

THARUNKA

University of NSW's Independent Student Newspaper



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Ed's Letter

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Easter. Easter, Easter, Easter. Perhaps one of the weirdest holiday seasons purely for the fact that the rebirth of Jesus Christ after his crucifixion is symbolised by a rabbit and the hunting and slaughtering of chocolate eggs. Tone had a pleasant Easter, he got to sit in a multi-million dollar strike fighter (that the Chinese have already gotten the blueprints for after they hacked the Pentagon) and meet his Anglo overlords in Will and Kate. But has since then been on a slow downward trajectory in the polls because well who didn't see it coming! Seriously. Be weary of this federal government. If it chooses, the writing may be on the wall. But then again if your opponents only retort to your agenda is that it is 'crazy stupid' then you're still in the game.

It was a fun little break, but back to UNSW. We hope you enjoyed the Women's edition of Tharunka that was present on the stand for the first two weeks back. This fortnightly edition is coinciding with the Arc board elections, to which you may ask wtf is that to which we reply check out the shortlist on page 2. Our team of crack journos have also enjoyed a little break but are back with entertainingly interesting reports on how the shady Overseas Students Association is trying to chip back into campus again, how the elite Group of 8 universities are shamefully trying to dodge the spotlight on divesting from fossil fuel, how a former Prime Minister has suddenly done a surprising left turn and how the NSW Premier from the same party may be trying to rearrange the deck chairs on what could be his very own titanic (ICAC to me stands for I Care About Corruption). Our reviews section has boundful reviews to share too as do our regular columnists and Niko (our singular sports writer for this edition, hooray for him!).

Tharunka is yet again sprinkled throughout with the contributions from students to which make this newspaper great. Without the flow of contributions from the student body we wouldn't have a paper, and it's what makes our jobs worth it to put out every two weeks something that is unmatched on campus and can claim to be a voice of the student populous.

Until next edition,

JK Glud, with Ammy Singh and Freya King

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Tharunka acknowledges the Bedegal and Gadigal people, the traditional custodians of the land on which the University stands.

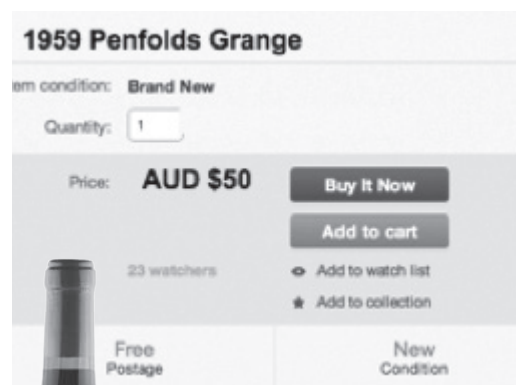
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Date	Events
Wednesday May 14	UNSW DJ COMP 14th May, UNSW Roundhouse Upload a mix to soundcloud, submit it and next thing you know you could be DJing at Roundhouse parties instead of just pushing randoms on the sticky carpet. If you think you're the next Flume, this is probably your moment.
May 19-25	Sydney Writers Festival The annual Sydney Writers Festival is on, with heaps of cool shit both free and cheap to go see and do. Visit www.swf.org.au to check out the line up and buy tickets. Seriously – the writer of Breaking Bad has presented, there is some mega great stuff happening. GO.
Tuesday May 20	Jeremy Scahill in conversation with Chris Masters 6:30-7:30pm. Io Myers Studio, UNSW Kensington See here, what did we tell you. A free, cool event thanks to the Sydney Writers Festival, and it's hosted at UNSW. Two fancy real life important Journos (Four Corners legit. Books published legit) chat and you can watch. Make sure you book here: https://sam.arts.unsw.edu.au/othersites/?path=othersites/fass/form/index.php&i=364
Wednesday May 21	The potential of community-led housing: recent developments in England 12pm- 1pm. Room 4035, Level 4, Red Centre West Wing UNSW Kensington Ok, so we listed this because we recently watched a seriously cool episode of Grand Designs that profiled a self-build social housing initiative. We can only expect this to be as interesting a presentation. Presented by Professor David Mullins, University of Birmingham, UK.



Agony Ibis



Dear Ibis,
I found this listing on eBay – but not sure of it's legitimacy, seems too good to be true, should I risk it?
-Wino

Dear Wino,
Today is your lucky day. May I even suggest offering under the asking price, as I have a feeling the seller would do anything to get rid of this historical bottle.
xoxo Ibis.

Short List

BITE SIZED CAMPUS NEWS

When you try your best and you don't succeed (in avoiding UNSW elections)

Election season is upon us again. Expect to see the same group of political hacks, law students, debaters, United Nations fanatics, and a few genuinely earnest types taking over your Facebook newsfeed and poster-ing every exposed inch of concrete on campus. This week's Shortlist is election-themed. Do not pass go. Do not collect \$200. It's going to be a thoroughly average couple of weeks.

Arc Bored elections

How much do the 17 people running for Arc Board love the glorious, life-giving entity that is Arc? A lot, apparently. More than the next person, almost definitely. Somewhat disingenuously, most probably.

This year's harvest has drawn 17 nominators out of the woodwork for three Board director positions, one of which must be filled by a postgraduate student. Tharunka understands the relative lack of female nominations was discussed at the Arc Board's March meeting, after the Board chose to encourage female nominations through a marketing strategy as opposed to an affirmative action policy, yielding only six women-identifying nominators.

Among the nominations are the usual suspects in the form of campus politically-aligned figures, namely Josh Beale (Greens), Anna Fowler (Labor Left), Mitchell Wilson (Labor Left), and perennial election candidate

Letters

I made a mistake with the cover of this edition of Tharunka. The cover, which depicts students hugging a plushie uterus, has the implication that all women have uteruses. This is false, and unacceptable, and I express my deepest apologies for all offense caused to the trans* community. I am deeply sorry. The intention when creating the cover is irrelevant and there should have been a better thought process put into choosing it. I accept full responsibility for the photograph and would again like to apologise deeply.

Olga Lisinska, SRC Women's Officer

Dear reader,

When did this all begin? Where did it all start? Well the answer's simple, it began to protect those that can't protect themselves, defend the weak and stop discrimination. But I'm going to go out on a limb here. I'm going to turn it upside down. And ask the question, where does it stop?

What I'm talking about is the stifling and suffocating premise of the overused word 'political correctness'. And I'm dead sick of it. Strong words I know. Especially for such an important aspect of an all encompassing, safe and multi-cultural society. It's a powerful tool, and one which needs to be used properly. I'm sick of people casting this poison soaked moral net over issues that have tickled them the wrong way. It's an easy go-to and one that's used too much.

Case in point. Last week's article 'When culture became a costume at Goldstein College'. This article complains about the use of culture for costumes at social functions and in particular o-week themes. They quote a 'student' stating, "people ignorantly confused the

theme [El Dorado] as exclusively Mexican" at Goldstein College. So this student did a poll of all students at the college on their understanding of El Dorado? Or did they simply imply this from costumes that were worn because I guess 'they' look the same? Or instead, why not (with only the slightest imagination) view the El Dorado theme as not only a celebration of an amazing culture/s but also as a way to engage with it. As well, in the same stroke, look at the consequences of invasion on a culture. But no, the 'political correctness' dagger was too easy to throw at this one. Maybe the college should've taken note from the film 'footloose', banning anything outrageously offensive such as sombreros and hair on the top lip.

You may argue back, 'well some students were ignorant to the theme!' But it's this sticky blanket cast across everyone that drowns progression. It scares the majority into submission and stops the exploration of imaginative thought, as it's too dangerous to innocently embrace a theme, new idea or activity that may be twisted into evil.

Unfortunately, there will be a minority that aims to offend, sometimes for fun, sometimes for spite and sometimes to hurt others. And this problem leaves its stench on all parts of society. But when you choose to view the situation through their lens, they win. In this example, calling for 'culture' to not be a 'costume' due to the apparent wrong doings of a minority doesn't change their behaviour, it only limits your ability to appropriately embrace the magic, depth and intrigue of other societies.

For those that complained, for those that sit on their moral pedestal and for those that are too quick to take offence. Remember the wise words from your neighbor superhero - with great power, comes great responsibility. Use it for things that matter, not to whinge.

Asahi Rathod, Medicine

NOODLE HOUSE YARNS

with DAVID BAILEY-MCKAY



I remember the first time someone tapped me. It was in was in the spring of 2011, I was young and naive and someone wanted me to be a club president. At the time I was a bit overwhelmed, someone had more confidence in me than I did. However soon I too would learn the importance of the 'tap' and the 'wink'.

In my time I have encountered many a fine activist, comrade and warm body all worthy of positions and power. Some however have been tapped on the shoulder to ensure they rose for the occasion. This happens at times as the person lacks the confidence or knowledge to nominate by themselves. Allowing nominations to come about themselves in a faction or organisation can cause headaches in organisations that are democratic. Alliances, succession plans, legacies are thrown into wack when people fail to nominate.

Other times the tap on the shoulder is like a break up. 'It's the factions fault not yours', 'I don't think this is working out' and 'I think it is for the better' are all things I have heard before and said. This is most of the time done not out of spite or anger, but the cold logical reasoning that stupol somehow needs. This however has to be done with the upmost delicacies, as no one ever wants a bad break up and there is always the backslide to remember.

This is why the tap on the shoulder is important; it ensures that everything falls into place. To receive the tap and the wink means those in a smoky back room have favoured you. While missing out shows who and what your faction or organisation favour. So next time your in a restaurant, pub or smoky backroom planning just remember to tap that, and hopefully the all the dominoes should fall into place.

Dorothy Rapisardi (Labor Right).

Of interest is Mitch Wilson's conscious adoption of joint Labor Left and Greens SRC ticket Voice's font, red colouring, and poster design in his campaign, a tactic that Tharunka understands Wilson will soon quietly abandon. It also appears Wilson didn't get the memo on Oktoberfest officially returning to UNSW in 2014, given his commitment to "bring back Oktoberfest".

Returning to the fray once again is former ex-officio Board director as 2013 Student Development Committee Convenor, Andy Roberts, frontrunner for election in light of the postgraduate affirmative action policy. Roberts has entered into a preference deal with Melissa-Ann Gillies, a candidate of the law student, debating, and model United Nations variety.

In what is possibly a first, ADFA student Tingting Luo has nominated from UNSW's Canberra campus, aiming to bridge the divide between Kensington and its satellite campuses.

Meanwhile, the self-described Three Musketeers, Athos, Aramis and Aporthos Wang, find themselves architects of the most selfless but confusing three-way preference deal ever attempted in an Arc Board election.

An election wouldn't be complete without your thoroughly earnest nominations, of which there are more than ever this year to Arc's credit. Watch out for Keith Lee, Amit Chopra, Timothy Do, Armella Zadoorian, Nina Teroganova, Eafe Obaro, and Leinton Presil.

Online voting is open to Arc members, commencing Monday 12 May and concluding 3pm on Friday 16 May.

Never heard of University Council?

You're not alone. Occupying an even smaller niche in the election landscape than Arc Board, UNSW Council elections will this year go online after years spent pursuing a postal ballot vote.

In what may comprise the entire voting base, this

year a whopping eight postgraduate nominations have been received, alongside seven undergraduate nominations.

Among the candidates for the single undergraduate position up for grabs are current SRC Education Officer Billy Bruffey (Labor Left), James Mann (Labor Left), Michael Rosser (Labor Right), and Benjamin Heenan (BComm/LLB, arguably a cult in itself), almost all of whom have made the biggest splash on social media at the time of print.

Current LawSoc co-president and Arc Board director Heenan is also expected to nominate for Arc Chair come June. One wonders if Heenan expects to come into possession of a Time-Turner if successful in either or both elections. Kudos to him, however, on managing to fit the buzzwords "governance", "oversight principles", "strategic decisions", and "key stakeholders" into one sentence, in a feat unheard of since Kevin Rudd stalked the halls of Canberra.

Wading into the postgraduate position pool again is Andy Roberts, who is also running for Arc Board and expected to legally change his name to "Bit Keen" in the near future. The main highlight of the postgraduate nominations is Cancer Diagnostics PhD student, Joshua Swift, who promises to "bring the yoU back to University" and the high school election slogans back to UNSW.

Of the undergraduate candidate policies available at the time of print, Billy Bruffey is standing on a platform of fighting fee increases at UNSW, pushing the University to divest from the fossil fuel industry, expanding support services for students with disabilities and international students, making campus living more affordable, and encouraging more University equity scholarships. Benjamin Heenan will focus on affordable higher education, the impact of planned light rail transport to UNSW, technology in the classroom, and

safety in and around campus. Michael Rosser, meanwhile, aims to fight for better quality education and a more sustainable UNSW.

At a postgraduate level, the socially progressive Andrew Nicholson promises to support student rights and educational needs, and campaign for climate awareness and environmental sustainability. Andy Roberts plans to advocate for high quality learning, teaching and research during the current uncertainty in the higher education sector. JoshUa Swift will tap into his professional networks to benefit the University and students.

University council elections will be conducted via myUNSW from Wednesday 14 May to Wednesday 21 May for both undergraduate and postgraduate student positions.

Academic and faculty board mercy of mercies

Elections for student positions on Academic Board and all faculty boards have been postponed indefinitely due to structural changes being proposed and tabled to University Council. Tharunka understands that all current student representatives on these boards have been invited to extend their terms by six months until the end of 2014.

Ed McDon't

UNSW Labor Right faithful, Edward McDougall, was last month elected to the position of Australian Young Labor President at the national Young Labor conference in Canberra.

McDougall, previously an electoral officer for John Robertson, has argued against reforming to a one-member-one-vote system for internal Young Labor elections, in contrast to his fellow Labor Right predecessor, Kerrie Kahlon.

Tharunka wishes McDougall the best of luck in his new role and hopes the Overseas Students Association (pg 7) does not feature in his imminent future ahead. ■



Group of 8 universities stalling on fossil fuel divestment

Nick Timms

It was that classic awkward situation that you always worry will happen when you send an email about someone else: You accidentally send that email to the very person it is about. Only this time, the email, from the CFO of Monash University, cast the Group of Eight Universities, including UNSW, into controversy.

The email was regarding a survey from the Asset Owners Disclosure Project (AODP) that was sent to 300 of the world's biggest universities. The survey aimed to assess where their endowments are being invested and their engagement with high carbon exposed companies and fossil fuel companies. Upon seeing the survey, Monash's CFO David Pitt sent this email to what he thought was just the Vice-Chancellor of Monash:

"My recommendation is we let this through to the keeper... To pursue this would involve or imply 'unbundling' of our investment activities...and we might not score well anyway. Better not to respond so this group would have to rely on public information and we would simply be in a position to say that we are unaware of their scoring and did not participate."

The email also outlined that the Group of Eight had recently discussed the topic and decided not to allow others to judge their efforts on investment.

Unfortunately for Pitt, the email was also accidentally sent to the AODP.

After this incident appeared on *Late-line*, in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Australian*, it became apparent that

the Group of Eight is making an effort to keep their investments in fossil fuel companies under wraps.

UNSW does not directly invest in fossil fuel companies, but it does invest through externally managed funds, according to the SRC's Environment Officer, Nicholas Gueriff. Gueriff believes that although they do not directly invest, the financial officers at UNSW still have a role in deciding many aspects of the investments.

"Just because their funds are externally managed, UNSW still decides which managed funds we invest in, and still receives reports from those managed funds, and still has an influence on where that money goes once it's in that managed fund," he says.

Joshua Sheppard, the Global Universities Index Project Manager of the AODP, sees UNSW's explanation that they do not have direct investments in any fossil fuel companies as a way to sidestep scrutiny.

"UNSW has also stated that they have no control over their fund manager's decisions and does not have the information to complete the survey. This is a disappointing attempt to evade scrutiny on UNSW's investment activities," he says.

"UNSW decides which fund manager they employ to manage their investments and sets their fund manager's mandate. As an asset owner, UNSW has a great deal of power over how their fund manager invests and could alter the fund manager's mandate to specifically address climate change investment risks."

Mr Gueriff believes that it's important for institutional investors to be aware of the risks of investing in fossil fuel com-

panies.

"My understanding is that the experts are warning that as climate change poses a risk to just about every aspect of society, it also poses a risk to the financial industry in that the status quo is going to change at some point, and at some point it's going to cause readjustments in the share market," he says.

"They have to at least monitor what's going on, and how it will affect UNSW. In the past, universities like UNSW...lost quite significant amounts of money in the global financial crisis, which they were unprepared for. It's our suggestion that this is on a similar scale, so if we're unprepared for this, it's quite likely that institutions like UNSW are going to lose a lot more money, which is not good for students, staff, or the broader people who rely on UNSW's research and education."

Mr Sheppard agrees with this view and says that the problem is not just with fossil fuel companies, but with any high carbon exposed assets.

"The AODP views investment in high-carbon exposed assets [not just fossil fuel companies] as involving higher risk than the financial markets currently suggest. It is inevitable that high-carbon exposed assets will be re-priced at some stage in the future for a number of reasons," Sheppard says.

In addition to the lack of disclosure of investments, it has also become apparent that UNSW will not be divesting from fossil fuel companies.

"I have met with Fred Hilmer on multiple occasions to discuss why the university should divest from fossil fuels, including the fact that it has been proven

to deliver the same return, aligns with UNSW's desire to be the leading university in renewable energy engineering, and is ethical," SRC President Joel Wilson says.

"He was both sceptical of the benefits of divesting and argued that UNSW did not manage its own funds and that the amount of funds that UNSW invested was too small to make any real impact. However, he did promise to look into whether it was financially viable.

"When asked to give an update in our last meeting in March, Hilmer ruled out the possibility of divesting from fossil fuels...as he felt it was merely tokenism. He argued that if UNSW was going to make a serious stand against fossil fuels, it would not foster the learning and development of students who were inevitably going into the fossil fuel industry. This was obviously a huge blow to the fossil fuel divestment movement on campus," Wilson says.

Many see both the disclosure of such investments, and the divestment of fossil fuel companies, as a key issue for universities to take a stand on.

"UNSW has the capacity to be a leader on the world-stage in investor disclosure on climate change risks. The university should engage with their stakeholders in good faith, disclose their current investment position and move towards a more sustainable investment path," Mr Sheppard says.

According to the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Monash University has not yet made a decision on whether to consider the project's study. According to Mr Gueriff, UNSW too remains uncommunicative on the topic.

Higher fees on the horizon as students hijack Q&A

Ammy Singh

Students from university campuses across Sydney temporarily shut down live broadcasting of ABC's Q&A last week, while protesting Education Minister Christopher Pyne's proposal to deregulate university fees, among a raft of recommendations aimed at creating a US-style college system in Australia.

Benjamin Hammond, member of the NSW Education Action Network of students, said the protest was designed to give a voice back to young people ahead of the Federal budget announcement this week, who have until now been largely ignored by the government in the higher education debate.

"Christopher Pyne and the Liberal government have an extreme agenda for education. He wants to emulate the U.S. system which has entrenched students into a future of debt and poverty," Hammond said.

"We're frustrated. These decisions impact on young people more than anyone, and if they don't want to listen, we'll just have to make them," he continued.

The protest follows Education Minister Pyne's comments on ABC TV's *Insiders* program two weeks ago expressing support for increased fees for university students, at a time when the average HELP debt is \$15,200 and takes over eight years to repay—a significant increase from the mid-1990s when the average repayment time was four years.

"I'm in favour of deregulation. I'm in favour of more competition. I'm in favour of universities being able to reach their full potential. But I'm also in favour of spreading opportunity to more students to go to university," Pyne said.

Pyne had earlier told an Adelaide radio station that students paying back 41 per cent of their education costs as HELP debt is "too low" due to future career benefits accrued to university graduates.

Deanna Taylor, President of the National Union of Students, told *Tharunka* that student contributions to their education are already the sixth highest in the OECD.

"To suggest that students aren't paying their fair share and need to be paying more is quite outrageous," Taylor said. "The National Union of Students has great issues with the government's intention to move to a US-style system given that in the US there is very clearly a two-tiered system of Ivy League universities that charge hundreds of thousands of dollars, and lower quality community colleges and private providers which are all that students from low socio-economic backgrounds can afford."

Pyne's comments echo his speech to a right-wing London think-tank on April

28, in which he indicated the government would not be consulting on higher education matters in the Federal budget beyond considering the recommendations of the Kemp-Norton review and Commission of Audit.

Among the recommendations proposed by the Kemp-Norton review are the scrapping of the 20 per cent enrolment target of students from low socio-economic backgrounds by 2020, as well as the opening up of Commonwealth-supported places to private education providers. The review also proposed the imposition of a 10 per cent loan fee on HELP debt, which would increase the cost of degrees between \$2,000 and \$7,000.

UNSW SRC President, Joel Wilson, said the abolition of the low socio-economic status target would allow universities to maintain that they are accessible despite pursuing only the elite, adding that the expansion of Commonwealth-supported places to private institutions will place upward pressure on student fees.

"Expanding grants to private providers would mean a drop in funding per student... Students will be the ones paying for the expansion of Commonwealth-supported places to private providers through an increase to student fees via the deregulation of university fees and imposing a flat 10 per cent loan fee on HELP," Wilson said. "Education will be unaffordable for any but the rich and those willing to bear the increased debt burden."

NUS President, Deanna Taylor, agreed. "What we don't agree with is that students will cop the cost of subsidising private universities that are largely driven by profit, as opposed to investing higher amounts of money in public universities."

Released shortly after the Kemp-Norton review, last week's Commission of Audit has also proposed further drastic changes to the higher education sector, calling for student higher education contributions to increase from 41 per cent to 55 per cent of fees, with a higher interest rate on HELP loans, and the reduction of the HELP debt repayment threshold from \$51,000 to the minimum wage of \$32,354.

Taylor said these proposed fee increases will hit the two-thirds of Australian students living in poverty the hardest.

"Increasing student contributions to 59 per cent equates to an approximate 34 per cent increase in fees. Australia would have the highest student fees and lowest government contribution in the OECD if these reforms go ahead," she said.

According to Greens education spokesperson, Senator Lee Rhiannon, this form of fee deregulation will create an unequal, elitist education system.

"The Abbott government is already trying to ram through \$2.4 billion in cuts to universities," Senator Rhiannon said. "The cuts will increase the debt of the most disadvantaged students by up to 50%, with student debt projected to skyrocket over the next decade."

Multiple Group of 8 (Go8) university Vice-Chancellors, including UNSW's Fred Hilmer, have backed the recommendation for increased fees, arguing that maintaining the HELP system and increasing scholarships for disadvantaged students will offset any inequities of the scheme.

In an op-ed for the *Sydney Morning Herald* on April 23, Professor Hilmer claimed that "the evidence is that as long as we maintain the HECS system there should be no impact on access – plus there would be significant scholarship

support for disadvantaged students."

His comments were echoed by Go8 chair and Australian National University Vice-Chancellor, Ian Young, in addition to the University of Adelaide's Vice-Chancellor Warren Bebbington and University of Melbourne Vice-Chancellor Glyn Davis.

UNSW SRC Education Officer, Billy Bruffey, said the Go8's argument is misleading. "HECS loans support those who cannot afford to pay upfront. Larger HELP debts adversely affect those who cannot afford to pay," he said.

Taylor agreed. "HECS is designed to support students in paying their fees; it's not designed to allow universities to charge whatever they want and pass exorbitant costs onto students."

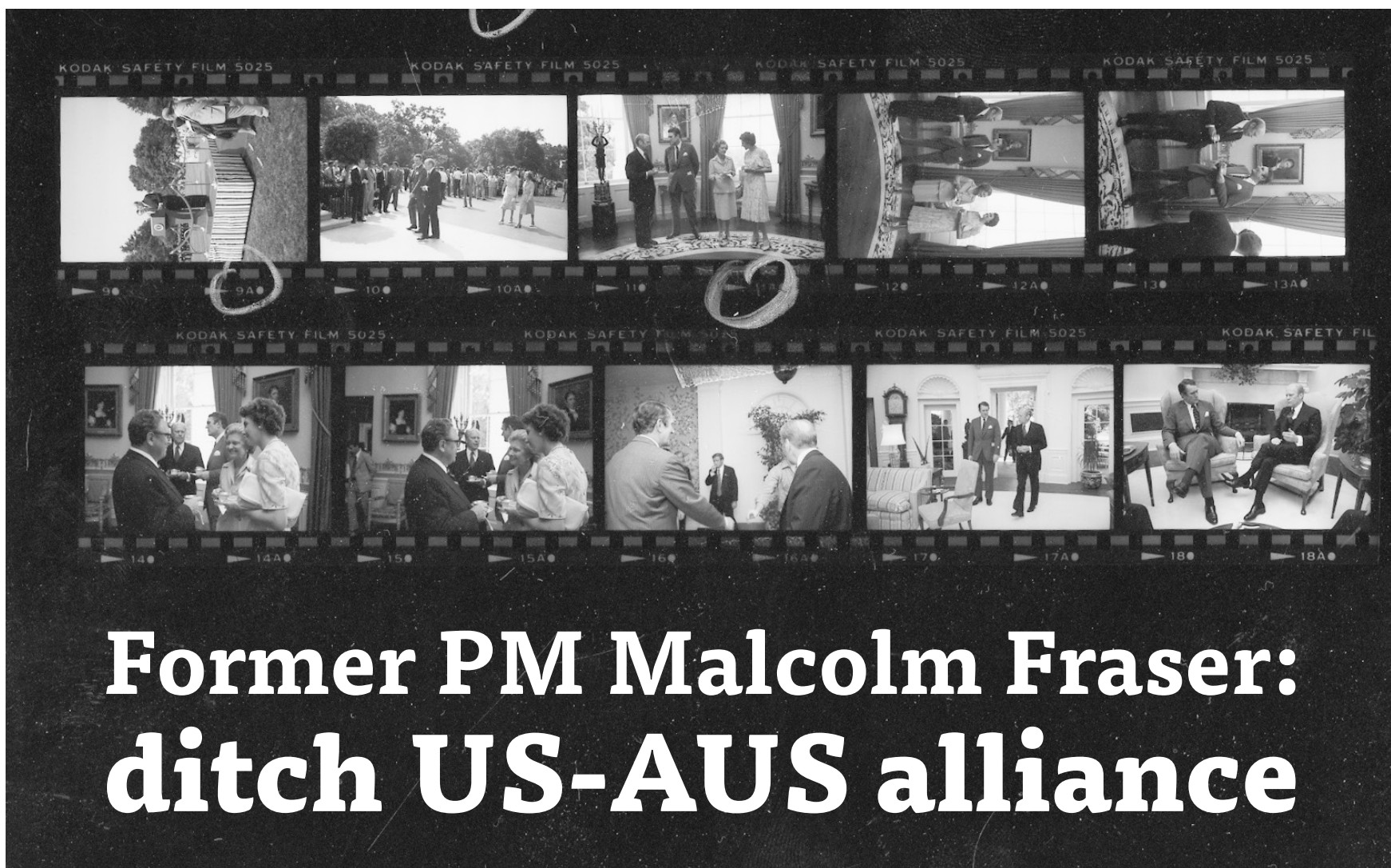
"These issues affect all students; undergraduate, postgraduate, and international," Bruffey said. "These proposals will erode the best aspects of Australian higher education in favour of a user-pays-most model like the United States."

With the largest shake-up to the higher education sector in years projected for this week's Federal budget, student demonstrations have been planned across Australia to respond to the likely fee increases resulting from the budget.

At UNSW, the SRC will hold a speak-out and rally at midday May 14 on the Library Lawn, an event Bruffey encouraged students to attend.

"Fee deregulation would see UNSW become an elitist institution where students are enrolled based on wealth rather than intellect. Students should attend the May 14 rally and get involved in future SRC Education Collective campaigns. It's only by forcing our protest into the public arena that a fair and sustainable outcome can be achieved," he said.





Former PM Malcolm Fraser: ditch US-AUS alliance

Matthew Bugden

(@matthewpbugden)

Former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser has called on current Prime Minister Tony Abbott to sever all military ties with the US, warning we would be paying dearly in the event that the waning superpower goes to war with China.

According to Fraser, the benefit of our alliance with the United States, formalised in the 1953 ANZUS treaty, is outweighed by the risk of antagonising the Chinese.

This revelation comes just days after President Barack Obama's most recent visit to Asia, where he affirmed that the United States would support Japan in the event of a military conflict with China. This diplomatic mission, along with ever-increasing territorial disputes between China and its neighbours, suggests conflict might occur sooner than we think.

"I don't want to see them [the US] make the same mistakes...in the region in which we live, and I don't want to be tied to mistakes that they are being involved in, unfortunate adventures, through our part of the world," said Fraser in an interview with Fairfax.

Fraser is not the only commentator to openly entertain the possibility of a war involving China and Japan happening in the near future. Evidence of the Chinese military preparing for a war with Japan abounds in the security literature.

According to the U.S. Naval Institute, in late 2013, the U.S. Pacific Fleet observed China conducting a major military training exercise in the East China Sea, which they interpreted as preparation for a war.

"[The US Naval Institute] concluded that the PLA has been given the new task to be able to conduct a short sharp war to destroy Japanese forces in the East China Sea following with what can only be expected a seizure of the Senkaku or even a southern Ryukyu [Islands] – as some of their academics say."

Capt. James Fannell, U.S. Pacific Fleet, chief of intelligence.

Serving as Minister for the Army and Minister for Defence from 1966–71 under Liberal prime ministers Harold Holt and John Gorton, Fraser's defence credentials add considerable weight to the view that our alliance with the US is no longer in the national interest, an argument summarily rejected by both Liberal and Labor politicians.

Fraser is sceptical of the value of the ANZUS treaty, saying it only provides the illusion of security. Contrasted with the US mutual defence agreement with Japan, the ANZUS treaty – entered into by Australia and the United States in 1953 – requires the latter to provide military support to Australia in the event of attack. However, Fraser points out that the operative terms of the treaty only require the US President to consult Congress. It does not guarantee protection.

The implication to be drawn from this conclusion could not be more clear: In the event of war with China, Australia will be very, very low on the list of United States priorities.

So low, in fact, that Fraser doesn't think that the US would come to Australia's aid at all.

"I don't really believe that if we get into trouble, America will protect us."

This might seem excusable – in a continental war, there would be legitimate demands on US military resources. But for Fraser, this is all the more reason why Tony Abbott should sever military ties with the US as quickly as possible. By preserving the old alliances, we are getting all of the risk with the none of the reward.

"We will be complicit in whatever that [US] taskforce does, simply because we have housed it."

To clarify, by "housing", Fraser is not simply referring to allowing US Marines to train. The real reason the NT base exists is to allow the US "an extraordinarily powerful air component, and a powerful naval component" in a future war against China. There is also the matter of the NSA-CIA-run satellite tracking station near Alice Springs known as "Pine Gap", which Fraser says could be used by the US to intercept Chinese nuclear attacks.

The Pine Gap dilemma is particularly alarming since it introduces a nuclear element to future Sino-American security dilemmas. Pine Gap removes the safeguard of mutually assured destruction between the Chinese and Japanese/US forces; its existence making it possible for the US to launch devastating nuclear attacks on China while absorbing minimal nuclear damage itself.

In other words, Australia's role in the

conflict risks escalating it to a nuclear conflagration. If we do not force the United States to vacate the Pine Gap, we risk enabling a nuclear attack on the Chinese mainland, something the Chinese, were they to recover from such an attack, would not likely be quick to forget.

But Fraser's concerned tone begs the question: Is he saying that the US would not protect "us" in a strict geographical sense that would include Pine Gap and the Darwin base? Because it goes without saying that by giving the US second-strike capability, we are putting Darwin and Alice Springs at risk of a pre-emptive nuclear attack. Or could he be instead suggesting that the Chinese military would attack or occupy major Australian cities as retribution for our collaboration with the United States? The answer to this question would change the discourse enormously.

Regardless, Fraser's words should not be taken lightly. Such a decision would undoubtedly have an affect on US-Australian trade relations in the short term, particularly on our thriving defence manufacturing sector, which runs largely on US contracts. But Fraser says that trade policy shouldn't discourage us, citing New Zealand's 1985 decision to ban US nuclear-capable ships from their waters, which effectively terminated its ANZUS agreement.

"They tried to freeze out New Zealand years ago, and they paid some economic price, but they had the strength and capacity to do so, and they're in a stronger position today because they did so."

New names but same game for rogue international student group

Crystal Moran

Representatives from the Overseas Students Association were removed from campus this month, in the latest in what appears to be an attempted revival of the discredited organisation.

While on campus, the representatives told international students that the OSA and their “legislative branch”, the National Liaison Committee, could assist student with a number of concerns, including high tuition fees, poor attendance, and personal safety issues. They assured students that the OSA was endorsed by the University, and directed them to the OSA’s website. The site requests copies of students’ visas and student cards in exchange for a ‘SAFETYCard’, a program which purports to be “the national safety program of the International Student Community”. This program is not supported or recognised by the NSW Police or Government.

Reports suggest that OSA representatives were also distributing flyers promoting the SAFETYCard throughout Sydney’s Haymarket area over the weekend.

Manager of UNSW Security Services, Tara Murphy, said that OSA Representatives were asked to cease their activities and leave campus as they were not UNSW students and did not have authorisation from the University.

“The OSA management have been informed that they are not to undertake any promotional activities on campus without the appropriate approval being obtained, which is through Arc membership and FM Assist”, she said.

The OSA received significant media coverage in 2013 due to their involve-

ment in SRC elections at UNSW and UTS, which was marred by accusations of harassment, bullying, and corruption of recognised University processes. This culminated in a statement from the NSW Deputy Premier, NSW Universities, the National Union of Students (NUS), and the Council of International Students Australia (CISA), that while OSA claims to be the peak representative body for international students, “it is not supported or recognised by the NSW Government, education providers, industry peak bodies or international student organisations.”

The statement also confirmed that CISA is the recognised representative body for international students.

The OSA’s reappearance on campus this month follows a number of other recent moves by the organisation to seek legitimacy and influence on campuses and within Government.

In December, the OSA and NLC released a statement claiming that their executive met with Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, and that she endorsed their SAFETYCard programme as a potential model for Australian students studying in Asian under the New Colombo Plan. In an exclusive statement to Tharunka, a spokesperson for the Foreign Minister confirmed that while a brief meeting occurred with the National Liaison Committee, “neither the meeting, nor a photograph taken at the meeting, represent an endorsement of the NLC or its activities. The Foreign Minister’s office has on several occasions raised concerns with the NLC regarding its use of the photograph for promotional purposes and misrepresentation of the meeting with the Minister”.

Another OSA statement claims that CISA has received funding from OSA since May 2012, and that the OSA and NLC officials have authority over CISA. The statement also accuses NUS-recognised CISA President Thomson Ch’ng of speaking for CISA without any authority to do so, and claims NLC has commenced legal proceedings against him for illegal use of their name.

While Mr Ch’ng reports receiving intimidating phone calls, no legal action was launched against him. He said that he continues to be president of CISA, and refuted the suggestion that OSA has any financial ties or influence over CISA.

Enquiries to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission reveal that while the NUS-recognised CISA was established in 2010 through regulator Consumer Affairs Victoria, upper level NLC/OSA representatives registered the CISA name in NSW in 2012 through the Office of Fair Trading. This technique of registering the names of student bodies already in existence in another state has proven popular for the NLC, with names such as ‘Chinese Students Association’, ‘Muslim Students Association’, and ‘Indian Students Association’ registered in the same way. In late December, the names ‘Australian Student Association Limited’ and ‘Australian Association Limited’ were registered through ASIC, coinciding with a statement from the OSA claiming that the Chinese, Indian, and Muslim Students Associations have formally merged with the OSA to form establish the Australian Student Association, under the Australian Association. Investigation reveals the Australian Association to have all the same upper level staff as the NLC.

The OSA’s capabilities do not seem to be limited to the creation of fraudulent organisations. In the past month, membership of the UNSW group of the OSA site has increased from five members to 96. Through some miracle, all the new members of the UNSW group signed up to the OSA website consecutively, and have profile pictures of only their faces and a white background. Though an infinite number of user name combinations are available to students signing up for the website, all have chosen the lastname.firstname approach. A similar phenomenon exists on the UTS group, which now boasts 105 members. All other university groups have been less successful with ‘recruitment’, with groups only consisting of the moderator.

While the NLC and its subsidiary offshoots do not have the authority to speak for the international student community, and their representatives are finding themselves increasingly unwelcome in the offices of Government and University officials, the CISA President reiterated a previous comments by saying that “unfortunately many international students do not know that the OSA is not a genuine international student body, and that it should not be trusted with students’ personal information”.

UNSW SRC President, Joel Wilson, said “the OSA do not represent international students’ best interests. The SRC and UNSW have both made it clear that OSA is not permitted to hold activities on our campus. UNSW students should notify security when they see OSA run events.”

While Tharunka contacted the OSA and NLC through a number of channels, no reply was given at time of print.

NSW Cabinet Reshuffle

Matt Baker

New South Wales Premier Mike Baird used his first days in the top job to make several changes to the Cabinet in what could be seen as a move to distance himself from former premier Barry O'Farrell and strengthen his team ahead of next year's state election.

With Mr O'Farrell stepping down following claims he had no recollection of a \$3000 bottle of wine received from Australian Water Holdings chief executive Nick Di Girolamo, it was important that the new Premier created some breathing space between himself, the former premier and Mr Di Girolamo.

However, as Premier Baird's recent interview with Sarah Ferguson on ABC's 7.30 pointed out, creating such distance may prove difficult.

The Premier has relinquished his role as Treasurer, while former Attorney-General Greg Smith, Robyn Parker, George Souris and Don Page have all been dumped from their respective positions.

Mr Page has since used the reshuffle to announce his retirement from politics at next year's election. The former Min-

ister for Local Government has served as the Member for Ballina for more than a quarter of a century.

These vacancies have paved the way for five MPs to join the new-look Cabinet – three Liberals and two Nationals.

The three Liberal additions to Cabinet are:

- Pittwater MP Rob Stokes is now Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage and Assistant Minister for Planning.
- Wollondilly MP Jai Rowell is now Minister for Mental Health and Assistant Minister for Health.
- Castle Hill MP Dominic Perrottet, is now Minister for Finance and Services.
- Bathurst MP Paul Toole has assumed the role as Minister for Local Government
- Dubbo MP Troy Grant has taken on Minister for Hospitality, Gaming and Racing and Minister for the Arts.

Along with these additions are some significant elevations. Promotions of note include Andrew Constance, Brad Hazzard and Pru Goward.

Mr Constance, the Bega MP and former Minister for Ageing and Minister for Disability Services, has been promoted to

Treasurer.

Brad Hazzard, a former UNSW Law student, has replaced Greg Smith as Attorney General. Mr Hazzard will likely be looking to differentiate himself from his predecessor who came under fire from some quarters for not replicating Queensland's controversial anti-motorcycle gang legislation.

Member for Goulburn and former Minister for Family and Community Services Pru Goward will now take on the role as Minister for Planning. Ms Goward faced pressure last year following findings Family and Community Services regional directors did not fill vacancies due to budgetary pressures despite assurances from the minister casework numbers had not changed. The promotion will give her an opportunity to move on from that issue and refresh planning in NSW.

Looking a little closer to campus, the changes have been well received by Young Liberals at UNSW.

Natarsha Terreiro, Secretary of the Freedom Club at UNSW, told Tharunka: "There is no doubt that Premier Mike Baird has put together a strong and talented team which will continue to deliver for NSW."

However Sam Bason from the Whit-

lam Club is quite sceptical of the cabinet changes. He told Tharunka, "Swapping North Shore Premiers won't freshen perspectives. Without Labor style party reform and donation changes the Coalition has lost all credibility."

In relation to the connection some UNSW students will have to the Baird Government and its upcoming campaign, Ms Terreiro said: "Freedom Club members will be out in force across NSW over the next 11 months, campaigning to ensure the re-election of the Baird Government."

The changes made to Cabinet attempt to demonstrate party unity at a time when chaos could have easily ensued – as has been the case with other governments at state and federal levels

Given the recent history of governments in New South Wales – since Bob Carr left office premiers in the state have averaged just over 20 months in office – there does appear to be a unified front keen on learning from the problems associated with transitions of leadership.

With next year's election in mind, changes to Cabinet demonstrate a clear attempt to convey a united front and soften any potential attacks it may face in the short- to medium-term.

WHAT THEY DON'T TEACH YOU IN ECONOMICS: Does Gross Domestic Product (GDP) even matter?

Kieran Adair

If you're studying economics, you've already been introduced to the concept of GDP. Even if you're not, you probably know that it plays a pretty big role in policy making. Everyone's read the headlines "growth up 2.6 per cent", or heard various politicians promise to boost this figure if elected – in all this fuss, we often fail to ask an important question: Is this even something we should care about?

WHAT IS GDP? GDP measures the amount of goods and services produced within a country over a given period of time (usually a quarter or a year). On the surface, it provides us with a pretty good, if somewhat simplistic, snapshot of a country's economic health. If the GDP is up, then more stuff is being made, and the country is doing well. If the GDP goes down (or stays the same), then the economy is doing poorly. This becomes problematic when GDP becomes the only measure of a country's health.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN GDP? GDP is based on what's produced within an economy. Anything that's made and sold adds to this value, even if it's clearly negative for society. Every time someone buys cigarettes, GDP goes up. Every time someone eats junk

food, GDP goes up. Every time someone's home is burnt down and rebuilt, GDP goes up. It's pretty clear that none of these are desirable for a society, and yet they cause our GDP to rise.

WHAT ISN'T INCLUDED IN GDP? The economist Alfred Sauvy once wrote, "Marry your cleaning person, and you will make the GDP drop!" What he meant is that by taking a job (house cleaning) and turning it into a domestic duty (homekeeping), the activity disappears from economic measurement. Similarly volunteer work, such as helping a friend move house or spending an evening serving food in a soup kitchen, are not counted toward GDP. These activities unquestionably contribute to the health of a society – but they are not counted in our GDP.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? What we measure is inevitably what we manage, and a policy mix that's focused on increasing GDP will inevitably value economic growth above other goals (such as the education, health, happiness and well-being of the people inside it).

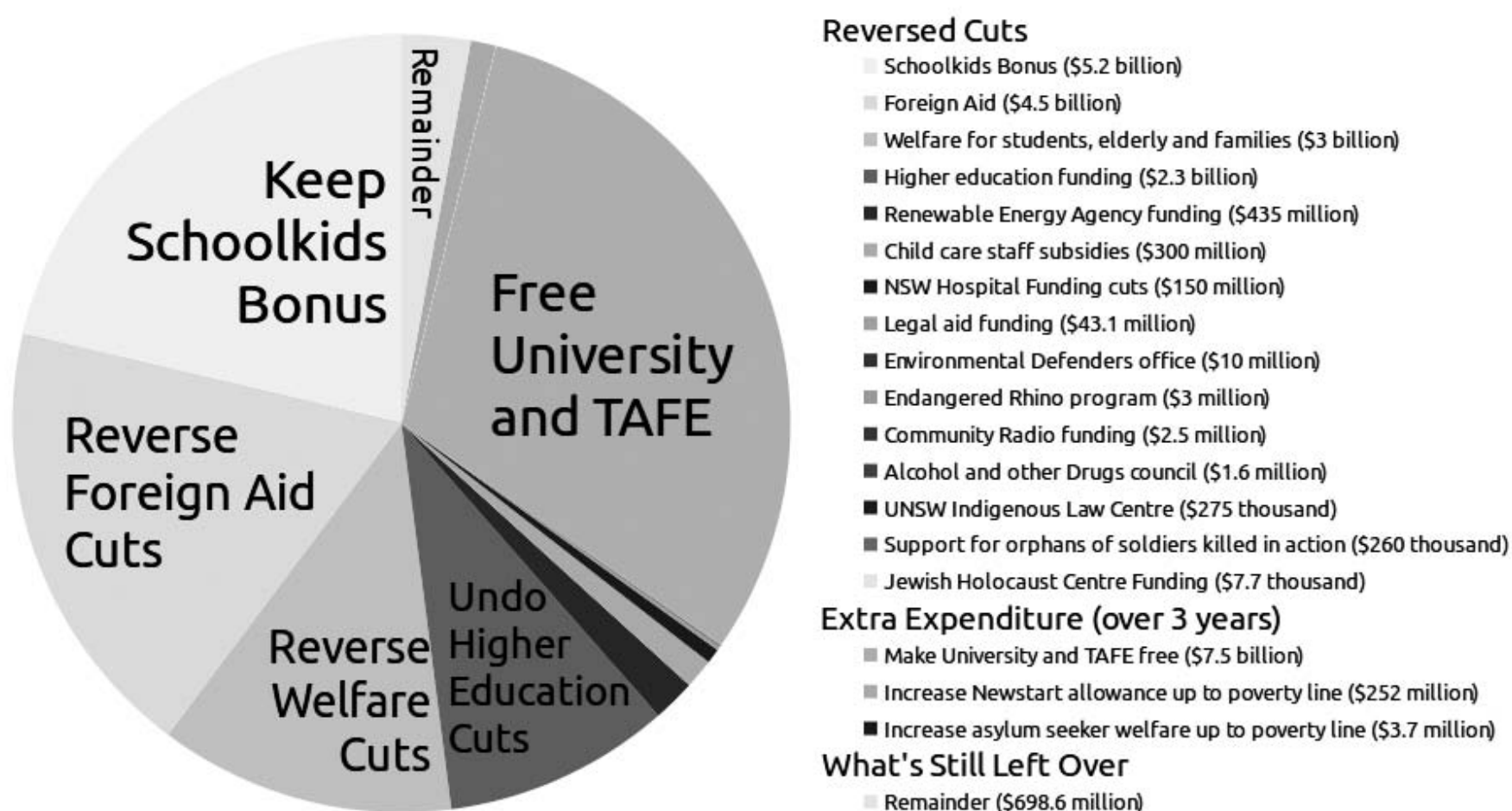
That is why restructuring the economy to shrink the manufacturing sector and grow the mining sector could appear to make us richer as a nation, when in fact it's reducing our overall quality of life. It is why the World Bank can celebrate moving people from sub-

sistence farming communities, in which they have no need for money, to urban slums in which they struggle to survive as progress.

WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES? Robert Costanza, an economist at the Australian National University, argues that GDP was never designed to measure national well-being. He contends that "useful measures of progress and well-being must be measures of the degree to which society's goals (human needs of food, shelter, freedom, participation, trust) are met, rather than measures of the volume of market economic activity, which is only one means to that end".

How we choose to measure our economy needs to reflect the diversity of issues we care about – health, well-being, happiness and ending inequality. The Human Development Index (HDI), which includes GDP, along with literacy rates, life expectancy, school enrollment and environmental quality, is a good start – but it's only half the battle. We also need these new measures to take a more prominent place in our economics and in our politics – rather than being treated as inferior "soft measurements". In short, we need to change the focus of our economics from how we measure the world, to how we want to change it for the better.

Kieran Adair blogs about politics, the media and the economy at www.talkingpoints.net.au



What we could buy instead of shiny new jets

Matthew Davis

The Abbott government focused much of its election campaign on the supposed budget “emergency”. They’ve cut funding for [higher education](#), [welfare](#), [foreign aid](#) and [environmental programs](#). In contrast, the government has also recently committed [\\$12.4 billion](#) to a new batch of Joint Strike Force (JSF) fighter jets, which will cost an additional [\\$12 billion](#) in maintenance and operational costs over their lifetime.

The government has defended this \$24 billion purchase by [claiming](#), “This is not new money, it’s money successive governments have carefully put aside to ensure that our nation’s defences are strong.” The government doesn’t have a cache of money stored away. The budget is set year by year. This purchase is no more set in stone than the [scientific research](#) and [foreign aid programs](#) which have already been cut.

Even if there did exist a \$24 billion cache saved by past governments, shouldn’t this government spend it on the supposed budget emergency and [crippling debt](#) that they promised to fix? (It should be noted that they did [give up](#) on this election promise shortly after the election.) Oddly, by making this claim, the Abbott government is actually claiming that the previous Labor government was fiscally responsible, despite previously claiming that “[The cupboard is bare](#)”.

Australia has pulled out of Afghanistan and Iraq, so some may question who our enemy is. Despite this, Treasurer Joe Hockey has [reassured](#) everyone that “The first priority of the government is to defend the nation”,

because nothing says self-defence like [3,300 25mm rounds per minute](#). We can now all sleep easy knowing that our representatives prioritise defence over the economy, unemployment, democracy, equity, infrastructure, government transparency, health and education.

Despite having no imminent enemy to defend ourselves against, defence force spending will [double](#) over the next 10 years to about \$50 billion per year. This means we will be spending twice as much on defence in peacetime than when we were fighting two wars concurrently (Iraq and Afghanistan). On top of that, they’re purchasing [\\$1 – 3 billion](#) worth of Triton drones, and [\\$4 billion](#) worth of Poseidon aircraft.

When talking about federal budgets, it’s hard to get a sense of scale because every number is big. Here is a chart to put these numbers in perspective by outlining what else the \$24 billion for new jets could be spent on (just the jets, not the drones, Poseidon aircraft or the annual defence budget doubling). It turns out that by cancelling this one single purchase, the government can afford to reverse every single cut they have made since coming to power. All of them. Then they’d still have enough left over to raise welfare up to the poverty line (yes, some welfare is currently below). They could also make tertiary education free (for three years). Then they’d still have some left over for schools, hospitals, roads, paying off debt and so on.

“It turns out that by cancelling this one single purchase, the government can afford to reverse every single cut they have made since coming to power. All of them.”



Tharunka, Snog, Marry, Avoid

Snog - Who do you admire even though you have no rational reasoning behind that admiration?

"I think the guy, the boss from Parks and Recreation. [Fictional character Ron Swanson] He has a moustache and he's the boss - I just love him. I have the DVD on my bedside table, I am looking at him - that character is just perfect."

Marry - If you could have dinner with anyone, every day for the rest of your life, who would it be?

"I saw an interview with Geoffrey Rush the other day and I feel like I could listen to him talk forever. I think he just has one of those faces - I love his face. I really like him."

Avoid - Who are you willing to call out as the poster boy/girl for everything you despise or hate about the world?

"Tony Abbot is way too typical an answer but he kind of embodies everything that I don't like. We could safely avoid each other, we just don't have very much in common to talk about - and as clichéd as it sounds I would avoid him. I don't think he would be too keen chatting with me either."

"I think I have some sort of issue as far as adrenaline goes, because I just crave it so badly. Improv constantly surprises you."

Laughing At Youssef

Freya King

For most people, public speaking is up there with Death on the list of things we fear. It is also pretty safe to say that any type of improvised public speaking is even more likely to produce beads of sweat on anyone's brow.

Not Susie Youssef.

After spending the last few years honing her comedic skills of improvisation and sketch writing, Youssef is fresh off the Melbourne Comedy Festival circuit where her debut solo show "Sketchual Chocolate" received rave reviews. Tharunka caught up with Youssef back on her home turf of Sydney for a chat about her show, a few days after her 30th Birthday.

Youssef jokes about feeling under qualified for her milestone birthday, saying she isn't particularly grown up.

"I feel like I should own a house or some sort of investment portfolio - and I just don't own anything at all... A lot of the 30-year-olds I hang out with a little more adult than I am," she says.

To make matters worse, Youssef's two things to do before she turned thirty haven't been ticked off the list yet.

"They aren't big life goal things, just little goals, that I really could have easily achieved, but I just haven't yet," she says.

Those two things were to go skydiving and to get a tambourine tattooed on her hip.

Whilst she may not have done those things, Youssef has been busy chasing another adrenaline rush, the art of improvised comedy. Her latest show is combination of sketch, stand up and improv - but speaking with Youssef you can tell her first love is definitely improvisation.

"I absolutely love it. I think it's nerdiest form of comedy in a way. Its just a bunch of really wired people who are trying to make jokes on the spot, it's just bizarre and wonderful I absolutely love it," she says.

Last year Youssef travelled to the US to study improvisation in Chicago, home to the Second City Theatre company where the likes of Amy Poehler and Tina Fey studied.

"Chicago is a city that just takes it all on board... they are not restricted by different genres they really just go for it. The Second City Theatre Company, I didn't study with them, but Chicago is known for Second City they do a whole lot of Improv that do sketch that then goes on to become TV - that's where people like Amy Pöhler, that's were they all trained."

Youssef says that Chicago has had a massive influence over her comedic preference.

"People like Amy Poelher and Tina Fey are massive influences for the type of comedy that I do. Bu also I really enjoy watching different physical comedians," she says.

Youssef says that she must have something wrong with her because she constantly chases that adrenaline you get from improvisation.

"It's so liberating - there's no stakes here we are all pretending to do something, it's like make believe. It's like being a kid again," she describes.

Her latest work definitely references her roots in improvisation - but even Youssef was surprised that her solo show has taken a more personal tone than much of her previous work. There are still characters and sketches, but this time when she improvises she uses herself as material - which was never part of her plan.

"I don't think [I made it a more personal show] consciously - but coming from a background of improvising, I started out in improv comedy and play writing, sketch and stand up has kind of involved from that. It surprised me that whenever I would go off script when I was on stage, that people connected more with the stuff that was very much about me rather than character based. Laughs were bigger when it was on me or jokes about my life," she says.

Not only is she baring more of herself on stage than ever before, performing solo feels very different to the comfort Youssef is usually afforded when she performs with sketch groups and improv troupes. She says it was hard being constantly alone.

"Every single day, keeping the energy up is the hardest thing because you are just standing backstage by yourself, and even getting to the venue and then being backstage by yourself Its so nerve wracking and you don't have anyone there to distract you. It's just you and all of your self doubt just sitting there waiting to jump on stage," she explains.

Youssef didn't really have much to worry about however, as Sketchual Chocolate was a great success in Melbourne, with lots of support from both reviewers and other comedians. She says her audience played a huge roll in the success of the show and that her intimate venue helped her feel more at ease with her first solo performance.

"I feel like I had some pretty incredible audiences and I got a lot of warmth from them, I was in a really small venue - like a 50 seater, I could see everyones faces - so there was a lots of warmth from that. That keeps the energy up during the show. I had some of the nicest feedback I have ever gotten in my life down in Melbourne, so I am really pumped to do it again in Sydney now."

If you are interested in giving improvisation a go, Youssef says you have nothing to lose because everyday life is basically an improvisation anyway.

"There is no harm in it. A great improv teacher said to me once, if the words were important than you would have written them down before you started. There is no way you can fail if you just jump up and give it a go."

Susie Youssef is performing *Sketchual Chocolate* at the Factory Theatre, 105 Victoria Road, Marrickville NSW 2204, May 7-10th.



Rock & Roll and East Asian History

Hannah Dixon

Its 4am and 50-something-year-old bestselling author Linda Jaivin is out in a club in Beijing, partying with a group of paralympians. They have come from various countries, England, Australia and are, according to Linda, some of “the biggest party animals I have ever met.” One in particular is dancing so intensely that he falls out of his wheelchair and on to the club’s dance floor. He is helped up by a one-armed teammate who later continues to dance up a storm. It’s fair to say that Linda’s experience of Beijing isn’t typical.

Linda certainly knows the ins and outs of Beijing, its back alleys and its bars and its old courtyard houses or siheyuans. She knows its hidden secrets and its stranger sides - and she loves it all.

But even with all the time Linda has spent living and working in China she still wouldn’t claim to be an expert. “There’s so much I don’t know. I mean Chinese culture is broad and deep and Chinese history is enormously long and complex” she says.

It is this unknowable quality that characterises so much of Jaivin’s new book, *The Empress Lover*. Her seventh novel, it tells the story of a translator of film subtitles of mysterious provenance whose life is turned upside down when she receives a letter from a dead scholar offering to reveal long-hidden secrets.

The novel takes place over 24 hours in Beijing, letting Linda’s passion for the city shine through. Writer and journalist David Marr introduced the book as “a love song to many Beijing’s - the Beijing of memory, the Beijing of literature, the Beijing of demolished buildings.”

It’s a passion that dates back to Linda’s university days. It is also a love affair which started almost by chance, as she was simply looking to fill a spot in her timetable. It was then that an upperclassmen pointed her in a new direction.

He suggested ‘Introduction to East Asian History’ and Linda was captivated. “That’s how I got started,” she reflects, “randomly.”

It’s hard not to get the sense that Linda has drawn on many of her own experiences of Beijing in the writing of the novel. She admits that the book’s protagonist is a little bit like her but still, she maintains, fictional.

“All characters are autobiographical and all characters are not strictly autobiographical,” she says, “obviously I’m playing a game here because I call the character Linnie, I give her a job subtitling Chinese films - which is something I do. She lives in a courtyard house that is based exactly on a courtyard house where I always stay in Beijing - except the locations are different... She ends up in this bar and the bar is based on the bar where I go constantly - except the character who owns it is completely different from the person who owns it in real life.”

“Whatever I’m passionate about, I write about,” Linda says. Looking at the subjects of her past writings, it would seem this is true. Her first novel, *Eat Me*, became a bestseller in Australia and France, just to name a few. It is described on Linda’s website as “[inviting] readers to partake of a lusty banquet of conversations about that hottest topic of all - sex.”

In her non-fiction book *The Monkey and the Dragon* she writes about her friend Hou Dejian’s experiences of the protests in Tiananmen Square in 1989; student-led protests for democracy that saw hundreds, perhaps a

thousand unarmed demonstrators killed. The experience left Linda feeling traumatised, to the point that she says she “feels like it split my life in half.”

At the time she believed one of her closest friends had been crushed under the treads of a tank. “I’ll never forget I had this gorge rise in my throat, I was between passing out and vomiting.”

“I didn’t even get to the point of crying, it was just this incredible visceral reaction,” Linda says.

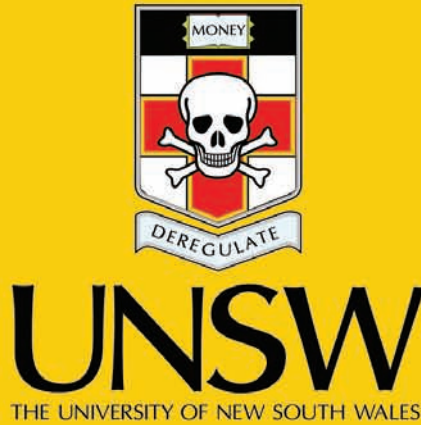
It was only later that Linda realised that it was just a rumour and her friend was alive and well, hiding in the Australian embassy.

Rock and Roll Babes from Outer Space, on the other hand, was inspired by her love of rock music and, as the title suggests, centres on alien women who travel to Newtown, form a band, and subsequently save the world.

As a novelist, translator, sinologist and essayist, Linda’s interests have taken her to unexpected places. Who knew she would end up on the other side of the world partying with paralympians? When her interest in China was first blossoming the nation was closed-off to the rest of the world. At times Linda believed that she was dedicating herself to useless study that would ultimately lead to unemployment. So what kept Linda following this path?

“The point is whatever your passion is, you should follow it. I think the regrets people have later on in life are because they didn’t follow their passion and did the useful thing,” she says.

Perhaps we can learn from Linda’s willingness to embrace the unknown and dive head-first into your passions. After all, who knows where it could take you?



Exploding student debt ahead

Fight back! 14th May

12 pm, Library Lawn

Warning

WARNING: FEE INCREASES AHEAD



All courses at risk of deregulation

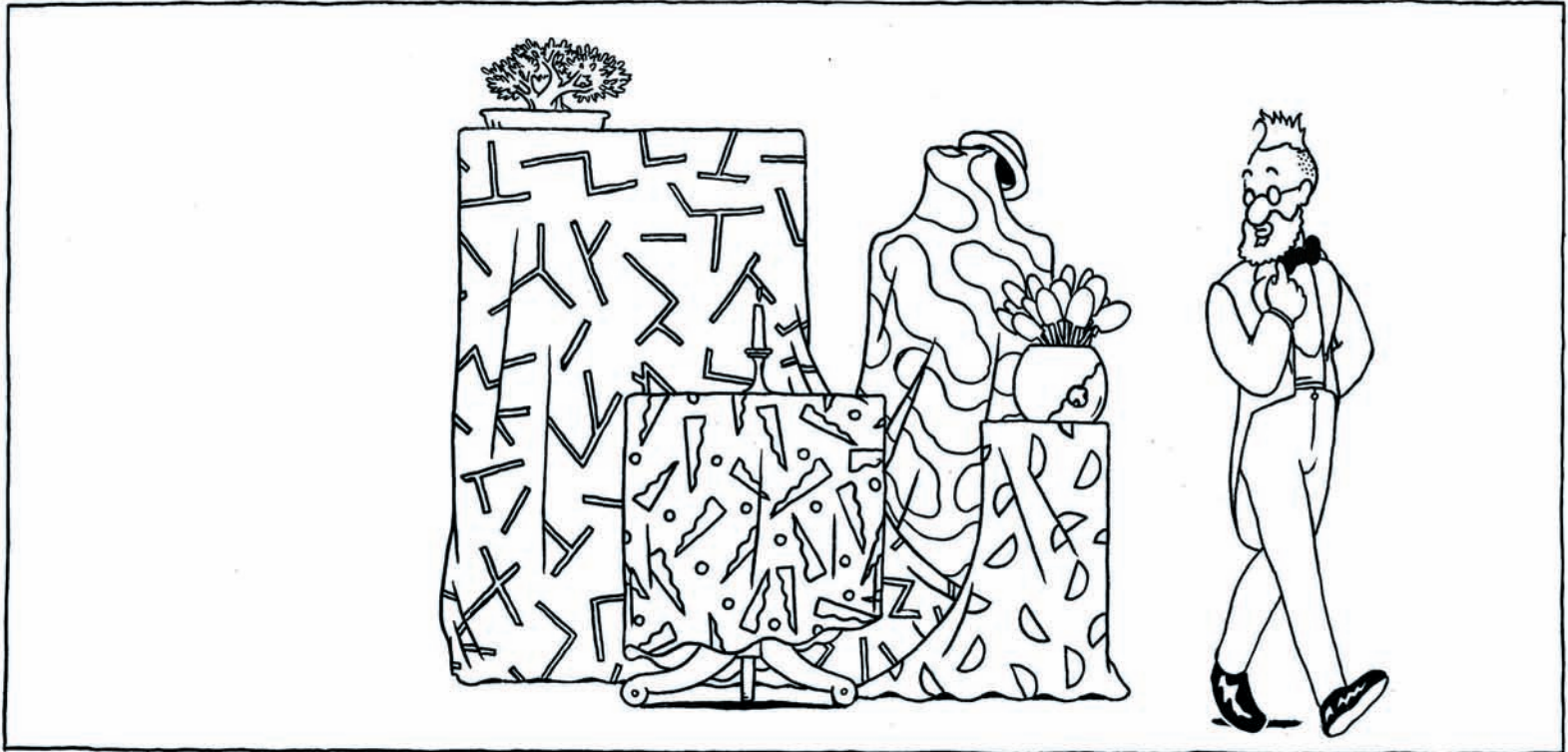
FIGHT BACK!

Meet at the Library Lawn
Wednesday 14th May, 12 pm

And then we said...



"No cuts to education, no cuts to health, no change to pensions, no change to the GST and no cuts to the ABC or SBS."



Alcohol: How I coped with quitting (or didn't)

Rachel Cohen

I can't remember the first time I got drunk. With an ethnic family like mine, I can't remember a time when alcohol was not a part of my life – a gentle thrum in the background of social situations, putting me at ease. But I do know that by the time I was 15, alcohol had turned into a beat I could not resist, and, as easily as I noticed its presence, I felt its painful absence. The first time I wondered if it had become a problem was during a Year 10 science class in a dingy classroom, whose musty smell I'd hoped would mask the alcohol on my breath, drunk from a ratio of vodka to juice that would make for a truly useless map.

At 19, I decided to stop drinking. By this point, I'd done all manner of shameful things – the worst of which I'd tried to forget with heavier doses of alcohol; like a blurry-eyed attempt at fighting fire with fire. I really only managed to set myself alight. At the ripe old age of 19, I had a job I was committed to, an education I was finally invested in and friends, so many friends that had finally joined me in the Newtown pubs and bars I'd whittled my teenage years away in, having stumbled into a circle of friends who'd taken me in despite (and, most likely, because of) our twelve-odd-year age gap.

But, at 19, I could feel things slipping. Each night out became harder, stronger, more necessary, more harmful, harder to shake, harder to remember. There was no one event that made me put down the hip flask

(the one I had bought myself on my eighteenth birthday and put to good use on many a train ride, bathroom break and sneaky mid-dinner sip). But after a number of blackouts and one too many mornings starting in an unknown place with the burning sensation of contact lenses not taken out, I had to admit that things had well and truly slipped.

All up, I lasted six months without a drink, sort of. I've stopped admitting to this, as most people laugh, seeing it as a failure, but I was careful not to add a time limit to my dry period. This wasn't a test of will, this was a rehabilitation. And while I wasn't planning on staying sober forever, if it took that long, then so be it. I say "six months, sort of" because I broke three months in; election night 2013, Abbott's ascension. I downed a bottle of wine and a fistful of fingers of vodka. To be fair, it still feels justified, and it all came back up in a timely manner, so I'm hesitant to count it as a transgression.

Now is the time to admit to that thing this discussion would be useless without – marijuana. I've been smoking since I was 16 and am yet to have a bad experience with it. I don't care for the politics of it, your experience of it, or even the discussion of it. Like the work of James Deen, I quietly enjoy it and that is the end of that. So marijuana, pot, weed, joints and jays saw me through those times I ached for a drink, and what a job it did.

See, the difference between alcohol and marijuana is this: Alcohol lets you deal with your problems by not remembering them, marijuana lets you deal with your problems *while* remembering them. When you

wake up from a night of drinking, the issue seems to hit you anew with full, untethered force. When you awake from a night of smoking, the issue has been shepherd-ed into a fenced area, tamed by a night of emotional distance and gentle contemplation.

Of course, not all traumas are met with a desire to be fenced in. Sometimes, like a Michel Gondry character running amok, you simply want to forget.

So after six months of learning to say no, and one wound-inducing e-mail, I scooped up what was left of my feelings and my favourite book and met my best friend in a park, downing bottles of Scrumpy and jumping aloud from novel to e-mail. With alcohol's rhythm back in my blood, the words became lyrical. Alcohol was a beat I could sing to, cry to, *feel* to. And after many hours I felt...okay.

To my merit, the intervening months have been largely alcohol-incident free – not alcohol free, but incident free. I'm no longer known for my catchphrase, "SHOTS!", and I remember most nights of the week. I'm doing new, novel things – I'm stopping at one drink; I'm saying no without really considering the question of "Another?"; I'm remembering the tune that whistled through my head the night before with warmth and almost clarity. I'm not drunk, I'm drinking. I'm not throwing up, I'm chilling out. I'm feeling, without alcohol. And without alcohol, I'm feeling...amazing.



Avril Lavigne
@AvrilLavigne



Follow

RACIST??? LOLOLOL!!! I love Japanese culture and I spend half of my time in Japan. I flew to Tokyo to shoot this video...

Yilin Kang and Rachel Lobo

People props are bad enough, but when they are there to encompass a culture that does not actually consist purely of people in bright colored tights and suspenders, we have a little issue. These identical expressionless girls were described as 'clumsiest attempt to appropriate Japanese culture and fashion since Gwen Stefani's ill-advised Harajuku phase back in 2004. Maybe clumsier" by Gawker's Jay Hathaway.

What is even clumsier is when this singer laughs and mocks the suggestion of racism, someone from a supposedly multicultural civilization, yet seemingly living in her own pink, red frilled, tiered bubble (skirt). Whether intentional or unintentional there are distinct "stereotypes" that society has constructed, automatically merging individual traits with group identity and there we have, a blatant case of racism, heightened by the media, an influential and dominating system in society.

Dearest Avril, you're a 'public' figure, you're accountable to the general public for your actions. Also as one of the beneficiaries of institutionalized racism, you aren't as entitled as you may think to decide what is and isn't racist. P.s. You might want to do a double take on your idea of racism, because flying to the country you are amplifying does really make it okay... Oops.

If you love Japan as much as you claim, it might be worth trying to listen to the Asian women that have spoken out against your inappropriate song lyrics and accompanying 'music' video, Keep Holding On, or better luck next time Avril.

Image source: Youtube



Kinncaid via deviantart

The Hirst Report: Friends in High Places

Ned Hirst

I have always been one who is reluctant to name-drop my more celebrated company for fear of sounding pretentious. Nevertheless, the witticisms encountered at one recent event prove simply too amusing not to recount. I was invited to a luncheon for all the greatest leaders throughout history. They were all there, Julius Caesar, Winston Churchill, Richard the Lionheart, the bloke with the ears. Exactly how I had merited an invitation was not immediately clear to anybody, but everyone was pretty gracious about it, although I did hear Queen Elizabeth wonder aloud at one point exactly what “that stupid [expletive deleted] is doing here”.

Actually, I felt the event organisers had erred in a number of respects. Seating Churchill next to Hitler showed a lack of appreciation for the mood of the meal, and although their chat started off pleasantly enough, Churchill had stabbed Hitler in the eye with his butter knife before the entree. I was next to Stalin, and I wondered whether the inclusion of dictators had been such a wise move. I mean sure, it's hard to know exactly who will be offended if certain omissions are made, but one has to be sensitive to the minority groups.

On my right was none other than Environment Minister Greg Hunt, who, not actually being a leader of any kind, I suspect had to ring in some favours. Apparently Genghis Khan is a fan, as the Mongol contingent are climate change sceptics. I actually wondered if there was some kind of politicisation at play, because Al Gore was absent even though Joe Biden made the cut, and there was a big balloon reading “Rio Tinto” attached to the ceiling. I later learnt that Mao Tse-tung had declined his invitation (although he did send a copy of his book of quotations) due to what he perceived as the capitalist nature of the event. It didn't seem to bother Fidel Castro, who sat on the floor unwrapping Kinder Surprises.

George W. Bush (whose attendance at the event seemed even more unlikely than mine) started off with a toast saying something that I didn't quite catch before launching into a drunken rendition of “The Star-Spangled Banner”. No-one joined in, although George

Washington cheered at the end and called him “the greatest of all presidents”. In retrospect, I think he may have been being sarcastic, but George W seemed greatly moved by it. He was also greatly moved by Cleopatra, who pushed the drinks trolley into him.

Sensing an awkward moment if the toast were not completed, I proffered my own services and stood on my chair to address the crowd. Unfortunately, I fell backwards out the window and cracked my head on the pavement some 27 floors below. To say I was embarrassed was an understatement. Imagine being invited amongst such esteemed company, and then falling out of a window to your untimely death! I'm sure it will make a very funny story one day, but right now, the memories (and my head) are a little too painful!

Fortunately, when I rejoined the company, they didn't mention my humiliating faux pas, but Queen Elizabeth rolled her eyes knowingly, as if to say “I told you so, what a stupid [expletive deleted]!” In fact, she did say that, and everyone laughed. Everyone except me that is, as such comments can be very hurtful, especially from an esteemed member of the Royal Family.

I was determined not to embarrass myself further, but I was faced with a plethora of cutlery. Which fork should I use for which course? Which food items were only intended as a garnish? Would Stalin pass me the pepper if I asked him politely? (No, as it turns out. I have a feeling he'd be a bit of a tyrant at home.)

In order to prevent the humiliation to be encountered in using the wrong cutlery, I decided to use none. Of course, eating with ones hands is a most uncouth exercise, so I instead decided to shove my face in the food and consume it the most dignified way I could. (I would have been more apprehensive about this, except Churchill was already doing it.)

Gradually, they all made their apologies and left (some were longer than others, as Churchill forced Hitler at gunpoint to confess all of his war crimes), and after a while I was the only one left. I forgot to take any photos (damn), but I'll always have my memories. Until I die, or suppress them, or have amnesia, or develop Alzheimer's.

HOW TO CATCH A MULTITUDE OF SMALL, INEDIBLE FISH IN SYDNEY HARBOUR AND HENCE HAVE A LOT OF FUN.

Dylan Chalwell

Hey there, friend. Count your lucky stars – I had a hectic week and was *this close* (picture a very small distance) to writing an article called “How Not to Write an Article for Tharunka”. It would have been terribly meta and self-indulgent and unfunny – you would have wanted to like it, because you are a nice person, but you would not have liked it, because you are a wise person. It would have been more disappointing than the time your mum replaced normal-sized breakfast croissants with mini-sized breakfast croissants because they were on special at Aldi (“Am I mini-human?” you thought bitterly as you spread honey across the drastically reduced surface area).

But fear not: That’s not the path I went down. Prepare to learn how to wind down, lighten up and cast out. So set aside a few hours in your schedule, slather on some sunscreen, and put on your favourite pair of shorts (my favourite pair are the ones patterned with bananas and pineapples and green hand-shaped leaves that I got for \$2.50 at Katoomba Vinnies), because we’re going fishing.

Three simple steps for you today.

Step 1: Find a fishing companion. *Don’t* call Seth – last time you two went fishing you made a joke about there being “plenty of fish in the sea...LITERALLY”.

“Not true,” he replied. “Our aquatic stocks are dangerously low.”

He then delivered a well-rehearsed speech that included words like “ecology”, “commodification” and “my local Anarcho-Marxist syndicate”. You mumbled something that made it obvious that you are uneducated in the ways of the ocean. It was disastrous.

No, don’t invite Seth. See what Dom is up to instead. Dom is fun.

Step 2: Get a fishing rod. You can get these at Kmart for \$6. That, or I have three spares, so just shoot me a text and I’ll hook you up. (*Hook* you up. Get it? Like a fishing hook. And this is an article about fishing.) Get some bread. Or use those mini-croissants. The fish love it.

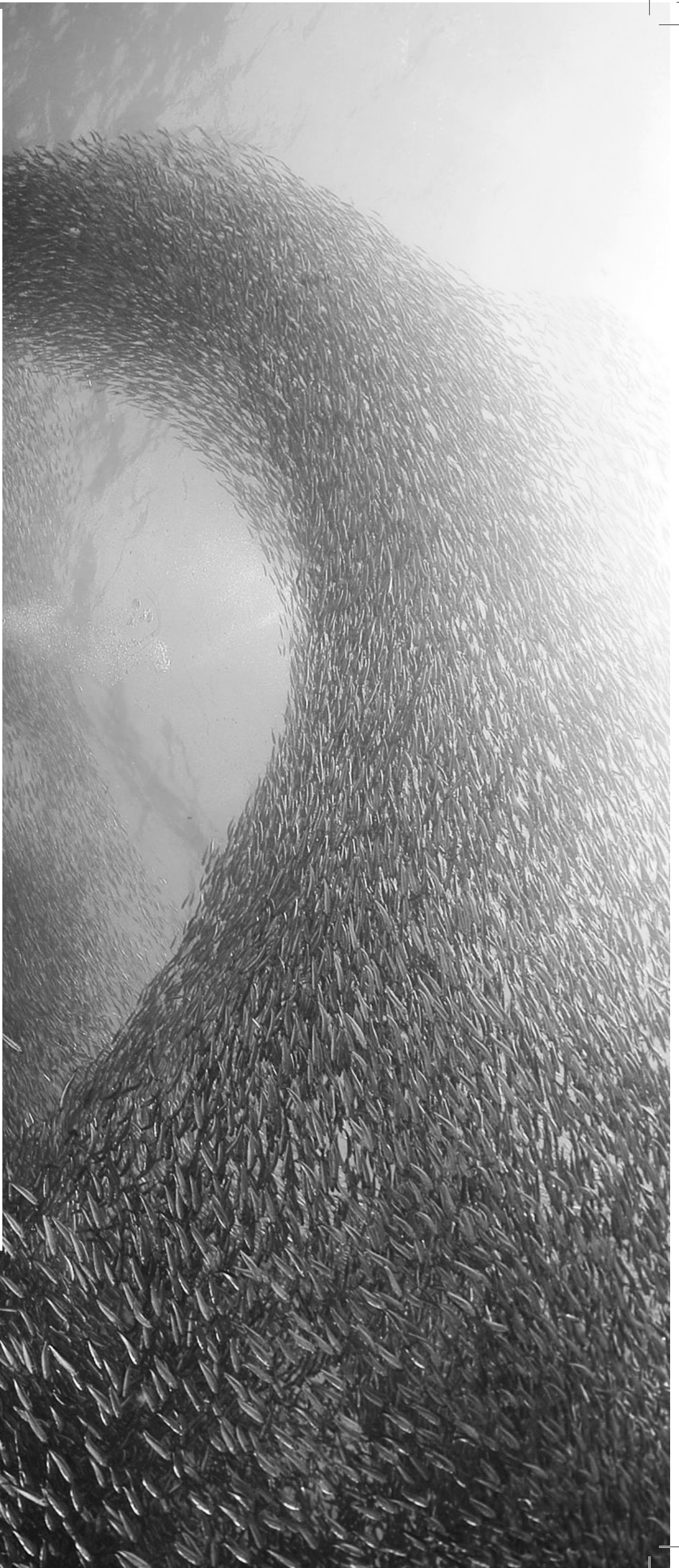
Step 3: Go to the harbour. I recommend the wharf at Kirribilli. Tear a little piece off your mini-croissant and squish it onto the tip of your hook. Cast in. Enjoy the harbour, the fish and the good banter with Dom.

“There are plenty of fish in the sea...LITERALLY,” you’ll say as you pull up yet another small, inedible fish, and Dom will tear up with laughter because he is your pal and you are so funny and witty.

On the way home, you will reflect firstly on the multitude of fish you have caught, and secondly, on your great happiness. You will be glad that you read that article in Tharunka by Dylan Chalwell, and you will write to the editors and suggest an appropriate topic for the next instalment.

You will also be glad that you were careful not to actually touch the fish, because they are very smelly, and would have made you smell like them.

Image: Rex Features





IN CONVERSATION WITH VINCE GILLIGAN

Event Review by Sarah Fernandes

Vince Gilligan, creator of the highly lauded AMC television show *Breaking Bad*, kicked off this year's Sydney Writers' Festival with just over an hour of wine and storytelling with Adam Spencer. Spencer, always the vivacious host, brought out some gems of wisdom and insight from the genius behind the world's favourite antihero.

Breaking Bad received nominations for 42 Prime-time Emmy Awards, seven Golden Globe Awards, 20 Writers' Guild of America awards, and 11 Screen Actors' Guild Awards, broke the Guinness World Record for highest rated TV series and was declared an "American classic" by Stephen King. Despite all this, Gilligan is still somehow incredibly humble - he admitted that he didn't really realise how popular the show was "until about the third or fourth season".

"I was no savant," he said when asked about his childhood, though he spoke vividly about spending hours reading in his grandfather's bookstore. "[At first] I wrote just as piss poorly as everyone else." It's clear that Gilligan is intelligent and well-read - he spoke cleverly on the works of Anton Chekov and Ambrose Bierce - but not once did he come across as conceited or cocky. He cited years of practice as a factor in his success, but claimed that a lot of it was also down to luck. Simply from his manner of speaking you could tell how grateful he was for the opportunities presented to him, and he made no small point of acknowledging the efforts of the rest of the writing team, cast and crew involved in the production of *Breaking Bad*.

Fans were given the geek-out moment they'd been waiting for when Gilligan revealed storylines that the writers had binned almost immediately - most notably one where Jesse seeks revenge on Walt by getting Walt Jr. hooked on meth. Gilligan also spoke on characters like Gustavo Fring, whom Gilligan and the rest of the writers had always thought of as an ex-Secret Service mastermind from Chile, and Skyler White, whom he defended against claims of calling her a "bitch".

Gilligan's eyes lit up when discussing the writer's room for *Breaking Bad*. "It's like a Japanese tea ceremony," he said. "It's very intricate." He spoke of how he would squash the tip of his Sharpie until it was just the correct thickness before writing out any ideas and posting them on the room's cork boards. Sometimes, he claimed, it would take the better part of a week to really nut out how a particular scene would end, or what the resolution would be to that episode's conflict.

It is truly inspirational to see someone who's achieved so much, yet still seems surprised and humbled by the adoration and acclaim he has received. He ended the night by insisting that *Breaking Bad* was for the viewer, not for him, and that it was our opinions that truly mattered at the end of the day. Judging by this interview, the rest of the Sydney Writers' Festival events have a lot to live up to.



THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL

Review by Simon Anicich

After checking out Wes Anderson's *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, there is no doubt in my mind that my sole ambition in life is to become a fully fledged member of the filmmaker's inner circle. Screw Vinny Chase; with a group of pals consisting of the likes of Bill Murray, Harvey Keitel and Owen Wilson, you just know that the antics of Wes & Co. would be the stuff of dreams.

Personal fantasies aside, you'd be doing yourself a favour to catch Anderson's latest effort. Abandoning his whimsical observations of Americana, *The Grand Budapest Hotel* sees Anderson shift his idiosyncrasies to 1930s Eastern Europe to tell a tale of murder, intrigue and granny love. Yes, the core plot of this film centres around the fact that protagonist Monsieur Gustave (Ralph Fiennes) has a fetish for femme fatales of the senior citizen variety. How scintillating.

The events of the story within a story within a story within a story within a story (which themselves are inspired by the stories of acclaimed writer Stefan Zweig) kick off into gear following the death of Gustave's wealthiest conquest, played by an unrecognisable Tilda Swinton, aged beyond her years under layers of make-up. Late amendments to her will bequeathing Gustave a priceless artwork really pisses off the family of the debauched deceased, and the acclaimed concierge soon finds himself framed for murder and on the run with his faithful lobby boy (Tony Revolori) in tow.

A beautifully crafted tale, the film adds definite strength to Anderson's eventual inclusion on the list of Hollywood heavyweights. It easily cements his status as one of the great auteurs alongside the likes of Hitchcock and Kubrick. What I really love about *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, and pretty much Wes Anderson's filmography in general, is how splendidly he brings his surreal imagination to life on the silver screen. The exterior shots of the hotel feature intricately crafted models that burst to life on film. Tiny details, such as a working funicular, are an absolute delight and convey how much the movie was a true labour of love. The interior of the hotel is constructed just as passionately; it's an elegant building of Tardis proportions, centred on an immaculate lobby that would put most non-fictional hotels to shame. Seriously, if Wes ever tired of his current career path, he could do worse than try his hand at design.

In an age where our movie screens are dominated by shitty vampire love triangles and mindless CGI-laden explosion fests, it is truly a breath of fresh air to see something as whimsical as *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. With a bank account relying solely on Centrelink to see its way out of the negatives, it is rare for me to see a film more than once at the movies - but for Wes Anderson's latest, it just may be worth foregoing one less packet of Mi Goreng.



THE BLACK ANGELS CLEAR LAKE FOREST

EP Review by Kyle Redman

Last year's full length *Indigo Meadow* wasn't Austin psychedelic rockers The Black Angels' most consistent work. Melodies fell flat on their faces, themes were cheap, and mid-tempo wanderings were corny but not self-aware. It was quite a few paces away from the 1960s inspired rebel yelling reverb and drone of their debut, *Passover*, and the fuzzy sludge riffs of *Directions to see a Ghost* and *Phosphene Dream*.

Clear Lake Forest is 28 minutes of what *Indigo Meadow* could have been. Flower power tributes don't have repeating 1960s heavy rocker drums that give off vibes of writer's block. Instead, we get tastes of blues smoothly gear changed into punchier flower power rock. "Sunday Evening" and "Tired Eyes" open up like this, but the fuzz gets murkier on "Diamond Eyes", one of the stand-out tracks from the seven-track purchase.

"The Flop" and "The Occurrence At 4507 South Third Street" remind us that the Angels have a deranged acid victim ready to jump on the organ at their call. There is a strong sense of melody stumbling through these tracks, bringing them to life only briefly. It's something that The Black Angels has struggled with throughout their entire career; constant revival attempts of various blues, psych and garage rock combinations that don't shine with a layer of particular interest.

"Linda's Gone" is a classic six-minute drone of tremolo picked meandering, dictated by haunting vocals. There just isn't anything special or exciting about it, and while this EP is a slight improvement on the floundering of last year's full length, it unfortunately isn't anything unique, or new for that matter.



RAMESH MARIO NITHIYENDRAN'S 'ONE HUNG BITCH'

Exhibition Review by Catherine Knight

As every good humanities student knows, phallic symbols can be found in just about anything. Our western society, with its manufactured masculinity, is no stranger to penis extensions (#GunCulture #SkyScrapers #MidLifeCrisisSportsCars). In his solo art show *One Hung Bitch*, Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran uses no innuendo in his discussion of gender, sexuality, colonialism and power politics. His work reclaims phallic imagery from its use as a Eurocentric and patriarchal power symbol. The exhibition ran at the Kudos Gallery Paddington from 15th – 26th April, and showcased just some of Nithiyendran's extensive collection of works, which explore alternate modes of meaning making that subvert the white heteronormative framework.

Throughout the impressive collection of painting, sculpture and ceramic works in *One Hung Bitch*, Nithiyendran sustains a consistent aesthetic of bright psychedelic colours, glossy surfaces, oozing organic forms and, of course, the penis motif. His work creates a dialogue with Ancient art in which phallic symbols were used to represent fertility. Here, Nithiyendran explores mythical possibilities of fertility that exist outside and beyond the heteronormative default.

His work shows a naïve childlike innocence in both style and theme with a whimsical sense of humor that preserves the pieces from being merely seen as grotesque. Playful phallic-shaped characters come to life with expressive faces. These characters are reminiscent of Jean Michel Basquait's abstract figuration, managing to look both surreal and grounded in a corporeal reality. It is this use of humor that gives the exhibition its

accessibility and thus its power. In the collection he combines phallic and fecal imagery as a cheeky wink at homophobic assumptions about queer male sexuality.

Nithiyendran's fine craftsmanship really comes to the forefront here with ceramic turds so sleek and polished that they invite the viewer's gaze a little longer than is comfortable.

Nithiyendran's attention to detail and considered presentation in the exhibition is the icing on the cake and reflects just how layered his process is. With the gallery walls painted black and positioned in a 'T' formation he creates the sight gag of a big black cock, cementing his celebration of queer and culturally diverse spaces. The works were arranged in a scattered yet highly thought through manner. While some works took their expected places upon plinths and wall mounting others were leant casually on the floor against the walls. His toying with the format of the gallery was further evident in the range of materials used for plinths. These spanned from the classic white wood, to an almost garish mirror plinth upon which a gold melting phallic sculpture was sat, to found items such as Styrofoam, bricking, cardboard and rock. This positioning of alien materials side by side is a running theme in his work that manages to be simultaneously cute, mischievous, beautiful and vulgar.

One of the most unique voices within the Sydney contemporary art world, Nithiyendran's work leaves you feeling as though you've just seen Mickey Mouse have a wank yet somehow have had your perceptions of gender, race and sexuality subtly yet irrevocably penetrated.



Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran is represented by Gallery 9. His work can be viewed at <http://www.ramesh-nithiyendran.com>

Above: *White Dickhead (with Grills)*, 2014, earthenware, ceramic underglaze pencil, glaze and gold lustre, 42 x 26 x 17cm. Photography: Patrick Cremin,

THE SRC ARE YOUR ELECTED STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES — YOUR VOICE ON CAMPUS!



SRC President

Joel Wilson

Hi all, you may have already heard that the Abbott government is planning to introduce the most damaging changes to the higher education sector in decades. Under the proposed reforms, Commonwealth funding that was exclusive to public universities will now be spread between private colleges and other providers. Students will be the ones paying for this through an increase to student fees via cutting the government contribution as a percentage of the total cost of a degree, imposing a flat 10 per cent loan fee on HECS, and removing federal funding support for most postgraduate degrees. The end result will be that education will be unaffordable for any but the rich and those willing to bear the increased debt burden. The primary intention behind raising the university participation rate, such as making universities accessible to the poor and disadvantaged, will be undermined.

The SRC believes students should not have to foot the bill for extending government subsidies to private colleges and other providers! We are planning a National Day of Action at UNSW on May 14 to fight against the possibility of increased fees.

Please get in touch or come and see me at the Blockhouse if you want to get involved in the fight to maintain a fair and equitable education for all students. My email address is srcpresident@arc.unsw.edu.au, and you can sign up to our collectives through our website and Facebook page.



General Secretary

Maja Sieczko

On the 21st of May, the SRC and Randwick City Council will be holding a free Policy and Advocacy Panel and Workshop in the Club Bar of the Roundhouse. So if you're interested in learning just how to get more involved in your community make sure you come along and

hear panel members present their experience and expertise in policy and advocacy and get to know just how you can make a difference. If you're interested in getting involved on a campus level, coming a long to one of our many weekly collective meetings and help organise some upcoming events and campaigns. Make sure you like us on Facebook and sign up to our mailing list so that you can stay up to date!



Education Officer

Billy Bruffey

With the announcement of big changes to university funding, and calls by our very own university to increase fees, the time to fight back has arrived. The Education Collective is preparing for one of our biggest campaigns EVER: On May 14, at the Library Lawn, we are holding a Snap Action to refute the government's education agenda and call for our Vice-Chancellor to guarantee no fee increases for UNSW students. Come along to the collective. We meet every Thursday at 12 noon in the Blockhouse.



Queer Officers

Dylan Lloyd & Cassandra Harris

International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia is just around the corner – May 17! The Queer Officers, with the help of Queer Collective members and ALLY at UNSW, have been working hard on preparing some awesome events and a collaborative zine surrounding the date. So expect to see us around campus with treats and rainbows close to that date.

We have also been organizing a Queer Week art exhibition, to be held from September 2–6 at Kudos Gallery in Paddington (right next to COFA). Submissions are open to anyone who identifies within the LGBTIQA spectrum, and they close August 4. For more information, email queer@arc.unsw.edu.au.

Registrations for Queer Collaborations have also now opened. Woo! Exciting! Queer Collaborations is a national

conference where (mostly) students gather to discuss issues that affect us as LGBTIQA identified people – and also party. It's both fun and educational. This year, the conference is being held at Monash University in Melbourne. If you would like to know more information about the conference, how to register, and how the Queer Officers can help you with getting there if you need financial help, please email us at queer@arc.unsw.edu.au.

Love, Cassie and Dylan



Welfare Officer

Brendan Byron

The welfare department has been busy organising over the last few weeks. Every Tuesday is Free Breakfast day, and every week the Welfare Room is restocked with food and other goods.

Starting Semester two this year, the Welfare Room, like the rest of the SRC, will move to new premises above the Quad, and I'm excited by what's being put together for the new space. Other than that, I've been working on a new edition of the Cheapskate Guide, updating it for the new retail spaces on campus, and on campaigning against changes to withdrawal procedures.

These changes to withdrawal procedures make a genuine, negative difference to the job prospects anyone with the misfortune to have life get in the way of their studies. No one can help suffering serious illnesses, or family tragedies, and you should not be permanently accountable for dropping courses because of them.

If you're keen to contribute to the Welfare/Disability collective, we meet every Tuesday at 3 pm. It'll be good to see you there!

Regards, Brendan



Ethno-Cultural Officer

Rachel Lobo

"No matter where you are from, your dreams are valid". The words of Acad-

emy Award winner Lupita Nyong'o are not said nearly enough as they need to be. Women of Colour are severely under-represented in mainstream media, entertainment, history and literature. Too often, western society devalues, exoticises and fetishises those that are either in the public gaze and stereotypes en masse entire groups that are not. Stereotypes whether negative or intentionally positive can cause serious damage to the self-image of individuals and cohesiveness of entire racial groups. This semester we've started up a Wom*en of Colour collective online, with hopes to put on a few great events next semester! We are intersectional and inclusive of all identities.

The End Colonial Mentality Campaign has been postponed to next semester. However for the rest of Semester 1 – we're putting on various activities with a combined Dehumanisation campaign with the Women's collective, a Society Sucks! Party with the Queer Collective, an excursion to the Sydney Writer's Festival to see the legendary Alice Walker and a Movie Night!



International Officer

Emily Yichen Liu

Hi Folks,

Our **FREE IELTS workshop** is on this week!!

As one of the most successful and traditional events of the UNSW SRC international for the past five years, it is definitely something you don't want to miss out on, and we are excited to see new faces coming along and saying hello!

Date: Thursday 1 May, 2014

Time: 3 pm – 5 pm

Location: Quad G046

Facebook Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/731155466915386>

Contact: Emily 0433 660 625

Fair Fare Photo Petition is running this week.

We call on the NSW government to give international students equal travel concessions. This project is a collective effort of the University of Sydney and the University of New South Wales's International Students Collectives.

Therefore, it is only with YOUR support that we can achieve equality within the Australian student community and the wider Australian society.

Please support us and participate in the photo petition!

If people want more information, or want to get involved, please don't hesi-

THE SRC ARE YOUR ELECTED STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES YOUR VOICE ON CAMPUS!

tate to contact us at international@arc.unsw.edu.au.



Indigenous Officer

Rebekah Hatfield

This month will be jam packed full of events run by the indigenous society with the highlight being Reconciliation Week which runs from the 27th of May to the 3rd of June. These dates are significant as the 27th is the anniversary of the 1967 referendum which included Aboriginal people on the constitution. The 3rd is also significant because it is the anniversary of the Mabo decision, both being crucial markers in national Indigenous history. Reconciliation Week is about promoting culture and understanding and aims to bring all Australians together.

Keep a look out for event posters and make sure to come along to one, or all, events that we put on during this week. We look forward to having you there!



Students with Disabilities Officer

Alexandra Little

Hi everyone. I hope you've all had a wonderful break with lots of sleep-ins and days spent in your pyjamas eating Easter eggs! We're getting to that tricky point in the semester where things start to get pretty intense and the assessments are coming in thick and fast. With exams looming, people get more stressed and tend to burn the candle at both ends. Please get a decent amount of sleep and eat some real food at some point!!!

In the next couple of weeks, I'll be reviewing the draft Disability Action Plan for UNSW. This is a really important step towards making this uni a much more inclusive campus. From Semester 2, Arc will be moving to our new home in the new colleges. I'd love your input on what you'd like your disability and welfare space to be and what things you'd like to see in it. The government is proposing to deregulate university fees, meaning that

UNSW can charge whatever they like for our degrees. This will have a detrimental effect on the number of students with disabilities and carers who will be able to get degrees. I urge all of you to get involved in fighting these proposals. Many students with disabilities are unable to work, and the last thing these students need is more debt!



Womens Officer

Olga Lisinska

Thank you to everyone who read Women's Tharunka last issue. I hope you enjoyed reading it as much as I enjoyed making it. Thanks again to everyone who contributed.

We all know that the language used to talk about people's appearance differs enormously and it generally depends on their gender. To highlight this we've launched the "I Know What You Said" Campaign. Like the Facebook page to get regular updates about what people have said.

The National Organisation of Women Students Australia annual conference is coming up in July. It will take place in July, in Perth at Edith Cowan University. If people are interested in attending or just wanting to know more information, e-mail me at o.lisinska@arc.unsw.edu.au

Look out for us across campus as we kick off some new campaigns about consent and bodily autonomy. Remember "My Body, My Life, My Choice"



Environment Officer

Nicholas Gurieff

The UNSW enviro collective is a hive of activity these days. We're planning events and working on projects, like the Fossil Free UNSW divestment campaign and the RenewUNSW campaign for more renewable energy on campus. We're having fun making videos, putting zines together and writing a report on campus sustainable energy initiatives.

If you'd like to get involved, feel free

to drop in on our weekly Environment Collective meetings, which are held at 10 am Tuesdays in the Activist Space on Level 1 of the Blockhouse. There's free morning tea! If you're looking to get in contact and stay informed, then you can also send an email to enviro@arc.unsw.edu.au, or visit our website at www.sr-cenviro.org.

Bitter waters

by Kevin Nguyen

*Sailing to the edge of the world,
I travel with the painter's daughter
We float for miles and miles,
over the black and bitter water.*

*We're dying every day, but never dead
like ghosts trapped in a shell,
from where we sit, the world is gray,
in this little boat we call hell.*

*It's strange indeed, this painful need
which we both share
to catch wind again, and leave this
dreaded place, which we call nowhere*

*So never drop anchor, never turn this
ship 'round
we'll see this til the end,
and I'll waste away, as we waste away
these days together, my friend*

The crinkly old man goes to buy kibble but does not get there

Michaela Vaughan

You see, the crinkly old man had forgotten to feed the kitten that morning and so she was beginning to gurgle with hunger. The crinkly old man was in the middle of writing his first novel (it wasn't very good) but decided he would put it aside and go get some kibble as he had run out.

The crinkly old man jostled over to his ancient, creaky car and putted down the road on his way to the store. Unfortunately, near the main road was a very busy zebra crossing that often had people slinking across the street. There was a university, a hospital, a pub, a book store, a kebab eatery, a bakery and a coffee shop nearby so people were constantly dribbling across the road. On this day the crinkly old man found he could not pass through the road as there were too many people. He waited and waited and then suddenly he found it was getting dark and yet there were still people coming and he was still waiting. Then night crept into day and the crinkly old man still could not pass. The crinkly old man was a polite gentleman but even he was getting frustrated as he had things to do (like feed the kitten and finish his not-very-good-novel). However, he kept waiting day after day but the flow of people did not seem to stop. He was waiting for so long that people

began to come to the zebra crossing to witness the spectacle of the waiting crinkly old man. So there were even more people at the crossing than ever and so the crinkly old man still could not drive down the road. Some of the people took photos of the crinkly old man and asked him to wave. He waved at some of them but soon got tired of waving and just faced the street. Then one day after waiting in the car for many days and nights the crinkly old man squeezed the steering wheel and said 'Geez there are a lot of people here' and died.

It was really sad but thankfully someone went to his house with some kibble and fed his kitten (she was now a cat)."



The Secret Diary of Professor, Professor, Professor Bob Carr

Dear Diary,

At last I have reached the pinnacle of human academic achievement, so much so that I do not consider it unreasonable to begin referring to me as a deity henceforth. Here I stand, a God among mere mortals; I am almost enough to make me believe in a higher power once again. I never did know a religion quite so baritone.

But I digress.

Recently, I confirmed that I will be joining the University of New South Wales as an adjunct professor in Asia, China and international relations. This is in addition to my professorial fellowship at the University of Sydney's Southeast Asia Centre, and the jewel in my crown of teeming professorships, the directorship of UTS's new Australia China Relations Institute.

I am confident I will be the most superior Chairman of all.

I have directed my plebeian assistant to re-print several thousand business cards with my new title "Professor, Professor, Professor Robert John Carr", and eagerly hit 'send' on a press release informing the world of my latest achievements in acquiring titles I never dreamed of furnishing my name with when I was but a young, scrawny lad in Matraville.

"Let them eat Bob cards!" I exclaimed, as I threw five hundred crisp new business cards out of my office window on unsuspecting students yet to be graced with the wisdom that bubbles forth from my brain, and in turn, my tender, adequately moisturised lips.

Not content with the sub-par option of purchasing artwork for my new tripartite university office network, I have begun painting my own in the vein of the wizened and utterly imbecilic George W. Bush. I do not need an approving nod from the candid photo of Henry Kissinger I keep beneath my pillow to know that my self-portrait finger paintings far surpass anything taxpayer money can buy.

My time has come again. I rise from the ashes, a phoenix reborn as the majestic creature of towering intellect that shall reign supreme over universities galore.

I must leave you now, dear diary, to inquire as to whether my kale smoothie has been prepared by the serfs with thirteen drops of honey, no more and no less. I shall write to you soon again when the minds of Australia's future foolish elite are firmly under the grasp of my ever-widening influence.

With self-love,
ProfProfProf Bob

Ammy Singh (@ammyed)

Study recommends power should be preserved for elite

JK Glud

A study published on the 30th of April by the Foundation for Engagement Against Contemporary & Established Studies (FEACES) has found that with the proliferation of democratic processes in Western nations has found that with each new generation of citizens "the psyche of each individual is degraded to a state of laziness, contempt and apathy".

The report's author, Dr Jorge Disbran, has stated that "this is conclusive proof that democracy is a failed ideology," and that "the benefits of having a democratic political system have been fundamentally usurped by my work". The four year study was undertaken by Dr Disbran and his class at the University of Queensland after having receiving funding from FEACES.

The study suggests that governments that have high levels of citizen participation in governmental processes take measures to ensure that government officials and public officials have primary say in areas of public policy due to their "innate abilities to make the best

decisions all the time". The study recommends that citizenship be limited to only those that "exhibit their competency in the fields of economics, psychology, and philosophy as well as be able to adhere to a strict diet of Machiavelli and Platos for breakfast, lunch and dinner."

Dr Disbran elaborated on the data, saying "this study can attest to why citizens of democratic nations between the ages of 16-30 are becoming apathetic, lazy and generally more derelict." He maintains that the study is 'fool-proof' and is "impenetrable to the criticism of saboteurs and wreckers."

Tabel B'Rwond, a student that participated in the study, spoke to Tharunka and commented that the study had been conducted in "the most scientific of environments" and "included peoples of all races." Mr B'Rwond went on to compliment on the extensive work undertaken by Dr Bellison.

The study claims that nation-states that disinvest in electoral processes, or do away with them entirely, and increase funding into what the report calls "exclusive private institutions that promote the development of Platonic philosopher-kings" will develop into highly

advanced societies.

When queried as to how exactly the study was carried out Dr Disbran pointed out that the details were irrelevant and that he had the right to deny Tharunka the "privilege of such profound knowledge". Dr Disbran extended his support to the Liberal National Queensland state government, mentioning that "the voter ID laws being proposed by [Attorney-General Jarrod] Bleijie go in the right direction" but that "there needs to be further movements towards solidifying the Campbell governments efforts to creating a state in the vision of Plato's Republic."

At the time of publication an anonymous email was sent to Tharunka explaining the study was conducted with a sample size of 33 students from several unmentioned east coast states of Australia.



Niko Pajarillo
@nikopajarillo

This sentiment, coined by the late, great Arthur Beetson, is more relevant now than ever, as NSW try to assemble a team to finally end Queensland's eight-year State of Origin dynasty.

Never in recent memory has a NSW selection debate been as difficult as it is this year. Selectors this year seem deprived of choice for some positions and spoilt in others. Again, the old "Form versus Loyalty" debate has been raised, and injuries have again clouded our selection options.

Over the years, it has become somewhat of a hobby of mine to construct my own NSW squad; one that I would hypothetically task with halting the Queensland juggernaut. But in this reckless life of thrill and exhilaration, I have come to realise that regardless of the amount of football I watch and articles I read in making my decision, my selections are almost never reflective of the actual side chosen.

Despite this, it is always fun breaking down NSW's situation, analysing their options and creating a solution. Within this article I have looked at the main problem areas for NSW selection at the moment and have formulated a squad I believe is the right choice for Game I.

This year, injuries and poor form have forced NSW coach Laurie Daley to make changes to his preferred squad for Game I in Brisbane. Dealing with these issues is not simply the smooth transition of putting another player in the squad as a replacement, as many other factors have to be taken into consideration.

To begin, the first dilemma facing Daley is the injury to incumbent five-eighth James Maloney. While the problem seems straightforward, a chain reaction of issues arise as a result that Daley must effectively address if he is to win Game I while Maloney recuperates.

Firstly, NSW need a five-eighth, and Canterbury tough-guy Josh Reynolds is an easy choice for replace-

ment. However, the loss of Maloney also means the loss of a goalkicker, an attribute that Reynolds does not have.

Maloney's injury means the Blues may also need a halfback. With NSW main man Mitchell Pearce in average form, the absence of his halves partner Maloney means there is little point in using Pearce in Game I. This opens the door for a more in-form halfback to substitute for Pearce while Maloney recovers, preferably one who kicks goals. The obvious choice then would be Canterbury sharpshooter Trent Hodkinson. Not only is the halfback in irresistible form, but his combination with Reynolds will also allow for a more cohesive performance as they direct the Blues across the park.

However, while the Reynolds/Hodkinson combo looks to be a strong temporary replacement for the Maloney/Pearce pairing, their inexperience in the representative arena is something that needs to be addressed. Being thrust into big games may cause them to falter under pressure. This, in turn, affects the selection for the NSW fullback position.

With Maloney's injury eliminating the experience in the NSW spine, it is clear that Jarryd Hayne is the best option for the NSW No. 1 jersey.

While Josh Dugan's explosive attacking ability would be a huge plus for the side, Hayne's class is a quality that cannot be overlooked. Professional and calm in everything he does on the field, Hayne is smart and reliable at the back. Through his experience, he has the ability to provide structure to a team and organise players around him. These leadership qualities will provide a calming influence over the inexperienced halves combination, and it's the main advantage Hayne has over Dugan.

Another issue facing Daley for NSW selection is the injury to hooker and vice-captain Robbie Farah. Similar to Hayne, Farah is experienced and brings his organisational skills to any team he plays in.

However, rather than select a hooker who plays similarly, Daley would be mad to ignore the impressive form of Parramatta recruit Nathan Peats. A tough-as-

nails prospect for the future, Peats's hardy attitude towards the game is well suited to the Origin arena. He is strong, fast and composed out of dummy half, which makes him a strong candidate to take Farah's hooking role in Game I.

Peats's work ethic is to be admired, as he is well known to go looking for work, taking the load off his teammates. However, he is also untested in representative circles, and the grind of Origin may prove too much for him. This is why I believe Kurt Gidley should be chosen as the utility on the NSW bench.

Gidley would be able to shoulder Peats's workload coming off the bench, and he could make up for the playmaking expertise Peats lacks. A veteran of 14 years in the game, Gidley's familiarity with the Origin arena would allow him to take control should Peats struggle. Also, the most advantageous quality Kurt Gidley possesses is his extraordinary versatility. Capable of playing hooker, five-eighth, halfback and fullback, Gidley would be able to comfortably slot into any position along the NSW spine to cover any injuries that may occur.

When all is said and done though, the above proposals are just parts of a team that could take countless formations with infinite potential. While my sentiments may not be echoed by Laurie Daley when he announces the team on May 20, it will be interesting to see the approach taken by the NSW coach during this time of desperation.

Don't forget to tune in on May 28 for Game I of this State of Origin series, and go the Blues!

Niko's NSW squad for Game I:

Jarryd Hayne, James McManus, Michael Jennings, Josh Morris, Brett Morris, Josh Reynolds, Trent Hodkinson (gk), Paul Gallen (c), Nathan Peats, Aaron Woods, Greg Bird, Glenn Stewart, Anthony Watmough. BENCH: Kurt Gidley (vc), Andrew Fifita, Boyd Cordner, Luke Lewis.

#GoNSW #UpTheBlues #NSWtillidie #TrueBlue #BlueBlood