

edition four
of 2026

chaos



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Contributors and Acknowledgements

Thanks to all of our contributors!

We are always looking for new writers and artists to contribute to our magazine. If you would like to get involved in any way, just let us know! Feel free to contact us on our socials, by email, or pop into our office!

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Approved by the Returning Officer.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which Lot's Wife Magazine is produced, published, and printed, the Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to Elders, past and present, and acknowledge their spiritual connection to Country. Sovereignty was never ceded and Lot's Wife will always fight for the self-determination of First Nations Australians.



CHEER ON TEAM MONASH THIS SEMESTER



HOME GAMES: 27 AUGUST

4, 9 & 15 SEPTEMBER

**BIG GAMES.
GREAT VIBES.
FREE GIVEAWAYS.**



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Dear readers,

Lot's Wife is back for Edition 4, the first for this semester, in a distinctly chaotic time. After those 6 weeks of holidays (or thereabouts), everyone is in a scramble to get back into the uni schedule – readings, lectures, and in the worst case, assignments.

Chaotic certainly describes the process of creating this edition, which will, disappointingly, be released later than planned. Although at the time of writing, the election dates have not officially been announced, it doesn't take the investigative skills of Hercule Poirot to figure out the dates will be set at the coming MSC, which means we have to send this edition off to the Returning Officer for ~~censorship~~ approval. But since the returning officer hasn't been formally appointed yet, we can't get them to sign off on the edition sufficiently early to get it to the printers on time. A rather unfortunate confluence of events, but alas, bar complaining in these very pages, there's nothing we can do about the Election Regulations.

Despite the chaotic birth of this edition, we hope there is much for you to read and enjoy this time around. Unfortunately the wine reviewing crew couldn't rally around for a second time due to some unlucky illness timing, but in happier news, we've collaborated with a local ice-cream review team to inform you all of the best places to indulge (preferably in the summer) in a sweet and chilly treat.

Similarly, we weren't able to pop up to Sydney for the NUS' annual Self-Flagellation Conference, or EdCon, as it's better known. We hear along the grapevine that there were some shenanigans as

usual, with the conference having to be terminated before its last plenary due to some rather great unrest among conference attendees of a certain faction. There was also apparently the invitation of a former Deputy Leader of the National Party to speak to the conference about regional education – who knew that the first Student Left controlled EdCon would be so controversial? Although we weren't able to go, a number of other MSC members went along, so you'll be able to read their reports to MSC when the minutes are published some time in mid-2028.

With election season for student unions across the country approaching with great speed, at Lot's Wife, we're excited about only one thing – the inevitable creation of many overly niche meme accounts where grievances can be aired and secrets leaked in an amusing fashion that escapes regulatory remedy. In our opinion, Monash and the MSA don't yet have a meme account worthy of the name, but hopefully that changes quick smart, given there are so many comical events that take place, and just because they might be "potentially defamatory" we can't tell you about them.

In any case, we would be remiss not to remind you of your democratic duty to cast a vote and make your voice heard in the elections. With the paucity of turnout these days, every single vote counts. With the university administration always looking for ways to lock out the MSA, it's critical that whomever is elected can claim the mantle of democratic legitimacy and a mandate to push for improvements across the whole spectrum of student life.

Moving on from the MSA elections, which I'm sure you'll get rather sick of hearing about soon



enough, we hope you're all settling in well to the return to uni life, and that you remembered to do your pre-week 1 lectures and readings – even though they are invariably the least relevant and most boring of all the content ever assigned.

In rather different news, since our last edition, your HECS balance has been increased by a casual 2.8% – which is apparently something to be grateful for, as it's the lowest indexation since 2021. We aren't feeling particularly generous. Although the Albanese Government dished out a 20% one-off cut as an election bribe last year (doing the right thing for the wrong reason), there has been disappointingly little actual improvement in the higher education space. We are still stuck with the disastrous Job-Ready Graduates Package, despite the MSA's (feeble) campaign against it, and more importantly, the Government's various commitments to remove it, and HECS balances for all uni students just keep increasing with increasingly little to show for it.

In another blow on the cost of living front, the free public transport that got so many of us through May and June has now been taken out back and shot, to be replaced with half-price transport instead. While this is of course better than nothing, we find ourselves vehemently in agreement with the MSC in calling for the program to be renewed and made permanent, although we will go one step further, finding ourselves in even rarer agreement with SAlt, and say that public transport in Victoria ought to be brought back under the public aegis as a matter of urgency and importance.

Lots of love,
Alessandro, Josh, and Tyra

Editorials

Alessandro



Feeling: content
Listening to: Alkan's *Douze Études dans tous les tons mineurs*
Craving: fried chicken

Unlike Mr Chuah, this winter has been rather a cold one for me, as the heater in our house decided to give up the ghost just when it started getting cold – I've had to extract blankets never before seen to avoid my toes turning into iceblocks.

On the whole, my break has been rather pleasant, and I'm disappointed it's coming to an end so soon. Unlike the summer holidays, which feel never ending, the length of the winter break always has me feeling like I have to start my readings next week. I'm writing this just after results for last semester dropped, and while my performance certainly wouldn't be described as stellar, I was pleasantly surprised when they released 42 minutes early (I swear they never release them at the planned time).

I've spent a bit more solitary of a break than usual, as an unpleasantly large number of my friends have decided to bugger off to Japan, or Europe, or the snow, but I'm not mad about it. My goal for these holidays was to rebuild my PC and really lock into some games I've been meaning to try for ages, and I would say I've been mostly successful. The process of building my PC was, as I had expected, immensely stressful, and my worst fears were realised when it didn't boot when it was supposed to. Eventually, after a trip to a PC shop, the problem was remedied (even though I swear I had already done what they did to fix it), and I've been gaming away no problem.

I'm rather looking forward to the coming MSA elections (yes I am a hack) – this annual festival of democracy and shitfuckery always engenders some amusing stories, slanderous posters, and awkward messages, all of which I'm sure will bring great joy. I will once again apologise for the delay in your receiving this Edition – the timing with us and the appointment of the RO really threw a spanner in the works. In any case, I hope you enjoy it.

Hello hello fellow baddie divas,

Tyra

Welcome to semester two! I hope everyone enjoyed their Euro summers, and for those of us who stayed behind to endure the bitter Melbourne cold - we're God's strongest soldiers.

Other than almost losing a finger or two during the break, life has been adequate to say the least. I'm not really sure what to write for this edition, I'm not particularly annoyed about anything, nor am I particularly happy about anything. Which is odd, because typically I have a million different things to say.

I am pleased that I didn't have to go to EdCon, where the respective Labor Party hacks of each university campus go on their moral high horses to do... I'm not sure exactly - I've never been. In my experi-



Feeling: eepy (sorry sophie)
Listening to: maggots for brains
by Olivia Rodrigo
Craving: french onion soup

ence the Socialists come back pissy as well as several autonomous department OBs, so whatever happens at EdCon (besides the ludicrous amounts of drinking) can't be worth the trek all the way to... whoop whoop? Idek. In saying that, there has to be some reason or purpose for a conference that the NUS spends at least some sum of cashola on...

Anyways, that's enough for now. Hopefully I can survive the remainder of the year without having to go to any conferences - although I don't like my chances.

I will also be coming back to uni this semester after having taken last semester off for health reasons. So if you see me, please come and say hi! I'm a yapper and you've been warned : p

xoxo - tyra < 3

Josh



Feeling: thank you
Listening to: Friday Prayer (feat.
Headie One & Aitch) by AJ
Tracey
Craving: oysters

The winter break has been a real period of transition for me and it has felt like the most 'winter' of winter breaks I've experienced in a while, in every way except for temperature, as it's been the warmest start to winter on record, thanks to the climate crisis (we're all fucked).

The World Cup has been on and although our mighty Socceroos were knocked out in the Round of 32, we can be buoyed by our unrelenting attitude and commitment to always have a crack. A more negative note about world football however, is the rank racism which has been exposed throughout this World Cup, both off the pitch and on the pitch. From despicable comments made about Kylian Mbappé by Paraguayan senator Celeste Amarilla, to disgusting behaviour by fans, it seems that the beautiful game and an event celebrating unity between nations has been poisoned. Although Celeste Amarilla was roundly condemned for her remarks against Kylian Mbappé, it still remains a failure on FIFA that racism has been allowed to fester in football, to the extent that the same Argentinian players who sung a racist chant about French players with African heritage were allowed to play in the World Cup Final.

Apart from watching the World Cup during my winter break, I have spent the time catching up on some odds and ends I missed during the semester one and taking small trips away, including one to Adelaide for the Showdown. Although the match result was disappointing, I was reminded about how nice Adelaide is as a city, and I have started planning my next getaway there.

Anyway, hope you enjoy *Chaos*!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editors,

Re: Clacton

In recent days, Clacton has become the constituency heard around the world – or at least on my Instagram. The current (or former, has he officially resigned yet?) member, Nigel Farage, has resigned in a fit of pique because he didn't like being asked questions slightly more penetrating than "what's your favourite Irish republican movement?" (up the ra, Nige).

It is funny that a man with such thin skin truly believes that he is able to become Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, who is so hideously corrupt that he sees it necessary to take all means necessary to avoid a parliamentary investigation into the millions of pounds he was "gifted" and didn't declare. Hopefully with Keir Starmer out of the picture now, UK Labour can get its act together and start making some actual positive change over there.

Yours,
Pauline Hanson Should Resign Too.

To the Editors,

Re: I'm Cooked

As I was sitting around, relaxing, and generally not thinking about uni throughout the holidays, I was rudely notified of an email from the Chief Examiner of one of my units for the coming semester. This is peculiar in itself, as normally I don't receive these welcome emails until the week before the semester begins.

But this was no humble welcome email. The textbook was flogged (written by the CE themselves naturally), and then when I accidentally opened Moodle the next day, I was shocked to discover that the unit was already on there. Clicking into it, the entire semester's content was laid out in black and white (and blue). While I'm sure many of your readers would clamour for such a prepared CE, shivers ran up my spine when I looked deeper and saw that I had a group assignment.

While in itself not shocking, I was stunned to see that my group had already been assigned – not just before census date, but before semester had even started. I had to take a seat and hold onto something stable when I saw that the assignment question was already released, and I was nigh inconsolable when I realised the assignment was due in week 3.

In my view, this represents a gross overreach into the sanctity of the university holidays. This time ought to be spent relaxing, or working, or doing anything but pondering your answers to upcoming group assignments. Undoubtedly many will jump at the chance to start work on the question as soon as humanly possible, but I fear this puts those of us who have a healthy respect for the work-life balance at a disadvantage.

Yours,
An Ever-Suffering Law Student

To the Editors,

Re: Corruption so great it could only be done by FIFA

The 2026 World Cup has been one of change: the greatest number of teams ever participating, the first to be hosted by 3 countries, and the first at which many smaller teams have made an appearance. Equally, it has been one of continuity: some really great corrupt behaviour with which FIFA has become intimately acquainted over the years.

From the awarding of the inaugural FIFA Peace Prize to a man who has bombed more countries than I have fingers, and then overruling a perfectly valid red card on the request of that most peaceful of men, and then granting VAR reviews and red cards when some of the tournament's star players and teams might be mildly inconvenienced, this World Cup is clearly an example of FIFA getting back to its roots.

While the last World Cup (Qatar, in 2022) will surely be known for the exceptionally credible allegations of slave labour used to build and run the whole event, this year's will have a long shadow cast over it by Donald Trump and his seemingly very well housetrained head of FIFA, Gianni Infantino.

Yours,
Why Didn't Italy Qualify

To the Editors,

Re: The Steam Summer Sale

Much of my plans for this winter break revolved around finding a new and exciting game to occupy my time and mind, as my current game library had become somewhat stale.

Therefore it was quite the pleasant surprise to open up Steam to find its annual Summer Sale in full swing. In the age of high prices and fake sales (looking at you, Coles), it is a breath of fresh air to see products that people actually want to buy discounted heavily and for a long (and fixed) period of time.

Where other tech companies have chosen enshittification, increased fees, and worse service, Steam is the outlier of the bunch, constantly improving, supporting community members to mod their games, and always having some actual good deals on. It is, in my humble opinion, a rare example of a monopoly that has actually benefitted consumers.

Yours,
Valve's Number 1 Fan

horoscopes

We are not looking to the stars for what is coming. We are looking backward, into the wreckage and wonder of what already happened. History, after all, is not the tidy timeline they teach you in first year. It is riots and revolutions, plagues and printing presses, empires that swore they were eternal and crumbled anyway, dust returning to dust as it always does. Chaos built the world you are standing in, whether you like it or not, and left its fingerprints on every one of us. Each of you carries a little of that disorder in your chart, so I have matched you to a moment from history that could not stay still, a moment that broke something so a new thing could be built from the pieces. Some of you get glory. Some of you get graves. All of you get truth. Read on, if you dare to see which mess you belong to.

Aries – The French Revolution

Aries, the guillotine era belongs to you. You do not simply disagree with a system, you dismantle the whole palace and redecorate. There is something deeply you in the image of a fortress falling before anyone has stopped to divine what comes after. You act first, you feel the consequences later, and somehow you are still the one people follow into the streets. Just remember, revolutions need someone left standing to actually run the place once the smoke clears. Try not to lose your own head, literally or otherwise.

Taurus – The Fall of Rome

Taurus, steady empire builder, the long, slow collapse of Rome is written into your bones, not because you cause chaos, but because you resist it until the absolute last possible second. You built something that felt permanent, and even as the cracks spread, you kept adding another mosaic, another vineyard, another reason to believe it would hold. There is dignity in that stubbornness. But every empire needs to know when to adapt

instead of merely enduring. Bend a little before the whole thing has to fall.

Gemini – The Printing Press

Gemini, the invention that made chaos contagious was always going to find you. Before Gutenberg, an idea took months to travel. After, it took days, and suddenly everyone had an opinion on everything, all at once, all in print. That is basically your nervous system given historical significance. You do not just have thoughts, you multiply them, spread them, argue six different versions of them before lunch. Just be sure you are the one setting the type, not simply the ink smudging on someone else's page.

Cancer – The Black Death

Cancer, gentle soul, one of history's darkest chapters finds its way to you, and somehow you are the reason anyone survived it emotionally. While empires panicked and fled, it was the quiet keepers of home and hearth who held communities together, who nursed the sick, who remembered the names of the dead when no one else would. Your softness is not incidental to history, it is often the only thing that carries people through it. Just don't absorb every plague as your own to cure.

Leo – The Court of Versailles

Leo, Versailles was always going to be yours, all mirrors and excess and a monarchy that mistook spectacle for stability. You understand instinctively that power is theatre, that a room will believe whatever you perform in it with enough conviction and a good enough outfit. There is nothing wrong with commanding a room, you were built for it. Just remember what happened when the audience outside the palace gates stopped being impressed. Even the most dazzling stage needs solid ground beneath it.

Virgo – The Library of Alexandria

Virgo, meticulous keeper, the great library is yours to mourn, humanity's most devastating lesson in how fragile knowledge really is. You understand, more than anyone, the quiet tragedy of losing something irreplaceable to carelessness or fire or time. Your instinct to catalogue, preserve, and protect is not fussiness, it is a kind of guardianship the rest of us do not appreciate until it is gone. Just remember, not everything can be saved, and that is not a failure of your care.

Libra – The Treaty of Versailles

Libra, the peace treaty that ended one war, and rather famously planted the seeds of the next one, is your inheritance. You know better than anyone the impossible tightrope of trying to satisfy everyone at once, and how often that noble effort curdles into something nobody actually wanted. Your gift for balance is real, but sometimes a fair compromise on paper is still a disaster in practice. Choose your peace treaties carefully, and read the fine print twice.

Scorpio – The Salem Witch Trials

Scorpio...naturally, Salem finds its way home to you. Whispers, accusations, secrets dragged into daylight, and a whole town undone by suspicion and buried grudges. You understand power that moves in shadows, the kind that topples people not with armies but with rumour. Use that insight carefully, because you know exactly how devastating it is when it turns on the innocent. You are not the mob. You are the one who sees through it. Just make sure you always do.

Sagittarius – The Age of Exploration

Sagittarius, restless wanderer, yours is the age when maps were still full of blank spaces and everyone decided to sail off the edge of the known world to fill them in. Reckless, thrilling, occasionally disastrous, always unforgettable, that is your energy exactly. You are drawn to horizons other people are too sensible to chase. Just remember that not every uncharted territory was actually empty, some history here is glorious and some is genuinely ugly. Explore with your eyes open.

Capricorn – The Industrial Revolution

Capricorn, the revolution that ran on schedules, factories, and relentless ambition could belong to no one else. You understand structure as a form of power, the quiet magic of systems that actually

work. The machines you built moved the whole world forward, even as they demanded everything from the people running them. Your discipline builds empires. Just don't forget there were always hands turning those gears, and rest is not the enemy of progress.

Aquarius – The Space Race

Aquarius, humanity's most beautifully unhinged act of collective ambition was destined for you, a decades-long argument about ideology that somehow ended with footprints on the moon. You think in scales no one else considers reasonable, and occasionally, against all odds, you actually get there. Keep reaching for the impossible thing. Just remember that some of your fellow humans are still down here, and they'd love it if you looked back occasionally.

Pisces – The Lost City of Atlantis

Pisces, dreamer, the story that may never have been real at all was always going to find its way to you, and somehow that makes it more yours than anyone's. A civilisation so beautiful it had to be swallowed by the sea, so the story goes, existing now only in myth, longing, and the persistent human need to believe something perfect once existed. You live comfortably in that space between memory and imagination. Just remember to surface sometimes. Even sunken cities cast a shadow on the world above.

History does not end quietly, and neither will this. Every mess, every collapse, every revolution scribbled onto pages that came long before the ones you're holding now, all of it built toward this exact moment, you, reading this, wondering which chaos is yours. Whether you are quietly rebuilding, gloriously combusting, or just watching the walls shake from a safe distance, know that disorder has always been the first draft of everything that lasts.

Long live the mess that made us,
Nightshade

WHAT'S LIFE?

Dear What's Life,

What actually is the deal with snow season?? Everyone around me keeps wishing me good snow fortune and I think maybe I should do a rain dance or something (or rather...a snow dance...but that sounds like a prom). The winter time is upon us and suddenly everyone is crazy about barrelling head first down a mountain on razor thin death blades – like, I really just don't get the appeal. Although, I've had more than one sports injury to boot, so maybe I hold self-preservation in the highest regard.

*Sincerely,
Quaking (from cold not fear)*

Dear quaking,

You should probably just roll with it, lest you get rolled into a snowman. As a completely objective third party with absolutely no interest in the matter, snow season is genuinely one of humanity's great traditions – the cold, the speed, the very REAL possibility of snapping something important. Your self-preservation instinct is noted and statistically correct, but some things are worth the risk. A snow dance is also absolutely a prom (or something else). Do not do one!

Dear What's Life,

My team has suffered a devastating loss in the world cup and I'm not sure I'll ever get over it. Like this hit worse than the time my girlfriend left me because it turned out she was sleeping with my best bro AND she took my ps5 – the nerve!

*Kindest regards,
Kicking and screaming*

First of all, the PS5 is the real loss here and we should acknowledge that. The girlfriend and best bro are a betrayal, yes, but they can be replaced. Anyway, your team will be back...or they won't. Either way the grief is real and anyone who tells you it isn't has never cared about anything, which is its own kind of tragedy.

Dear What's Life,

What is it about a long road trip that makes one want to spill all their deepest darkest secrets. The regulatory powers of the highway are second only to a roaring campfire but none the less I'm finding it hard to resist just absolutely trauma dumping everyone in the car.

*Sincerely,
Needs to shut up and drive*

The highway removes all social consequences. You're moving, you can't make eye contact, and no one can leave. These are the perfect conditions for oversharing and everyone knows it. My advice is to pick one secret, deploy it, and then turn up the music before anyone can respond. Controlled release. Remember, you're not a broken dam, you're a tap.

Dear What's Life,

My cousin insists on coming to every family gathering in a 10-year spiderman suit that is DEFINITELY waaay too small for him. My aunty tells me it's his new hobby but I really don't think this counts. I don't want to ask but I'm fairly certain it's a sex thing and all I have to say is YUCK! If I have to hear him say "I'm gonna web you up" to his boyfriend one more time, I'm actually going to throw him off the side of a building and maybe catch him just at the last second.

Dear [no sign off needed, we know who you are],

He's a grown adult who has chosen the spiderman suit and the boyfriend and the very specific threats, and your aunty has chosen to call it a hobby, and you have chosen to keep attending these gatherings. Everyone here is making decisions. If you want it to stop, stop going. If you keep going, you accept the suit. There is no third option.

How to Become

MSA

President

in 3 Easy Steps

by Alessandro Papaleo

So, you want to be MSA President. You've heard lots of good things about the role – the \$45k salary, the presiding over at least 8 meetings of the MSC that will be either be mind-numbingly tedious or mind-shatteringly contentious, being the person in charge of a multi-million dollar organisation that represents and advocates for thousands of students, and dealing with those pesky *Lot's Wife* Editors.

Now that you've made up your mind, how can you achieve this lofty goal? This guide has three simple and easy to follow steps that will guarantee your election, and some handy tips and tricks to boot.

1. Nominate

The first step to getting elected is to nominate yourself. There's none of this write-in ballot nonsense in the MSA, so you can't win without being on the ballot. There are two alternative pathways to nomination – as an independent candidate (or "unaffiliated candidate" as the Election Regulations state), or as part of a ticket. To nominate as an independent, you'll have to find 10 people to support your nomination, and ensure that they aren't signatories for anyone else, otherwise they don't count – this shouldn't be impossible, and if

it is, your chances of getting elected wouldn't be great anyway.

Alternatively, you can register a ticket. Tickets are basically political parties – a group of candidates running together in a somewhat unified campaign, with all the benefits that entail. The head honcho of the ticket is the Authorised Officer (AO), who holds basically dictatorial powers. They choose who to nominate, what material to authorise, and even, in some cases, appoint a replacement should you resign. They also cannot be removed by anyone but themselves, and can lock down a ticket name for 5 years. A good tip is to make yourself the AO of the ticket, to avoid any power struggles or stacking down the road.

To register is considerably more difficult, as you'll need 100 people to sign on to the ticket registration. This is an increase from last year, where the requirement was 80, which itself doubled the previous requirement of 40. You don't get too long to do that either, less than 2 weeks if the election is held as early as possible, which it probably will be. If you're reading this when it comes out, you're already too late – I'd advise using a time machine to go back to the start of the year and start collecting signatures then – believe me, everyone else competent will have been doing it for months. Then there's the nightmare of picking a ticket name. The regulations are rather restrictive on this question,

so you're best off sticking to tradition and picking one catchy word that has positive connotations and sticking an exclamation point at the end (see e.g. CHANGE!, Together, Go!).

Why bother with the hassle of registering a ticket then? Three words: front page voting. When you click on the voting link, the first page where you can vote simply asks you to cast your vote for a ticket. If you want to vote for a particular position, you have to click through into that ballot, cast your vote, then leave the menu and repeat. The average student, being bothered by someone to vote, will almost always just not bother with the hassle of voting separately for each position, and will just select a ticket. In my distinctly non-exhaustive search of MSA records, there has never been a President elected as an independent candidate while front page voting has existed (since 2019). In short, if you aren't on a ticket, you aren't winning.

2. Prepare

Now that you've nominated, you've still got a while to go before the campaign starts. During this time, you need to get all your ducks in a row so you aren't caught unprepared when polling opens. Firstly, you need to sort out how you plan to fund your campaign. Although we aren't talking US Presidential levels of funding here, there are a number of non-negligible expenses that you'll encounter. The major ones are pamphlet and poster printing, and if you're really looking to make a splash, some custom branded t-shirts and even hats. If you're standing as an independent, contrary to my firm advice, you can't spend more than \$500, and you're strictly limited to 400 sheets of A4 paper for pamphlets – provided by the MSA at their expense, not yours. This paper will be MSA watermarked, and so much of it will be printed by the Returning Officer (RO) that it will end up used in the strangest places, such as the NUS ballot room. The funding limit, on the other hand, is harder to enforce, as the regulations don't contain any disclosure requirements, so as long as you aren't conspicuously flaunting your solid gold "vote for me" accessories you should be okay.

The limits for tickets scale based on their size, so

if your ticket is contesting every position (all 104), you can spend \$3100, and you're given a staggering 10,800 pieces of A4 paper to make into pamphlets, as well as 218 sheets of A3 to turn into posters. Given the cost of printing that many pages of A4 alone will run you well over \$4000, it also helps if you have some friends with some heavy-duty printing presses and a big incentive to see you win.

Before you start printing that lovely free MSA paper with your campaign material willy-nilly, there are a number of requirements you have to comply with otherwise other candidates and the RO will make your election week distinctly unpleasant. Your materials can't be laminated or adhesive, but you don't have the money for that anyway. You can only use the paper given to you by the RO, and you can't have your friends nominate and then give you their paper – they thought of that trick and banned it. All your material must be authorised by either yourself or the ticket AO, something that is particularly easy to forget and even easier for a bored hack to notice.

You also can't forget to print "Please Recycle" on there, and new this year, the universal recycling symbol. Last year, one ticket forgot this critical requirement on all their pamphlets, so there was what I can only imagine was a particularly horrific headkicking for whoever was meant to check the pamphlets against the regs, and then a frantic period of stamping it on all the pamphlets. While these measures are ostensibly aimed at reducing what must be the egregious environmental impact of printing tens of thousands of flyers, I think it's more likely they serve a more nefarious purpose. When you or I think of the "universal recycling symbol", I'm sure that green triangular concoction with the 3 arrows pops to the front of the mind. However, should you flick 11 pages forward in the Regulations, to a section completely unrelated to the one in which the symbol is required, you'll find that it's a breach of the Regulations to "[print] the universal recycling symbol in any colour other than blue." While this requirement may have been included to spark a philosophical debate about what colour is and how we perceive it, I think it's more likely to have been a rather feeble and shabby trick to catch people out. It also means you can't save costs by printing greyscale flyers – although, as black is a shade, not a colour, maybe you could get away with it.

Another important step in the preparation phase is to create a spreadsheet that contains the names, numbers, and Instagram and Facebook handles of everyone you've ever met at uni. This is critically important for step 3.

3. Abandon Your Sense of Shame

Polling opens on Monday of election week, and that's when you can start your direct campaigning. Deploy the members of your ticket around campus in high traffic areas just before 10am, with instructions to don their branded merch and start the campaigning at the stroke of 10am and not a second earlier. Good places to have people include along the walkway from N1 towards Campus Centre, between the LTB and the Law Library at the exit of the Bus Loop, and on the pointless bridge between Menzies and the Campus Centre. Under no circumstances can you campaign inside a building, except the ground floor of the Campus Centre, and even then, not inside the exclusion zone around the help desk. Campaigning includes wearing your ticket t-shirt, so remember to take that off before you go inside – there will certainly be people watching and waiting to take a picture of that hapless first-year who forgot this was a rule. Don't be that hapless first-year.

When standing around with your flyers, always look happy and be nice to people, even when 20 people in a row have refused to talk to you. Don't just stand around talking to your fellow campaigners. Come up with something to say that will catch people's attention as they walk past you, and the second someone acknowledges you, walk alongside them until they manage to shake you off or you get them to cast their vote. It's no use just giving them a flyer and feeling good about yourself – there are few students who will vote just because someone they don't know gave them a random piece of paper. When getting someone to vote then and there, never ever – I repeat – never ever look at their phone, or stand in such a way that an eagle eyed campaigner can snap a picture that shows you behind or to the side of a voter. Don't even think about handling a voter's phone. Doing any of this will get you a campaign ban, and if it's

bad enough, a whole ticket ban.

Another thing to look out for are stooges. Stooges are agents of opposing tickets who will attempt to engage you in conversation for as long as possible to prevent you from talking to genuine voters. Stooges are most often factional allies from other universities, who are forbidden from campaigning directly. Stooging is also prohibited, but it's much harder to nail someone for it. Identifying a stooge is a question of experience and judgement. Ideally, you would have a couple years of experience in the Labor Party, as almost every stooge is just a Young Labor hack from another campus, so you can recognise someone out of place at first glance. Otherwise, look out for people acting as if it's their first day on Earth – either getting lost on campus, or asking questions so obtuse you wonder how they managed to get into uni. Stooges will target your inexperienced campaigners, because they'll just be so excited to be actually talking to someone who seems to care. If you can, get a picture of someone you know is a stooge, so you can warn the rest of your ticket and also try to get some sanctions from the RO against the other ticket.

Remember that wonderful spreadsheet you created 4 paragraphs ago? At 5pm, when in person campaigning ends, it's time to put it to good use. Lock your ticket in a room, and text every single name on that list with the best spiel you can come up with about why they should vote for you in the election. You must not feel any embarrassment in doing this – it is an extremely important campaigning tool, and if done well, will secure you just as many or even more votes than if you were campaigning in person. Ignore the fact that this might be your first ever message to this person, or the first in years. Push through feeling the most awkward you will ever feel when you see that the last message you sent someone was to ask for them to vote for you in the previous year's election. Try not to get rate-limited or flagged as a bot by sending too many messages too quickly. It's a balancing act.

When campaigning digitally, there's a few rules that often catch people out. First, under no circumstances send your heartfelt appeal into a group chat. It is strictly prohibited by the regulations, and it only takes one member of the chat who has a friend in an opposing ticket to screenshot the message and send it off, and bish bash

bosh you have a campaign ban faster than you can frantically unsend the message. Second, don't use any contacts you obtained through less than legitimate means, like club membership lists, MSA volunteering groupchats, or Monash Uni facilities. If the RO figures out you've done this, you'll be in very hot water. You also can't use "bulk email lists," so a mail merge is out of the question. Finally, don't call people you don't personally know well. One slightly alarmed person asking "how did you get this number?" is enough to find your whole ticket on the pointy end of a campaign ban, especially if you obtained the numbers by any of the above-mentioned nefarious means.

Rinse and repeat the above steps for all 4 days of campaigning, then on Thursday afternoon, gather at a pub with your ticket to await the release of results. As the ballot is entirely online, tabulation normally only takes a couple hours, so you will find out on the night. Celebrate or commiserate accordingly.

Conclusion

By following the above guide, I'm sure you can make a semi-decent tilt at the MSA Presidency. One final tip I'll give is this: be an active and factional member of the Australian Labor Party. There hasn't been an MSA President who wasn't affiliated with or a member of the ALP for decades. The current faction of choice to get yourself elected is the Socialist Left, and it'll probably stay that way for a couple years, before Labor Unity eventually manages to recruit someone who can tell their two thumbs apart. Being a party member will help with your fundraising, your stooging, and will give you a wealth of experience to call on. But perhaps I'm wrong and all of this will change, and 2026 will finally see the election of a Socialist Alternative President – we'll just have to wait and see.

Map Game- maxxing

Alessandro Papaleo



Over the winter break, I've had the pleasure of trying out some new (and some old) games, and since I run a magazine, why not tell you about them. I have a suspicion that these games won't appeal to many of you, as I don't recall the last game I played where there wasn't either a map or a spreadsheet involved, but each to their own. Hopefully, you'll be inspired to try something new, and experience the thrill of the arbitrary line going up.

Victoria 3

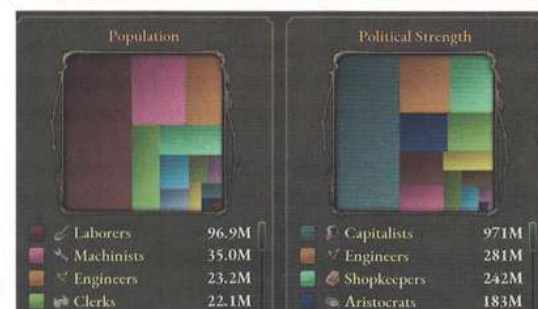
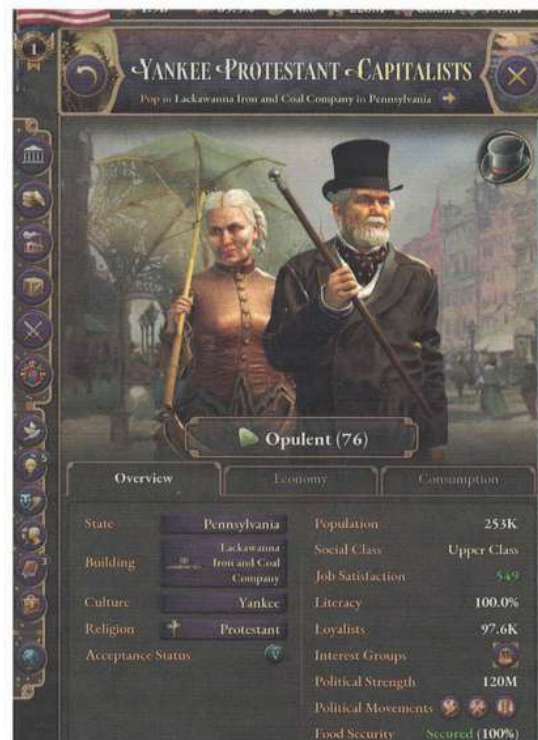
A prototypical grand strategy game, where you lead a nation of your choice through the Victorian period, from 1836 to 1936, lining up nicely with another of the Paradox franchise to continue your grand campaign – not that I've ever bothered, it's too much hassle.

Where Crusader Kings 3 focuses on roleplay and individual characters, and Hearts of Iron IV the nitty gritty of military strategy and wargaming, Victoria 3 occupies the economic and political niche. Something people are often confused by is what I mean when I say you lead a nation. Unlike in CK3, you aren't controlling the actions of one specific person, and then continuing on as their descendants. You are effectively acting as the intangible and largely unquantifiable spirit of the nation. You are not the President, King, or Prime Minister of your country – but you do play a significant role in determining by whom these roles are filled.

Most of the gameplay centres around the construction of various buildings. Mines, farms, plantations, factories, government administrations, barracks, ports, railroads are some of the different types that you can build across your various states. Victoria 3 really embodies the maxim of "it's the economy, stupid," and the main way you can affect the political makeup of the nation is by the way wealth, and thus power, is shared amongst your population.

Your population is depicted by pops, who are aggregate groups of people who share similar characteristics. It is best illustrated by an example: one pop might be 1.07 million Yankee Protestant Labourers working in an Urban Centre in Pennsylvania, another could be 253K Yankee Protestant Capitalists, who own mines, mills, and factories across the country. Each of these pops has varying levels of political power, dependent on their size, wealth, and cultural acceptance. This system means the

Two types of pops in Vic 3. As you can see, the capitalists have 8 times the political power than the labourers, despite their vastly smaller numbers. The graph shows the distribution of power across the nation, with the Capitalists massively dominating. ►



bog standard game sees your nation change from one dominated by landowners and the church in 1836, and as you industrialise, power shifts away from landowners to industrialists and, to a lesser extent, workers, and towards the end of the game, an increasingly powerful petit bourgeoisie who own shops and service buildings.

This is perhaps the greatest weakness of the game – its repetition. All the runs you make have the same general vibe – you start poor, dominated by rural and religious interests, you build factories, the industrialists get powerful, you liberalise, and you end the game a happy, prosperous liberal democracy. While of course the game offers you different options – instead of granting voting rights to the unwashed masses, you could elect to remain autocratic and instead invest in crushing the poor – the fact of the matter is that the game takes a rather Francis Fukuyama-esque view of politics, seeing capitalism and liberal democracy as the endpoint of history, and thus the game is structured in such a way you tend to get the biggest numbers that way. Or maybe Paradox just knows something we don't.

Gear City

A game I stumbled upon while extremely bored at work (not that I played it at work, in case my boss is reading), Gear City falls distinctly on the spreadsheet side of the spectrum, although there is one map in the game. A management and economic simulator, you take the helm of a car company in 1900 and grow (or go bankrupt) all the way through to 2020.

If I had one word to describe this game, I would pick complex. My first few attempts saw me fall victim to bankruptcy within a few years, but eventually I caved, gave myself a bit more starting money, and now I'm sailing through, although not without difficulties. The game has over 90 video tutorials covering all the various buttons on screen, but it never really tells you where and how to start.

My 1950 Sport model is the best selling car of all time, and was the linchpin of my post-war profitability. Ignore the rather pedestrian naming scheme of my cars – I had started with numbers, but it became too hard to keep track.

The screenshot shows the Gear City game interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with a list of vehicles. The main area displays a green 1950 Sport car on a circular platform, surrounded by a red rope barrier. The background features framed pictures of cityscapes. At the bottom, there's a table showing sales data.

Date	Sold
1\1950	64797
1\1951	121901
1\1952	177163
1\1953	190143
1\1954	217613
1\1955	169589

Page 22



▲ This office is the home page of the game. By clicking on your various office items, you enter the different menus that comprise the game.

The focus in this title is definitely on the tycoon side. The car creation process itself is rather simplified – you design a chassis, an engine, and a gearbox, throw them together, and voila, you have a car. Repeat indefinitely, across 20+ different vehicle types, and that's your marque up and running – but not profitable. The real meat and potatoes comes to the production and distribution side. You have to build your factories and dealerships around the globe, determining every month how many of all your different models you will produce, adjusting prices city by city to maximise your profit margins. There is a rather deep stock market simulation, where you can acquire parts of your competitors, take them over entirely, consolidate, or create your own subsidiary brands and sell them off. You have to manage the wages, working conditions, and benefits of your workers, deal with unions and strikes, and face the spectre of outsourcing. There are a couple tools in the game that will automate some of these tasks for you, but they are always less profitable than managing it yourself.

The game also contains many hundreds of historical events, from the World Wars, to stock market crashes, each of which affects the market in different ways. My current company's great success is in fact owed to munitions contracts for the US government in World War 2, something I'm sure I'll soon be sweeping under the rug when I start selling in the war ravaged nations of Europe and Asia.

The complexity of the game is by far its best part. I'm currently 30 hours into my first playthrough, and I'm not even halfway through. I'm avoiding interacting with more difficult mechanics until I learn the ropes, so I'm sure the next playthrough will be rather more involved and take a hell of a lot longer to complete. The progression is also highly satisfying – from a decade of unprofitability I was able to turn around the company (forget about the munitions) and grow it even faster to be the largest in the world by a huge margin. I would highly recommend this game to those who want to sink a couple hundred hours into a single playthrough, and to those who aren't afraid to bust out Excel and a notepad not infrequently throughout their playtime.

Railway Empire 2

As you might have guessed from the title, this is the successor to *Railway Empire*, which I've also had the pleasure of playing. The two games are extremely similar, with the sequel implementing a couple of changes that had been hugely in demand from the playerbase of the original.

The game has you linking up cities to other cities and primary producers with trains, as the name suggests. Cities send passengers and mail to each other, and using the goods you've sent to them, produce more refined goods. For example, a common early game set up will have you cart in some grain from a farm to a city with a brewery. The city will then consume its beer and grow in population, demanding more goods in turn. The surplus beer can be shipped off to other cities, and they can send their produced goods back in return. This loop continues until your cities need around 20 different goods which you'll have to bring in from all across the map. Moving these bits and bobs around is how you make your money, but you can also buy the factories, mines, and farms you're moving things around from to diversify your income.

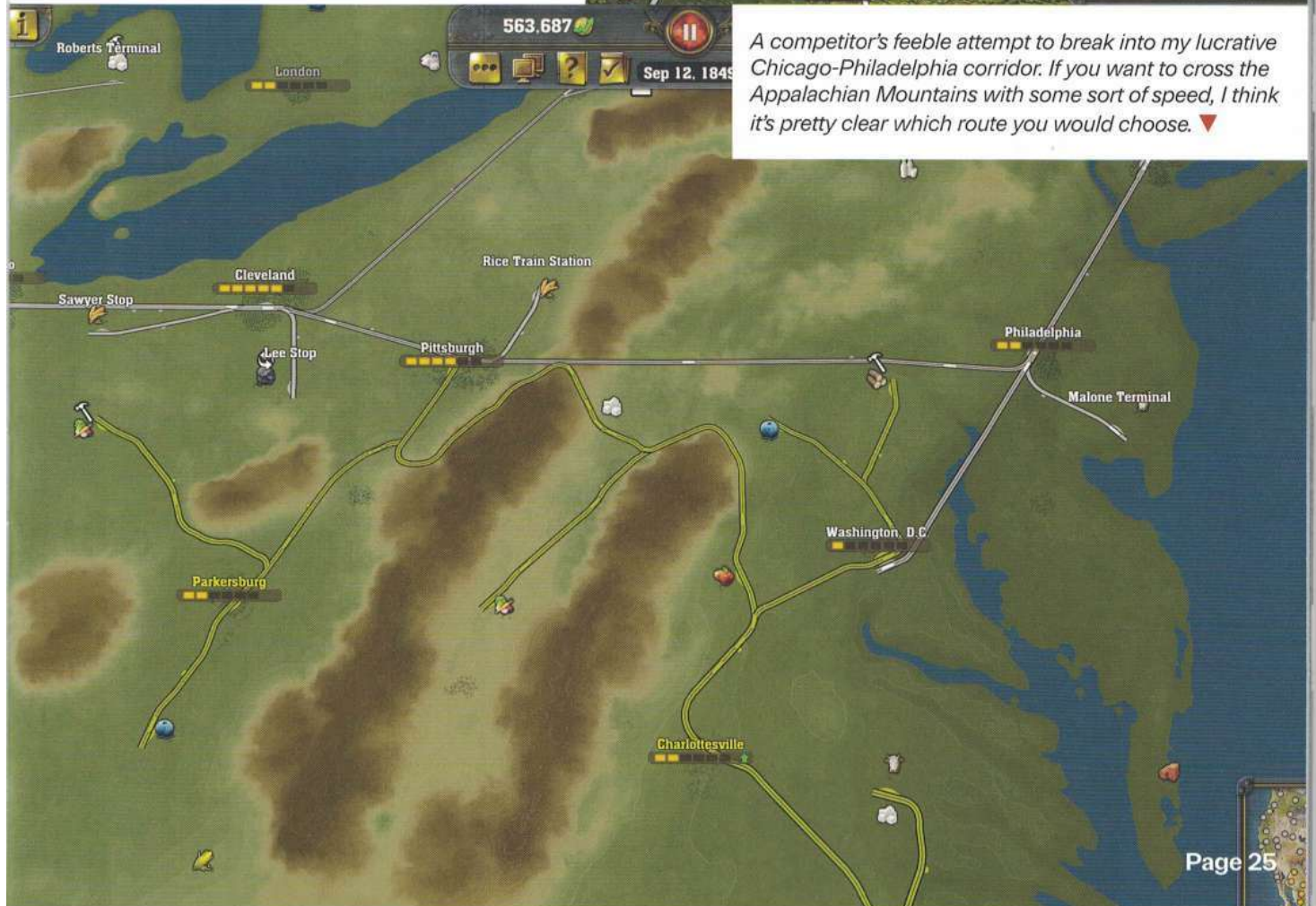
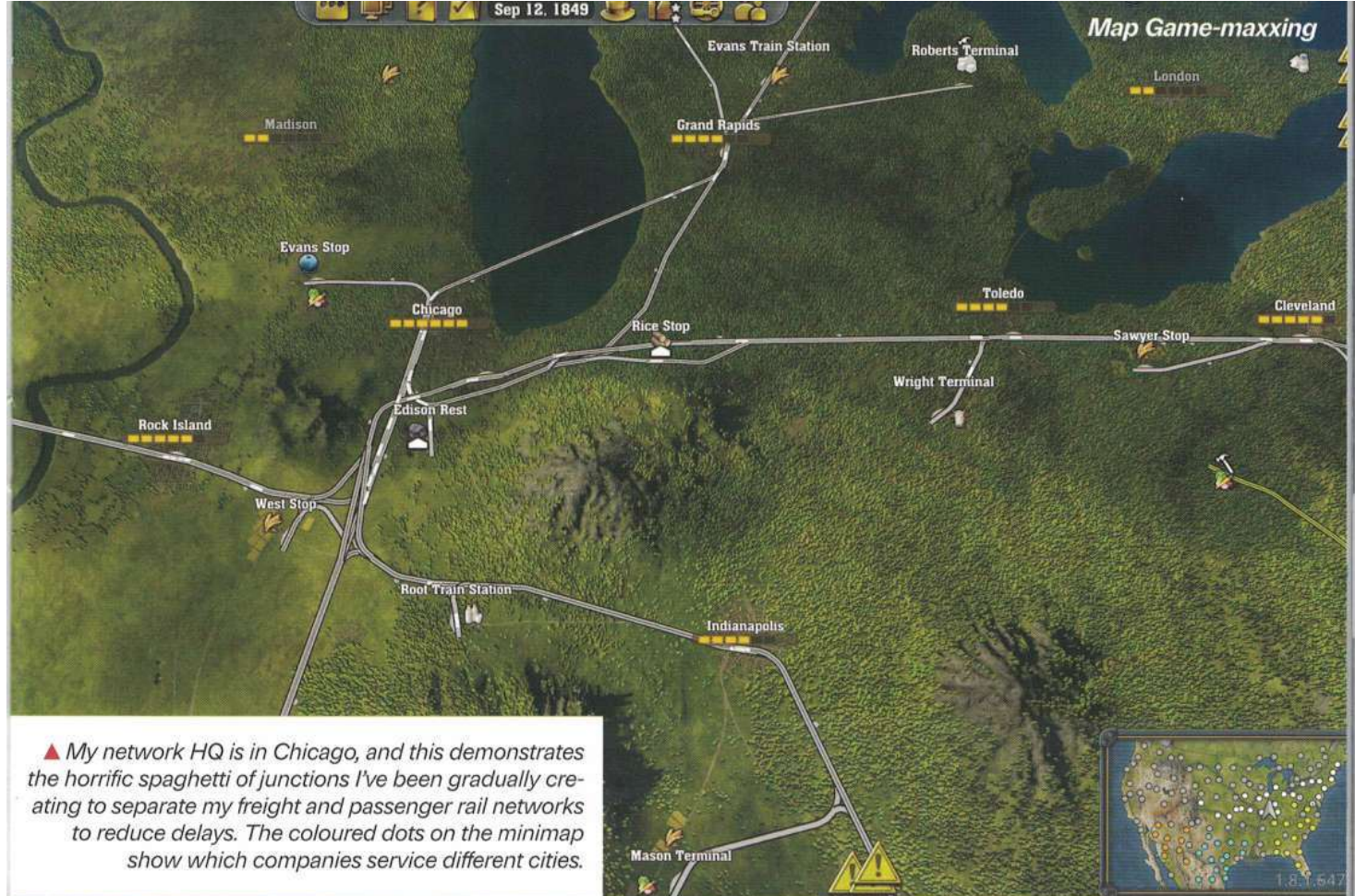
The map in question is either the entire continental US, plus a little bit of Canada and Mexico on either side, or all of Europe. The scale is definitely somewhere this game succeeds where other transport tycoons tend to fail – it really feels like you are building a railway network in proportion to the true size of the country. The size of the map and the year in which you start, 1830, means your train journeys are more often measured in weeks and days rather than hours and minutes.

The process of laying down tracks and stations is extremely easy, with basic set ups requiring only a few clicks, and more complex ones are never too difficult. Creating routes and trains is similarly simple – select the stations to stop at, pick your train, and you're off to the races. A big upgrade from the original is that you don't have to mess around individually placing all the signals – you can signal a whole track with one click, which is a godsend, reducing endless micromanagement and troubleshooting when your trains decide to inexplicably grind to a halt.

Another particularly fun aspect is the existence of competitors. When creating a game, you can have up to 3 AI rail companies in your game, who will compete against you and each other to become the biggest. You can buy shares in them, eventually acquiring or destroying them, but they can buy shares in you too. The AI is however not the sharpest tool in the shed, and I've found it simple to outplay it even on the harder difficulties, mainly for its penchant of creating slow and winding tracks to avoid a short tunnel or bridge where a human can see it's obviously warranted.

As the game progresses and you have more money than you know what to do with, it can become somewhat tedious as you link up more cities to your network and you repeat what you've done on all your previous cities, however the new system of warehouses does allow for you to create a rather elegant distribution system if you're ready to commit to the hours.

Sep 12, 1849



The Gelato 1 Express

@melbicecreamreviews

Highlights along

the

Melbourne Ice Cream Reviews is a family-run, deliberately anonymous operation with one core belief: ice cream is not a frivolous pursuit, and someone needs to be taking it seriously on your behalf. We taste, we deliberate, we occasionally disagree at volume, and we report back so you don't have to risk a bad scoop on a stranger's recommendation. Consider us the ones doing the legwork so you can do the eating.

The goal was noble; to find gelato and ice cream worth eating along the train line to Monash University, for the benefit of fellow students who, until now, may have believed fulfillment could only be found in a two-litre tub from Coles. There is, it must be said, a noticeable thinning of options along the Cranbourne/Pakenham line. The shops are more spread out and you quickly learn the value of choosing well.

Day 1 — 🍌 & ❄️

We got off at Clayton Station and headed to our first stop only to find they had no ice cream. We recovered quickly and moved on to Icy Spicy, which immediately made the trip feel justified.

Icy Spicy is an Indian ice creamery, and although several unfamiliar delights were calling to us, we tried to behave like women with a plan. We sampled the chilli flavour and, after a courageous but visibly deteriorating effort to seem unbothered, had to ask the very patient server for something cooling.

🍌's first scoop was tender coconut, which she approached with excitement. Coconut, as a flavour, often arrives either pretending to be tropical or aggressively resembling sunscreen. This one, though, had ambitions. It was a pale but vibrant green and full of actual young coconut, shredded, clumped and woven through the scoop, giving it a fresh, almost sticky texture. It clung slightly to the teeth in a way that should have been alarming but wasn't. It tasted clean, bright, and entirely itself.

The second scoop was kaju draksh - cashew and raisin. It was excellent; little chunks of tender cashew, softened strands of raisin and a faint hint of spice that made it feel thoughtful without becoming self-important. It wasn't overly sweet, which gave you permission to continue eating long after judgement should have intervened.

Cranbourne Pakenham line

❄️ had ordered the pineapple chaat, which 😊 had initially been eyeing off. It was excellent. The pineapple wasn't overly sweet; it was dense, almost tacky, forcing you to pay attention. Every so often you hit a chewy nugget of candied pineapple, like a small prize, and then the chaat masala would arrive, bringing salt and tang and cheerful disruption. It was the sort of flavour that makes you briefly question your own judgement before deciding you were right all along.

At that point, we sat back in silence, recalibrating both our opinions of the south-east and our capacity for dairy. We then made the sort of decision that only seems reasonable when you are already full; to take the train again and continue the expedition. One planned stop was shut, another offered nothing persuasive, and after enough wandering to make us feel punished rather than discerning, we finally landed at Nuvoletta Gelateria, a five minute walk from Carnegie Station.

It is the sort of place where the flavours are named to suggest both refinement and proprietary gelato-making methods; something ❄️, should you ask, would be delighted to explain at length, and where whipped cream is available as a casual add-on,

▲ Ice cream from Joy Spicy in Caulfield.

which in 😊's view is one of the clearest signs that civilisation has succeeded.

😊 ordered the mascarpone and cherry, which arrived looking like it had been raised well. Pale





▲ Ice cream from Nuvoletta Gelateria in Carnegie.

pink, delicately swirled, very composed. It was smooth, impressively so, but she kept waiting for the cherry to assert itself, to step forward and make a scene. It never quite did. It was pleasant, in the way that good manners are pleasant, but she had wanted something a little less restrained.

She also had the ricotta, lemon and olive oil, a flavour that sounded like it belonged in a cookbook owned by someone who says “mouthfeel” without irony. The olive oil, if present, was evidently shy, but what remained was a light, lemony scoop, smooth and unexpectedly cohesive, without the icy sharpness that can turn citrus desserts into a punishment. It felt almost healthy, which made us suspicious. The generous whipped cream added did a great deal to restore confidence.

✿ ordered the apple pie, which tasted exactly

like eating a slice of apple pie with custard and no responsibility. There were soft pieces of apple, a creamy lush base and a generous scattering of buttery cinnamon crumble that suggested someone in the kitchen believed in abundance. It was comforting in a way that felt almost emotional.

She followed it with a dark chocolate sorbet, which she approached with a kind of solemnity. It was everything you want from dark chocolate, luxurious, pure and unapologetically rich, with a slight lingering bitterness that made it (and you) feel intelligent and mildly sinful. The sort of thing you imagine eating while making better life choices, even if you aren't.

By the end of it, we were full and united in the belief that while the south may not offer the same density of options as the north, it rewards commitment. You don't just wander into good ice cream here; you travel for it. You plan. You cross rivers. If you're very lucky, you come back with a clear winner.

Star Ratings Summary

Tender Coconut (*Icy Spicy*) — 4/5
Kaju Draksh (*Icy Spicy*) — 4/5
Pineapple Chaat (*Icy Spicy*) — 4.5/5
Mascarpone and Cherry (*Nuvoletta Gelateria*) — 3.5/5
Ricotta, Lemon and Olive Oil (*Nuvoletta Gelateria*) — 3.5/5
Apple Pie (*Nuvoletta Gelateria*) — 4/5
Dark Chocolate Sorbet (*Nuvoletta Gelateria*) — 5/5

Day 2 — 🐼 & ❄️

Having survived Day 1 with both our dignity and our lactose tolerance in question, we did what any reasonable group of adults would do: got back on the train and went looking for more ice cream. This time the itinerary took us to Frisco's Creamery, and then to Gelato Messina, which needs no introduction if you've ever walked past one and witnessed the queue.

▼ Ice cream from Frisco's Creamery in Caulfield.



At Frisco's Creamery, (literally 5 minutes from Caulfield Station and hence Monash Caulfield (ew)), 🐼 started with the 71% Belgian dark chocolate, which the server described, with some conviction, as their most popular flavour. We're naturally suspicious of this kind of claim — popularity and quality are not always on speaking terms — but this one held up. It was full, rich and properly dark, with just enough creaminess folded through to stop things tipping into "eating a block of baking chocolate" territory. Composed, confident, no notes.

❄️ got the Mauritian vanilla and smoked sea salt, which promised vanilla with a twist and, for the first few mouthfuls, delivered exactly that — a lovely smoky, salty hit sitting against an understated vanilla base. The trouble was staying power. By the back half of the scoop, the smoke and salt had quietly clocked off, leaving a perfectly pleasant but increasingly one-note vanilla behind. A strong opening with no third act.

🐼 followed it with the turon and langka, which is where things got complicated. The first half of the scoop was genuinely lovely — banana and caramel arriving fresh and warm, with little threads of jackfruit running through for good measure. It was the kind of combination that makes you want to text someone about it. But somewhere around the back third, the flavours stopped taking turns and started talking over each

other, and what had been charming became a bit much. A flavour profile that peaked early and didn't know when to stop. Here for a good time, not a long time.

From there it was onto Malvern Station and a brisk 12 minute walk to Gelato Messina, which operates less like a gelateria and more like an institution with its own gravitational pull. The flavour board alone took longer to get through than most of our actual scoops. 🍷 landed on the pannacotta with fig jam and amaretti biscuit, and no lie, we'd been eyeing it off before we'd even ordered. It delivered: the amaretti came through in small, deliberate, crunchy pieces, and the fig jam sat rich and slightly tart against the smooth pannacotta base. Good, satisfying, the kind of flavour that justifies the queue without needing to be life-changing. At Messina, 🍷's choice of the gianduia demanded a moment of reverence. Picture yourself in Piazza San Carlo in Turin, unwrapping a gold-foiled gianduiotto and letting it melt slowly on your tongue — this gelato is that exact sensation, scooped. Chocolate hazelnut perfection, no caveats. She finished with the salted coconut and mango sorbet, a flavour doing two jobs at once. The salted coconut was lovely and well balanced, the salt doing just enough to keep things interesting without overpowering. The mango salsa brought the sweetness it needed to — we just wanted more of it. As it stood, the ratio meant only some bites got the full sweet-salty punch, and the rest were left waiting their turn.

Star Ratings Summary

71% Belgian Dark Chocolate (*Frisco's Creamery*) — 4/5

Turon & Langka (*Frisco's Creamery*) — 2.5/5

Mauritian Vanilla & Smoked Sea Salt (*Frisco's Creamery*) — 3/5

Pannacotta with Fig Jam & Amaretti Biscuit (*Gelato Messina*) — 3.5/5

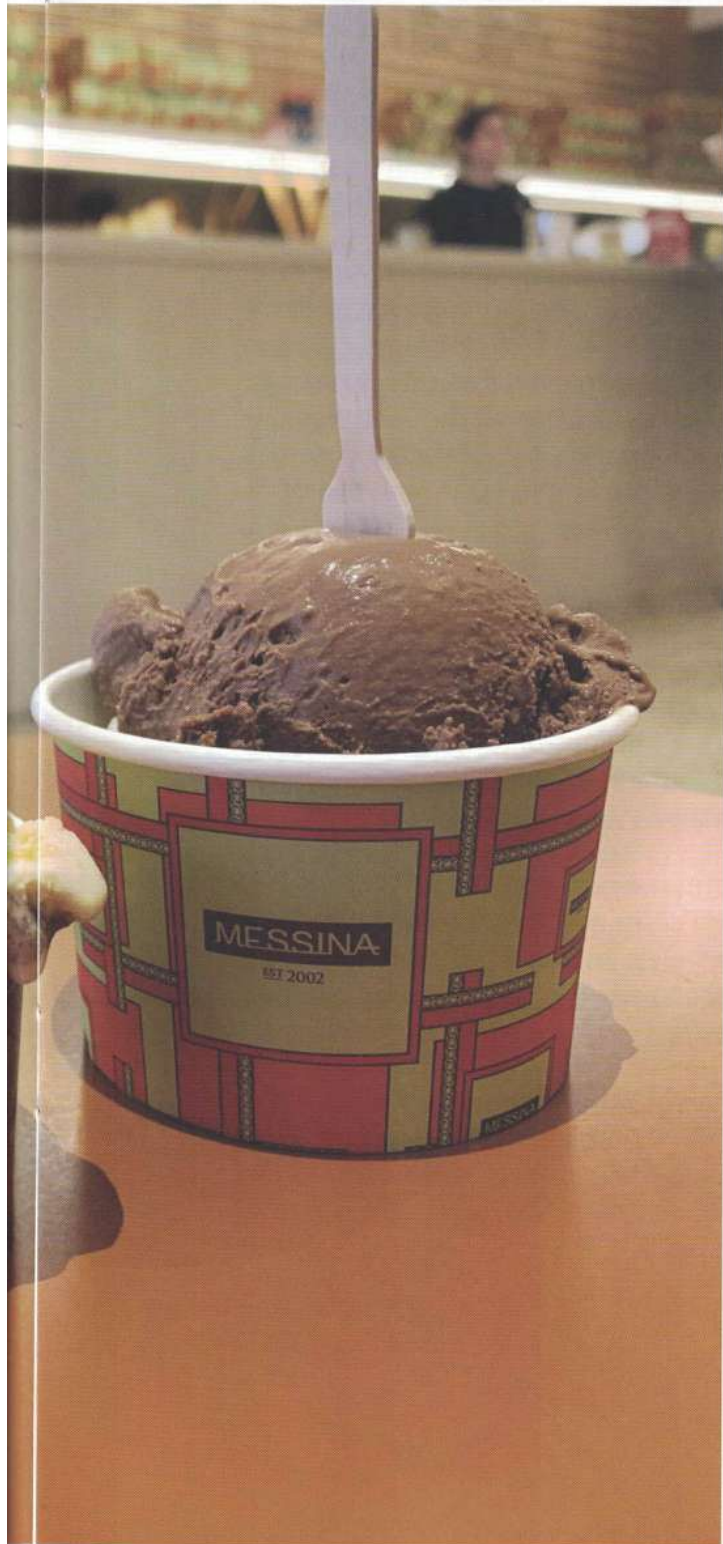
Gianduia (*Gelato Messina*) — 5/5

Salted Coconut & Mango Sorbet (*Gelato Messina*) — 3.5/5

Four stops, thirteen scoops, and one renewed appreciation for the fact that good gelato, much like discipline on public transport, requires a plan. If this has done its job, you're either hungry or already plotting your own route. Either way, we'll keep doing the tasting so you can do the eating — find us on Instagram @melbicecreamreviews for the next scoop of the expedition.



▼ Ice cream from Gelato Messina in Malvern.



Follow @melbicecreamreviews
on Instagram for more ▼



I would just not go in

A review of Backrooms (2026)

by Jason Hovjacky

3.5/5 stars

Kane Parsons is only 21 years old. Did you know that? I certainly did. It is the only fact those promoting Backrooms seemed to know. Letterboxd reviews for Backrooms were half the typical attempts at one-liners, and half 40-year-olds being shocked that 21-year-olds can make movies.

Backrooms (2026) is a satisfying contribution to the canon of Parsons's YouTube series. The Blender animation looks great, and the cinematography is masterful, but I would particularly like to highlight the superb acting across the board. I have one desperate plea: stop casting well-known actors in everything. This is not to disregard any of these actors' previous successes, but overall the cast was unknown to the poor excuse for a cinephile that I am. Every single actor deserves their flowers for great performances, but none more so than Chiwetel Ejiofor as our protagonist, Clark.

In the third act, Ejiofor truly raises the bar for horror movie protagonists. His portrayal of Clark's broken psyche, accelerated by his time in the Backrooms, is so honest that it has had the unfortunate side effect of being too sympathetic, leading to an influx of horrible takes on Instagram. Over the week since I saw Backrooms, I've seen an absurd number of comments along the lines of "lowkey he wasn't in the wrong". Art is subjective, but in this instance, I think the moviegoers who took home this message must have watched with their eyes closed.

Renate Reinsve is not to be forgotten—though her acting throughout the film is subtler than Ejiofor's, due to Mary's professionalism as a therapist and, later, demeanour of person-trying-not-to-get-stabbed. The moments in which Reinsve portrays Mary being emotional are great, especially her outburst at the dinner table.

The scene with Kat and Bobby is the best horror sequence of the film; succinct, fun, and terrifying in equal measure, but the dinner table scene is by far the most striking thematically. Clark uses Mary to create the narrative he believes he deserves, but his façade requires the support of another person, and due to his own choices, Clark is alone.

When Mary confronts him with this, as well deserved as it is, it grates against the patriarchal perversion of a woman yelling at a man, especially one portrayed as sympathetically as Clark. The simple fact that Clark is called out by a woman, and she is slightly mean about it, is enough for a faction of the audience to write Mary off as a bitch and defend every action Clark takes regardless of how they felt beforehand. I don't have an answer as to what exact rewrites might have avoided this, but it unfortunately undercuts a lot of what Parsons tries to say with Clark's character, at least in the asinine online discourse of which I am a reluctant voyeur.

The moment of Captain Clark biting Clark is enthralling, and a beautiful parallel to Goya's *Saturn Devouring His Son*. Not only do the two look visually similar, but thematically, the desperation of the worst parts of Clark to avoid change is revealed to be as futile as Saturn eating his children to avoid losing power: Jupiter's usurpation is inevitable. Regardless of whether this reference was intentional, the moment stuck with me long after I left the theatre.

After seeing *Five Nights at Freddy's 2* in December and *Iron Lung* in January, I was half-convinced that YouTube-related movies could only amount to slop at worst and a pleasant afternoon at best, but the film does a beautiful job of condensing the necessary elements of a four-year passion project into a movie that does not have hours of required reading beforehand.

Parsons' direction on this project is brilliant, and I am sure he will continue his excellent direction, and though overall his writing is great, it leaves a few things to be desired. I love the ideas presented, the characters, and the metaphor of the Backrooms for losing yourself in refusal to change was ingenious, but there are some moments where the writing could be snappier, or plot points and logic better connected. Having characters choose to enter and leave the Backrooms at will makes sense with the intended metaphor, but in the medium of a horror film it makes these characters seem particularly moronic when compared to the typical canon of accidentally falling into the Backrooms.

Regardless, a masterful debut from Parsons. In case you forgot, he is only 21 years old.

Music Reviews

Mandy Li



5/5

you seem pretty sad for a girl so in love, Olivia Rodrigo

5/5

Olivia Rodrigo is back and I was so scared. Not because I thought this album would be bad but mostly I was scared for my emotional state, knowing that whatever this album would contain would be fleetingly, and overwhelmingly, euphoric, until it became dissonant and devastating, and boy was I correct.

The strongest part of the album is how every song captures a specific feeling so perfectly, and a large part of that is attributed to Rodrigo's music philosophy, I think. Her songwriting is fantastic, we know this, but it is especially good to see that she isn't so afraid of venturing outside genres, or of pulling her inspirational punches, so to speak. Her influences and music heroes are scattered all around the album, but not to a sycophantic degree, and her philosophy of working towards an end product that best suits the song, and what it needs, rather than what she likes the most, is so... I don't know, buzzy? Drop dead perfectly captures the heart-pounding feeling of a first date and having a crush, purple burrows itself into your head and leaves you with a trickling sense of unease, the ballads are huge when they need to be and less (ha) so when they need space to breathe, expectations is just so comedic and the sound suits it so well.

I have so many good things to say about this album, but it basically boils down to I love Olivia Rodrigo and her brain. Let it be known that this is an entirely biased review.



5/5

Willoughby Tucker, I'll Always Love You, Ethel Cain
5/5

I think *Willoughby Tucker* deserves a re-rate from me, considering how I went into that album mostly blind back in August and I've had so much time to sit on it. Back then, I gave it a very favourable review, and I'm improving on that favourable review now because wow, this is something you need to marinate in.

I don't think Ethel Cain is an easy listen, I think it's easy to give any Ethel Cain project a listen through and then think "wow, that was good" and then not really think about it further (yes, including *Preacher's Daughter*), but the more you sink your teeth into it the more you're rewarded by piecing together parts of the Ethel Cain universe or coming up with your own theories for what happened. Even the musical elements are fun to listen to— the beginning guitar strums from *Janie* are found in *Dust Bowl*, in the live version of *Sun Bleached Flies*, you can hear the guitar riff from *American Teenager*, and there's so much story to be found in just those musical choices. The intersections between narrative and music, man, they're awesome, this album is so awesome.

One day, I was listening to *Waco, Texas*, which is what I used to think was a 15 minute slog that was good, but had no business being so long. That day, the song clicked for me, and I realised that *Waco, Texas* summarised the album so neatly that I was almost floored by how all the themes intertwined in this slowcore-ass ballad that really doesn't have much else going on: love, regret, yearning, youth, joy, memory, despair, etc. All of the things. Found both in the lyrics but also in the production – the last five minutes of the song are just instrumentals, and the outro is just this beautiful piano phrase that doesn't quite resolve until it does, perfectly, and longingly. It's just so good. I listen to this song when I study. I loop it because by the time the 15 minutes is up you want to listen to it again. It's probably going to be my top song of the year.

Favourites: *Nettles*, *Willoughby's Interlude*, *Dust Bowl*, *Waco, Texas*

AT THE BEACH,
IN EVERY LIFE



4/5

At The Beach, In Every Life. Gigi Perez
4/5

Grief – what a terrible, and beautiful, thing to write about.

Gigi Perez doesn't hold back in this album, balancing love, grief, trauma, and regret in a heavy-handed folk album that isn't afraid of its own ugliness.

Her voice is such a powerhouse. I first heard *Sailor Song* (as we all did) and was very pleasantly surprised to find out that the intensely strong, resonant, lead vocal was performed by a female singer who loves a ballad. You can hear the rawness and emotion of her voice in all of the tracks; *Sleeping, Crown, Normalcy, At The Beach, In Every Life*; it's everywhere, but I felt it the strongest in these tracks. *Crown* is a very hard listen, as is the title track.

This album does simple instrumentals quite well, I could see these songs performed in arenas (or outdoor festivals... thanks Laneway!) as easily as I can see Perez sitting down on a couch and performing in an intimate venue. I could never get sick of the singer-songwriter, folk, sound, but I found some of the more dramatic choices very welcome. I love *Twister*, I think the production suits it perfectly. It sounds like its title, like a storm brewing in your head.

It's Perez's songwriting that blows me away. It's so angry, rageful, and viscerally upset. Self hatred, guilt, regret, yearning, and grief, so much of it, pours onto the page and makes you feel so exposed. I love the little motifs and references all over the album, of fables and myths, disasters, unanswered questions, of God, and faith; thanks, Gigi, for the horrible, contemplative, and utterly gorgeous, 47 minutes of my life.

Favourites: *Sleeping, Normalcy, Please Be Rude, Twister* (TWISTER SUPREMACY!), *At The Beach, In Every Life*



4/5

Lost Boys, Phoebe Bridgers**4/5***Single (not album)*

I am so glad Phoebe Bridgers is back. I survived the 6 year (solo) drought, and I love this song. I love “upbeat” music that is actually depressing as hell, and I love having seasonal depression.

It was amusing (to me, at least) to see all the discourse online calling this song a Phoebe Bridgers happy moment, or like, the *Kyoto* of *Lost Weekend*, because I think this song is actually really devastating. I don’t think Bridgers is saying that being aimless, and drifting, and weightless is a good thing, and at some point, we all have to grow up, which is not yet the sad truth for us university students but very true for grown-ass men who do stupid shit to feel younger than they actually are.

If anything, it’s a credit to *Lost Boys* that I’m very excited to listen to the rest of the album when it comes out, the song credits span a list of very interesting collaborators that I am frothing at the mouth to see all converge into one. God Bless Phoebe Bridgers. I am so glad she is back.

Solstice

by Koko-Rose

History is written in seasons.

Not only in calendars,
or dates remembered in textbooks,
but in the quiet shifts
that happen beneath the surface.

There was a winter
that stayed longer than it should have.

The trees stood bare,
the ground hardened,
and I learned how to survive
on less than I deserved.

The world kept promising spring.

It arrived in birdsong,
in warm afternoons,
in flowers pressing through the soil.

But I could not yet feel its warmth.

So, the seasons turned without me.

Then one day,
so ordinary it almost escaped notice,
something softened.

A laugh lingered.
A table became a place of company.
The sun felt gentle instead of distant.

The ice did not disappear all at once.

It thawed slowly,
like a river remembering how to flow.

Summer arrived quietly.

Not as perfection,
but as longer days,
open windows,
and the growing belief
that life could be more than survival.

Now, when autumn comes,
I do not fear the falling leaves.

I know that endings are not forever.

History has taught me this:

the earth was never barren,
only waiting.

And even the longest winter
cannot stop spring from returning.

MSC Report

Alessandro Papaleo

Since our last report, we have been cursed (or more accurately constitutionally forced to undertake) 3 more meetings of the illustrious Monash Student Council, and by the time you read this, a fourth will have taken place. All bar one have followed the same pattern as all MSCs this year – generally dull and lacking controversy.

MSC 3, on the 15th of April, was the meeting to break the mould, and to my great chagrin, Lot's Wife was unable to be present due to clashing work commitments, so all that I know is what I heard from others who were in attendance and from the meeting minutes. In addition to the usual gamut of motions supporting x, condemning y, and calling for z, there was a motion to appoint the members of the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC), which is normally rather uncontroversial.

For some background, most MSA Departments have Office-bearers and a Committee. OBs attend MSC, get paid, and do most of the work. Committees comprise 7 people who in theory have the power to allocate the departmental budget, but in practice rarely meet and are at best a pool of volunteers for when the OBs run events. All committees, except the AAC,

are elected at the annual MSA elections on a proportional basis, so they are usually split between tickets. The AAC acts as an advisory committee for the Education (Academic Affairs) Department, and it is required to have one student member from each faculty, with that member normally being nominated by the relevant faculty student society (e.g. MESS, LSS, SAS).

This year, the nominated representative from the Law faculty was Tom Hall, the incumbent President of the Law Students' Society. This raised great ire from the SALt representatives on the MSC, as he is employed in the office of Michael O'Brien MP, the member for Malvern and the former leader of the Victorian Liberal Party. Arguments were raised that someone involved with the Liberal Party in such a way should not have input into the MSA's education policy, and that this appointment represents the acceptance of Liberal Party values. Remus (EdAc) argued that the appointment was out of his hands, as he is bound by convention to accept the member nominated by the LSS, and that the AAC is an apolitical body. Others argued it would be unfair to exclude someone from participation based on their political beliefs. In a first for the year, Jos (observer or proxy,

the minutes are unclear) was named for disruptive behaviour.

Despite the motion inevitably passing, it continued to be debated throughout the rest of the meeting during other motions, seeing Madi (EdPub) also named twice, and Jos was named 3 times, leading to his removal from the meeting.

MSC 4, on the 6th of May, was held in one of the Science lecture theatres, presumably because the conference room was full of graduation odds and ends. A lecture theatre is a strange setup for a deliberative meeting, as people aren't facing each other, rather, everyone was looking forward. A pleasant change from the norm is that Zoom is set up and working properly well before the appointed time for the start of the meeting. Up first are OB reports, minutes, and financial statements, all of which pass without issue.

The first substantive motion was to adopt the Administration Regulations, which cover a collection of miscellaneous areas of the MSA, one of which is Lot's Wife. The most notable change occasioned by these Regulations is to force the Editors to submit a final proof of any publication to the Executive 4 days before sending it to

the printers. The Executive, if it considers any content therein to be potentially defamatory, must seek legal advice on the matter, and can only prevent publication if said advice considers the material defamatory. This was discussed in more detail in last edition's editorial, but in short, there are pros and cons to the change. In the plus column, the Executive's nebulous powers are now codified and clearly defined, but on the other hand, they now have the right to effectively preclear all publications. The relevant section of the Regulations can be found overleaf. As expected, the motion was carried unanimously.

The next motion is in relation to Monash's submission to the Victorian Parliament's Inquiry on University Governance, which said, in effect, that there is no benefit to having more elected student and staff representation on Uni Council. The motion condemns the submission and commits the MSA to work with the NTEU to achieve more representation. Various SALT members speak against the motion, with their main thrust being that governance is not the key issue, and more staff and student representation at University Council would not change anything on the ground. Jay (C&S, Exec), who moved the motion, agrees governance is not everything, but it is a major factor, and students and staff on Uni Council can influence the administration through general oversight and appointments. He notes that in 1997, there were 7 staff and 3 students on council, as opposed to 1 apiece today. The

motion goes to a vote, and carries without dissent, with SALT's abstention leading to whispers of shame.

Motion 7 extended the timeframe for the review of misogyny in the MSA until the end of 2026, as opposed to the end of April 2026. This motion saw some rather dramatic about-faces from those who fought tooth and nail against establishing this review last year, who now espoused sunshine and rainbows, and brazenly co-opted the plan that they had so desperately tried to smother at birth. Excerpted below are some relevant sections from the unpublished Lot's Wife report of MSC 7 2025, where the review was created.

The first substantive motion was entitled "Lot's Wife Article," but before discussion began, Jay (C&S, Exec) jumped in to move the procedural that "the meeting shall move onto the next item on the agenda." For those unfamiliar with their copy of Horsley's Meetings (shame), the effect of such a motion is to prevent the original motion being debated or coming to a vote at that meeting. It is also a "dilatatory motion when moved in relation to an original motion," meaning one that is used to waste time, and its proper use is to terminate "a time consuming discussion of an insignificant nature."

...

The procedural is narrowly defeated, with 10 in favour and 12 against. Jay petitions for a recount, which is granted by Sasha (President, Chair), and the procedural fails again, 11-12

The vote [on the substantive motion] is taken, and the motion is tied 11-11 with two abstentions. Sasha exercises her casting vote as President to vote against the motion. Due to some confusion with proxies, a recount is granted, which shows the identical result.

However, there is an issue that eagle eyed readers (or those who mastered grade one maths) will have spotted. 11 votes in favour, 11 against, 2 abstentions, and the casting vote of the President add up to 25 votes - and the MSC is a 24 person body. To resolve the confusion that has broken out on the floor, a division, a poll, and a roll call vote are all proposed. Sasha reluctantly decides to hold a division for those in person, and a roll call for those online. To the best of our recollection, this is the first time the MSC has had a physical division where members move to sides of the room for yonks. The results of the division are 11 in favour, 10 against, and 2 abstentions, so the motion was declared carried to rapturous applause. Those voting in favour included Tyra, Paul (EdAc), John (Indigenous), Charlotte, Eloise, Eden, Georgie, and Grace.

You might be interested to know that to the best of our recollection, all the members present at this MSC who were members of MSC last year, all voted against the misogyny motions, except Diyara (GenRep) and Madi, now all have suddenly changed their minds. The minutes from this meeting have also not been presented to MSC yet.

In any case, the motion obviously carried.

Motions 8-10 were uncontroversial, and not of great interest, except to note that motion 9 started "This MSC commends the MSA," which is rather comical when you think about it. All carried without dissent.

Motion 11 condemns the Federal Government's cuts to the NDIS. Nick (Secretary) moves a procedural to consider the motion in formal debate, then gives a brief overview of the Government's proposed reforms, while being at pains to make clear he does not support them. Various members take issue at the motion's failure to specifically name the Labor Government, with Madi calling this a conservative argument. Mehfooz (D&C), the mover, responds that it isn't a party political issue. The motion was carried without dissent. With no items of general business to follow, the meeting was then closed.

MSC 5, on the 3rd of June, was held online only, and at 5:30pm instead of the usual 11am, apparently due to SWOTVAC. Despite no in person location being specified, the whole Executive, and Remus, have gathered in the MSA meeting room, drawing the ire of Jos, who noted that to get an invite to the in-person meeting you had to join the Labor Party.

As normal, the first motions deal with minutes, reports, and financial statements, all of which are carried without dissent.

Motion 4 commends those who were involved in the successful campaign to bring back law tutorials. Motion 5 calls on Monash to work with the MSA and other student organisations on their review of the APC process. Both are carried without dissent.

Motion 6 commends the NUS and the MSA for the advocacy against the Job-Ready Graduates scheme, with particular note being given to various MSA figures attending the NUS' annual Budget week protest in Canberra. This very protest drew fire from Jos, Sam (observer), and Tashani (observer), who rather reasonably noted that the protest cannot be hugely effective if most of those who went to the protest promptly enter Parliament House to meet and greet various Labor MPs. Jay argues that what MSC members do in their own time isn't relevant to the motion. The motion carries with 19 in favour and 1 against after a closure motion moved by Anushka (ESJ).

Motion 7 endorses the NTEU's Class Size Crisis Report, and commits the MSA to fight for smaller class sizes. The motion is criticised for its weak language, and Jay and Jos get drawn into another argument about the previous motion. The motion carries unanimously.

Motion 8 calls for public transport to be made free in perpetuity. Jos is disappointed that the motion doesn't call for the nationalisation of public transport – so are we. The motion calls for the change to be enshrined

in the state constitution, and after some egregiously incorrect remarks from various members about the process of amending the state constitution, the motion carries unanimously.

In general business, Ethan (Queer) moves an urgency calling on Monash to fly the Pride Flag all year, a commonsense change at no cost but with great benefit. He notes that the Law Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Team are already pushing for the change. The motion carries without dissent. The meeting was closed soon after, at 6:39.

MSC 6, at the time of writing, is yet to take place, and no agenda has been circulated. We know that some changes to the Election Regulations have been proposed (see *How to Become MSA President in 3 Easy Steps*), and some minor drafting changes to the Administration Regulations are also on the table.

Administration Regulations

Part 3 Lot's Wife

11 Delegation of Powers of the MSC to the Executive

(1) The MSC delegates its powers under paragraph 34(9)(b) of the Constitution to the Executive.

Note: Under paragraph 34(9)(b) of the Constitution the Editors of Lot's Wife may be directed by the MSC to include material in Lot's Wife.

(2) The Editor's of Lot's Wife must each member of the Executive 14 days notice of when each edition or other publication is scheduled to be sent to print.

(3) Directions to include material in an edition or publication of Lot's Wife must be made at least 7 days before an edition or other publication is scheduled to be sent to print.

(4) If a direction to include material in an edition of Lot's Wife is not made at least 7 days before an edition is scheduled to be sent to print, it will instead apply to the subsequent edition.

12 Review of publications by the Executive

(1) The Editors of Lot's Wife must give each member of the Executive—

(a) a final digital proof of each edition or other publication of Lot's Wife at least 96 hours before it is sent to print or otherwise published;

(b) notice of the time at which the edition scheduled to be sent to print.

(2) The final digital proof must not be altered without approval by resolution of the

Executive unless the change is made to make corrections to—

- (a) spelling; or
- (b) grammar; or
- (c) formatting; or
- (d) attributions; or
- (e) references.

(3) The final digital proof must not be sent to print earlier than the time notified under paragraph 1(b).

(4) The Executive may by resolution waive the requirement set out in subregulation (3).

(5) The Executive must only give a direction to the Editors to remove material for being potentially defamatory if—

(a) the Executive seeks legal advice on the matter; and

(b) the legal advice—

(i) states that the material is potentially defamatory; or

(ii) is not received at least 24 hours before the time notified under

subregulation 1(b); and

(c) the Executive resolves that it considers the material to be potentially defamatory; and

(d) a summary of the legal advice is shared with the Editors of Lot's Wife as soon as reasonably practicable.

(6) For the purposes of paragraph 34(9)(c) of the Constitution, the President and Secretary must be provided with unrestricted access to—

(a) the Lot's Wife website; and

(b) Lot's Wife social media accounts; and

(c) any other Lot's Wife publication or distribution platforms and accounts.

(7) The President and Secretary must only use access under subregulation (4) in order to remove material the Executive believes to be potentially defamatory.

The Paradox of Queer Migration

Poo Paiya (A Flower Boy)

TW: Transphobia

I am just gonna get right into it. Brace yourselves, this is a bit heavy.

So it's been two years since I moved to Australia from my homeland India. I am a trans man and being trans is not a great thing back home. I am closeted in most places, which means I am dead-named and misgendered everywhere I go and I need to wear clothes I am not comfortable with. Plus the additional concerns of not having gender neutral/all gender toilets, and having a very rigid and strict set of gender binary norms in shops, churches, families, and just about everywhere - it was a hard life. I love my parents and my parents love me BUT they do not accept all parts of me, they still believe I am their daughter and I can be "corrected". I hold no anger towards them though, because I understand them. Growing up, they had not met a single trans man. Trans women, yes, but they had never met or heard of a trans man, and they are fully convinced that this is all in my head. I even had to go to "conversion therapy" which, by the way, is banned in many parts of the world and that's when I decided strongly - "screw this country and wanting to create a change here, I am done, I need to protect my peace, I am leaving India once and for all."

And I got into Monash University, WOOHOO! The excitement was real. I was in awe when I saw gender neutral toilets everywhere. And they have pride flags and lanyards, EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS PRONOUNS? WHAAAT! I do not have to explain what being trans is, people already knew and it was not hard for people to use the right name and pronouns - I was euphoric! My first semester was just perfect. I thought I made it. I uprooted myself from a land that did not accept me and I am here in a land that will be my home.

But boy oh boy, was I wrong! While on the gen-

der side of things I was on cloud nine, nothing prepared me for the international student experience of moving from a collectivistic country to an individualistic country. You see, back home, we do everything together - we eat together, we go to movies together, I hang out with my friends together, go to church together, you have company for everything. But here, you do everything alone. I was more lonely last year than during the pandemic. When I lived on campus, there were days when I did not see a single human being during winter. The isolation was real and my mental health took a bad hit. 2025 was bad. I missed home. I missed home so badly, the comfort (and privilege) of home was truly something else. My mother cooked three meals a day, and we had house help (which is not a big deal in India because labour is relatively cheap, so most middle-class and upper-class families have house help). So there was no cleaning, laundry, or dishwashing for me to do. I also did not have to do grocery shopping regularly, nor did I have to work two part-time jobs as a student there. It was a bloody comfortable life. I never even had to iron my clothes because we have an "iron man" - haha, yes, we literally have someone who collects the clothes, irons them, and brings them back home. It was peak adulthood when I moved here - from living a very comfortable life with all basic needs being met easily, to having to do everything for myself, all alone. I have lovely friends here, but they were all also stressed with a hundred things because they were international students too. I really miss having a community and being able to get support so easily back home. I even read up about this: statistically being an international student in Australia is harder than being in the work force as an immigrant cause the student life schedule is just crazy, having to balance with assignments, coursework, part-time jobs, household chores, and placements is pure chaos.

But can I go back home? No way! Cause I like



wearing whatever I want to, I like being called by my name, I like being trans and being out. I don't want to be closeted. I don't want to hide who I am. I'd rather be lonely here than go back and be miserable there. But I do miss home and the sense of belonging back home. I had the loveliest time at my native place with my grandparents last time I visited, and my therapist told me something beautiful - I have an existing forest in my native place. A forest I was born into and already belong to, and everyone knows me. A community that existed before I was born, generations of belonging and now I'm in a new country with just a seed. I've gotta build a new forest for myself here. That community takes time, and I have to give it the time it needs.

It's not all bad, though. Back home, I quit a job because my boss told me I cannot see clients from the LGBTQIA+ community. Here, I got a job because I am trans. I happened to be at the Pride march at Monash and asked the REDI (Respect, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) team if they had any openings, and I landed my first job with them. I have a trans flag in my ID card lanyard. Everyone calls me by my real name; no one even knows my deadname. I ONLY WEAR CLOTHES I WANT TO! YAY! I even wear a veshti (traditional Tamil men's wear) – how cool is that? My hair is the length I want. And one day, when I am ready to get married, I can get married here. I can also adopt children here. You know what that means? It means I can have the life that I have always wanted for myself in this foreign land.

So tell me then, what is home? The place you are born into that does not accept all parts of you but loves you nevertheless, or the place you migrate to, where you struggle, but you get to be yourself?

Unconditional Positive Regards,

Poo Paiya 🌻
Flower Boy 🏳️‍🌈





im in arms

by Limmy Hoi-Chuen

War is overdone.
Twelve hundred wars to end all wars,
and all we do is run:
from fists and spears and planes and bombs.

It only takes a gun
to scatter brain across the ground
to paint the dirt with someone's son,
buried in the mirth and ecstasy of angry men.

im in arms.

In the arms of a lover beyond the battlefield,
who didn't mean to die,
of a boy across the shore from us
who wouldn't hurt a fly,
of a girl who used to dream of wings
and pray that she could fly.

To fly is all I ever wanted.
In your arms.

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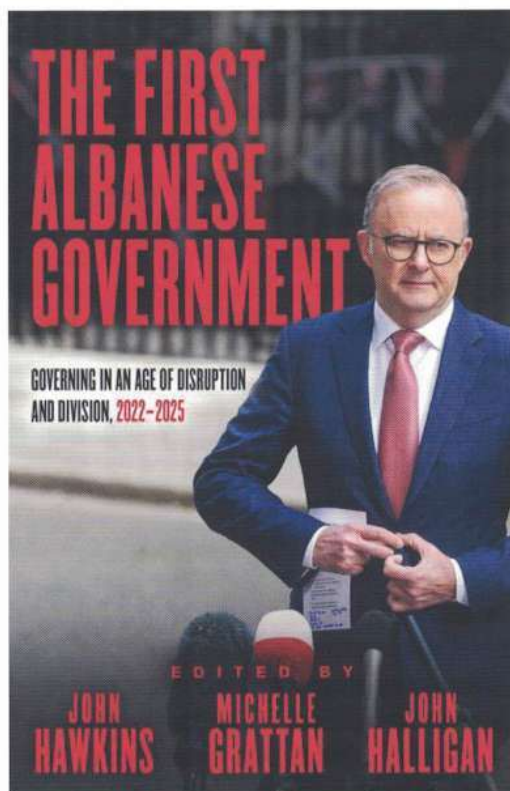


Book Reviews

Angus Duske

Well, we're officially halfway through the year and thus far, and I've now read 78 books. Admittedly, this marks a deceleration in the rate at which I was getting through books earlier in the year, but then again exams have taken a toll – reading on the train to university had to be sacrificed on the altar of the academic lock-in.

Having demolished my annual Goodreads reading goal (50 books) some time back in March, my new goal for the remainder of the year is to polish off my ever-shrinking to-be-read pile before I'm allowed to purchase any new books. Those that know me will know this is a far greater challenge, as I have a knack for failing to walk out of a bookstore empty-handed. A half-decent window display could well be labelled my kryptonite, but I digress.

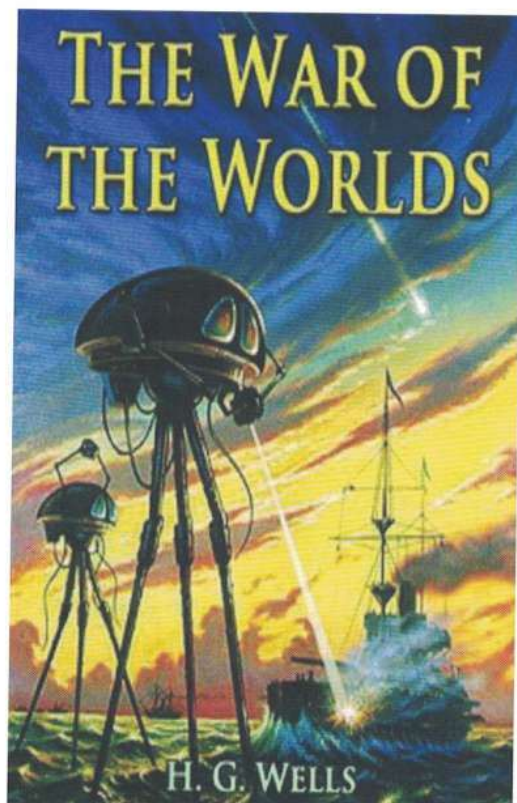


The First Albanese Government: Governing in an Age of Disruption and Division by John Hawkins, Michelle Grattan, and John Halligan (eds) (2026)

Rating: 4/5

Despite having only been elected four years ago and being reasonably well informed in matters of Australian politics, many of the Albanese Government's achievements, blunders, and the ups-and-downs of the parliamentary process may have slipped my mind. Generally, the book's contributors come to the same conclusion: The Albanese Government has made reform in some areas but in others there's more work to be done before it can ascend to the pedestal of great reformers such as the Hawke and Whitlam governments.

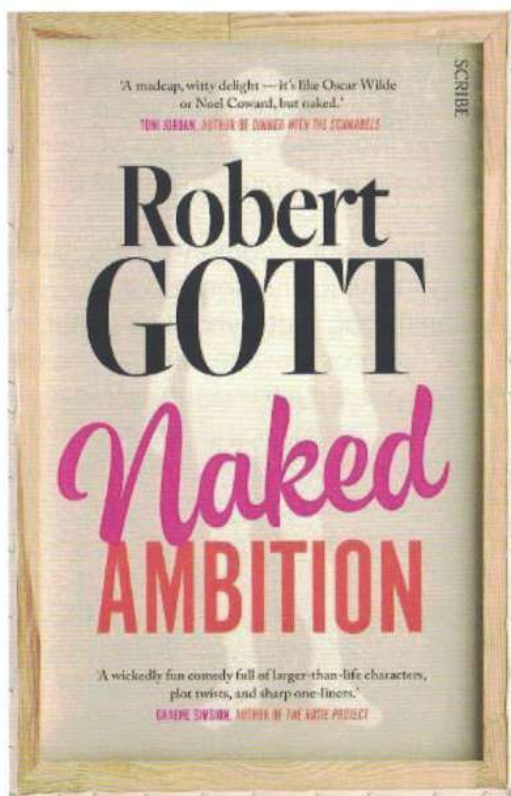
The way in which the individual essays are organised is also to the text's credit, tackling the question of the Albanese Government's success both holistically and through the examination of individual policy areas. This allowed for effective analysis of the government's agenda and policy direction rather than giving a blow-by-blow recount of their term of government peppered with analysis of issues as they occurred.

The War of the Worlds by HG Wells (1898)**Rating: 4/5**

From time to time, I find myself dabbling with classics that I've read before but return to because they are in a small enough format to slip in one's jacket pocket on a night out – this is the exact reason that a standard Penguin book is the size it is. Many of Wells' works of science fiction draw on contemporaneous themes and ideas, and this is also true in the case of *The War of the Worlds* which deals with the then young concepts of natural selection and the impacts of imperialism – Wells later specified the effects of European colonisation on the Indigenous peoples of Tasmania to have been an inspiration for the plot.

Turning to the book's contents itself, Wells' genius is portraying the events of the Martian invasion through the eyes of an unnamed first-person narrator. Despite being nameless, the depth of character and the interactions our narrator has with the society around him in this tumultuous time constructs a deep understanding of scale and emotion. Keeping the story centred on our narrator and his younger brother also keeps the plot grounded and appropriately scaled in contrast to other works of science fiction that attempt a similar plot albeit at a grander scale of narration that just doesn't build that emotional connection. It is an element of science fiction that has drifted from, but is slowly returning – see Andy Weir's *The Martian* or *Project Hail Mary*.

Finally, in concluding I should say that while reading this classic, I also happened to be listening to Jeff Wayne's Musical Version of the War of the Worlds – I suppose you could say I was War-of-the-Worlds-maxxing? – which I thoroughly enjoyed. Impressively, I even managed to keep pace with it at least for its opening songs.



Naked Ambition by Robert Gott (2023)

Rating: 4/5

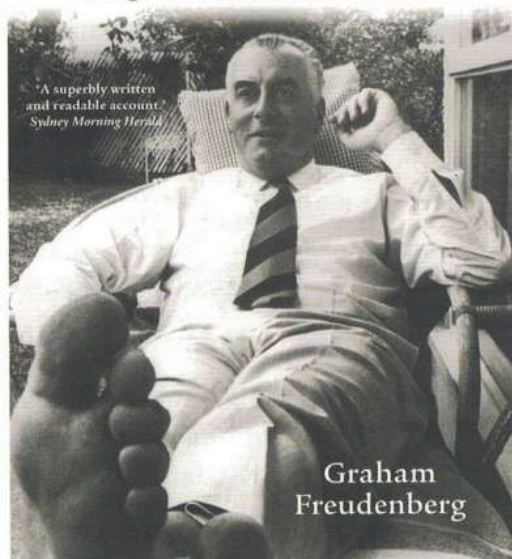
My mother recommended this book to me, having read it herself and knowing my interest in absurdist comedy and politics. Turns out her intuition was correct – though I suppose that comes from having lived with me for 22 and a half years.

Naked Ambition is best described, in my cultured opinion as a combination of Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Andrew Davies's UK adaptation of the *House of Cards* starring Ian Richardson (which is superior to the American adaptation, just saying), *The Thick of It*, and a sketch lifted from Monty Python's *Flying Circus*. If that's not a glowing recommendation then I don't know what is.

I got through the whole thing in a single day, albeit interrupted by work. Though had I not been, I'm confident I would have got through the whole thing in less than three hours. It's a simple plot albeit executed flawlessly with characters who have been absurdified to the nth degree for maximum comic effect. A combination so addictive that I struggled to put it down.

A Certain Grandeur

Gough Whitlam's Life in Politics



A Certain Grandeur: Gough Whitlam's Life in Politics by Graham Freudenberg (2009)

Rating: 5/5

I've read a lot of political memoirs in my time, including several on Gough Whitlam. Inevitably, the first 100 pages, or 200 if exceptionally long-winded, detail the subject's troubled early years before politics and how that moulded them for the role they would eventually fulfil – usually at a level of detail that leaves me wondering whether it is strictly necessary. In the case of *A Certain Grandeur*, however, Freudenberg dispenses with what Marshall Ganz has dubbed the public narrative and launches straight into Whitlam's ascendancy to the Deputy Leadership of the ALP under Arthur Calwell.

Freudenberg's intimate connection with the period of history, as Whitlam's speechwriter throughout his premiership, lends him an authority that other biographers relying upon second-hand stories may not always have. The other strength of this structure is that it serves as a reminder of how much the Whitlam Government achieved in a short span of time – largely because Freudenberg elevates the achievements of Whitlam's government using Whitlam as a common thread rather than elevating Whitlam using his government's achievements as the common thread.



Monash Student Association (Clayton) Incorporated
2026 ANNUAL ELECTIONS
Monday 7 September – Thursday 10 September 2026

NOTICE OF ELECTION

The following positions are to be elected at the MSA Annual Elections.

Office Bearer positions:

- President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Disabilities and Carers Officer
- Education (Academic Affairs) Officer
- Education (Public Affairs) Officer
- Welfare Officer
- Women's Officer
- Queer Officer
- People of Colour Officer
- Environment & Social Justice Officer
- Indigenous Officer
- Activities Officer
- Creative and Live Arts Officer
- Residential Community Officer
- Lot's Wife Editor/s

Monash Student Council and Committees:

- Monash Student Council (5 General Representatives)
- Women's Affairs Committee (7 Members)
- Activities Advisory Committee (7 Members)
- Creative and Live Arts Committee (7 Members)
- Student Affairs Committee (7 Members)
- Student Welfare Committee (7 Members)
- Queer Affairs Committee (7 Members)
- Environment and Social Justice Committee (7 Members)
- Disabilities and Carers Committee (7 Members)
- People of Colour Collective (7 Members)



Monash Student Association (Clayton) Incorporated
2026 ANNUAL ELECTIONS
Monday 7 September – Thursday 10 September 2026

National Union of Students:

- 7 Delegate positions

These elections are conducted using optional preferential voting, and in accordance with other provisions as required under the MSA Constitution, MSA Committee Regulations and MSA Election Regulations (eg. only women can stand and vote for the Women's Officer position).

Tickets

Ticket registration and re-registrations open at 10am on Monday 20 July. Ticket registration and reregistration closes Thursday 30 July at 5pm. The tickets registered will be published on the MSA Elections website by 6pm on Tuesday 4 August.

Nominations

Nominations should be submitted via this link: <https://bit.ly/4wNikiw>

You may also choose to nominate via the soft copy form at the Elections Website (<https://bit.ly/4pw36vY>), but it will take longer for your nomination to be processed.

Nominations open at 10am on Monday 3 August and close 6pm Friday 14 August.

Election information – Elected role outlines and Election Timetable

All election related information including the Elected role outlines, Election Regulations and the Election Timetable are available via the MSA Elections internet page: <https://bit.ly/4pw36vY>

Voting

Polling for the MSA elections will be from 10am Monday 7 September until 5pm Thursday 10 September. You will be able to vote online and at voting booths on campus through a voting link sent to your email.

Owen Wrangle
Returning Officer

Jessica Fox
Deputy Returning Officer

msa.returningofficer@gmail.com

That Time the Executive Censored Lot's Wife

OH

Throughout its history, Lot's Wife has gone through various attempts to censor its contents. Student publications have always challenged their readers and pushed the legal boundaries. Several editors of Lot's Wife have faced court under Australia's once harsh obscenity censorship laws.¹ Sometimes the desire to censor has come from within.

One area is Australia's equally strict defamation laws. Keen readers would have undoubtedly followed the saga of the *Misogyny in the MSA* article. The MSA's Constitution grants complete editorial independence of Lot's Wife to her editors, except for empowering the Executive to censor articles considered "potentially defamatory".² The rationale is likely a necessary one: the Executive has a legal duty to protect MSA against liability. If a lawsuit drains a student union of all of its money, who exactly would that serve?

On the other hand, it is easy to imagine how this power is easy to abuse. Particularly where the person potentially defamed enjoys a high rank in the MSA. This is what occurred in 2007 when the editors of Lot's Wife alleged that the ruling ticket (Go!) had bribed a minor party ticket.

*"The following article has been 'watered down' from its original content. The Go! dominated MSA Executive ... would not allow the original article to be printed, meaning that they now have censorship to add to their other failings this year."*³

From the 2000s until well into the late 2010s, the Go! ticket dominated student politics in Monash. In 2006, they were set to face off against Activate, Action and "the VAD". Go! generally took its ranks from left wing factions of the Labor Party, Activate took from the right and Liberals, and Action consisted of more left-wing independents and the Greens. On the other hand, VAD stood for Victory against Democracy and to understand them, I reproduce for you, dear reader, this excerpt from VAD's manifesto:

*"Ask not what THE VAD can do for you, but what you can do for yourself so THE VAD will not punish you. If you show sufficient RESPECT, by kneeling, by praying, by voting for THE VAD, we will achieve our aims, which is to say complete and total assimilation of the MSA into THE VAD."*⁴ – VAD's 2006 Election Manifesto

Elected as part of Go!'s 2006 ticket, the Lot's Wife editors became more cynical towards the so-called "Go-bots" that they saw dominating the MSA. In August, they decided to publish long-swirling rumours that the Go! ticket had bribed VAD by paying for its election pamphlets in exchange for VAD directing its preferences to Go!⁵ These pamphlets were "shit sheets" – revealing the alignment of Activate's candidates with the Liberal Party or right-wing factions of the Labor Party.

At this point, the article cuts out, the remainder censored by the Executive. The remainder would have named a sitting MSA Executive member as being responsible for the bribery.

1 See eg, LW 8(13), LW 11(15) p 5.

2 MSA Constitution cl 34(9)(c).

3 LW 47(6) p 10.

4 LW 46(10) p 15.

5 LW 47(6) p 10.

The editors decried the interference, presenting their own legal advice in protest.⁶ In fear that the editors would defy the Executive, the Treasurer decreed that purchase orders for Lot's Wife would not be issued until the edition had been considered by the Executive.⁷ Despite this, the Treasurer's fears would come to be realised:

"[The Treasurer] thinks that the paper will be on his desk ... to be vetted and approved prior to printing, and hasn't worked out by then Lot's will be safely on the stands" – Dara, 2007 Lot's Wife editor.⁸

For the final edition of that year, the editors independently fundraised the necessary monies to print it independent of the MSA itself.⁹ The Treasurer hit back, comparing the censorship to be no different to any other kind that was constitutionally required to be removed from the publication.¹⁰ Control was further tightened with each new edition to be sent to the printers from the President's computer.

"MSA Executive still talking about the fucking vetting agreement"¹¹

The controversy spilled past 2007. The 2008 editors largely avoided the controversy, with one writing given "the biblical significance of the name, then Lot's should look towards a brighter future".¹² However, the 2009 President was keen to put an end to this strange stalemate: in exchange for promising not to publish anything "potentially defamatory", the Executive vetting would end.¹³ The editors, with the view that the entire arrangement was illegitimate, staunchly refused to agree. The President threatened to go to the Student Council to force the editors to accept the agreement.¹⁴

"How quickly we forget"¹⁵

In the end, the position of the 2009 editors mattered little. That year, Go! ran candidates for Lot's Wife editor that beat out the independent student media collective that the editors had won on in 2008. When asked why Go! put so much effort into obtaining the editorship, the 2009 President merely replied "we want it part of our empire".¹⁶ In many respects, this represented student politics at its all-consuming extreme: those who are engaged in their own independent creative expression who collide with the ambitious young politicians become subsumed into the morass that is student politics. Go!'s reign over the MSA continued long-beyond entire controversy, with it facing very little competition in the years thereafter.

It is obvious that potentially defamatory material cannot be published. A student organisation that shares its internal legal advice could have the same advice used against them.¹⁷ Combined with a general sense of student apathy, it is no wonder that the 2007 censorship controversy reaches the disappointing conclusion that it does. The entire process is opaque, but to some extent, it must necessarily be so. However, the student body voting in elections will never get to know of the merits of any particular action. Therein lies the danger of the Executive's censorship powers.

6 LW 47(7) pp 5-7.

7 LW 47(7) p 7.

8 LW 47(8) p 7.

9 Ibid.

10 LW 47(8) p 7. MSA is barred by its Constitution from publishing any material that is "racist, sexist, queerphobic or militaristic": cl 57.

11 LW 49(5) p 14.

12 LW 48(1) p 4.

13 LW 49(1) p 13; LW 49(4) p 6.

14 LW 49(5) p 14.

15 LW 49(4) p 6.

16 LW 49(8) p 13.

17 Evidence Act 2008 (Vic) s 122(3)(a).

OFFICE BEARER REPORTS

Where multiple OBs are listed, all reports are submitted jointly except where stated otherwise.

President - Leroy van Schellebeck

Hellooooooooo and welcome back to Sem 2!!!!!!

Sooo Sem 1 results came out.... huge congrats to everyone who smashed it, and to the rest of us, P's get degrees, righhtt?? Either way, you made it, and that's what counts:) Hope you spent the break doing literally anything other than refreshing WES. Whether you were working, travelling, or professionally rotting in bed (respect), hopefully you're recharged. Meanwhile, your MSA team worked right through winter, teaming up with Monash Uni to lock in even more cost-of-living wins, and we're only getting started hehe.

Here's what's happened since the last edition:

1. Free Parking on Mondays got extended TWO more times, now running until July 24!
2. Free parking during Sem 1 exams (you're welcome;))
3. MSA WAM Snacks kept you fuelled through SWOTVAC and exams

And the big one: if you're reading this hot off the press, Mid-Year O-Fest is happening RIGHT NOW (or very soon) at Campus Centre (July 29, 11am-3pm). Whether you're brand new or just pretending Sem 1 didn't happen, come say hi, there'll be freebies:)

As always, plenty more is brewing behind the scenes. Keep an eye on @msa.clayton for everything that drops between now and print:))

Treasurer - Lana Abdelhalim

I have been working across several initiatives fo-

cused on delivering practical support and advocacy outcomes for students. This has included Free Parking Mondays, \$50 cost-of-living vouchers, subsidised meals at Sir John's Bar and Wholefoods, the weekday Free Breakfast Program, and Tuesday and Thursday Grab-and-Go breakfasts.

I have also been involved in menstrual health advocacy, including campaigning for longer short extensions, while working alongside other departments to support their campaigns and initiatives. A major Semester 1 highlight was helping plan, budget and deliver the MSA Ball. Alongside these projects, I have continued supporting MSA departments with their budgets, events and campaigns. In Semester 2, I will continue working to make university more affordable, accessible and supportive for students.

Secretary - Nick Fallaw

No report received from this office-bearer.

Activities - Naty Gebremedhin and John Lavanya (report submitted by John Lavanya)

Hello everybody, and welcome (or welcome back) to Monash! We wish we could welcome you the way Hagrid welcomes students to Hogwarts... but this will have to do for now. 😊

We're John and Naty, your MSA Activities Office Bearers, and after an eventful Semester One, we're so excited to be back with even more fun planned for Semester Two!

This past semester was packed with incredible memories. We kicked things off with OFAD, launched Baraoke (bar night + karaoke, as you probably guessed!), enjoyed a cosy movie night watching *Paddington*, and wrapped up with the MSA Grand Queer Trivia Night, a fantastic collaboration with the Queer, Women's, ESJ, and POC Departments, hosted by two very talented drag queens! They slayed! 🌈

Now we're ready to do it all again! This semester, you can look forward to a roller-skating event, a petting zoo, expanded Wednesday sessions with an exciting after-party, and, as you already heard, another OFAD.

We can't wait to see familiar faces and meet new ones. Keep an eye out for our upcoming events, and get ready for another semester filled with fun, friends and unforgettable memories. See you around campus! <3

Creative and Live Arts - Eowyn Judge and Linden Wareing

Hey everyone! It's Eowyn and Linden, your Creative and Live Arts Officers!

Semester 1 at Wednesday Sessions has been an absolute blast! We've loved hanging out with you all at the Lemon Scented Lawns, from huge acts like Battlesnake to Teen Jesus and The Jean Teasers, to showcasing our insanely talented student bands like Astral High and Panderim. Nothing beats watching the Monash community come alive on the grass.

We've also been keeping you fed and vibing with our sausage sizzles, cold drinks, and a little something extra for those who stick around!

And we're only just getting started.

Semester 2 is shaping up to be even bigger. We're cooking up a stacked mid-sem lineup, with more live music, more student talent, and a few exciting new surprises we can't fully spill just yet... but trust us, you'll want to be there.

Keep an eye on those Big Orange teasers on the MSA Clayton Instagram!

We can't wait to be back on the grass with you all - louder, bigger, and better than ever. Let's run it back for Semester 2!

Disabilities and Carers - Mehfooz Khan and Olivia Reid

No report received from this department.

Education (Academic Affairs) - Remus Brasier and Ruby Paul

Welcome back for Sem 2 - it's been too long!

Our highlight since we've last reported was the return of Law Tutorials for Semester 2, a welcome u-turn and a recognition of strong student opposition to the changes announced last year. Special thanks to the Executive, LSS, and Law representatives on the Academic Affairs Committee for their part in this incredible win for students.

Inspired in part by the law tutes issue, a big focus for Sem 2 is reform to student consultation processes at a VC and faculty level. Too many big calls have been made without appropriate student voice, destroying student confidence and threatening our tertiary education experience.

EdAc's biggest event of the Semester is this year's Teaching Awards, to be held in early November. We recently launched our nomination form and have been astounded by the response, with more than 100 nominations in just the first week! Check out our article later in this issue for the lowdown.

Finally - by the time you read this, APC round 1.26 will be well and truly underway. We're always looking for new volunteers, so if you're interested, please reach out via msa-education@monash.edu.

Cheers Monash - chat soon!

Education (Public Affairs) - Madeline Curkovic and Harleen Singh

No report received from this department.

Environment and Social Justice - Anushka Sharma and Penelope Scacciante

(report submitted by Anushka Sharma)

HEY MONASH! What a semester it has been. ESJ has, as always, been incredibly busy with clothes swaps, coffee catch-ups, and Digging for Dirty Ties in collaboration with our friends at Stop Woodside Monash, continuing the fight in the national fossil fuel divestment campaign whilst working alongside activists and students across the country. We also helped run our first-ever HOLI event with the Swinburne and Deakin student unions. It really has been a BUSY semester for us. ESJ was also present at this year's Edcon at UTS, delivering two important workshops on normalising environmentalism, how to recruit ac-

tivists, and the feminist playbook (more than being a Women's Officer). We've got some incredible events coming up in semester 2, so stay KEEN and we will catch you then!

People of Colour - Alejandro Mariona and Rofida Arnaout

(report submitted by Rofida Arnaout)

Hey guys!!

The POC Department is back for another semester of building community!

Last semester we brought you Women of Colour Tea Time Talk, the MSA Iftar, and Drag Queen Trivia in collaboration with other MSA departments for Pride Month— all of which were a huge success.

This semester, we're keeping the momentum going with POCNICS, a welcoming space to meet new people, alongside Careers Week, Monash's Got Talent (the perfect way to de-stress at the end of semester), and finally, our biggest event of the year, One World Festival, happening this September! Expect incredible performances, cultural celebrations, and plenty of food. Most important of all- it's completely free!

Keen to see there!

Mohamed Orabi's leave was extended for 3 months by the Executive, and Alejandro Mariona was appointed in a caretaker capacity, replacing the previous caretaker Divyanshu Malik.

Queer - Tyler Hollis and Ethan Imbriano

(report submitted by Ethan Imbriano)

Hey all you gorgeous people!

MSA Queer has had an amazing first semester for 2026 with all of our events proving to be an absolute hoot. Whether it was our drag bingo, movie night with GLEAM, the longstanding Pixel Night or even our most recent venture of Drag Trivia during the mid-year break, we are so thankful for all of you who continue to show up! We aren't slowing down yet though! For Semester 2 we have some amazing things planned, the most exciting of which being our annual Queer ball which always leaves everyone absolutely gagged! On

the advocacy front we have joined with EDI at the Faculty of Law to push Monash to permanently fly the Intersex Progress Pride Flag on all Australian campuses. For the back half of the year we will continue to endeavor to bring fun, energetic and queer-friendly events to the masses! As always, please contact us (either on social/email or in person) if you have any ideas/concerns/[queer]ies ;) that we can help out with, we're here to advocate for you and that's what we promise to keep doing.

Lots of love,
MSA Queer

P.S. Happy belated Pride Month everyone!

Residential Community - Lily Rose and Ashley Rosewall

(report submitted by Lily Rose)

Hello hello everyone! The Res department had a busy semester, and after a few weeks of break we are back and ready for what's next.

This coming semester is shaping up to be a big one for our resses, with more food drops, RA support, Jazz Night and an off campus party in the works. We're also of course working on more behind-the-scenes advocacy and initiatives, like a bus from the Nott, incident response management, and transparency regarding rent increases. Keep an eye out for updates on our Instagram and reach out with any questions or concerns!

Love Lily and Ash

p.s. keep your eyes peeled on the next edition for a piece by yours truly xx

Welfare - Rafiad Jewel and Carla Hunaidi

(report submitted by Rafiad Jewel)

I, Rafiad Ruhi Jewel, together with my Co Office Bearer Carla Hunaidi, are delighted to welcome you to another edition of Lots Wife. Womenjika!

The past semester has been both productive and rewarding for the Welfare Department. We successfully delivered 12 Free Food Mondays, providing meals to more than 250 students at each event. In addition, we expanded our second flagship initiative, Welfare on Wheels, by hosting five successful events that distributed almost 500 essential health care items across libraries on the

Clayton campus.

Collaboration remained at the heart of our work throughout the semester. We partnered with Wholefoods Restaurant to support our food relief initiatives while also increasing volunteer recognition through enhanced volunteering points. During Orientation Week, we collaborated with the Women's Department, and later reunited with both the Women's Department and the MSA Education and Social Justice Department to deliver a successful Clothes Swap initiative.

Looking ahead, we are committed to maintaining this momentum throughout the coming semester. We are making significant progress on a major collaboration with Headspace, with the aim of strengthening mental health support and integrating its services more closely within the university community. At the same time, we are collecting firsthand data from students to produce a comprehensive Cost of Living Report for Monash students. The findings from this report will guide our future welfare initiatives and strengthen our advocacy efforts to better represent and support the student community.

Women's - Mehreen Khan and Esha Serai

(report submitted by Mehreen Khan)

Hello lovelies! Hope you've had an incredible Semester 1 and a kind exam season. In Semester 1, we had the opportunity to host you at our International Women's Day event and at two of our super successful Clothes Swap events with ESJ and Welfare. Our recurring fortnightly Tea Time Talk events also hosted amazing conversations over tea and biscuits, one of which featured Headspace's resources and a self-reflection session. We've also spent time reading and discussing together at our monthly Intersectional Feminist Book Club events! In terms of advocacy, we've had the chance to discuss campus lighting and accessibility with Monash's Building and Property team, and, through consistent check-ins regarding free pad dispensers, have secured access to Victoria's Free Pad initiative across various bathrooms in Clayton and Caulfield. Currently, we are in the process of reviewing Monash's report on Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Harm Prevention and Response and are working on writing the internal Misogyny Review. We are also prep-

ping a very exciting and unique take on Safe and Sexy Week during Week 4 of Semester 2 and are very eager to announce more information soon! A very important reminder: if you identify as a woman and require advocacy assistance, please reach out to our email: msa-womens@monash.edu or feel free to knock on our office doors during working hours!

Love,
Mehreen and Esha

Clubs and Societies - Jay Davis

After a busy Semester 1, C&S has been hard at work over the winter break preparing for the new semester. A particular focus is getting ready for participation by clubs at the MSA's Mid-Year Festival for new students on Wednesday of Week 1.

Following a competitive application process last semester, the following clubs were selected for affiliation and are now up at running for this semester:

- Monash Atmospheric, Geological and Environmental Society (MAGES)
- Monash Criminology Student Association (MCSA)
- Monash Hindu Student Society
- Monash Tamil Language Society (MTLS)
- Women in Business Monash (WIB)
- Women in IT Monash (UnITy)

Another new club application round has now commenced and after the close of applications at the end of Week 2, the C&S Executive will be considering applications from student groups that are interested in becoming affiliated clubs later this semester.

C&S will also be holding its annual Monash Clubs Awards night with Monash Sport in Week 5 to celebrate the amazing work of club committees at the Monash Clayton Campus. Awards to be given out include: Office-Bearer of the Year, Most Outstanding Administration and Most Popular Club Event.

Mature-Age and Part-Time Students Association - Alex Self

MAPS has striven this year to deliver more amenities, new events and better governance.

In the Lounge, there's already a bounty of drinks and snacks. We're adding new multi-monitor setups in the quiet study area. Plus, new ways to relax with your friends—or make new ones!

Being mature-age or part-time can be isolating. Our Couch Concerts last semester brought students together through music. This semester, keep an eye out for our games night, morning tea and other regular events. There's also plans which we shan't spoil now for professional-focused activities.

We've overhauled our Constitution but more work remains. Expect further opportunities this semester for democratic participation in making a more transparent, efficient organisation.

Finally, MAPS must take umbrage with assertions in the two previous editions that we did not provide reports, which we consider misleading. Lot's Wife's public submission form on their website was (and still is) closed and the Editors failed to give notice of alternatives processes or relevant deadlines. Such issues were communicated privately but not rectified. Other MSA representatives tell of papers being slid clandestinely under their doors as the only means of learning about submissions. To date, no apology has been given by the Editors.

Lot's Wife must take umbrage at these assertions. MAPS, like all MSA Departments and Divisions, was emailed the submission link for reports, but in this wonderful world of governance reforms, the email supplied to us has evidently fallen into disuse. We had no reason to suspect that MAPS was not receiving our submissions link, and when brought to our attention, we remedied the issue as soon as possible – as you can see by the presence of this very report. Lot's Wife was not party to any private communications, except those that resulted in the rectification of the issue. Our clandestine passing of notes was anything but – our Editor saddled with that lovely task felt rather foolish passing notes under doors into empty offices, with such notes representing the third reminder to OBs to submit their reports, so far from "the only means of learning about submissions."

Monash University International Student Service - Ishan Puri

In Semester 1, MUISS focused on supporting international students in a consistent and visible way. We wanted students to regularly see MUISS around campus, not just at one or two major events. Over the semester, we held weekly welfare lunches, study sessions with around 30 to 40 students, movie nights with about 60 attendees, board game nights, an Amazing Race in the city, and a Day Trip that sold out all 65 tickets in one day. We also collaborated with ACYA to host an International Student Guide workshop to help students adjust to life at Monash.

Semester 1 was an important learning time for us as a team, and we are excited to build on that in Semester 2. Coming up, we are getting ready for Orientation and International Student Day, MSC x MUISS Trivia Night, Careers Week, One World, R U OK? Day, an Inter-Campus Movie Night, a party or mixer, day trips, and more welfare, social, and support-focused initiatives.

Radio Monash - Noah Martin

Wassup, Radmon disciples! This year has been huge, with plenty of fresh events joining the Rad-Monosphere. We kicked things off by teaming up with MSA Welfare for Free Food Mondays, giving students a reason to grab a bite and hang out. We also launched Writing Fest and Band Matchmaking, helping connect creatives across campus, and who knows, Band Matchmaking might just make a comeback, so keep an eye on our Instagram.

One of the biggest highlights was our very first hardcore event, ***Radio Monash Mayhem***, featuring Heat Hardcore, Death Tax, Illan Kaapan, Dead End, and Radio Monash's own Burden of Proof. The show sold out twice and was even livestreamed!

If you missed out, don't worry, we will have more next sem. If you need company in between our big events, our broadcasts can keep you covered all semester long with music, conversations, stories, and everything in between.

And we're only just getting started. Next semester brings Songwriting Fest, complete with a songwriting competition, plus Battle of the Bands. Oh, and we might just be heading *Back On The Waves*. Oops... maybe I've said too much! Stay tuned, keep following Radio Monash, and watch as RadMon continues to take over.

