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Tharunka acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which the University now stands.

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Hey guys,

Welcome to the Foundation Day issue of Tharunka! We hope you celebrated UNSW’s birthday in style by being vomited on by an inappropriately drunk college kid or something.

This marks the first issue we’ve produced with our new editor Annastasia and designer Carla (#goddesses) and we’re looking forward to bringing you a fun (but also deeply intellectually stimulating) student newspaper in Semester 2.

Lauren & Ned

Hey friends,

Firstly, welcome back to Semester two!

It is with honour and excitement that I introduce myself to you as the new co-editor of Tharunka. I’m a third and final (yay!) year Communications and Journalism student, and as I enter into my final semester I am stoked to have been accepted into this position and am ready to edit the heck out of this publication!

This Foundation Day issue has been a fun and cheeky way for me to get into the groove of my new role. We have included the traditional Foundation Day issue satire, as well as some great non-satirical articles from our amazing contributors.

I have so many ideas and processes I’d like to see change and introduced. I hope to implement a more active and informative Tharunka website/social media platform, as well as re-introduce more focus on UNSW sports. Though, as you can appreciate, my remaining time is short and these things take time.

Annastasia.

We have an amazing team of talented core contributors, however the beauty of free speech is that you, the reader, are always able to help build the next Tharunka issue. I encourage you to share those hidden journalistic gems with us and send your opinions to tharunka@arc.unsw.edu.au

Finally, I want to assure you all that I am completely transparent; an open-book you might say. I respect the integrity of our publication, and only wish to add to its greatness, and be part of its history. Along with Lauren and Ned, we are ready to make Tharunka a publication you’re proud of.

Please remember, constructive criticism is always encouraged, but no haters.

Enjoy the issue,

Annastasia.
Letters to the Editor

Sometimes, people send us emails. We call this one “the Jane Wallace Experience: Magic Mike”

Mike Baird wants to increase the Goods and Services Tax from ten percent 10% to fifteen percent 15% in all of Australia!

It’s now no wonder why Mike Baird has been labelled “Magic Mike” after the Male Stripper Movie Character by the Sydney Daily Telegraph, the number one supporter of The Liberal National Conservative Coalition, which always supports, always loves and always worships The Liberal National Conservative Coalition and always hates The Labor Party with passion.

Mike Baird also brags that the New South Wales Liberal National Coalition State Government is rolling in money. On the other hand, Mike Baird is crying poor and that Mike Baird doesn’t have enough money for the health system and hospital systems.

Agony Brobis

Dear Agony Ibis,

My best friend and I keep having awkward moments- our hands touch, and I feel a spark. He compliments my outfit and my heart beats a little faster. He fucks me in the ass and I cum like a freight train. But he’s my bro! And his friendship is the best, I would never want to lose that. What do I do?

From,
Broplexed

Dear Broplexed,

I know exactly how you feel. It is very difficult for friends of mine to not fall in love with me (because I am sickening), and I am constantly having to make sure that I balance them in that difficult position between close friend and sexual partner. Over the many years of my life I have come up with a surefire way to make sure that you will always be able to cultivate the perfect relationship with another person.

Allow me to present to you:

The 3 Bro’s of Platonic, Non-Erotic, Male Friendship

Brotective

Don’t be afraid to be brotective of your bro. If he’s about to hook up with a solid 5, and you can see a soft 8 in the corner, finishing up vomiting a Jaeger bomb and clearly ready to get back into the party, let him know with an intricate series of hand gestures and whistles that convey exactly the situation he is in. Bros do this for each brother. Let him know you care!

Brotivation

Look to the work of bros before you to get a clear idea of how wonderful being bro is. Barack Brobama and Bro Broden. Wolf-gang Brozart and Brohann Sebastian Bach. Jean Paul Sartre and Simone de Brovoir. These other bromosexual relationships are the key to maintaining the integbroty of yours.

Supercalifragilisticexpialabrocious

It’s the word to say when you can’t think of anything else to say. Did you nearly drink beer from the same side of the brottle? Did you stand too close to him in the urinal? Have his fingers accidentally found your brostate? This will solve your broblems. And I leave you with these wise words from the iconic Brohemian Rhapsody, “scaramouche, scarramouche, will you do the fandangbro?”.

Deep stuff.

Yours,

Agony Brobis
Your First Gutter: Tips & Tricks

Hey there you! So you’ve bought that dream piece of kerb- somewhere nice in Rose Bay, maybe, with ocean views and 2013 premium council cement, and the hand print of a little shit who thought it would be hilarious to write “Jake woz here” while it was still drying.

It’s everything you’ve ever hoped it could be, and while your parents could probably have afforded a much larger one, maybe with a breakfast nook or without that car parked in it- hey. You do you. The market has changed.

The place where you’re going to make back your money is in resale, and if you try out these five tips by leading Sydney Real Estate Agents, you can add thousands to your price of your cement hovel. Plus, they’re super useful for making sure you don’t have any dirt on your face when you leave in the morning.

Ambient Light Is Flattering For Everything
It doesn’t matter who you are or where you live- using soft, ambient lighting from lamps will instantly soften any imperfections in the curve of your kerb, and add an aura of sophistication. Your gutter will ooze that dreamy, ephemeral quality we all crave.

Wall Decals Add Instant Character
Don’t be afraid to put on a wall decal or two. Semi-permanent, and varying from $5 to $50 on Etsy, they are a fun and easy way to freshen up an otherwise boring space with winsome creativity.

If It’s Old, It May Have Hardwood Floors
Under The Carpet
Home improvement reality television is my favourite guilty pleasure, and when those teams go into shambling old houses and pull up stained, pilled carpet to reveal well protected cedar hardwood floors that require a quick sand and polish, it makes my heart sing. SING!
If you’re lucky, it may happen to you. Take a peek under that carpet and see if there’s any hidden treasures.

Make Sure There’s Flow From One Space To The Next
This was the one thing that the real estate agents could not emphasise to me enough- make sure there is a harmony and consistent theme between each space, as well as a balance of furniture and openness. If you have grey lucite press-to-open cupboard doors in your kitchen, and try to team that with an un-varnished beech kitchen table and cane-backed chairs, you’re going to have problems.

Mirrors Add Space and Light
Mirrors are an instant lift to even the most boring of gutters. It will double the amount of visible space, creating an illusion of larger rooms, and magnify the effect of natural light, instantly adding thousands to the price of your cement hovel. Plus, they’re super useful for making sure you don’t have any dirt on your face when you leave in the morning.

Oh, and last but not least, fill in that ‘Jake woz here’.
Always a good idea.
Good luck on creating your dream slum!

Man Accepts Award, Makes Speech

James Bland received the top industry award in the industry at the Industry Awards last night. A transcript of his speech is provided below.

I am humbled and honoured to accept such a prestigious award tonight. This has been years in the making and cannot believe this day has finally come. I am so passionate about what I do and hope that I continue to contribute to this industry in the future. However, I did not achieve this on my own, of course, and I believe a thank you is in order.

Firstly, to my parents – your continued support and assistance throughout my education and career made this all possible. If it weren’t for you both, I would be languishing with all the other bottom feeders trying to get a professional job. I am so grateful that you blessed me with beautiful white skin and nurtured me in the comfort of financial security. In those early formative years, I attended the finest schools and became acquainted with peers who would also one day form part of the industry elite. This privilege secured me a personal advantage to last a lifetime, whilst appearing to unfurl itself as merit. And for this I am truly grateful.

Finally, to my darling wife, who is my absolute rock. You have always put me first, and undeservingly so. You were by far more qualified and gifted than me when we first married, but there was never any question that you were to become a housewife once we had children. Your career had reached its twilight at 29 years of age after all those years you put into your masters degree, and I cannot thank you enough. By having children, my image in the office skyrocketed as a well-rounded loving father and husband. Soon after, the promotions came rolling in for a man who was seen to be having it all. My gratitude is beyond words my dear.

I am not the most intelligent person in the industry, nor creative, nor in truth visionary. I am not even a good leader to be honest. But nevertheless, I have managed to succeed time and time again, thanks to my white skin, wealthy background, elite education, heterosexuality and of course my monstrous male genitalia. So thank you to those who helped me get where I am today, this award is for all of us.
Colonial First State Announces Name Change

Colonial First State announced this week that it will be renaming itself ‘White First State’ after a revamp of the company’s image.

‘It is the 21st Century and we felt it was appropriate to make sure that we are keeping up with the times,’ General Manager Lisa Elkins said.

‘Australia has a truly proud colonial history, the fact that the Union Jack is still on our flag is a testament to this, but we decided that ‘White First State’ is a more accurate portrayal of of investment and wealth management in Australia. We may have federated over a century ago, but whiteness is still at the heart of Australian society.’

Ray White Group Real Estate has lodged an injunction in the Federal Court alleging intellectual property theft as a result of the name change.

‘White and property have always been synonymous and we have concerns that White First State may capitalise and profit from our reputation. We aren’t really sure if this is a very legitimate lawsuit but when property is currently overvalued at 40% we’ve made so much money recently that we actually don’t know what to do with it.’

‘I am fourth generation Ray White and we are just trying to protect our interests,’ Director Sam White said.

Proceedings will begin next Monday.

5 Mistakes First Home Owners Make

1. Thinking You Can Buy Your Dream House Straight Away

Too many first home buyers dream too big, too soon. Sure, everyone wants the inner-city lifestyle but many urban centres outside the CBD like Dubbo offer more affordable housing and you can always work your way further east from there! Alternatively, you might like to consider some luxuries you can do without in a home. For example, many free standing structures offer protection from the rain without the use of walls, and do you really need a toilet and a sink?

2. Buying Your First House First

It’s tempting to start off by buying your first house, but if you buy your second house first, you can use negative gearing to subsidise the portion of your mortgage not covered by the rent you’re receiving. Not only that, but a house is great collateral to have when you go to the bank to secure a deposit for your first house!

3. Not Having a Good Job that Pays Good Money

Sure, paying off a mortgage can be pretty difficult, but one easy way around this is to have a job that pays you more money than the money you have to fork out for your mortgage repayments! You can use the money left over for things like food, clothes and why not treat yourself to the occasional night out or holiday?

4. Not Inheriting Money from your Parents

It’s annoying to remember to buy flowers for mother’s day every year, but young people who have managed to buy their own properties can assure you that it’s more than worth it! When you’re fed up with looking at yet another florist’s website just picture the view from your Potts Point mansion and try to ignore the exorbitant shipping expenses.

5. Being Born Poor

If there’s one mistake that young people today make more than any other, it’s being born from an underprivileged financial background. Sure you can work your way up theoretically, but how do you expect to secure a good job if you can’t afford a decent education? If you have made the mistake of being born poor, don’t fret! But at least try not to further jeopardise your chances of property ownership by being female or from an ethnic minority.
How to Feng Shui your living space

You Might Also Like:

Feng shui is an ancient Chinese philosophy that is the practice of harmonising humans with their environment. Interior designers have taken this phrase, which literally translates into “wind-water” and have applied it to how furniture and other household goods are situated and arranged. Here’s our top 6 tips on how to feng shui your space:

1. De-clutter your stuff.

This is step one, and is the most vital step in the feng shui process. It's time to throw away everything, literally everything. There's a number of back alleys that have milk crates you can nab, and they're free!

Take this as an opportunity to rid yourself of that materialistic mentality you've been holding onto. There's no room in this process for people who think they "need" toilet paper.

2. Cover your space with plants.

Don't leave any inch bare; more is more in this case. It might seem excessive, and hard work but sometimes you have to give a little to get lot. Make sure you surround your sleeping area with oversized plants, and include some hanging shrubs over your bed.

Negative energy strikes when you're sleeping, but with this trick, no negative energy would dare try to penetrate through your greenhouse. Just think about all the great carbon dioxide you're creating; fresh air without even having to crack a window.

3. Avoid bendy, pointy or curved objects.

This refers specifically and most detrimentally to antennas that might be pointing to your place, or even building corners. The best thing to do here is to get out there and get hands on!

Climb up the electrical pole and get those pesky antennas pointing elsewhere. As for those building corners, fear not, it's nothing a call to council couldn't fix. They'll understand your need to move the entire building to face another direction. Alternatively, a good sledge hammer will only cost around $40.

4. Mirror mirror on the wall, and the floor and ceiling.

Mirrors are a huge part of the feng shui philosophy. They assist you in showing you your enemies from every angle, so you'll always see them coming. You can, of course throw a rug down on the mirrored floor to avoid slipping, but they must cover all walls, floors and ceilings. When your enemies come knocking, you want to able to see them from every inch of your space. Smoke and mirrors, baby. Just don't crack them; feng shui can't cancel out seven years bad luck.

5. Light some fire.

Fire is one of the five elements that make up the art of feng shui because of its cleansing powers. Negative energy doesn't stand a chance against the power of a naked flame. You should already be in a space with a fire place, but if you weren't savvy enough to do so when you bought or leased, you should make your own.

Alternatively, one of those rusty tin barrels will suffice, throw all that aforementioned materialistic clutter in there, douse in gasoline and throw in a match. This fire should burn all day, everyday, even in the blazingly hot Australian Summer.

Add some candles for extra boost, you can buy a pack of 100 for under $4 from IKEA.

6. Get romantic and find love.

Yes, feng shui can work to manifest the love of your life. What you need to do is make your bedroom a place that others will want to be. Cancel your Netflix account, install Tinder and lower your standards, burn the fluffy toys, and have a minimum 1000 count Egyptian cotton sheet set.

Don't forget that you should also have at least 18 plants in your bedroom, so a natural aroma is already there for you. It goes without saying that candles are a vital part of romance, so find some space between the plants for some scented candles, but keep the windows shut to keep all the sexy vibes in.
PM Creates Heterosexuality Festival to Celebrate Pride

Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Senate leader Eric Abetz announced today funding for a new arts and cultural event 'Straight Up' celebrating heterosexuality and love nationally. The festival will promote the sacred bond between men and women to the exclusion of others and gender roles.

This event comes amid fears of legal recognition of same-sex marriage around the world negatively influencing Australian morality, Abetz said. "We have the world's largest gay and lesbian festival 'Mardi Gras' but we have no festivities celebrating the love and marriage between a man and a woman.

It is shameful that it has taken us so long. It's time Australia," he commented. Abbott concurred: "This government believes in equality and freedom. The majority should be able to celebrate their love in a way that is currently only available to an entitled minority. It is palpably wrong. We need to let our children know that they can be proudly straight."

This family friendly festival will cater to all ages and is already in the early stages of planning. Festival manager Amanda Vorman revealed a range of musical acts and other activities to be hosted throughout the country.

"I am very excited to report there will be an enormous one-hectare square dance floor and we have booked the DJ 180 to play in all capital cities. We have organised some of the best orthodontists in the country to be straightening participants' teeth and there'll also be free chiropractic services available too. Silverchair cover band, Goldendesk have agreed to play 'Straight Lines' for 70 straight hours attempting a Guinness World record. Additionally, there will be some tents also going through proper parenting and the gift of conceiving."

Abetz highlighted the importance of this festival on the minds of Australia's young people in an age where same-sex marriage is a fad. "Our children deserve the best possible start in life and the best possible model for that is heterosexual love where children enjoy the security of knowing their biological parents and the diversity of male and female role models. All this festival is doing is promoting that."
“I am actually just in Australia on a business trip. I don’t really know. Maybe you should ask someone else.”

“Anyone who so much as pronounces the words ‘housing bubble’ is a shit stirrer in my view. We don’t need knuckleheads like that destroying investor confidence. The one thing that worries me though is that I’m not totally sure the people who just moved in next to me are even citizens. They didn’t look white, and yesterday I spent all night with my ear pressed up against their letterbox. I’m not sure if it was them or if they were just watching SBS or something, but I didn’t hear a word of English the whole time.”

“When I bought my first flat in Newtown in the 70s it was a completely different time. I used to park my motorbike in the living room. Just drive it straight in off King Street and park it next to the telly. God, we had some wild times in that house. I remember this one time John brought home some weed he bought off some cops, and I don’t know man, that was some pretty weird shit, I’ve never had a high like that before or since. Sorry, what was the question again?”

“Mum doesn’t like me blowing bubbles inside the house”
This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to own your own slice of historic Doonside. Within walking distance of the salubrious and Prime Ministerial (Julia Gillard stayed there!) Rooty Hill RSL, this unique property offers access to fantastic employment opportunities and is just a ninety minute peak-hour drive to the CBD. Relax in the comfort of your own full room Jacuzzi (formerly a garage prior to plumbing incident) or why not take a walk around the block? Features: 2 bedrooms, 1 kitchen/bathroom/laundry/rumpus room, 1 dining room, 1 living room, 1 accidentally renovated garage

Offers over $1,500,000.

This is a fantastic opportunity for first-home buyers to own their own slice of Newtown. From its spectacular views of Newtown to its convenient location right in the heart of Newtown, there's so much to love about this property! A quick walk to King Street and Newtown Train Station, the thing we really want you take away from this is that this house, though pretty shit, is still in Newtown and real estate's all about location, right? Features: 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 kitchen, 1 kind of big room that the last people used as a kind of living/dining/just a place to hang, you know?

Offers from $1,000,000.

Buying this Mosman property isn't just buying a house, it's buying a lifestyle. Never talk to a prole or leave the house without a Ralph Lauren polo again! Featuring spectacular harbour views, an outdoor patio and stunning tiered garden, this property is perfect for a small soiree or large Liberal Party fundraiser. Features: 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, Kitchen, 3 garages, 2 dining rooms, Exclusive access to the government minister of your choice.

Auction on 4 August

Did you know that Paddington used to be a working class suburb? Well, good luck affording this freaking huge terrace house on anything less than a CEO salary these days and to be honest you have to admit that it's worth it. I mean, sure, snort derisively at the pretentious décor if you want to, but deep down you wish you could afford it, but the fact remains: you simply can't. Features: 3 bedrooms, Kitchen, Living room, Dining room, Balcony, Smug sense of superiority and chance to mingle with well-dressed attractive young people who make huge salaries despite only ever being seen in coffee shops

Offers from $3,000,000.
ON YOUR CAMPUS...

WED AUG 19

NO FUNDING CUTS

NO FEE Deregulation

NO WAIT ON NEWSTART

STUDENT NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

nus.org.au

DEMAND A BETTER FUTURE
Looking to enter the workforce, worse off — especially when they graduate and are eligible for Newstart. Leaving thousands of students waiting period and an increase in the age of income support payments, including a four-week income support payment. In the budget, the government announced cuts to NO FUNDING cuts for the higher education sector. In an already NO WAIT ON NO FEE DEREGULATION proposed fee deregulation.

The Government has proposed $3 Billion of funding certainty or ceiling to the cost of your degree. DEREGULATION will lead to higher university fees, and no deregulated fees. Fees consistency shown that at least 80% of Australians are PROTEST AGAINST TONY Abbott are introducing DEREGULATION. Government has got the message. Polling has defeated this legislation twice already but the government’s proposed fee deregulation.

STUDENT NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION
The psychology behind infidelity

By Srestha Mazumder

Committing infidelity or “cheating” on your partner is something that many of us have experienced. The definition of infidelity differs from individual to individual.

For those of you unfortunate souls who have been cheated on, my condolences to you. But then again, why would you want to be with someone like that anyway? And if you are reading this and have cheated on someone at some point, my questions to you is WHY?!

What triggers you to do such a thing? What makes you want to shatter the trust and commitment you built with someone and worked so hard for (assuming you worked hard).

For some people cheating is the simple act of talking to someone of the opposite sex. And in more serious classifications, it could be developing emotional/romantic feelings for someone other than your partner. Each individual and therefore couple and relationship is inherently different and thus ‘what counts as cheating’ differs. The list however, is endless.

Vigorously searching through countless psychology articles I have been able find something of an explanation as to why one would embark on an adulterous path and what they classify as cheating.

Research by psychologists Thompson and Glass & Wright in 1984 and 1985 respectively has been able to successfully categorise infidelity into three categories, emotional, sexual, or a mixture of both.

There is a massive gender difference when it comes to cheating and labelling something as cheating. Typically, men become more distressed at the aspect of their partner having sexual relations with other men.

Reason? According to Psychology today and WebMD- Women's health, it’s thought that women are more inclined to having sex or take part in sexual behaviours when they are in love with that person or having some sort of strong emotional feelings for them.

Therefore, taking part in such behaviours is more likely to indicate a detachment from their partner and creating a new emotional and ‘loving’ bond with another partner.

This is the opposite for women. Women appear to become more distressed when their partner becomes emotionally involved/attached to another female over them having a sexual relationship with them.

Women recognise that men are able to take part in sexual activities without being in love or having any sort of strong emotional affiliation with that person but find it difficult to create a strong emotional bond with someone and even fall in love. And thus, if a women’s partner is to form any sort of emotional connection formed with someone of the opposite sex, women are more likely to classify that aspect as cheating.

Infidelity is not a male only act, and it most certainly does not constitute a jail free card for women.

Both Cosmopolitan and WebMD women’s health put forward probable reasons for their actions. As women generally tend to be more emotional, one of the leading causes of women cheating in a relationship is therefore a lack of emotional attention from their partner.

Contrastingly, a low self esteem can also lead to infidelity as the women seeks validation in the form of emotion, attraction, attachment and sex from other males to validate her worth despite their partners loving them.
Funnily enough, women are more likely to cheat during their high fertility period compared to their low fertility period as within this time they are likely to find more ‘faults’ in their partners, most of which are to do with appearance, thus giving it a flavour of evolutionary processes.

According to Cosmopolitan and the Times of India males have a more extensive list on why they seem to cheat in comparison to females. Although some may argue it’s an evolutionary predisposition, there are other causes, most of which typically revolve around sex and physical intimacy.

Some men crave the intimacy of something (someone) new. Often this seems to be the case when there is a lack of physical intimacy between the couple and as a result may also tend to drift emotionally.

As a result the couple generally drifts and the male may feel that cheating is a better way to deal with the issue than confronting the entire “awkward” situation.

Dominance also plays a part in cheating. Men that are typically dominant in nature love being in control and the bread winner of the relationship. If they lose their stand in the relationship or the female is equally dominant and confident, males search elsewhere to exercise their control. Cheating allows them to regain this sense of control, as they are the ones initiating and carrying it out in a manner they wish.

Other reasons that have been argued are that men want variety and want to indulge in new experiences, often sexual.

Although they might be happy and in love with their partner, they crave this “new” and exiting thing that other women may have to offer. Of course, one could argue this form an evolutionary perspective saying that men inherently want to have more sex with more people to pass on their genes, but in this 21st century, the cave man theory doesn’t really sit with us all that well.

Are men more likely to cheat than women? Yes. BUT! That doesn’t mean that women are pure and loyal ‘angels’ while the men are sex hungry ‘devils’. A study in 2011 that posted its findings on ABC showed that 19% of women admitted to cheating while in a marriage compared to the 23% admitted by men.

Although these figures are not the same, they gap between them no doubt is very small and isn’t very significant. Although both genders may have different reasons, women and men cheat at roughly the same rate.

However, neither the studies, nor the websites had any reference to infidelity within same sex couples and their causes.

When Joe Hockey proclaimed the age of entitlement over, he used rhetoric that seems capable of striking a popular chord. Nobody likes people who believe they deserve more than others. But Hockeys now infamous 2014 budget wasn’t about attacking entitlement at all.

It was about moving towards a smaller government that offers its citizens less welfare, and as the Bronwyn Bishop expense scandal has proved that is the wrong strata of society entirely to look for a culture of entitlement.

The truly entitled Australians are the rich upper-class who believe they and their children deserve better education, better houses and positions of influence solely on the basis of their wealth and social status.

Bronwyn Bishop sometimes appears as though she is a caricature of that mentality. The daughter of a wealthy opera singer, she was born in North Sydney and became Vice President of the Killara Young Liberals as a teenager. She was briefly considered a leader of the Liberal Party but opted not to run against Alexander Downer when he challenged John Hewson in 1994, and after that has seemingly given up any attempt to gravitate towards the political centre.

She knows her home turf is heartland Liberal territory who don’t mind her showing off the harbour views from her house on Kitchen Cabinet or complaining that the Gonski reforms would make North Sydney’s schools the same quality as Tasmania’s.

All of which gives the impression that her public statements are aimed at Prue and Trude. Which is fine, as long as she’s only speaking at Liberal Party fundraisers and not out in public where everyone can see her.

Because claiming parliamentary expenses to charter a helicopter from Melbourne to Geelong is not a good look. It would not even occur to most people that a helicopter is possible as a transport choice and the mentality that takes it, only to admit months later and after public furore “oh that was rather expensive wasn’t it? I suppose one ought to pay for helicopters oneself but one find it rather hard to prejudge whether something will be expensive or not,” is immediately taken for it is: entitlement.

It came at the worst possible time for the Coalition. Having wedged Bill Shorten with the Royal Commission into trade unions and gearing up for take seven million of their carbon tax brouhaha, the Speaker highlighted the difficulty the Coalition has appealing to working class voters and the hypocrisy at the heart of the treasurer’s rhetoric. Bronnie doesn’t pass the sniff test and nor does Joe’s glib obituary for entitlement. In the rarefied North Sydney air it is alive and kicking.
Forcing doctors to become activists

By Anaya Chakravorty

The Australian Border Force Act came into force on July 1 as the latest alarming demonstration of what “bipartisanship” looks like under the Shorten-led opposition. The act includes a series of “gag laws” that prevent staff working at detention centres from disclosing information about threats to the health and wellbeing of asylum seekers. In particular, they threaten employees with two years in jail for reporting something like child sexual abuse.

As a breed, doctors are generally apolitical in their professional life. Many doctors may hold strong political views and some doubtlessly have political affiliations, but the practice of medicine is and must be above politics if it is to deliver the best available care to those who need it. Activism from within the medical profession is thus rare, and most often in response to grave humanitarian concerns or conditions which prevent them from doing their job.

In the week since the Border Force Act came into force, the medical community has led the public protest against it. On July 1, the Guardian published an open letter authored by over 40 doctors, nurses, teachers, social workers and other detention centre staff challenging the government to prosecute them for advocating on the behalf of asylum seekers.

They wrote it because they wanted to let everyone know that “this threat is not going to stop [them] speaking out”. On the same day, the Australian Medical Students’ Association called every single MP and senator to register their objection to the act on behalf of the country’s 17,000 medical students. Since then, the Australian Medical Association has publicly denounced the act, doctors from around the country have engaged in peaceful protests, and even a group of New Zealand doctors has written in condemnation of the laws.

The Border Force Act provides for the creation of the Australian Border Force led by ex-chief executive of the customs and border protection service, Roman Quaedvlieg. Both Quaedvlieg and immigration minister Peter Dutton have declared that claims that doctors who raise concerns about health conditions in detention centres could be prosecuted are inaccurate.

However, there are serious conflicts in the law that have very real potential to imprison doctors for reporting dangerous health conditions and child abuse.

Section 42 of the act (reassuringly titled “Secrecy”) makes it an offence for an “entrusted person” to make a record of or disclose “protected information”, with a penalty of 2 years’ imprisonment.

Section 46 specifically makes it an offence to disclose information about the “provision of services to persons who are not Australian citizens”, thus directly singling out asylum seekers.

There are a number of exceptions to the offence provided for in the act. In particular, section 48 states that protected information may be disclosed if it is “necessary to prevent or lessen serious threat to the life or health of an individual”. While this seems to give workers reasonable leeway to report concerns, other sections of the act provide express disincentives to do so. For example, section 26 of the act gives the Border Force commissioner the power to direct employees to provide information, answer specific questions and produce documents “on the ground that the information…might incriminate the person”. That is, employees may be directed to self-incriminate if their activity “is likely to affect the operational responsibilities or reputation of the Department.”

Intriguingly, the Border Force commissioner can also request workers to “make and describe an oath or affirmation”. The nature of these oaths and affirmations is left to the imagination but no doubt involves a lot of chanting, incense and many, many flags. Under section 24 workers are prohibited from engaging in conduct “not consistent” with said oath. Mysterious. Predictably, breaching any of these requirements may result in employees losing their jobs.

Both Dutton and the ALP insist that the act protects detention centre staff and contractors to disclose information under the Public Interest Disclosures Act.

“A GROWING NUMBER OF AUSTRALIANS REFUSE TO BE ON THE WRONG SIDE OF HISTORY...”
However, this act conveniently does not protect disclosure regarding an Australian government minister or policy.

It only allows whistleblowers to disclose information to a non-government entity or the media if there is “substantial and imminent danger to the health or safety” of one or more persons.

A doctor who reports unacceptable living conditions, threats to a child’s normal mental and physical development or mental health risks would therefore not necessarily be protected if they were not considered “imminent” dangers.

Finally, the act precludes whistleblowers from disclosing “sensitive law enforcement information”, a term some lawyers have argued the government could apply to the entire process of detention.

In short, by dismissing the claims of doctors and lawyers and waving around the Public Interest Disclosures Act, both major parties are deliberately misleading us.

At best, the Border Force Act prevents doctors from fulfilling their ethical and professional duties as medical practitioners. At worst, it could land them in jail for doing the job they were trained to do. The authors of the open letter aptly pointed out, “if we witness child abuse in Australia we are legally obliged to report it to child protection authorities. If we witness child abuse in detention centres, we can go to prison for attempting to advocate for them effectively”.

While the ALP is more than happy to be complicit in this messy business, a growing number of Australians refuse to be on the wrong side of history. And when doctors all over the country are actually daring the government to prosecute them to expose the horrific conditions asylum seekers – their patients – are subjected to, you better believe it’s for a good reason. As a medical student, they are the doctors I look up to because they are the doctors we are trained to be.

We make fun of our politicians a lot, don’t we? The irreverence with which we treat them is kind of unique by world standards. The Indians have a lot to complain about but Modi is a mythical demigod figure. Even the Americans, with their nutty-by-any-standards politics, hold Obama up on a nicely-lit pedestal. I guess Nigel Farage cops it over in the Continent but he’s such a tool its warranted.

Why is it is that we have such little respect for our politicians? Is it because they’re somewhat less than awe-inspiring? I’d say it has a lot more to do with perception than with their lack of competency or inspiration-value. Perhaps it’s because we’re less in need of saving than South-East Asian countries, though I don’t think minority groups and those depending on recently slashed welfare would agree. Maybe it’s because we’re just a good-humoured nation? Aussie banter and all that. We like to bring even the powerful among us to a common level. Or perhaps this is our form of censorship.

The furore over Barnaby Joyce’s speech threatening to deport Pistol and Boo (Johnny Depp’s very cute dogs, whom we all bizarrely know by name now) was kind of typical, another day, another politician’s gaffes to laugh at. Having been the subject of intense media heckling and a Youtube political mashup, now maybe Barnaby Joyce will reconsider before using the phrase “bugger off” in his next press release.

Sometimes these gaffes seem so blatantly ridiculous that you become distracted from what they’re actually doing. Call me a conspiracy theorist, but there’s no way that Peta Credlin hasn’t warned Tony that his bizarre public behaviour— eating an onion on screen, his wacky St Patricks Day video, and all the way back to the budgie smugglers of his campaign years— isn’t helping his image.

That is, she would have, if it wasn’t a ploy. A ploy to distract us from… well, Abbott’s policies in general I suppose. I can’t think of any other reason that Abbott would have declared to small and impressionable young French children, probably getting their first taste of Australia, “Je soo-weez Premier d’Australie” in the most hilariously Kath-and-Kim-esque accent I’ve ever heard. Beware the goofiness. It’s funny and distracting, as it should be.
Reclaim Australia & Police Procedure

By Harrison Thomas

"None of our political writers . . . take notice of any more than three estates, namely, Kings, Lords and Commons . . . passing by in silence that very large and powerful body which form the fourth estate in the community . . . the Mob" - Henry Fielding

On the 19th of July I attended a counter-protest against the xenophobic and intolerant organisation known as "Reclaim Australia". We came with banners but accepted no labels. We had no overarching commandment such as "take back our borders", the unofficial slogan of Reclaim Australia. We were members of the community, who came in peace to silence racism in our city, and throughout the country.

I arrived to the sound of pounding feet and fierce chants, "No racism, no way, we will fight them all the way". A heroic condemnation of intolerant hate, voiced by children, students, mothers, the elderly, and the disabled. I quickened my pace as the chant suddenly changed, "this is not a police state, we have the right to demonstrate".

Police officers from as far as Kempsey had formed an iron line of black and blue, and were forcibly removing members of the community from where Reclaim Australia had decided to voice their hate and fear.

I witnessed and filmed as police officers, armed with 0.40 calibre glocks, armour and tasers shoved the elderly, collapsed onto the disabled, marched over fallen women and even struck out against the civilians they had sworn an oath to protect.

Henry Fielding is attributed with the invention of the modern police force. He understood that whilst Kings, Lords and Commons exist, it is the mob that holds the power; 'The People'. He sought for a way to ensure that people were protected from people, so that peaceful means may reign over the violent.

On the day, the police were not protecting people from people. They were protecting a layer of society that the overwhelming majority would see reformed. I could understand their actions if they had merely moved my fellow citizens from where Reclaim Australia had officially organised a protest. However, the police continued to forcibly shove the people of Sydney over 30 metres down Martin Place, echoing their commanders with the aggressive battle cry "FORWARD!".

It was in this terrifying hour that I saw young women smacked in the back of the head by officers. I saw inexperienced boys armed with deadly weapons looking over their shoulders for commands, oblivious as to what to do. But without command, their instinct took over. More than once, a few officers forced the civilians over the line designated by their commanding officers.

When I went to speak with the officers, they were disinterested, threatening and resentful. Their expressions changed to those of fear and guilt when the call went out that all footage would be collected for legal complaints.

An hour later, I was instructed to leave a raised platform that sits near the fountain in Martin Place. I looked down and stopped as I noticed the tiled steps were soaking wet. Before I could grab a railing, an officer behind me shoved me down. If not for my fellow citizen, who caught me, I would have fallen head first onto the steps. Once I regained my feet, I clutched the railing, only to be dragged down by my shirt by another officer.

This entire process happened within the lens of the police force's media team. I was instructed that despite the footage showing police officers acting outside of the law, I would only attain the footage via the Freedom of Information Act (1982).

The NSW Police Force is a trained army of civilians. Their training does not sufficiently inform the police how to cope under these circumstances and the non-existence of organisation was painfully evident.

Their group mentality defines an us-and-them scenario. They did not keep the peace; they started war. They do not act self-consciously, and are encouraged by the consistent and ignorant support of the ombudsmen, the instinctively compliant community and supporting politicians.

Oliver Wendell Holmes said "Between two groups of people who want to make inconsistent kinds of worlds, I see no remedy but force."

But we want the same world. We want a world of peaceful protest, change without violence. And laws enforced without excessive violence and officers without the sinister protection via cover-up. I saw armoured fists in the backs of anti-intolerance supporters.

To the NSW Police Force, and the Minister for Police; force is not the only remedy.
Sex Education Fails Students

By Georgia Boyle

‘Don’t have sex… because you will get chlamydia… and die’. Mean Girls taught me one thing; do not listen to sex education. I attended an all-girls Catholic school and I was taught the basics: chlamydia is shameful, sex will hurt and falling pregnant will ruin any chances of success.

This risk-focused approach is simply not enough. Australia’s sex-ed program needs to be radically changed to assist young people in their real life sexual experiences and relationships. The curriculum needs to:

1. Use social media to enhance the message
2. Teach skills regarding consent and communication
3. Educate LGBTIQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer) students.

Social media must be brought into the space of sex education, because it is now a fundamental part of how relationships are formed. Lessons should interactively engage with social media and use it to enhance the lessons. Students can relate to social media, for example, by showing trending videos of comedians “mythbusting” ideas about sex, humour will act as an engaging conversation starter.

Students must be taught how to use social media to recognise when something is wrong and understand how to protect themselves.

The anti-rape message, ‘no means no’, is too simplistic. Young people need skills to negotiate the intricacies of sexual relationships. For years we have been taught that ‘no means no’ but does silence mean yes? And how do we know when we want to say yes? This message is also dangerous because it paints women as the gatekeepers of sexual experiences, as ‘The Almighty Sex Controllers’. It is confusing, and loaded with conflicting messages. By encouraging young people to rehearse and practice skills of negotiation and communication they will learn how to anticipate when scenarios may spiral out of control.

Experts have warned that with the rising rates of violence against women, Australia’s sex-ed program needs to be radically changed to include information on sexual pleasure, masturbation and pornography.

On average, by the age of ten, most boys have been exposed to porn. Pornography has become their primary source of sexual education. This is having a detrimental impact on their expectations of sex.

And porn can be scary.

Young men, and women must learn that sex will not look like this, because it is a performance that has been staged, rehearsed and consented by actors. To the naked eye, some of the scenes portray sexually oppressive acts and experts say that this can lead to violence and unrealistic expectations of what sex involves.

A recent study, ‘Young People, Sex, Love and Media’, found that most boys do know that porn isn’t real. Researcher, Professor Catharine Lumby spoke of one student who described porn as ‘stunt sex; do not try this at home folks’. Young men can determine the difference between what is real, and what is not- however, they are still confused as to what the signs of consensual sex look like: How do I know that she really wants to have sex with me?

So now that I have covered confusion for heterosexual young men and women that is everyone, right? Not even close.

Sex education targeted towards heterosexual students, and neglects LGBTIQ students. The 2013 National Survey of Australian Secondary Students and Sexual Health showed that 66 per cent of those surveyed were provided with virtually no information about gay and lesbian relationships (I would’ve put my hand up for that).

The survey also found that 6 per cent of students expressed attraction to those of the same sex, and 11 per cent said they were attracted to both genders. Australia’s sex education is not tailored to its audience’s desires and does not reflect sexual diversity. Topics should address all sexual preferences; this will create awareness and acceptance for sexual diversity.

We have an incredible ability to empower young people and change the way we speak about sex. In a bid to put an end to confusion, and promote sexually healthy young people, Australia’s outdated sexual education system must change, and it must change rapidly. If I had it my (very biased) way, I would encourage every student and young person to subscribe to ‘The Sext Text’ for current and relevant health news.

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Marriage Equality & Cheating Scandals  
By Annastasia Robertson

The most monumental thing happened while you were on semester break. During your European adventure, or your time at the snow, or on the couch with Netflix, the U.S Supreme Court ruled that no states could no longer ban same-sex marriage.

It’s, inarguably, a triumph for the LGB-TI community, and one that naturally has sparked conversation, urging our policy makers here in Australia to follow suit.

In a 5-4 ruling, the Supreme Court ruled in favour of marriage equality in all U.S states.

“It would misunderstand these men and women to say they disrespect the idea of marriage,” Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote in his closing statement of his ruling, adding that ‘same-sex marriage’ will simply be referred to as ‘marriage’.

A few weeks after this, the controversial infidelity website AshleyMadison.com was hacked, exposing an alleged 37 million adulterers worldwide, including around one million Australians. In its offset since the July 20th hack, the identities of the cheating spouses are beginning to be revealed.

The data that was hacked was internal information from the parent company of the site, Avid Life Media, and namely bank account and credit card details of the members, which could eventually be tracked to names and locations.

The first unlucky adulterer to have their identity revealed is a man from Massachusetts. His personal profile from the website was included in a document constructed by the hacker group who go by the name of The Impact Team.

Ashley Madison could now be facing class-action suits against them for this data breach.

The Politicisation of Terrorism  
By Sam Moran

When a lone gunman took hostages at the Lindt Cafe in Martin Place, he displayed a banner reminiscent of the Islamic State’s (ISIS) flag. The “Sydney siege” as it has become known was a horrific attack at the heart of our city, which sent ripples throughout the international community. I first heard about it when I was on a bus to Washington DC, and by the time I had arrived in the city everyone knew about what was happening as we watched the events unfold along with the rest of the world. Despite discovering later that there was no relationship between ISIS and the kidnapper, Australian and international governments and media continue to refer to the event as a “terrorist” action.

In contrast, when a German pilot committed suicide by flying a commercial plane load of innocent passengers into a mountainside the world awoke to numerous experts regarding mental illness. The act retained the hallmarks of a terror attack as it sent shockwaves crashing through international psyches at the sheer randomness, the unpredictability and the amount of death it produced. Indeed, in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, the murder of countless scores of innocents by planes should evoke particularly strong bile reflexes and lead conservatives to scream “terrorist”.

But it did not. This incident was chalked up to mental illness and society continued to function calmly.

Similarly, as the United States continued to reel from the brutal aftermath of the Ferguson Mississippi shooting and riots, a police officer caught on footage shooting an unarmed, fleeing, black suspect was classed as a hate crime. That it was racially motivated is difficult and pointless to dispute. It clearly fitted the national and international narrative surrounding race relationships, particularly with police, yet the targeted attack on innocents has been long considered an act of terror but the word was never once suggested.

The parallels between these situations was brought to my attention by a questioner on Q&A a few weeks ago, where the panel was asked to consider whether terrorism was a uniquely racist construct applied to Muslims in our community. Importantly, the panel did not entirely agree, examples such as the IRA were raised to acknowledge that while terrorism may be flexible it is unlikely to be a specific attack on Islam, they appear to simply be the most recent targets of such language.
At this point I recognise that the three situations may have similar impacts but were vastly different in their context, motivations and content but the point raised by the questioner was broader than whether these specific instances should be viewed as terror attacks.

Simply put, terrorism involves the use or threat of force against a way of life or existence. Such a definition is simplistic but also generic. As the questioner implied it could be applied to any of the three aforementioned incidents and a number of others. The use of terrorism to describe certain events and not others is neither bad nor good, but it should be understood as much as a political tool as an accurate or "scientific" term.

Understanding this is important for two reasons. The first is that understanding that when the government labels something terrorism or, conversely, refuses to do so it involves a political motivation to emphasise the impact or lessen the public’s focus on that event. Linked to that is the second, that – as Rosie Batty recently argued – the politicisation of issues as “terrorism” heightens their focus and thereby allows for greater resources to be used to treat these problems.

She presented this argument in relation to domestic violence, noting, somewhat cynically, that if domestic violence were labelled as being an act of terror, more resources and funding would be given to combating it.

However, the more persuasive argument to be advanced at this point is simply that as a discerning public we should be aware of the strategies used by governments to encourage us to care more deeply about particular issues. Further, we should actively resist and refuse to allow governments to demonise certain groups or issues simply for political gain. We must be demand more analysis, more debate and more consideration of the merits or strength of particular policies rather than allowing them to infringe fundamental liberties simply for the catch-all “anti-terror” mechanisms.