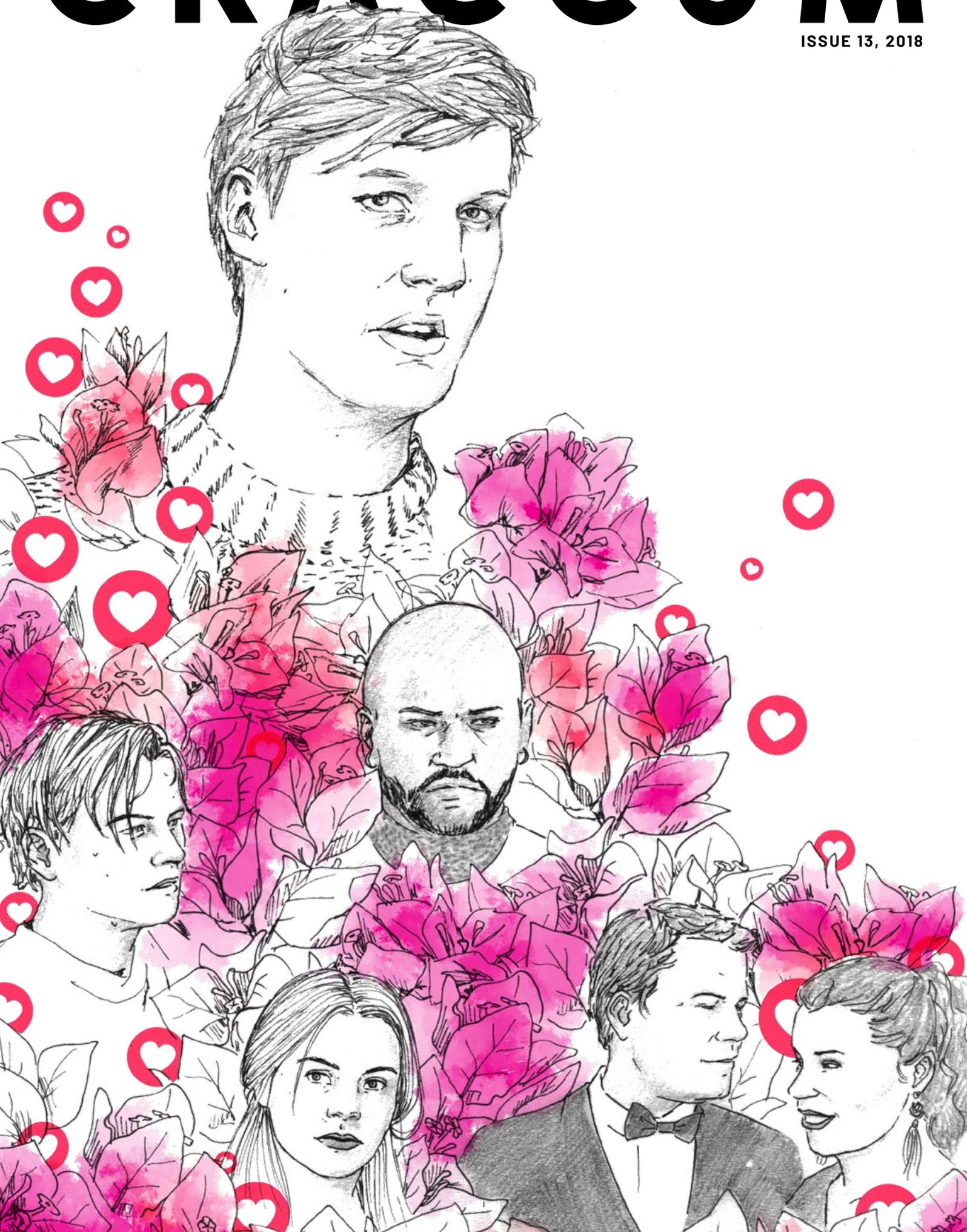


# CRACCUM

ISSUE 13, 2018





AUSA and THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND present...

16-27 JULY

# RE//ORIENTATION

featuring

# WINTERFEST

MONDAY 16TH JULY • 10AM • UNIVERSITY QUAD

**Gaming in the Quad**

TUESDAY 17TH JULY • 12PM • UNIVERSITY QUAD

**Who Ate All The Pies**

TUESDAY 17TH JULY • 7PM • SHADOWS BAR

**Dirtier Bingo**

WEDNESDAY 18TH JULY • 12PM • UNIVERSITY QUAD

**Hip Hop Day**

WEDNESDAY 18TH JULY • 7PM • SHADOWS BAR

**Savage**

THURSDAY 19TH JULY • 10AM • UNIVERSITY QUAD

**The Advocacy Lost Property Sale**

THURSDAY 19TH JULY • 7PM • SHADOWS BAR

**The Decisive Disney Pixar Pub Quiz**

MONDAY 23RD JULY • 7PM • SHADOWS BAR

**Open Mic Night**

TUESDAY 24TH JULY • 7PM • SHADOWS BAR

**Live Comedy**

THURSDAY 26TH & FRIDAY 27TH JULY • 10AM • UNIVERSITY QUAD

**Winterfest ft. USAC Toboggan Run and Ice Rink**

FRIDAY 27TH JULY • 7PM • SHADOWS BAR

**Winterfest After Party ft. Kings**

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**RE//ORIENTATION**

**PRESENTS**

# **GAMING IN THE QUAD**

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**MONDAY 16TH JULY • 10AM – 2PM • UNIVERSITY QUAD**

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**ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOMED**

**JB HI-FI**



# Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone

With Guest Editors **Samantha Gianotti**, **Caitlin Abley** and **Mark Fullerton**

**Last week**, AUSA emailed us and asked if we could fill in as editors for the thirteenth issue of *Craccum*. We were, of course, exceptionally busy watching YouTube compilations such as, “rare vines that were there for me when my fish died (not clickbait)” and “Timothée Chalamet & Armie Hammer Cute Moments—Part 8”, but we cleared our schedules for one last ride. We helped edit *Craccum* for three blissful, sweaty years between 2015 and 2017, and honestly, we have felt its absence keenly in the last six months. *Craccum* gave us a community at university, which is not the easiest thing to find at UoA.

If you are returning from the inter-semester break feeling a little despondent and disenchanted with our university, know that we so deeply understand. UoA students are disadvantaged when it comes to student culture; buildings are sprawled across the central city, as well as four satellite campuses, the Auckland rental market has decimated ‘student suburbs’, and the cost of living means free time has become somewhat of a luxury. Attending the University of Auckland can be desperately isolating, especially for those doing degrees within faculties that don’t have a thriving social scene, such as Arts or Science (actually, it can be desperately isolating for those doing Law and Engineering too; we have 1.25 Law degrees between us, and the one time we tried to join in by going to Law Camp we ended up placing empty RTD cans next to our pillows before we went to sleep so people would think we had passed out *because drinking oneself into a comatose state was more socially acceptable than going to bed at three in the goddamn morning*).

This is all to say that our years at university can be lonely, especially after the constant social interaction experienced in a secondary school environment. If chatting to the person next to you in tutorials seems like a daunting task, student clubs are specifically designed to bring strangers together through shared interests. There are clubs for dessert-lovers, anime-enthusiasts, powerlifters, aspiring comedians, kitesurfers, gamers, acrobats, and dozens of others. There’s even a cheeky magazine put out every week where you’re welcome to share in the joys of reading, writing, or ranking each individual minute of Peter Jackson’s *King Kong*.

Now that we’ve finished uni, we’ve started to look back on it with rose-tinted glasses. No one seems to write songs about being 24 and working full-time. Billy Idol and Hilary Duff wrote

tunes titled “Sweet Sixteen”, while Liesl von Trapp warbled about being 16 going on 17. Kings of Leon wrote about a hot chick, singing “she’s only 17!” Red Hot Chilli Peppers wrote about a hot chick, singing “she’s only 18!” Lily Allen and Taylor Swift sung about being 22 and the future looking bright/feeling happy free confused and lonely at the same time, respectively. Blink-182 lamented that nobody likes you when you’re 23 (specifically, when you’re 23 and a) turn on the TV while making out with someone b) prank call your girlfriend’s mum and make a joke about her husband doing anal). If we were to make a mix-tape about being 24, the track list would go a little like this:

1. “24 and still living at home”
2. “24 and getting a job in the industry you studied for but realising that it isn’t what you thought it was going to be at all but also realising that there isn’t anything better out there”
3. “24 and just had to borrow money from my mum because my friends wanted to go to a vaguely up-market burger joint and payday isn’t till Friday”
4. “24 and setting up an auto top-up on your Hop Card but then having your auto top-up fail because you spent the allocated \$15 on a iTunes rental of *Certain Women* and you only watched a third of it anyway”
5. “WHY DID NO ONE TELL ME ADULT ACNE WAS A THING FUCK YOU”

While we’re figuring out our quarter-life crises, we know you’ll all have more pressing issues to worry about like study and exams and which bathrooms are the least frequented by your fellow students and as such are the best for hiding away and taking a sneaky poop in. And while you’re trying to make sure no one is around to smell the farts, be sure to take a moment to stop and smell the roses—join a club, buy a Kit-Kat Chunky and share it with your mates, or get a book out from the library for no reason other than you just want to read it for *fun*. Glean little bits of joy where you can. ■



# Sexual Violence Prevention Programme Derailed

An ACC-backed campaign to end sexual violence on campus has been derailed after allegations that a top-level staff member at the New Zealand Union of Students Associations sent a picture of his penis to members of the sexual-violence prevention team. **By Mark Fullerton.**

Last year, ACC committed to a three-year, \$1.4 million partnership with NZUSA and Thursdays in Black as part of a nationwide campaign to tackle sexual violence on campus.

The money would be put towards training programmes and a review of policies around sexual harassment and sexual violence. The announcement of the partnership was done in conjunction with the release of "In Our Own Words", a report on sexual violence on campus which detailed the experiences of over 1,400 tertiary students around the country. Part of the agreement was the hiring of 13 'field reporters,' who would run the campaign nationwide.

However, the plans fell apart at the end of 2017 when it was discovered that an NZUSA staffer had sent dick pics to three members of the team tasked with running the programme. The three members who received the images resigned immediately, and were not made to complete their two weeks' notice. The contract was

suspended and funding dried up but the 13 field reporters weren't told until almost six weeks later that they would be made redundant.

"These issues were referred to the NZUSA president to investigate and provide feedback," said ACC spokesman James Funnell. "In late January, ACC and NZUSA agreed to suspend the contract."

NZUSA undertook an internal investigation, and ACC is satisfied that the issue has been dealt with sufficiently.

"We are now working with them on the next steps to ensure the continuation of the *Thursdays in Black* campaign and important sexual violence prevention work on tertiary campuses."

NZUSA President Jonathan Gee explained that any issues within NZUSA were being dealt with appropriately.

"Ensuring a positive and safe working environment for staff

is a top priority. We are currently reviewing our policies and practices to ensure they are consistent with this commitment."

"We knew it was a lot to ask, but the fact that every member association discussed it and stepped up shows the confidence they have in us."

A recent investigation by *Critic* found that the field reporters had been left in the dark at virtually every stage of the process, and the Gee failed to inform them that the reason the funding had been suspended was because of sexual harassment claims from within the organisation itself.

One reporter said that the revelations horrified and angered them. "I would expect that [an organisation involved with] this sort of project would be much more upfront and openly speak out against that sort of behaviour," they said.

Other reporters were critical of

the way the funding had been used.

"They hired us after they got ACC funding, but they didn't have a project in mind or any plans. So we were just there and made to work on other projects while being paid with ACC funding. We finally had a two-day training where everything was supposed to become clear, but what was clear was the people who were managing us had no clue what was going either."

"Allegations against one person, no matter how serious, are not reason enough to lose faith in the huge amount of time, energy and skill students everywhere are putting in," Gee said. "We acknowledge that it will take time to recover from the difficult period we have had, however I hope that this does not detract from what we have achieved, including through Thursdays in Black. The fact is, it is by working together that we have made such a big difference." ■

# New Zealand, Gay Conversion Therapy, and the Case for a Ban

In early July of this year, the British government made headlines around the world with a new plan to ban gay conversion therapy. The plan, part of a 75-point strategy to improve the lives of members of the LGBTQ+ community living in the UK, was met with praise from activists, politicians, and non-governmental groups alike. **By Eloise Sims.**

“We can be proud that the UK is a world leader in advancing LGBT rights,” declared Prime Minister Theresa May. “No one should ever have to hide who they are or who they love.”

In the wake of the UK’s announcement, calls for New Zealand to do the same have come thick and fast.

Rainbow Youth New Zealand have said gay conversion therapy is far more common in New Zealand than people might think, and the Association of Counsellors and the Association of Social Workers have backed calls for a similar ban on the practice.

## What is gay conversion therapy?

Gay conversion therapy is commonly defined as a set of pseudoscientific practices that use psychological or spiritual interventions to change an individual’s sexual orientation from homosexual or bisexual to heterosexual.

The practice is denounced almost universally by medical bodies around the world, who call such practices ineffective, unethical, and often deeply harmful. Its advocates are mostly fundamentalist Christian groups who view homosexuality as a “disease”, and other religious organizations.

Recorded cases of “treatment” have involved psychoanalytical techniques, counselling, behavioral modification techniques (commonly involving electric shocks and nausea-inducing drugs), exorcisms, and even lobotomies.

According to Jayne Ozanne, a member of the Church of England’s general synod who was a victim of gay conversion therapy in England, the impacts of this “treatment” can include trauma, depression, self-harm, and suicidal ideation.

“It causes great harm... because they feel so guilty when it doesn’t work.” Ozanne said to the BBC’s Victoria Derbyshire program.

Research on gay conversion therapy internationally has found that efforts to change someone’s sexual orientation or gender identity are associated with poor mental health.

## Okay—sounds awful. But does it actually happen in New Zealand?

A recent investigation by TVNZ found numerous churches and counsellors offered gay conversion therapy services in New Zealand—and were all too happy to talk to an undercover journalist posing as a Christian

gay man about these services.

An employee of David Ridell, a preacher from Nelson-based church Living Wisdom who claimed to be able to convert LGBTQ+ people into heterosexuals, even bragged to a reporter that he was “booked out about three months in advance”.

In fact, Jim Marjoram, a male victim of gay conversion therapy in Auckland, said “most churches” in New Zealand possessed a figure who advocated “the idea of praying the gay away... [trying to] find something that caused us to be gay, like trauma, sexual abuse, and bad parenting”.

During the investigation, TVNZ found churches and counsellors distributing flat-out lies about homosexual sexual practices, as well as coordinated church-wide programs to “cure” gay and bisexual men and women existing within New Zealand.

Rainbow Youth executive director, Frances Arns, said she had heard of “hundreds and hundreds” of people in Auckland alone who had gone through a gay conversion program in an interview with Radio New Zealand.

## So, is the government going to ban it?

At the time of writing, the New

Zealand government has no declared intention to pursue a ban on gay conversion therapy.

Health Minister David Clark recently called the practice “abhorrent” but said the government did not intend to pursue a ban, despite being advised attempts to change someone’s sexual orientation could cause them harm.

A petition to ban the practice set up in Rodney has gained over 2000 signatures so far, and Labour list MP Marja Lubbeck has agreed to present the petition to Parliament.

In a statement, the Human Rights Commission told Radio New Zealand it would support the Government to consider any moves to end the practice.

“As a member of the LGBTQI+ community, you have the right to not be subject to any forms of therapy that are carried out as an attempt to change your sexual orientation or gender identity,” they wrote on their website.

Arns said the government should at the very least consider legislation to prevent gay conversion therapy in New Zealand, especially in light of the UK’s recent ban.

“It’s overdue and it’s time for us to put a stop to a really outdated and harmful practice,” she said. ■



**QUICKCHAT!** With Scooter Jackson

# Billionaires Behaving Badly

I hear some very rich men are saying some very silly things. What's that about?

Too right. Gareth Morgan and Elon Musk both lost themselves plenty of fans, although in Gareth's case he didn't have that far to fall.

Let's start with him. Is he still a thing?

Yes, but The Opportunities Party isn't. It's officially dead and won't contest any more elections and in a recent interview with *The Spinoff* he described the New Zealand public as "fat, content and complacent." This wasn't too much of a shock, since he basically said the same thing on election night in what was probably the best ten minutes of television in 2017.

Was he right?

Maybe. The Opportunities Party was

what it said it was—a party with policies based on fact and statistics, but lacked any form of charisma. A sentiment well summed up by Morgan himself to the *The Spinoff*, when he said that he was back to doing what he did best—"making money and shitloads of it."

Ew. What about Musk? Wasn't he helping the Thai kids?

In a way. He designed a submarine for the purpose of ferrying the kids out, without realising that a solid metal tube the size of a small human isn't great cave diving equipment. He tested it in a swimming pool then flew with it over to Thailand to play the hero, but he was rejected.

Sad. Shouldn't we appreciate his efforts though?

We could have, but the moment all everyone was rescued he took to Twitter

to complain about Narongsak Osotthanakor, the man coordinating the effort to teach twelve teenagers who couldn't even swim to become elite cave divers, the most dangerous sport on earth.

But didn't Osotthanakor just co-ordinate the effort to teach twelve teenagers who couldn't even swim to become elite cave divers, the most dangerous sport on earth?

Yes, but he didn't like Musk's metal tube, so Musk didn't like him.

Sounds like a wank.

Most billionaires are. ■



## Are You Eating Trash?

Thousands of eateries around Auckland have been left without a food rating after a bureaucratic bungle meant that food safety ratings were allowed to expire. **Mark Fullerton** offers a guide to food grades around the city.

New food safety rules which came into effect in early 2016 were to be rolled out in three phases to allow restaurants to keep on top of the changes. Businesses had two years to comply, with the period ending in July. Slack business owners created a backlog, which meant council inspectors couldn't verify any new food grades.

Popular venues such as Longroom, Saan, Bedford

Soda & Liquor and Revelry are currently operating without a food grade, with some having done so since March.

Mervyn Chetty, environmental health manager at the Council, said that many of those operating under expired grades had been verified but the records had not been updated—but could not provide an exact figure.

“We would need to manually

look at the record for each individual businesses,” he said. “Approximately 800 premises’ grades will expire. However, we are unable to say how many have re-registered at this point.”

“Most of our food operators understand the importance of producing safe and suitable food, and the majority of our businesses are A grades. We are facing an unprecedented

and significant shift in the way food safety is managed in New Zealand and there have been some challenges along the way.”

The UoA branch of Barilla Dumpling appears to be one of the affected venues, with a food grade still pending despite opening last year. Jewel of India, UniSushi and Moustache all have A grades expiring in 2019. ■

U DID IT YET AGAIN HAVE ANOTHER

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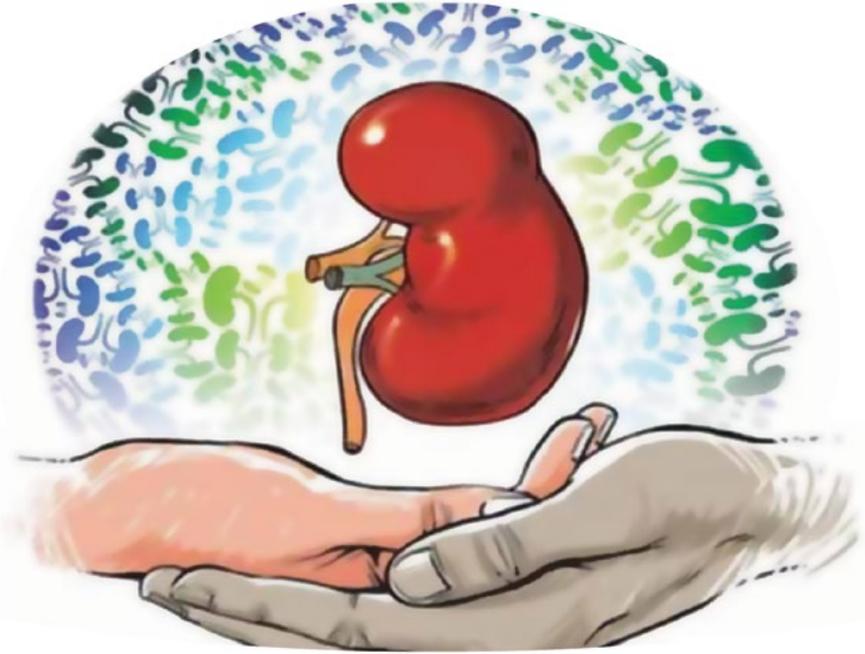
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# My Gift of Life

*By Denisha Chetty*

**I** watch anxiously as my blood fills the empty pipes leading back to the machine; entering the filter, it begins to be cleaned. This is my life, three times a week, four hours each, going on 8 years.

Suddenly the phone rings.

I listen closely, as my life as I have known it changes in two minutes.

Somewhere, someone has decided to donate their kidney to me.

My name is Denisha Chetty, I am 22 years old, I am a fifth year Law/Science conjoint student, and I have end stage kidney failure. I started my university experience living in ward 71 at Auckland Hospital, getting infusions of yellow fluids, drugs and treatments every night, before walking up the road to sit in first year law lectures the next morning.

Although juggling university, my health, and trying to maintain a decent social life has been tough, my goal has always been to prove to myself that I can keep up with everyone else. I had become accustomed to having tubes rippling their way into my veins down my arms, or peeking out from beneath my bra.

I am at the end stage of renal failure, meaning there are only two options left for me: to stay on dialysis for the rest of my life, or work my way onto the kidney transplant list. The truth is, I have good days and bad days. Almost everyday is filled with challenges that I can't quite fit into a short article, but I've learned the hard way the importance

of sharing what you are going through. For years, I kept quiet about how I felt and what I was dealing with, because I was scared that sharing my struggles meant I was weak and different. But fighting the universe in your bedroom at night in silence is none the better—it just makes it harder to get up and get out the next morning. After finding out that there was no turning back, and that my life was destined to be tied to a machine, I decided to create a blog and share what was going on, and in doing so, come to terms with it all myself.

I did more research about kidney problems and began to connect with people as I wrote and shared photos of what it was like studying with one arm and taking mind-altering drugs. I used humour as a means to connect, and in all honesty, not a bone in my body believed anyone who was reading it cared. For me, this was the norm; for everyone else, I felt my story was simply not worth it.

Upon sharing bits of information masked behind crude humor, I shockingly found out that many people didn't realize what was going on with me, or how many people like me in New Zealand suffered silently as chronic patients. It wasn't so much that they didn't care before; they were just ignorant, and I could never blame people for not helping when they didn't know that I needed help.

I did not realize the impact that I was making on many young, like-minded adults that were facing myriad troubles. Whether it was mental illness, personal circumstance or chronic disease, we all had similar thoughts, and now suddenly someone was out there sharing it. The power of opening up expressed itself to me in the form of two sisters who decided they wanted to donate their kidney to me, much to my surprise. After speaking on Messenger over a couple of months, I laughed off every single one of their comments; however, they kept asking, becoming more and more interested, as if donating was not such a big deal. I only began to take them seriously when I was sitting opposite one of them, Leah Stewart, in the waiting room, about to do a final blood test match. I'm writing this on the eve of nine months of my kidney transplant. I cannot express what it feels like knowing someone out there sacrificed something irreplaceable for me, having never met me and only due to hearing what I had to say. This experience has taught me that every single one of us are connected in some way or another, and need each other to get through our lives. As much as we can deny it, we were brought here on earth by one another and all that is left of us will be held in the memories of those we leave behind. I encourage you to think about donating blood or even an organ, and realize that you have the power to change and save someone's life. At the same time, I hope that you share whatever it may be that is dying to come out of you, because there is a very high chance someone else is going through the same thing and is willing to help. ■

*IF ANY OF THIS RESONATES WITH YOU, BE SURE TO VISIT [KIDNEYDONOR.ORG.NZ](http://KIDNEYDONOR.ORG.NZ) AND [WWW.NZBLOOD.CO.NZ/](http://WWW.NZBLOOD.CO.NZ/) AND BE SURE TO VISIT [WWW.DENNYDAILY.COM](http://WWW.DENNYDAILY.COM) OR FOLLOW @DENNYDAILYBLOG ON INSTAGRAM TO CHECK OUT MY JOURNEY AND THE CRAZY THINGS I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO SINCE BEING GIVEN THE GIFT OF LIFE!*

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# Staying at Tamara's

## Lessons of George

## HOLD MY GIRL

**"I've got time. I've got love. Got confidence you'll rise above."**

I did once have an important girl in my life. To say it was anything of a romantic prospect would be a lie, but we were close enough for me to mention it here, and close enough for me to feel nostalgic in doing so. And what I feel I am most thankful for from that period of my life was that she gave me the confidence to succeed. Because at the end of the day, I am always human. I will always make mistakes, and stumble when I start to climb. But isn't it just easier to make it to the top when there's a shoulder to lean on? A confidante to give you a gentle push? It certainly makes rock climbing a lot easier for me when I have someone there to boost me up to the handholds of the bouldering wall. As a result, I have grown accustomed to stares from seasoned climbers at Rock and Alpine club; I imagine they don't like it very much, but it doesn't bother me. Another important lesson of love! Don't get bogged down in the ideology of others.

**So,** I'm not sure how I've stumbled upon this, but I'm writing this piece about love. Which is rather unfortunate for you, since it's the literary equivalent of hearing Donald Trump moan about how hard it is being Chinese. This leaves me with quite the dilemma on how I should maintain your interest, provided you haven't tuned out already: talk about the (boring) cognitive processes behind liking someone? Debunk the theory of fate? (I'm still hoping). Or should I play myself off as Charlie Sheen on New Year's Eve and tell you about that the full up and down tour I did of K Road? (that's not true, I'm still seventeen). Instead, I have chosen to do what any terrible, unaccomplished writer ever does: just start writing and see what happens.

I'm a huge fan of George Ezra's music; his low crooning voice and his beautiful, flowing lyrics make his songs pure listening pleasure. I have listened to his new album, *Staying at Tamara's*, over and over. In it, he perfectly captures the beauty and essence of love. So instead of trying to wrestle my own words into quotes falling far short of inspirational, I have instead decided to let a man who puts it far more eloquently than me take the reins.

Here it is: a chart-topping singer-songwriter from the UK and a class-topping student in Year 5 spelling present to you an assortment of our lessons on love.

## SAVIOUR

**"All of me is all for you. What I've got to give is not enough."**

Having nearly dozed off in more English lessons than I could possibly count, I am surprised to find myself having the opinion that Shakespeare is the greatest connoisseur of love to have ever existed. Telling such tragic tales as *Romeo and Juliet* and *Antony and Cleopatra*, no one better captures the imperishable, indestructible nature of love. For me, none of his works resonate more strongly than the tale of the Venetian general Othello. And one of my favourite quotes from the general is what follows; "I therefore beg it not to please the palate of my appetite ... but to be free and bounteous to her mind." Perhaps this reflects what is the greatest quality of love—its ability to create unity. Because every moment we create is meant to be shared. And to have someone to share it with is possibly the greatest gift of all. I should make it clear to the reader that Othello did die at the end of the play, so take his word with a grain of salt.

n Love from  
Ezra and Me

By Brian Gu

PARADISE

***"If it feels like paradise running through your blood and veins you know it's love."***



SHOTGUN

**“There’s a mountaintop, that I’m dreaming of. If you need me, you’ll know where I’ll be”**

I find it strange to imagine that one would be able to feel true love in an instant. It seems like a wild notion. That’s not to say that I am opposed to the idea, but catching feelings as quick as you’d catch the flu seems too idealistic for me. In my defence, before you get to come running at me with pitchforks and shove tabloid pieces of Matt Damon and his wife into my face, again what do I know? Yet if for some reason you’re still reading this, surely my advice must hold some minute value to you.

Though I did say that I would not delve into the science of love, I feel we should at least appreciate that the cognitive processes behind romantic feelings are complex; it is able to somehow override our best logic, but then again, who needs logic anyway? My best friend has liked the same girl for eight years of his life. I’m sure he’ll be absolutely furious at me for mentioning it here, but she won’t be reading this. Perhaps it is something that I should envy, although having liked a girl for as long as most relationships last sounds like a frustrating mix of pain, heartache and devotion. I, for one, do not have that kind of patience; the other night I waited in line for over twenty minutes outside Sensational Chicken & Chips, and I almost lost it.

Maybe fate not only has the job of bringing two together, but also letting them know when the time is right. Being unfortunate enough to take the train with this same friend, every time we pull up to another station, I watch him prod as the voice recording “press the green button when lit” is played. He times it with the final word. As a result, I have settled into reassuring him that she will be ready once he matures.

Love is something that beckons to you, and I, and every other person out there. Perhaps you are still on the search for romance, or perhaps love doesn’t exist for you in the form of a relationship. Maybe some nights you ask yourself if you feel loved. I certainly know that I do. And I know that George Ezra does as well. The only thing that bugs me though is that he does a much nicer job asking it in song. But I guess that’s the point of this, isn’t it? I really can’t put it any better myself.

PRETTY SHINING PEOPLE

**“Don’t we all need love? The answer is easy.”**

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# Persisting Under Pressure

*Rebecca Stubbing* offers some words of wisdom  
to start off your second semester

I am about to finish my last semester at uni. I have been here for 12 semesters across seven years. I will graduate with a combination of degrees that's "supposed to take" four years. I have changed my majors, I have dropped a degree, I have picked up a different degree after a particularly enjoyable Gen Ed. I have taken so many papers that this semester I didn't get a choice in Philosophy courses to take because I had already done all of the other ones being offered.

I have been at uni for a very long time. I have been here for so long because uni is really hard. I know that for some people, uni is easy. Some people find the classes so easy they're boring. Some find that it gets stressful around the end of semester but things are generally manageable. For others it's a massive struggle. The stress, the challenge of working independently (no matter how smart or capable you are), trying to work and study, other life stuff; all of these things make uni hard. One or maybe all of these things could be making it hard for you right now. Given my long experience at uni, I am here to impart some of my assorted wisdom with you.

## 1. Pick a Sitting Spot and a Backup Sitting Spot

I cannot explain to you how much time I have spent wandering about the university trying to find a place to sit. During my seven years here, many study spaces have closed, but luckily a few have actually been made a lot nicer. If you were here seven years ago and you know how the science student space used to look (and smell) I'm so sorry. It doesn't matter where you make your berth, but you should pick somewhere as a go-to location, and somewhere as a back-up go-to location in case the first one is full or rained out or stinks that day. This means that when you have a gap you know where to go and you can just go there without having to stress about where you should be going.

## 2. You deserve a clean bathroom

If you go into a bathroom and it is a total mess because the university doesn't employ enough cleaning staff or pay any of those staff a living wage, but you know there's a newer/less popular bathroom a five-minute walk away, go to it. Treat yourself. Do it. Make that journey and you will thank yourself all day for taking the time for a little self-care.

### 3. Try hard to have realistic expectations

It's really easy to idealise what you might be capable of if this and that thing lined up perfectly in your life. It's really easy especially at the end of one semester and the beginning of another to think to yourself, "well, next semester I will be so onto it, I will do all of this stuff, I will be a perfect student all the time always". Stop. Think about what you actually got done this semester. If you have other semesters to draw on, think about what happened in those ones too. Analyse that data. Think about how many of your readings you actually got done, think about how many lecture recordings you actually kept up with and how many you crammed in at the last possible minute, think about how many Facebook events you said you were interested in but never attended. That is probably what you are going to be capable of every semester unless you cut some things out of your life because you are amazing but you're not Doctor Strange and you do not have the ability to control time. Bearing that in mind, think about what's going to be a realistic goal for your exam study, think about what's going to be a realistic goal for next semester. If you set goals that are not physically possible to achieve, you're always going to feel disappointed and behind. If you set goals that match what you can actually get done in the time available, you're more likely to succeed and feel better and be able to do better in the future.

### 4. Plan when in the week you're going to do each weekly task

Take a look at your timetable and plan which breaks in your timetable, or evenings at home (or whatever other time is good for you) you are going to use to do particular readings/weekly tasks each week. It would be astounding if you managed to stick to this every week of the semester, and if you're as slow a reader as me, you probably won't be able to finish a whole reading in a 1-3 hour break. However, laying out your week with time dedicated to tasks, even just an hour, will mean that you have enough time to know what the deal is and make a go at it. The hardest part of a lot of uni work is starting it, so making time to start things can make a big difference.

*"...think about what's going to be a realistic goal for your exam study, think about what's going to be a realistic goal for next semester. If you set goals that are not physically possible to achieve, you're always going to feel disappointed and behind."*

## 5. Communicate with your lecturers

Some lecturers are terrifying. Some may seem terrifying but they're actually nice people who come across as scary because of the situation. Some are genuinely scary people. Depending on where you're at with various things it may or may not be terrifying to talk to lecturers, but regardless of how scary it is, you need to try your best to do it. Email if you know you won't make it to your tutorial. Let them know if you always work the day of the class and so you have to do the class through lecture recordings. Put your hand up in class or talk to them afterwards about that thing they said very fast and you didn't understand at all. And most importantly, *ask for extensions if you need them*. I have spent a lot of time not talking to lecturers because of a few lecturers in first year who made me feel stupid when I asked for help. People who do that are the problem, not you. You are fine and wonderful and when you succeed in pushing past that anxiety and communicating, everything will be so much easier. You might develop a rapport with your lecturer or you might not, but either way, keeping them informed if you've got shit going down will mean they're aware of who you are and your situation, and are more helpful and more encouraging because they know what's up. Ask. For. Help.

## 6. Talk to someone

No matter what you talk about, putting in the time and making an appointment to prioritise your mental health is in itself a valuable act of self-care. If you're dealing with normal stress and pressure, talk about it. If you're dealing with more shit than usual, definitely talk about it. The uni health services have free counselling available for all students. They offer two free appointments per student per semester, a large number of free ongoing support groups with different focuses, and if you use up your appointments and could still benefit from/still need mental health services, they will get you in touch with other groups that you can contact. Google 'UoA counselling' or search 'counselling' on the uni website and you'll find all of the information as well as the questionnaire you fill out in order to request a session.

## 7. Bring a packed lunch as much as possible

Seriously, do it.

That's it. That's everything I know. I hope it helps.

*Editor's Note: This article was written last semester. Congratulations Rebecca for graduating!*

# RE//ORIENTATION

PRESENTS

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TUESDAY 17TH JULY 7PM SHADOWS BAR

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## Lush Snail Mail

ALBUM REVIEW BY ANOUSHKA MAHARAJ

Heralded by Lindsey Jordan, Snail Mail have made an impressive debut with the release of *Lush*. Launching into “Pristine”, we are introduced to Jordan’s carefree yet confident vocals, and the romantic notions behind the lyrics, “*and I know myself and I’ll never love anyone else / I won’t love anyone else / I’ll never love anyone else*” is refreshingly honest and a welcome break from the cynicism that seems to engulf popular culture.

What can be mistakenly interpreted as tepidity is actually a profound self-awareness coupled with Jordan’s candid approach to life, love and everything in between. Contrary to its name, *Lush* is anything but excessive, as it gives us a chance to get acquainted with Jordan’s vocals. The phenomenal musicianship is a bonus, and reflective of the youthful exuberance of a band that clearly still has a vast territory to explore.

It’s worth noting that Jordan is an example of a young woman who is creating

a space for herself in an industry that is transient and overly saturated by grandeur. With *Lush*—and surely the incoming evolution of Snail Mail—we are gifted with a stripped back version of modern rock. *Lush* also gives us the opportunity to appreciate romance through the fresh eyes of someone experiencing the depth of love and heartbreak, possibly for the first ‘real’ time (“*and I hope the love that you find / swallows you wholly / like you said it might*”). Jordan’s open musing and uncertainty demands validation and reminds the listener of the power that lies in the simplistic yet significant epiphanies of adolescence.

In short, it’s incredibly inspiring to hear someone on the cusp of adulthood embrace their vulnerability so fully, and showcase their quirks in such a wonderful way. Jordan makes splendid use of the beauty of artistic expression, which, as she delicately reminds us, gives us the space to accept parts of ourselves we often try to hide away. ■



## Good Thing Leon Bridges

ALBUM REVIEW BY MICHAELA GAITAN

Strange question, but have you ever wondered how coffee would sound like if it were a song? I’ll let you in on a little secret; give *Good Thing* a listen.

*Good Thing* is Leon Bridges’ second musical instalment, and it has garnered wonderful reviews all round. Having been released this year, our ears have been blessed with Bridges’ R&B and Blues infused sounds, with songs that I guarantee will linger around like lavender and white rose extract incense. The album starts off with “Bet Ain’t Worth the Hand” a soulful rhythm and blues kind of song. When I hear the xylophone and the harp play at work, I am becalmed knowing that within the next hour or so, I can escape the fast-paced and occasionally troublesome world of retail, and just relax listening to a musical conglomerate of funk, jazz, R&B and soul.

The album concludes with “Georgia to Texas”; a tasteful end, bringing to

light Bridges’ musical versatility. It is a wonderful jazz song, one that you could imagine being played in neat little cafes. As aforementioned, *Good Thing* is similar to drinking a brilliantly brewed cuppa in the morning; the scent of caffeine caresses your nose, you take a sip and it tastes just right. *Good Thing* is just that; it is a perfect balance between sweet and bitter, light and dark and it’s neither too hot nor too cold. The album is most definitely an easy listen, one that is not too disruptive to listen to whilst studying or just to relax to after a long hard day. Harkening to the beginning of this praise, *Good Thing* is well and most truly a perfect musical concoction, with hints of jazz, a generous sprinkling of R&B a pinch of soul and a teaspoon of funk. What do you get when you mix all of those ingredients together?

A perfectly aromatic musical brew. ■



## Dislawderly Season 2

WEB SERIES REVIEW BY ANUJA MITRA

Written by law student Georgia Rippin and produced by Girls Don't Sleep Productions, *Dislawderly* follows the misadventures of Audrey, a quirky Wellington native stumbling through Auckland Law School.

Season 2 sees Audrey score a clerkship and get involved in student politics, all while dealing with the reappearance of her ex-boyfriend Joel. Sexism and harassment are topical subjects in the legal profession, and *Dislawderly* tackles these issues throughout. In the first episode, Audrey and her friends talk about how their student society hasn't been led by a woman in seven years. In a later episode, Audrey's moot judge comments on her skirt length and high-pitched (read: female) voice. True to her nature, Audrey is quick to call out these instances of discrimination, saying to Josh, a character running against her for student body president, "This is about you being male and thinking you

can take up more space than me".

*Dislawderly* can't exhaustively cover all dimensions of a problem like misogyny, but it would be great to see it address the more insidious types—the forms of sexism that women might not even realise they're experiencing but which have deep effects on their self-esteem and ambitions. I also wanted to see more of Pierce Lethem, the series' satire of a commercial law firm. The best parts of this season are the parts that dive into a bit of complexity; like the revelation that Josh, while outwardly being a bit of a jerk, is dealing with his own mental health issues. It's an important reminder that we're all dealing with personal struggles, no matter how put together we might appear on the outside.

With humour, great Kiwi music and breezy 4-6 minute episodes, *Dislawderly* Season 2 is worth the watch. ■



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Ends 1 August 2018

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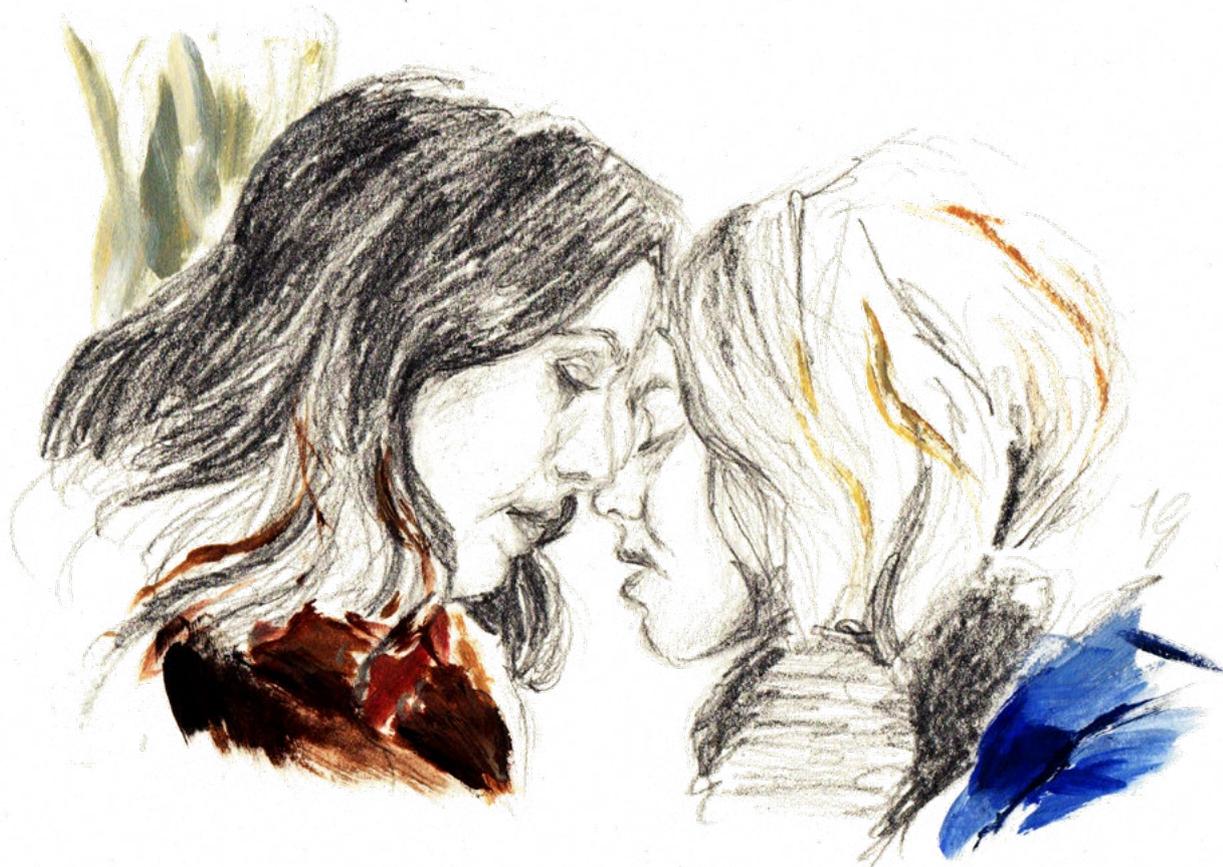
RE//ORIENTATION  
PRESENTS

# Savage

Wednesday 18th July  
From 6pm  
Shadows Bar



SHVDOWS  
BAR & EATERY



# Let's Get Festive

**Samantha Gianotti** offers a handful of picks from this year's NZIFF schedule

**This year** marks the fiftieth year of the New Zealand International Film Festival, with a schedule bursting with movies from the most prestigious film festivals the globe over. Including Q&A opportunities with filmmakers, a host of restored films from across the festival's half-century history, and nifty venues across the country, the NZIFF is the best time of the year for fledgling and proficient film fans alike. Take a gander at the festival's (bloody thick) programme to see the more than 160 films that the festival boasts—or, for those fans of cliff notes, *No Fear Shakespeare*, and book-to-film adaptations, here is an easy list of a few flicks you might want to look out for at this year's fest.

## **Disobedience**

Dir. Sebastián Lelio

Based on Naomi Alderman's novel, Rachel Weisz and Rachel McAdams occupy the two central roles in this drama set in the confines of an Orthodox Jewish Community that Rachel Weisz' character, Ronit, has long been distanced from. The love story between the two leading ladies is coloured by the pull of obligations to one's community, family, and to one's self, and marks

director Lelio's English-language debut following on from the success of his previous feature (that played at last year's NZIFF) *A Fantastic Woman*.

*Disobedience* is screening on July 20th, 21st and 24th and August 1st.

## **First Reformed**

Dir. Paul Schrader

Having co-written screenplays for the likes of *Taxi Driver* and *Raging Bull*, *First Reformed* is the latest instalment in Paul Schrader's anthology of films about men in crisis. Ethan Hawke takes up the mantle (and clerical collar) of Reverend Toller, in a performance that is being praised far and wide, a man bruised by grief and struggling to carry a young woman (played by Amanda Seyfried) through similar difficulties. *First Reformed* is being called one of the year's best, and one of Schrader's most masterful outings yet.

*First Reformed* is screening on July 20th, 25th and August 2nd.

## Burning

Dir. Lee Chang-dong

This South Korean drama was a serious contender for the Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes Film Festival, and while it lost out, the film took home the FIPRESCI Award, and has topped critics' lists since its release. Inspired by the short story "Barn Burning", Lee Chang-dong's interpretation centres on a love triangle and the emotions that run rampant between those involved—a slow-burning story of intimacy and intrigue.

*Burning* is screening on July 28th, 30th and August 4th.

## Shoplifters

Dir. Kore-eda Hirokazu

This year's Palme d'Or winner is surely going to pluck at the ol' heartstrings, documenting the importance of family, the difficulties of a family unit, and the places where we might find family bonds outside of basic blood ties. In what is being described as a profoundly human film, Hirokazu is being praised for the film's near-perfection, with deep reserves of compassion abounding.

*Shoplifters* is screening on July 21st, 23rd and 29th.

## Mandy

Dir. Panos Costamos

Nicolas Cage's on-screen presence is surely enough of a draw for anyone, but besides the return of Cage at his rage-iest, *Mandy* boasts a host of scintillating visuals and a synth-heavy score to accompany Saint Nic as he seeks vengeance for the murder of his beloved (Andrea Riseborough). *Mandy* appears to be blood-soaked, bewildering and just a little batshit, with many predicting that it is a cult classic simply waiting to be initiated.

*Mandy* is screening on July 26th, 31st and August 3rd. ■

## Top Tips For a Tip Top Festival Experience

### Create a Wishlist

Using the "wishlist" function on the NZIFF website allows you to not keep track of the (probably) numerous flicks you want to venture to, with the option to alert you when tickets to a session you've selected are selling quickly, and ensuring you don't double book yourself or find yourself trying to attend sessions that inconveniently overlap.

### Branch Out

The festival takes place in venues all over Auckland, from the historical grandeur of the central city's Civic Centre to the groovy, iridescent ASB Waterfront Theatre. Your viewing environment can wholly impact upon the atmosphere of your screening, so why not seek out a theatre you're yet to visit, like the Hollywood Avondale (with its intriguing layout and delicious-looking pastries), or the Academy, a cinema tucked beneath the Auckland City Library that feels entirely removed from the bustle of Auckland City's arterial roads.

### Ten-Trip Pass

Student tickets for the festival tend to hover around the \$15.50 mark—the ten-trip pass will cost you a cool \$155, and while it's not necessarily a win in terms of savings, it does lock you in to purchasing ten tickets over the course of the festival, or see your purchase go to waste, perhaps giving you that extra push you were needing to tick off your wishlist and get to that mid-morning screening before your afternoon lecture.

### Be a Volunteer Usher

Each year, the NZIFF calls for volunteer ushers to help facilitate screenings across the festival's various venues and keep their operations running silky smooth. Volunteer ushers get to rub shoulders with other film buffs, and watch films *as part of their job*. While ushering applications have closed for this year's fest, it's something to think on before the festival's 2019 run rolls around. ■



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# Tommorrow's Medicine

**Nandita Bhatnagar** discusses the rapid growth of Healthcare Technology, and the place it holds in the future of the worlds of medicine and healthcare.

Until a few weeks ago I, like many others, was unsure as to what exactly Healthcare Technology meant, and the place it held in our society. Upon interviewing a member of the Healthcare Technology Association (HTA) the importance of Healthcare Technology was discussed, and it was revealed to me how necessary it was for our future in scientific research.

Healthcare Technology is essentially the use of technology to improve the healthcare provided to us. Once the stigma associated with it is removed, Healthcare Technology has multiple benefits to our society and should we choose to educate ourselves on matters regarding it, can potentially provide a great future for us in the world of medicine. For example it can be used to print organs in 3D, allowing for increased accuracy

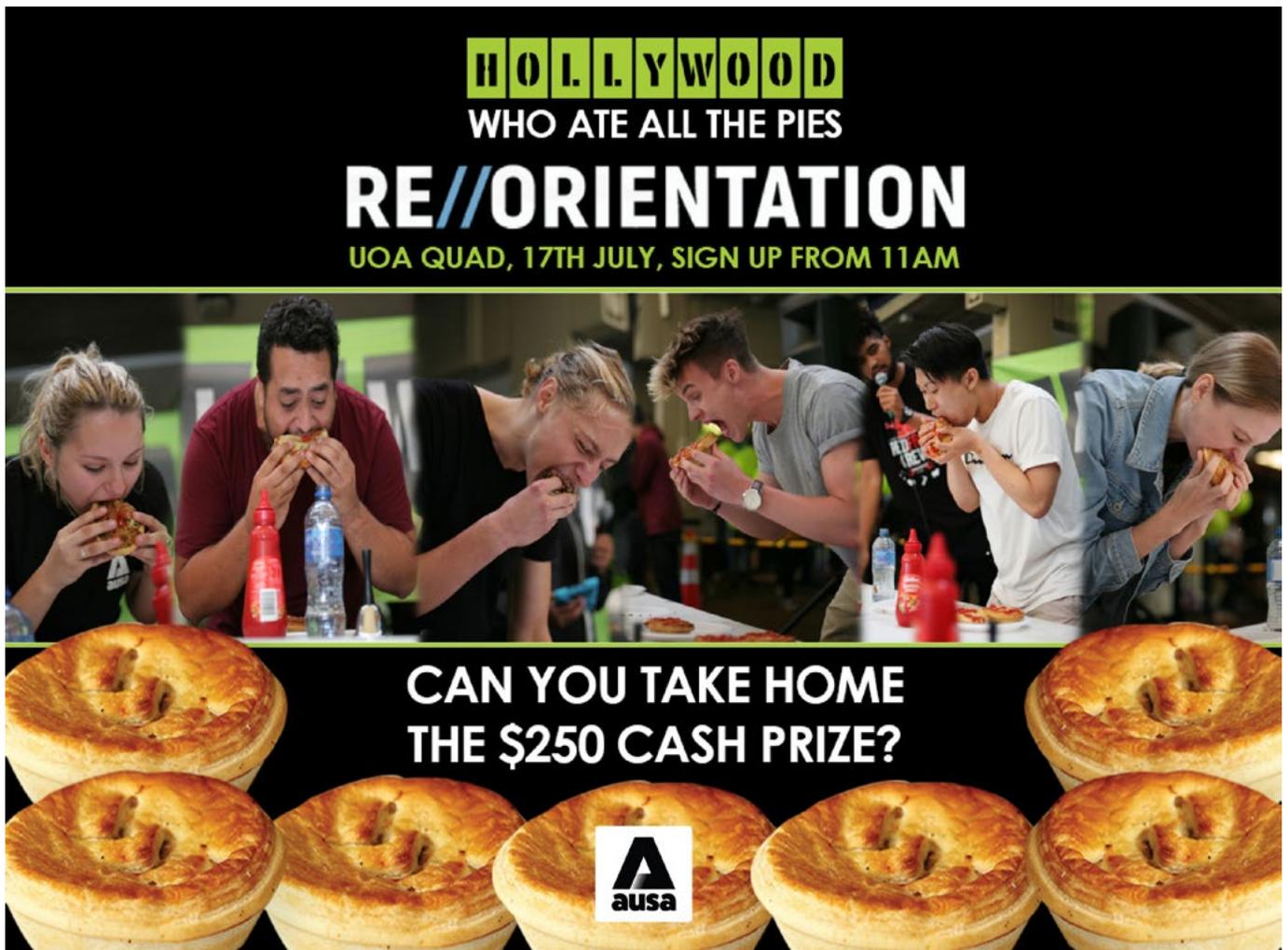
in anatomical organs used for study and research. Healthcare Technology also provides immediate and effective care for populations without easy access to hospitals, including many rural parts of New Zealand where the local GP is 45 minutes away. HTA holds an ambition to ultimately shift healthcare from being doctor-centric to patient-centric, in a way that increases the ability of patients to rely much more on themselves than hospitals. In short, Healthcare Technology is well on its way to being the future for the world of medicine, during this age of technological advancements.

University students can be a part of this rapidly growing scene by supporting communities like HTA. HTA is an organisation made of up people interested in Healthcare Technology, along

with medicinal and pharmaceutical technologies. As such, they explore ways in which to use technology to enhance and improve healthcare. HTA hosts various events throughout the year in hopes to clear the stigma associated with Healthcare Technology, along with multiple openings to join their community and become a member, collaborating with their work and staying up to date the global health tech market. Alongside this, HTA hosts conferences for medical, healthcare, and IT students to meet, helping clear the communication gap between professionals working in the field and students still learning.

The world of healthcare has made huge advancements within the last 50 years, and a large part of the reason why is due to technology. Within the last ten years alone we have improved the world of science and research; building a human genome in the early 2000s which once required nearly \$100 million, now can be done with less than \$1000. At the moment, Healthcare Technology and organisations like HTA do not have the exposure they need to build a health technology community which improves the patient's experience with care and reduces the cost spent per capita on healthcare. If the students of today, who are the future of tomorrow, get on board and begin to understand the multiple benefits of such a health tech society, and start supporting organisations like HTA, it will result in long lasting, beneficial impacts to our society.

More information can be found on Healthcare Technology and HTA by visiting their website on [www.healthtechhta.com](http://www.healthtechhta.com). ■



**HOLLYWOOD**  
WHO ATE ALL THE PIES  
**RE//ORIENTATION**  
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# RE//ORIENTATION

PRESENTS

## THE DECISIVE

# Disney PIXAR PUB QUIZ



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## HOLLYWOOD

# TINA! Bring me the axe!

Each week **Lachlan Mitchell**, glorified tabloid writer, tries to cover up that he is blatantly copying Vanity Fair.

**My boyfriend** is . . . not exactly the most pop-culture savvy person out there. He's an engineering student so I mean, I knew what I was getting into. Sometimes you just have to work with what you have! But there are some pieces of media that are so integral to the motion picture canon of global civilisation that I have no choice but to educate him on them—that is to say, I absolutely had a viewing party of *Mommie Dearest* with him.

Some of you may already know where I am going with this. Probably the same six people that know what I'm talking about when I reference *Showgirls!* For those not inclined to remember every detail about dead white actresses of a certain age, or those not up to date with a touchstone of LGBT pop culture (the older gay white side, anyhow), *Mommie Dearest* is a 1981 film that was officially sold as a docudrama, but in practice, was a crushing character assassination of one of Hollywood's most famous Golden Age stars, Joan Crawford. She was (and remains) an incredibly famous icon of her era and her name is just as much of a byword for glamour as it is melodrama. But she has many demons that were passed on to her children. It is based on the autobiography of her adopted daughter Christina in which she alleges decades of emotional and physical cruelty on Joan's behalf, both to the author and her brother. It all but ensured the death of Joan Crawford's acting legacy to the general public, as she now lives on as a caricature, a monster included in the American Film Institute's list of definitive movie villains of the 20th century.

The movie itself is infamous both for its brutality and its unrestrained campiness—in particular, the scene where Joan (played by Faye Dunaway) attempts to strangle her daughter Christina for daring to loathe the abuse heaped on her over the years. But while the scene is horrific, it is played beyond any sense of reality to the point that you can't help but throw out a kind of scream-laugh at what is happening on screen. By this point in the film, you've sat through about 90 minutes of increasingly warped dialogue, with no restraint on behalf of Dunaway. It isn't coincidental that this ensured the death of Dunaway's career as well. It is so enduring within many LGBT circles because of its eminently quotable dialogue, and its status as an infinitely reproduced touchstone for many drag queens the world over. Plot and substance disappear in the hurricane of campiness without context. The crowd goes wild.

You're probably aware of the wire hangers scene, but if you are not, look for it on Youtube. It's the one where Joan, garish beauty

routine on her face, beats her daughter for the crime of hanging her expensive clothes on a wire hanger. Beats her with said wire hanger, no less. It's hard to put into words just how to feel when watching this scene. It's easily the most famous and quotable part of the movie, maybe the only section to cross over into the general hetero-consciousness. Hell, even Jay-Z has sampled the monologue in probably the only song of his I can enjoy. When my boyfriend watched this scene a couple of weeks ago, he could not process what he was seeing. And I daresay that is the reaction most people have upon watching that scene if they are unfamiliar with the beloved LGBT curiosity it has become.

But yet . . . for all the love I do have for this unabashed nightmare, it has become such a victim of its myth that much has been lost for the figures represented over the years. This is in part because, until Ryan Murphy's *Feud* hit TV screens last year, there was a complete dearth of depictions of Crawford, nothing to counteract the heights reached by *Mommie Dearest*. Her status as an endearing icon has been painted without any nuance—indeed, until *Feud*, there had only been two-dimensional caricatures of her in the public mind. I have no doubt that Joan Crawford was an incredibly troubled figure who had some of the personality and committed some of the actions portrayed on celluloid. This is by no means an excusal. But . . . the cruelty inherent in this movie is that it completely omits the background that broke her, the mental illness which, if given the slightest bit of sympathy, could have averted so much heartbreak on behalf both of Crawford, and her daughter and son. It is now thought that she suffered from borderline personality disorder, something I understand well. The fiery hatred directed at a mentally crumbling woman is a testament to the enduring status of mental health issues. It omits the reality of an oppressive Hollywood studio system we can hardly fathom now, one that created, defined and euthanised its stars without abandon. A system where, unlike now, there was no hope of defying the misogynistic and cruel moguls who ran things. One that allegedly pulled out her back teeth for the sake of cheekbones. You get the idea.

It is no excuse by any means. Abuse is abuse and the intention is not to let her off the hook. But while I love *Mommie Dearest* the movie, I wish there was more insight into Mommie Dearest the person. There is so much more that can be gleaned from a little empathy, than from the callousness we know so well. ■



## ECENTRIC LIFE ADVICE

# 13. How to Sew a Button

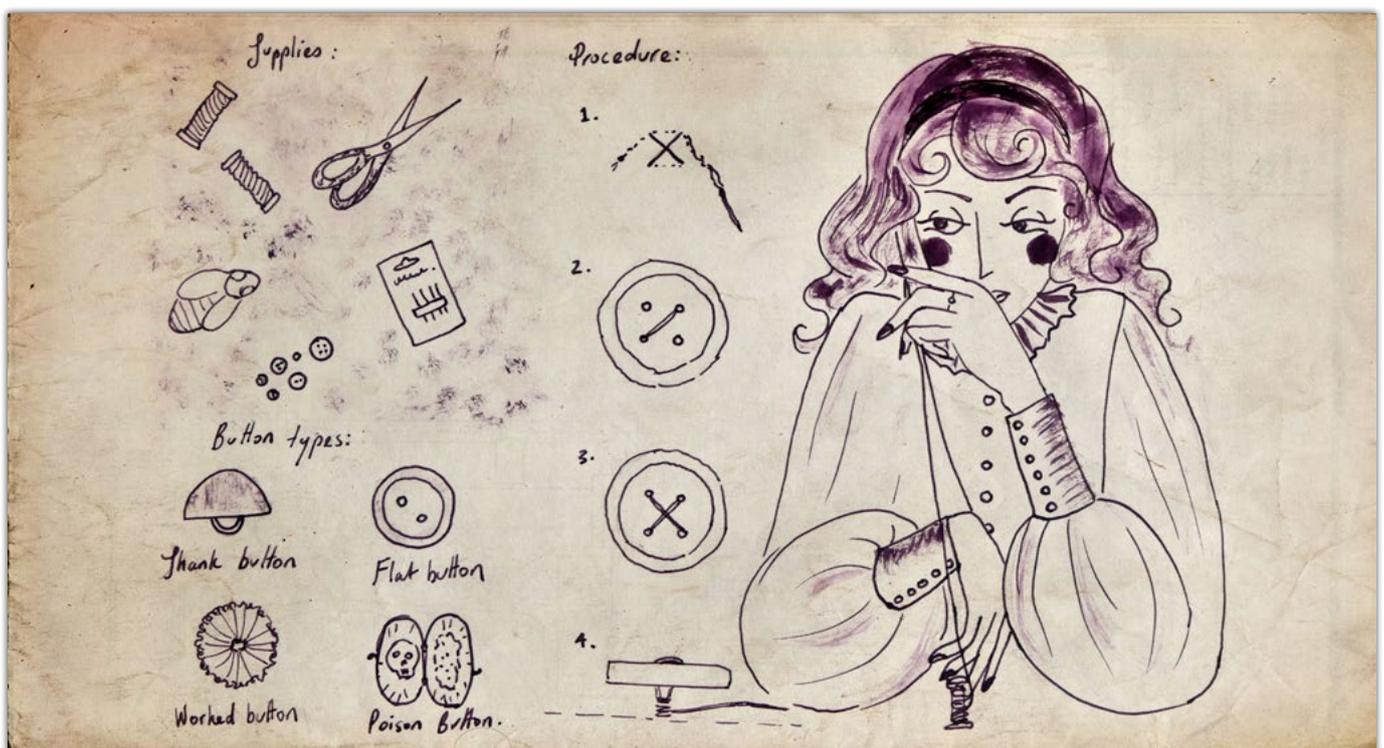
Each week **Astrid Crosland** provides instructions on how to improve your life in some small, but important ways.

If there is a single phrase that characterises the tragic omission of basic life skills from mainstream education, it is, “I can’t even sew a button.” Mending your own clothes is a skill that allows you to be more independent and to learn to better manage your resources. It is a skill, like all others, that becomes easier and quicker with practice. If you find it exceedingly difficult the first few times, that is normal. Do not become discouraged by the challenge, assuming Stitchcraft is easy is a fallacy borne of a patriarchal division of labour and the undervaluation of what is traditionally considered women’s work.

You will need a few basic supplies. A mending kit can usually be found at any supermarket, dollar store, hotel room, or craft shop. This kit will work in a pinch, but the components are generally low quality and I advise you to upgrade as soon as convenient. Consider the fabric you will be sewing when selecting your needle. A fine, translucent, fabric will show stitching holes from too large a needle. A heavy, thick, fabric will require a stronger needle to push through the weave. The quality of the thread will influence how

much stress the button can withstand. I keep black and pale grey silk thread on hand for most repairs.

Begin by threading your needle with a length no longer than the distance between your fingertips and your elbow. Hold this doubled and tie an overhand knot at the ends. Trim uneven ends. You may wish to pass the thread across a beeswax block to improve manageability. Begin by sewing a small X over the place the button will sit, ending with the needle under the fabric (fig. 1). On the next stitch, pass the needle up through the first hole of the button and stitch down through the opposite hole (fig. 2). Continue stitching in an X through the buttonholes, leaving a few millimetres of loose thread between the back of the button and the fabric. Repeat two-three times. Pass the needle back through the button but not through the fabric. Then, wind the working thread around the loose thread, forming a shank (fig. 4). Pass the needle through to the back of the fabric, make a stitch in place to secure thread, and trim. Never use your teeth to cut thread, it is bad luck and will hasten your next trip to the dentist. ■





# RE//ORIENTATION

PRESENTS

# WINTERFEST

26-27 JULY • UNIVERSITY QUAD

FEATURING

The UASC Toboggan Run  
Ice Rink, Music & Snow

PLUS

Winterfest After Party ft. Kings



# President's Letter

Kia ora,

Welcome back to Semester Two 2018! Whether it is your first semester or your final (like me), it is great to have you here. AUSA is your students association, which brings you student events, AUSA Advocacy for advice, representation and welfare.

We are really excited to be putting on the largest Re O Week yet – it is not only two weeks (instead of one) but it also brings back the best of past AUSA events. We have Savage, pie eating, International Orientation and Dirt(ier) Bingo as well as having a Toboggan Run with the Snowsports Club and an ice skating rink in the Quad in Week Two. Shads will also offer mulled wine throughout the two weeks!

We also have lots more planned for Semester Two, such as: the Feminist Festival (to celebrate 125 years of women voting – woo), EcoFest (celebrating sustainability), and Wellness Week (promoting looking after yourself and your community). Also, join Ng Tauira Mori on Wednesday 1 August celebration in the Quad/ Shads to celebrate Mori music, arts, kai and politics! In Week Three we have our Annual Food Drive, where we collect for the food parcels we hand out to students (they are available at AUSA House). Please look out for the the collection boxes and donate a can!

In Week Five we have our AUSA Annual General Elections for our 2019 Executive.

I have found it incredibly rewarding, challenging and a huge honour to be on the AUSA Exec while at Uni. Stay posted for more information about how to apply. And don't forget to vote!

Finally, the Student Services Levy survey closes on Friday 27 July. The survey is your opportunity to be heard on where you want the student services levy to be spent – please fill it out! The results of the survey shape where student money gets spent. We want the money to best serve our student body.

If you see me around, please do say hello!

Ng mihi,  
Your President Anna ■

## What we did in Semester One

Last semester was big one for AUSA. Before we launch into Semester Two, we wanted to share some of our highlights, and round up some of the coolest things we did for students in Semester One.

In Semester One, we:

- Ran the biggest University of Auckland O-Week to date. We had a massive Party in the Park with 3,000 people, giveaways, concerts and more. Thanks to our AUSA events team!
- Organised a rally of over 1000 students, and presented a 4000 signature petition to the University with other student leaders and associations opposing the closure of the libraries.
- Ran lots of events! A massive Mardis Gras festival, Cultural Week, Politics Week, Paint 'n' Sip, Dirty Bingo, cool quizzes, and even crafternoon teas!
- Ran the largest Public Sector careers expo ever at Auckland Uni.
- Anna, our President, started having monthly meetings with the Vice-Chancellor. She is able to lobby on student issues way more successfully and build a solid working relationship with him as a result.
- Made and presented submissions to the the Government on restructuring University Council, changing the funding model of Universities, and improving support to international students.
- Improved the support we provided to international students, running an International O-Week, and massively increasing the scale of 'Buddies Program' to help support new international students.
- Restructured the Executive and undertook the largest constitutional reform we've had in years! Next year we'll have a new Engagement Vice-President, Campaigns Officer, and Satellite Campus Rep. If you're interested in any of these positions, let us know!
- Had big wins in Committees. We've passed a new Class Reps policy, are working on getting lecture recording in every class, maintained AUSA's independence to survey students independently of the University, and got a policy that would have eroded plussage and resulted in assessments for every course in the first three weeks stalled and re-evaluated.
- Worked better with other campuses and students' associations. We visited the Tai Tokerau campus in Whangarei, have been meeting with all the students' associations on campus, are making an MoU with the Postgraduate Students' Association, and have made a Satellite Campus rep position for next year. ■



# Luke and Sophie, our Welfare Vice President and Queer Rights Officer

Luke, what do you hope to achieve this semester as WVP?

More and more people are aware of and are using AUSA's welfare support services! I want to grow this and ensure we continue to meet students' needs.

The University is currently developing its mental health plan for the next three years. AUSA has an important role to ensure that students are heard in this process. Mental health systems must be fit for purpose and barriers for access must be removed.

The WVP sits on the University's most important equity committees. As such I need to be a supportive and available ally to all the diverse equity groups on campus and help ensure that every member of our student community has the opportunity to succeed.

Where is the best cheap meal in Auckland?

My flatmate makes incredible arancini

which are free and delicious. In terms of commercially available options, you've got to love New Flavour.

Sophie, Why did you run for QRO?

In the 18 months I've been at the University of Auckland. I've noticed that, although the LGBTQIA+ community is identifiable and accessible to new comers, there is room for new voices to be heard, flourish and grow, not only in our own community, but wider society also. I want to improve our representation, have our identities appreciated, and strengthen our voices.

I want to play a part in establishing a more effective dialogue with faculties on topical issues the University faces. so that we're more than just an after-thought, and have a real say on issues that affect us.

All LGBTQIA+ students should feel welcomed and respected by their peers, and to feel like their identities are valid through meaningful representation, and

I am determined to see that through to fruition.

Where is the best cheap meal in Auckland?

Barilla dumplings in the Uni quad. 100% ■



# The University is shutting our libraries - what we're doing about it

## What's happened

Over the holidays, the University announced that it would be closing five specialist libraries. Two of these are satellite campus libraries, and will be closing when the campuses close. These students will need library space when they relocate. The remaining three are all Creative Arts and Industries (CAI) libraries: the Music and Dance, Architecture, and Fine Arts libraries. These are spaces valued by CAI students and the wider University community.

The library decision has followed widespread student and public outrage and opposition to the proposed closures. You might remember our rally with 1000 students last semester, the Save the Fine Arts campaign and 'lock-in', and the

thousands of signatures and submissions made by students, alumni, professional associations – and even Helen Clark. We asked the University **not** to close the libraries, protect the collections, formally listen to students' submissions, and protect student study spaces.

The University hasn't listened. They didn't consider **any** of the student submissions as 'formal submissions': we don't even know whether the committee that recommended closing the libraries read it. This is because the University said that the restructuring of the libraries was an 'employment issue' – and students aren't allowed to comment on employment matters.

This argument is laughable. It is both possible and necessary to separate the employment effects of restructuring libraries (staff losing or moving jobs) with

the impact of closing libraries on student learning outcomes. Without commenting on changes to job titles, or the structures of support librarians within Libraries and Learning Services, we can put forward arguments why student study spaces are important, why CAI students need easy access to physical resources, and why specialised and localised libraries are valuable.

What's particularly bizarre about the way the University's line is that we know they have drawn the same distinction in the past for other issues. Take the law school student increase, where the law school proposed significant increases in its Part II intake. This increase had lots of staffing implications – in fact, the lack of staff and resources to support the proposed increase was one of the major objections. Yet, this decisions went through committees with



student representatives, and the student voice was formally taken into account. It's hard to see why a distinction was drawn in that case, but not with closing libraries.

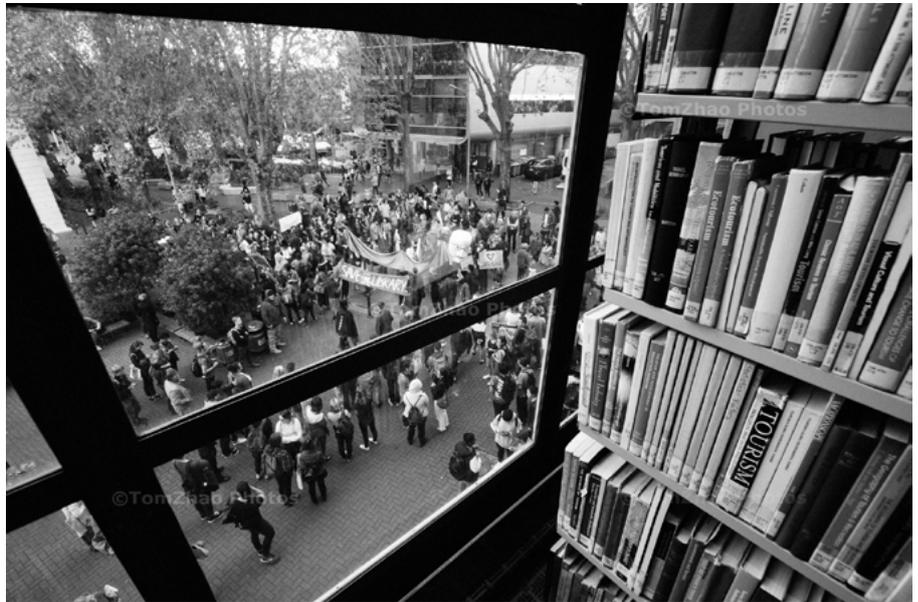
## Where to next?

We put forward a motion at the second-highest decision-making body at the University, Senate, opposing the Vice-Chancellor's decision that this couldn't be heard by Senate (and students). This motion passed, 49 votes to 20. It then went to University Council, the highest decision-making body at the University, who did nothing with it.

We're now lobbying for student consultation on what the spaces that used to be libraries will become, and on shaping the new General Library. The General Library will now be one of two libraries on the city campus. Lots of books will be placed in off-site storage, where students can request books to be delivered, and the number of study spaces will be increased.

We were told that there would be student consultation, and that there would be a working group of students for this decision.

However, the University has backtracked. They are now refusing to meet or consult with any students in person. All students use the libraries, especially the General



Library, and know what resources and study spaces they need to study best. Making this sort of decision without transparent student consultation is shocking, and we're talking to the University about this to reach a compromise.

The other thing we're working on is high-level University policy to try and prevent this sort of thing happening again. Council has indicated support for some better processes that meaningfully involve students. We're working on revamping the Student Charter, and getting the University to commit to treating students

as partners when making decisions that affect our learning.

University management is increasingly uncompromising and non-transparent. They plough forward with their agenda regardless of whether it's good for our learning. Their reluctance to meaningfully involve students in decisions is leading to bad decisions, and shouldn't be allowed.

The last few months have shown that students are not apathetic. We care, and deserve to be heard and included in decisions at the University. The University just needs to listen. ■

## Notice is hereby given for Nominations of 2019 AUSA Executive & 2018 International Students' Officer

In accordance with the Auckland University Students' Association's Constitution, nominations are open to currently enrolled students of the University of Auckland, who must be members of AUSA. Accordingly, all nominees must present proof of current enrolment, and any other required information, to the Returning Officer no later than the close of nominations, or their nomination will be ruled invalid. Please Note: To run for the Treasurer's position you must have passed at least two Accounting papers at the University of Auckland and show proof of this.

**Officer Positions:** President, Administrative Vice-President, Education Vice-President, Welfare Vice-President, Engagement Vice-President, Treasurer.

**Portfolio Positions:** Culture and Communications Officer, Campaigns Officer, International Students' Officer (Must be an International Student), Queer Rights Officer, Satellite Campus Officer (Must be a Satellite Campus Student), Women's Rights Officer, Craccum Editor

2018 International Students' Officer (By-Election)

Nominations open on Monday, 16 July 2018.

Nomination forms are available from AUSA Reception, 4 Alfred Street from 16 July 2018.

Nominations close at 3.00 pm on Friday, 3 August 2018. They must be handed in to AUSA Reception only.

AUSA Returning Officer

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