where does that leave you if cannot bear any more costs?

Climate change is real. The consequences of inaction will be felt for generations to come. Crop yields will diminish, water will become scarcer, ecosystems will collapse, and it will be poor and working people who will be hurt the most as a result.

Therefore, action must be taken, and quickly, but if the current policies are not and will not be accepted in the near future, then how? Never again can the economics of climate action be a winning issue on the right.

Changing perception will not be done by words alone. It will be done through action and policy. Policy that invests in rather than taxing, working people by raising wages, protecting worker rights, guaranteeing economic dignity, avoiding 'job retraining programs' or 'tax incentives' and is funded through an appropriately progressive taxation system that cannot be shifted back to the working and middle classes.

The Green New Deal (GND) is the sweet elixir from which the left must drink to revitalise their fortunes in the climate change debate.

The GND is legislation sponsored by and popularised by first-term US Congresswoman

"What cost the ALP government is what has been plaguing the centre-left around the world when it comes to climate policy—which narrative does the average voter identify with?"

and unashamed progressive, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and Senator Ed Markey of Massachusetts. The proposal is unique for climate policy as it combines social and economic reforms, and public work projects, with environmental concerns such as renewable energy and resource efficiency. It invests in working people while still taking appropriate action on climate change.

The plan is marketed as the successor to the New Deal program of President Franklin Roosevelt (hence the name). A suite of policies so popular Roosevelt won four consecutive elections and permanently realigned American politics. Specifics of the GND include 100% renewable energy by 2030, a massive public works and government infrastructure program, and a federal jobs guarantee. It and its predecessors have been described as a Blue-Green Alliance between blue-collar labour and environmentalists. Over and above, it's ambitious targets of emission reductions are necessary to combat the climate emergency.

The GND is not without its detractors, of course. There are the bad faith arguments, put so eloquently by the former host of the *Celebrity Apprentice*:

*HONEY! Is the wind blowing? I want to watch television" or "Can't eat meat, can't drive your car, no more planes folks, no more planes.*

That, and arguments similar to it, are attempting to reframe the debate as individual sacrifice. If the policy is followed through and it is correctly framed as an economic investment, that argument will not succeed.

There are those who argue that such a 'radical' policy can not be politically satiable to voters. They will argue that it 'drives up' electricity bills or will be ruinous to the economy. However, if this policy is sold as an economic program that invests in our working people, and guarantees full employment, including for those economically dependent on fossil fuels, guarantees the rights of the worker and a living wage, these fallacies will fall short. It will be popular because history and common sense tells

us so.

Medicare is a good parallel to the GND. It is a large, government program that radically changed the healthcare industry in this country and was of immense benefit to working and middle class people. The Liberal Party were opposed to it from its inception and ran campaigns declaring it 'socialised medicine' and 'big government run amok'. The Liberal Party lost election after election, until they no longer pledged to dismantle it.

"The policy must be supported by a change in mindset from the ALP that rejects the trappings of neoliberalism."

The Green New Deal will not change the narrative by itself. The policy must be supported by a change in mindset from the ALP that rejects the trappings of neoliberalism. No more can a Labor candidate for Prime Minister proclaim "I am an economic conservative". No more can a potential Labor government advocate for an increase in taxes that raise prices for working people. Taken together, the narrative of climate action will shift from morality to hip-pocket economics for the working class, and climate politics may finally cease to be perceived as an elitist issue before it is too late.



Marc Sidarous is a Master of Journalism and Communications student with a Bachelor's degree in Economics. He left his job in a graduate program to follow his dreams. He aspires to become a political reporter one day. The TV character he identifies with the most is Diane from *Bojack Horseman*.





# Sydney strikes for climate action

An estimated 80,000 protestors spilled into The Domain here in Sydney to join the rest of the country, and the world, in calling for leaders everywhere to finally start taking climate change seriously on Friday September 20. Thousands gathered for speeches by lead organiser and high school student Daisy Jeffrey, among other activists and students, and performances by musicians Jack River and Montaigne, before taking to the streets to march around the CBD and conclude the strike in Hyde Park. In support of the global movement started by 16-year-old activist Greta Thunberg, an overwhelming amount of protestors were school-aged children, opting to leave school to advocate for their future. Millions of people worldwide joined the protest on the same day (or a week later of the 27th) to encourage world leaders meeting in New York for the Climate Change Summit on the 23rd of September to acknowledge that the planet is currently undergoing a climate crisis.

In Australia specifically, marchers were calling for the government to transition to renewable energy, no new oil or gas projects, and fair and a just transition for fossil fuel workers and their communities into sustainable energy infrastructures. A UNSW contingent of students and staff joined other university groups in the city to march to the domain together after a rally was held on Library Lawn at 10:30AM. As reported by Tharunka earlier in September, UNSW management had officially approved all students and staff to participate in the global rally.

*Photography L-A Benoit*  
*Words Lungol Wekina*













L-A is a photographer all the way from the cold, cold lands of Quebec, Canada. She works primarily in music photography, snapping artists including Florence + the Machine, Justin Timberlake and personal Aussie faves Alex Lahey, Winterbourne and Harrison Storm. If she had one wish, she'd wish that every time she said 'dog', a dog would magically appear.



## THE SERPENT

Kisses like buds on your neck,  
flowering amongst pheromones  
and dying beneath crushed grips.

Your teeth clutching like shiny pearls  
– a ray of moonlight glistens on my lips –  
for purchase, they move down, hungry;  
a wolf grin materialises to  
draw blood from a bite  
that transforms,  
you howl my name like  
a curse from the depths,  
and with shadow-eyed relish  
I lick the sanguine in your mouth,  
pushing you down into my abyss.

Catch me on the saline wave  
as I ride up, down, up, down,  
climbing on the crest of white foam,  
I surge downward,  
seeking oblivion at the highest height,  
I find it in the part of yourself  
that you gift to me,  
then I tumble, shuddering,  
on the heels of our shared fall.

Swollen, raw, plundered,  
halves connected like the moon,  
I want to forget myself  
entwined with you like  
the trail of a comet  
in the constellations.

Hollow me out,  
pull the stubborn pieces of myself  
from within my ribs,  
from the cage that I hide in.  
Place them gently in the eggshell,  
and lay with me inside,  
so that we may spend eternity  
in our own cosmos.

## APOTHEOSIS

A body that recalls the curve of stone,  
tamed beneath centuries of reverent touches,  
heartlessly shatters the mortals who surrender.  
Gluttonous, eldritch being,  
so thoroughly awash with sacrifice,  
that the creaking bones of the world  
still salivate in relished remembrance.

And the lips –  
When he drinks from them,  
those poisonous,  
raw, swollen buds,  
to oblivion he fervently submits.

He is a being of but a day,  
and yet,  
when she abandons him  
to the monotony of mortality,  
and he gazes, in the night,  
at a star, far, far away,  
he will shudder, weep, and yearn  
for the memory of her eternity  
that fleetingly engulfed him,  
and gave nothing in return.

Ivana Marija Devcic is usually cleaning that annoying smudge on her glasses. Regularly having existential crises (if they are consistent, can they be called crises?). Typically found with a book in front of her face – a standard sign of an INTJ in their natural habitat. If lost, look near the cats or salted crisps.

# SRC REPORT

Hi all, it's Ange here again, your SRC President. I hope the beginning of term has been going well and that everyone's still stoking that anger about trimesters. In recent months, your SRC has been hard at work getting some great outcomes for students studying under trimesters.

Remember those Cancel Trimesters protests that you all diligently attended and that survey you filled in? We have used all of that to advocate to the university that they must get rid of the harmful trimester system, and if they're not going to do that, they need to make some significant changes to the system to make UNSW student lives slightly more bearable.

We heard your feedback that said that students and staff alike are overworked, have no time to catch up, and feel that the assessment load is too much. And so, we can now confirm that in T2 2020, UNSW will begin installing mid-term break! The university has also committed to removing week 0 course content, and the special considerations guidelines are being changed to include some extracurricular activities as well as employment and internship opportunities, especially interviews and assessment centres.

This is all thanks to you. Thank you for giving us your feedback so that we could advocate, and thank you for showing up to our protests so that we could show how important it was to act. The SRC will continue to work to get more concessions under the trimester system.

If you want to know more, please contact the SRC at:

[srcpresident@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:srcpresident@arc.unsw.edu.au)

*Want to join an SRC Collective?*

SRC Collectives meet once a week to discuss issues on campus specific to that collective and plan action to make UNSW a better place. Come along and have your voice heard.

Indigenous Collective:  
[indigenous@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:indigenous@arc.unsw.edu.au)

Enviro Collective:  
[enviro@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:enviro@arc.unsw.edu.au)

Education Collective:  
[education@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:education@arc.unsw.edu.au)

Welfare Collective:  
[welfare@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:welfare@arc.unsw.edu.au)

Queer Collective:  
[queer@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:queer@arc.unsw.edu.au)

Women's Collective:  
[women@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:women@arc.unsw.edu.au)

Ethno-Cultural Collective:  
[ethno@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:ethno@arc.unsw.edu.au)

International Collective:  
[international@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:international@arc.unsw.edu.au)

Students with Disabilities Collective:  
[disabilities@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:disabilities@arc.unsw.edu.au)

## Angela Griffin



# THARUNKA WANTS YOU!

*Keen to get your work published but not sure where to start?*

As UNSW's longest-running student publication, *Tharunka* is the political, social, and cultural journal for all students on campus and we are always looking for a wide range of fresh content for both our print and online platforms.

We're looking for non-fiction essays, UNSW campus reports & updates, social commentary, opinion pieces, reviews, short fiction, poetry, online columns, drawings, comics, photography and everything in between.

## **How to pitch:**

Do you have a killer idea but need some editorial guidance?

E-mail us at [tharunka@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:tharunka@arc.unsw.edu.au) with the following info:

1. Your name:
2. Your pitch in 100 - 200 words: what do you want to write/make?
3. Word count/medium/platform
4. Include any examples of previous work (optional)

## ***Stay in the loop:***

Make sure to join our THARUNKA 2019 CONTRIBUTORS Facebook group to keep up to date with call-outs for the next issue.

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Tharunka](https://www.facebook.com/Tharunka)

Instagram: @tharunkaunsw

L-A Benoit  
Ivana Marija Devcic  
Angela Griffin  
Georgia Griffiths  
Ganur Maynard  
Stephen Melhuish  
Thao Pham  
Axel-Nathaniel Rose  
Marc Sidarous

