

fedpress

Magazine



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Federation University's
Student Publication



REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!

The Southern University Games (SUGs) is a not-to-be-missed event that attracts over 1800 student competitors each year.

The SUGs are renowned for providing a friendly but competitive environment for like-minded students to compete against other universities from across Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

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The cost to register is \$160. Your team managers will be able to give you further details on the costs of accommodation, transport and uniforms.



Contact your team managers to find out about training sessions and how to get involved.

www.federation.edu.au/sport



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SUBMISSIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE JULY ISSUE OF



The submission deadline is Friday 10 July at 5pm




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FEDPRESS

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“I accidentally got my workmate fired.”

By Anonymous

After I left high school, I decided to take a year off to work before settling into university. I got a job — like so many of us do — at a funny little Italian restaurant in my home town. The boss was a brash old man who was fond of calling people out on their mistakes, and less fond of giving you a pat on the back when you did something good. I always went out of my way to not get on his bad side, but even then, sometimes it just couldn't be helped.

Shortly after I started, a girl about my age got a job there too. I'll call her Lily. By the end of the week, it was obvious that she lacked both the confidence and necessary memory skills needed to work in hospitality. She was constantly taking meals to the wrong table and sending through the wrong orders. She was, however, extremely friendly and eager to prove herself, and for this reason the boss decided to keep her on.

As the weeks went by, Lily began to improve, but even then it was a slow process. There was constant talk of her being 'let go', but it never seemed to come to fruition. Three months went by, and to my surprise, Lily was still there. Selfishly, I was glad to still have her there, because it meant that no matter how badly I screwed up, she would have always done something worse. I began to think maybe she'd be there for the long haul, but it wasn't meant to be.

It all came to a head on Mother's Day. All four of the restaurant's waiters were given a section, and then thrown into the thick of it. We were used to having hardly even a quarter of the restaurant being seated during a night, so for a lot of us it was a real shock. There were a lot of mistakes made that day, most of which seemed to be Lily's fault.

We were both working sections next to one another, and occasionally we'd run food out to each other's tables or take orders when the other was busy. I

thought we were doing great — fantastic actually — until the boss, with the rage of a mad bull blaring behind his pug-sunk eyes, came storming over to us.

“Who's section is table 18 in?” he bellowed. Lily meekly informed him that it was in her section.

“They have been waiting on their herb bread for over an hour now!” There was spittle forming in the corners of his mouth. It was beyond disgusting and absolutely terrifying.

Lily began to stammer that she was positive that she'd put the order through, but of course there was no record of it anymore because the docket must have already been spiked. He kept raging at her; she started to look like she was about to cry.

That's when I remembered a table I'd served over half an hour ago, who'd been a little too appreciative of the herb bread that I'd hurriedly placed down on their table. I began to wonder if maybe, just maybe, it was my fault; that maybe I'd accidentally given table 16, table 18's bread. I thought about suggesting that it was perhaps my fault, but the boss was yelling, and I wasn't sure, I couldn't be positive. So I kept my mouth shut, and let Lily take the blame.

That night, as I was lying in bed, I thought it over some more and I knew that it had been me that screwed the order up. I could remember spiking the docket for table 18 clear as day. Guilt washed over me. I made a pact with myself to talk to her about it and apologise on our next shift together.

When I came in for my next shift, Lily didn't turn up. She always worked Saturdays with me, and I would have known if she'd taken the night off — which she never did — so this was very confusing. I asked one of the other waiters if Lily was sick.

“Haven't you heard? They told her they'd let her know when to come in next.” Which in hospitality speak basically means, you're fired. I asked why, and was told it was because of the herb bread mistake she'd made — apparently it was 'the last straw.' Needless to say, I spent the rest of the shift hating myself.

That was a few years back now. I don't work at the restaurant anymore. I saw

Lily out night a while ago, and we talked about our old job.

“I was crap at that job,” she laughed. I wanted to tell her it was my fault she lost it, but I just couldn't bring myself to say it.

Got something on your chest? Tell us!

Make your confessions at fedpressmagazine.com/confess

fedpressonline

Student Senate Snapshot



“The 2015 Student Senate is dedicated to positively impacting the FedUni experience of our fellow student community through respect, commitment and teamwork.”

#FedUniSenate
#YourSSAFatwork
@FedUniSenate

For Meeting 3 of 2015, the Student Senate travelled to the beautiful Churchill campus in Gippsland. This was a fantastic opportunity for our Ballarat-based representatives to explore a new campus. They were significantly impressed by the commitment to sustainable environmental initiatives that have been put in place across the campus.

Key issues for discussion at the meeting, included the following: University Security Gary Pilmore, Security Coordinator, attended the meeting and provided an overview of security processes and initiatives to promote both personal and physical asset security across all campuses. A key issue raised was the limited understanding of the potential role the security guards can have in everyday feelings of student safety.

The Enrolment System

The widespread issues associated with the enrolment system were in part addressed, via a status update from Senate Advisor, Darren Holland. Projects and aims include improved mark display, widened use of lecture capture technology, program-based enrolment (rather than semester-based enrolment), improved use of Moodle, a potential online bookshop, and increased use of technology-based forms to limit loss and improve tracking.

Listing of Student Grades

The issue of inconsistency of student grades being made available was also raised and listed as a major concern. The Senate discussed the numerous streams of feedback regarding the different experiences of individual students, and Darren and Jeannie are going to take the matter to the Academic Board. Improved Moodle training for staff is a priority motion in moving forward, in order to support a more efficient relay to students.



Sustainability Representative

The Senate voted to change the Sustainability Representative from a co-opted position to an elected role. This change will be in effect as of Semester 2, 2015. Election information will be released ASAP.

Student Careers & Employment

The following questions have been raised to Senate in order to gain feedback from the wider student body about the use and future activities of the SSAF-funded Student Careers & Employment service:

- How can we improve how we assist students with their career development?
- How can we improve how we promote the employment options to students which come in to our office?
- How can we improve our services to students?
- What is the best way/method we can deliver this information?
- Is there anything not offered which you would see as beneficial as students?
- Think about your transition to professional work as a graduate, what things would you like to know before you leave uni?

The Senate is currently working on providing this feedback and would love to have your input. You can do this via student.senate@federation.edu.au or www.facebook.com/student.senate

Senate Members are also currently working on a number of smaller projects — both individually and in small teams. Some of these include: introducing bar hours at the Mt Helen campus; wider promotion of international travel opportunities across all campuses; improving the student experience for Nursing students in Horsham; and obtaining the support for a bike shelter at the Camp St campus.

If you would like to read the full version of Senate Meeting Minutes, or to attend a future Senate meeting, please contact the Executive Officer at student.senate@federation.edu.au

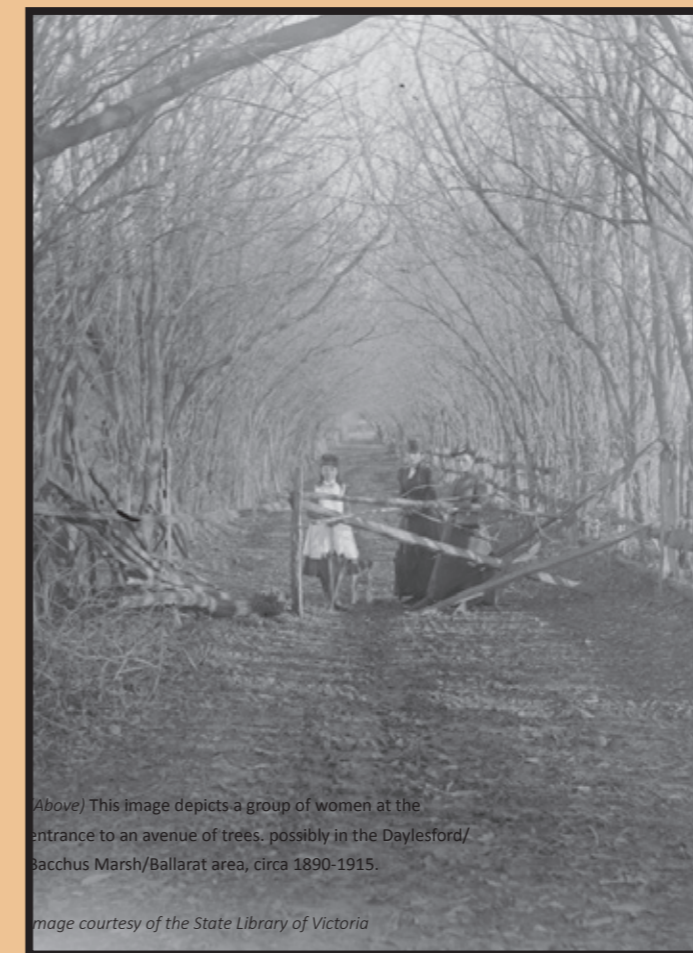
Memories of War

Words by Lucinda Horrocks

Students from FedUni are invited to contribute content for publication in a blog that is being created by Ballarat's Gold Museum. If accepted, submissions will form part of a community resource to help the people of Ballarat commemorate World War 1. The research that students undertake to develop content, will also work to inform a documentary film about the project. The film, contributions and project stories will then be showcased at an event at M.A.D.E Ballarat in November.

Type of Content

The project team is looking for a range of contributions — written, visual, audio and performative — both large and small. The submissions can be personal, research-based, journalistic, creative, fictionalised or dramatised interpretations of Ballarat's history. The project is interested in different perspectives on Ballarat's Great War story. The aim is to offer insights into the experiences of local people: grandparents, fathers and mothers, wives and children at home; those who chose not to fight; as well as those who went to fight, or to provide a service to the war itself. Students submitting written content should include one or two companion images (such as digitized diaries, photographs, or artwork) from a historical collection.



(Above) This image depicts a group of women at the entrance to an avenue of trees, possibly in the Daylesford/Bacchus Marsh/Ballarat area, circa 1890-1915.

Image courtesy of the State Library of Victoria

Documentary Film

Wind & Sky Productions is going to produce a film about Ballarat's World War 1 experience and will draw on the stories that students report on in the blog. The film may feature student experiences as they research and develop their stories.

Submission Dates

Submissions are now open and will close in August 2015. The blog is currently being developed by the Gold Museum and is likely to go live in June. It will then start publishing student submissions. The earlier students submit, the earlier their contributions will go into the publishing queue.

How to Submit

Submissions must be provided electronically in .zip format. A contribution guide and submission form can be downloaded from the Memories of War Project website (www.mow.windsky.com.au/students), which includes instructions on how to submit.

For more information contact our FedUni liaison, Dr David Waldron.

In person: Mount Helen campus (H Building, Room 226)

Phone: (03) 5327 9710

Email: d.waldron@federation.edu.au

The Memories of War Film and Research Project is a collaboration between the Ballarat RSL, Federation University Australia, the Ballarat Gold Museum, M.A.D.E Ballarat, the Ballarat Rangers Military Museum and Wind & Sky Productions. It is funded by the Australian Government Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program and the Victorian Government Anzac Centenary Major Grants Program.

EXAM INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Exams are here. So what do you need to know and where are you meant to go to find the answers? For most students, this will be your first exam for the year, and we would like to remind you of a few important tips:

1. All official exam information can be found at www.federation.edu.au/exams
2. You **must** take your official student ID card to every exam. If you don't have one, or have lost yours, head to Student Admin or the Library to get a replacement.
3. Students from a non-English speaking background can take a hard copy bi-lingual dictionary into exams. The dictionary will be inspected by exam supervisors to ensure that it is not marked or annotated in any way, and you will need a letter of permission. You should arrange for the letter before exams start by going to your School or Faculty reception desk or at the Student Hub (if you're a Gippsland student).
4. Make sure you know where the exam venues are and allow extra time for parking and walking to the venue because it might be very busy if it's a large exam.
5. Make sure you know exactly which materials are allowed in the exam. If it's not listed on the front cover of the exam paper, you are not allowed to have it (e.g. spare paper, books, notes, calculator). If in doubt, ask your lecturer before SWOT Vac. Taking any non-approved materials into exams is a breach of exam rules and could result in a disciplinary charge (e.g. losing all of your marks for the exam, or a charge of cheating).
6. Students at FedUni have allocated seating in the main exam venues. The seating plans are displayed outside the venue when you arrive. Find the list for your course and look for your name — you will have a row and desk number (e.g. E14).
7. Mobile phones **must** be turned off (including alarms) and placed under your desk, forward of your feet. If your phone rings, or you are found using your phone, it is a breach of the exam rules and there may be a serious disciplinary outcome for you. Even having a phone in your pocket is a breach of the exam rules — it **must** be on the floor.
8. Listen to all announcements. The supervisor in charge of the exam will tell you when you can start writing, and when you must stop.
9. Students who want to ask a question should raise their hand and a supervisor will come to assist them.
10. Talking to each other is **not** allowed; it is a breach of exam rules and the outcome could be very serious for you.
11. If you are found to be in breach of exam rules, you will not be able to complete the exam. If you are at the Mt Helen campus, you can request that the Student Advisory Service is contacted, and we can provide you with information and support. If you are a student at the Churchill campus, MUGSU Student Rights Officers are available to provide information and support.
12. Exam results will be available on July 10 via My Student Centre. If you do not have access, please see a staff member for help.

If you have any questions, or need some help, please phone the Student Advisory Service on (03) 5327 6105, contact us via email at studentadviser@federation.edu.au, or visit us in our office at the Mt Helen campus on the first floor of the Albert Coates building (above the café).



Survivors of Suicide

REDUCE THE STIGMA CAMPAIGN

Words by Tania McMullen

In Australia, the number of deaths attributed to suicide per year average a total of 2522 deaths. In comparison, the road toll amounts to 1489 deaths per year. We see a lot of media coverage in the form of TAC advertisements trying to raise awareness and to reduce the road toll, but very little is heard about suicide — even though the suicide rate is much higher. Lifeline suggests that for every one suicide completion, there is an estimated 30 people who have also attempted suicide.

In their report, Family Issues in Suicide Postvention, Flynn and Robinson (2008) showed that responses by those suffering bereavement in the aftermath of suicide, do not seek professional assistance. This is due to a lack of support and the feelings of blame and stigma that are associated with suicide. The report also suggests that shock, exhaustion and lack of available information are attributed to the bereaved not seeking help.

Survivors of Suicide, a local community group in Ballarat, is run solely by volunteers. They are currently running a Reduce the Stigma campaign to try to raise awareness. This campaign focuses on supporting those who are bereaved and assisting them in seeking help and talking about their experiences.

They recently took part in the Ballarat Begonia Festival, taking their campaign to the streets in the hope of highlighting the need for support for those grieving the loss of a loved one to suicide.



White Wreath Day gives those who are bereaved the chance to remember their loved ones who have passed. Survivors of Suicide hold White Wreath Day in Ballarat and encourage people to talk about their experiences and connect with others in similar circumstances, in the hope that the stigma associated with suicide can be less burdensome. It also gives those who are mourning, the chance to share their grief publicly — something they generally feel that they cannot do.

White Wreath Day will take place in the median strip outside of the Ballarat Town Hall in Sturt Street on Friday 29 May, from 10am until 5pm.

At 12.30pm a memorial service will be held, where those who are grieving can lay a white wreath in remembrance of their loved one.

If you are having suicidal thoughts, thoughts of self-harming, or have been affected by suicide in the past, FedUni provides a free, confidential counselling service. This service can be accessed in person or over the phone. Contact the Ballarat campus on (03) 5327 9470 or the Gippsland campus on (03) 5122 6425. Alternatively, you can contact LifeLine on 13 11 14. If you feel uncomfortable reaching out to these services, please talk to a friend, a family member, or a peer.

FedUni Living LIVE BELOW THE LINE AN OAKTREE CAMPAIGN

Live Below the Line is the annual fundraising campaign for Oaktree, one of Australia's largest youth-run organisations. From 4-8 May, thousands of Australians ate on \$2 a day for five days. This amount is the Australian equivalent of the extreme poverty line. Taking the challenge is a way to raise much-needed funds for Oaktree's overseas partners, as well as to gain unique insight into some of the challenges faced by those living in extreme poverty.

Participating in the Live Below the Line Challenge this year, was not a decision FedUni Living took on lightly. We knew it would be a challenge, but also realised the significance of the campaign and the difference that we, as individuals, could make in the lives of those less fortunate, so we decided it was worth a go.

What did this mean for our participating students in residence? Strictly planned meals, some creative thinking, a few hunger pains and the odd caffeine withdrawal. Our diet mainly consisted of rice, soup and bread with some pasta and frozen vegies.



Our aim for the challenge was to raise money, as well as awareness within our residences, for the developing world and the challenges they face. We also wanted to put into perspective how lucky we are to live in a country as fortunate as Australia. We hope that the money we raised will assist in providing an education to the children in third world countries, as this is a critical component of breaking the poverty cycle and increasing the quality of life.

Find out more about the challenge, at www.livebelowtheline.com.au and make sure you get involved next year!



WHY EVERY DAY SHOULD BE PAY IT FORWARD DAY



Words by Annika Miesen

To 'pay it forward' is to respond to someone's kindness by being kind to someone else. Ultimately, the idea of this is to create a wave of kindness amongst humanity. Imagine a tsunami, but instead of water and destruction, there is kindness and happiness. That's pretty cool.

Pay It Forward Day (30 April) encouraged people to act with generosity towards others and set kindness in motion. It was a day dedicated to doing something without expecting anything in return. But why are we only expected to notably act with such kindness on one day of the year? Why not pay it forward 365 days of the year? Yes, it is important to actively recognise a powerful phenomenon such as this, but if we all practiced it as part of our everyday lives, would it really be necessary to dedicate one single day to it?

Is it just an excuse for an individual's kindness to be noticed? There's no extrinsic reward for paying it forward — you don't get a lollipop or a trophy for being kind — and this might be why there is not a lot of kindness in the world. People are motivated by receiving materialistic items, and they won't pay it forward because there is nothing in it for them. Don't feel bad though, because we all do it. But don't be fooled, there is something in it for you. It's that wonderful feeling of knowing that you did something great, and that you have made a positive impact on someone else's life. That's the power you have as a human: you can change people's lives. And you can easily do this by simply being kind, generous, considerate, and seeing a need and then acting on it. When you reflect later on in life, imagine the feeling of knowing that you contributed some goodness to this world or that you may have made someone's life that little bit better.

That feeling should be enough to not only pay it forward today, but every day. You should never underestimate the magnitude of your actions; so why fit all of your kindness into one day? And sometimes, kindness is kind to you. You might choose to help someone carry their groceries, and one day, someone might just help you. It's like a kindness boomerang.

So, I hope you did something nice for someone yesterday, and that you received some kindness, too. I hope that you pay it forward today, not because that's what we're told to do, but because you are a human being and you can be kind.



NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

By Catherine Elliot

On Wednesday 29 April, I went to Melbourne with three of my fellow leadership mates from FedUni, to attend a workshop on student leadership at universities. It was a really rewarding experience and I was proud to be able to represent FedUni as a student leader.

The day was run by the Office of Learning and Teaching. They presented the findings of a report into student leadership at universities, and sought discussion on the context of leadership, as we move into a new phase of higher education. The collaborators on the project included an impressive list of Deputy Vice Chancellors from universities around the country.

The Context section of the presentation was the one that provided the highest level of discussion and debate amongst us all. We were asked to provide suggestions for what we saw as being important, and what might be missing from the context. The participants all had varying ideas, and it was interesting to see the differences in opinion between academics and student leaders in attendance.

There was some frank discussion about a range of issues. Some academic staff questioned how much listening to student voice costs universities — both financially, and also in relation to the amount of time that is taken away from teaching and research. This idea of student voice being a cost or a burden to the institution, was disappointingly shared by representatives of two large universities (who shall remain nameless) and is both wrong, and misses the point of the workshop completely.

Along with the discussion surrounding student voice, we also addressed the changing nature of universities and higher education; the switch that is occurring to a mode of Blended On-Line Delivery of content (BOLD); and flipping the classroom to facilitate numerous ways of learning for a variety of students.

We also discussed students roles as customers/clients, and whether or not they are also stakeholders. Some people in the room felt that students were customers, but that they couldn't be considered stakeholders as well. However, I saw this contention as purely academic. In the 21st century, universities are businesses. It's a balance between the provision of education and higher learning to students, in order to earn revenue to fund operations. We, the students, who are fee-paying customers, have an economic interest in the university and are therefore, by definition, considered stakeholders. So, as stakeholders, if we fund the research and contribute to academic salaries, shouldn't we be allowed to inform the process? Shouldn't we be allowed to have a voice in the forums where decisions are made? Shouldn't we at least be considered?

After this debate we moved on and our representatives were able to speak about our leadership model and mentoring program at FedUni. The latter saw others quizzing me about my role as an online mentor, and how the program operates. It was excellent to see the interest in our forward thinking program, and I certainly hope I did it justice in its explanation.

After the lunch break, we returned to look at the report in more detail. We assessed the data and looked at the draft recommendations. In discussions with other participants, it was clear that FedUni is way ahead of others in regards to what we offer through our leadership and mentoring programs, online student support etc. Our Uni seems genuinely prepared to face future challenges in the Higher Education sector, especially around retention, engagement and success.

Overall, it was a fabulous day and I was both inspired and motivated by the people around me. I count myself very lucky to be a part of such a focused and determined group of student and future leaders.

Season's End

Laughter, anticipation and warmth are the words that I would use to describe this year's Professional Writing and Editing (PWE) Reading's Night. The night was held to raise money for Season's End, the last PWE Anthology. Within the cosy atmosphere of Irish Murphy's pub, people read out an array of pieces spanning from poetry to lyrics, short stories and the beginnings of novels. A great deal of laughter was spread across the night, as each reader presented their piece, and the night ended with everybody downstairs listening to the band playing.

Please don't forget to submit your writing for this year's anthology!

Submission guidelines can be found at www.pweanthology2015.blogspot.com.au and submissions can be sent to us at pwe.anthology@gmail.com





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9:00am to 4:30pm

VISIT OUR WEBSITE mugsu.org.au

mUGSU

MUGSU UPCOMING EVENTS

18 May / Rainbow Week

21 May / Study Session (free food)

28 May / Study Session (free food)

15 June / Men's Health Week

19 July / 2015 Snow Trip

29 July / Doctors & Nurses

(Uni Night)

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WHEN FEDUNI STUDENTS WENT TO THE MINING GAMES

Words by Sarah Hibberd

As the Chapter President of the FedUni Ballarat Student Chapter of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AUSIMM), I recently attended the International Mining Games. The Student Leadership Program helped fund our team's travel, accommodation and registration costs.

The 37th Safescope International Intercollegiate Mining Games were held in Kalgoorlie this year, and were hosted by the Wombats from the Western Australian School of Mines (WASM). The competition started in 1978, in honour of the 91 miners that died in the Sunshine Mine disaster in the United States in 1972. The primary aim of the competition is to keep traditional mining techniques alive, as well as enhancing the comradeship of mining students over national and international borders.

The games commenced on Wednesday 25 March and continued through until Sunday 29 March. Fifty-two teams attended this event, from five different countries. The challenges were split into co-ed, men's, women's, alumni, and individual events.

Partly funded through a grant from the Student Leadership Program, the FedUni Ballarat AUSIMM Student Chapter took a team of seven students to compete in the co-ed competitions against 29 other teams.

The events this year included:

- Sawing through a 1500mm x 1500mm piece of pine as fast (and as straight) as possible, using a bow saw.
- Gold panning for five small pieces of flattened lead shot.
- Airleg drilling, as deep as possible, into a slab of concrete in three minutes.
- Setting up and dismantling a track as fast and as safe as possible.
- Hand steel, where five team members had to drill into a block of concrete with a chisel and hammer.

Overall the FedUni team did brilliantly, coming in thirteenth place against some very impressive international competition. Next year the national games will be held in Brisbane, where the FedUni team will represent once again.



If you discover a Leadership opportunity that you would like to attend, the Leadership Program has grants available to support you with travel, accommodation and registration costs. Find out more at:

www.federation.edu.au/student-leadership



FACETIME EVENTS 2015

Words by Liana Brennan

Have you ever wondered exactly what someone studying in your field actually does in the work place? Or wondered what businesses are out there that need people with your qualifications? Perhaps you have wanted to find placement or work experience — paid and unpaid. You might want to develop contacts, or find a mentor within the industry, to utilise as resources in your practice or study, but have no idea where, or how, to start?

Luckily, the first of the FaceTime events for 2015 have started at the Gippsland campus, allowing students to practice and develop their networking skills.

Engineering and Science students from all years and qualification levels were invited to attend pre-event workshops, to prepare students to understand the skill of networking, and why it is so important in all aspects of life, but particularly their career development.

The FaceTime Events for Science students occurred on Tuesday 31 March and the Engineering student's event was on Thursday 2 April. We had representatives from Gippsland Water, Latrobe City Council, Defence Force, Green Cross Veterinary Hospital, VicRoads, Lion Co, Bosch, Energy Australia and Omron that took time out of their busy schedules to come along.

To kick off the Engineering event, Jonathan Elias from Omron, spoke about the value he has experienced through networking in his career, and why he would encourage students to learn and develop this skill. A second year student, Hayden McArthur, followed up by sharing his personal experience of gaining an opportunity through last year's FaceTime event. Hayden had built a relationship by speaking to and obtaining the contact details of an employer at the event and followed up via email afterwards. After a few emails, the original contact linked Hayden with a project where his expertise was needed. This resulted in holiday employment that continued after the semester break.

Preceding the formal part of the event, some students chose to chat in groups with different people, while others pursued individual conversations. It was obvious that skills were being developed and information was being shared by all.

Since the events, a number of different opportunities have been developed — including business tours, work experience and lasting relationships that students can use throughout their entire career — which is a great result.

Future events are planned at the Churchill campus for Art & Design, Business, IT and Community Welfare students later in the year, so keep your eyes peeled for your chance to get involved.

Dragging Acceptance Into A New Generation

Words by Sarah Darling

The physical nature of acceptance in the drag-osphere is shaping a new generation. You must have noticed it: the sudden appearance of gender-benders on Instagram, and the Pinterest boards dedicated solely to contouring your face. And let's not ignore the surge in popularity for RuPaul's famous reality TV show, Drag Race. With the age of new feminism ringing in messages of acceptance, attention has been drawn towards those members of society who have always pushed the barriers: the drag queens. Only this time, they are applauded for pushing in very much the right direction.

These men represent the definition of empowerment and the acceptance of identity. From the dawn of Dame Edna Everage, to the talent and incredible illusion of Australia's own, Courtney Act, drag has been an increasingly popular form of expression amongst the arts community. But with the broadcast of RuPaul's Drag Race clocking up more than a million downloads per episode, it is clear to see why the industry has become so much more prevalent in recent years. RuPaul culminates each episode by saying, "If you don't love yourself, how in the hell you gonna love somebody else?" How could this not be considered a positive and inspiring message for viewers?

Men and women alike are beginning to embrace and embody the spirit of drag after seeing men of all shapes, sizes and ethnicities taking on strong female personas, and by referring to their masculine bodies as "sexy". They even pad their glamazonian figures to represent feminine curves — you don't get that kind of positive role modelling from the girl-world of Instagram. Despite knowing that the media promotes nothing but unhealthy and negative messages, women still readily accept that squats and dieting are a part of achieving 'real beauty'. A society that suddenly embraces a culture that is impressed by female curvature, and willingly puts on display its ideal female figures, is both a brave and wonderful thing.

Role models, for both men and women, don't have to consist of just plus-size models in a catalogue, or trying to be racially inclusive in television commercials (we are looking at you Project Racial Harmony). It can be as simple as promoting an industry that isn't afraid to laugh at itself, whilst simultaneously teaching us to love what each of us was born with. Drag queens are literally setting the stage for a generation of people who can love themselves, without being consumed by ideas of perfection in body, height, weight and colour. Even gender doesn't have to be a barrier.

As RuPaul said, "I'm a big, old black man under all of this makeup, and if I can look beautiful, so can you."



WHY NOT TRY ULTIMATE?

It's a fun, alternative sport which combines elements of rugby, netball and soccer. FedUni Ultimate is open to players of all experience levels, ages and genders. Our team consists of a group of friendly people, who are eager to welcome new players and to dedicate their time to helping others grasp the basics of the sport.

This year, the club is looking to compete at a variety of events including, but not limited to:

- Border Classic in Wodonga
- Southern University Games in Adelaide
- Glow in the Dark Tournament in Ballarat
- Victorian Mixed Ultimate Championships in Melbourne
- Australian University Games on the Gold Coast

Training sessions are held at Mount Helen on the oval on Wednesday nights from 6PM. For more information, contact us at feduniultimate@gmail.com



THE HISTORY OF MMO

Words and Artwork by Matty Potter

What is an MMO? MMO stands for massively multiplayer online. These games, in conjunction with the internet, are capable of bringing together great numbers of players at the same time, from all over the globe.

Back in the '70s, there were text-based games known as MUDs (multi-user dungeons). These games were played on the earliest versions of the internet and were purely text-based — similar to a role-playing game, but instead of a controller you would type word commands for your character's actions. All of a sudden you could play an interactive video game with people thousands of miles away. Services like AOL and CompuServe — forerunners for what we now know as the internet — served as gateways for gamers to actually interact and talk to players.



There has been a lot of debate over which game holds the official title of being the first ever MMO game. Despite the fact that MUDs were responsible for bringing a lot of players together, because these games were solely text-based and didn't have graphics to accompany them, most people don't consider them to be MMOs.

Maze War (1974) and Colossal Cave Adventure (1975) are two games that people consider to be the first MMOs, and Island of Kesmai (1985), the first graphical MUD. The problem with these games however, was that they could never really be considered "massive" because they didn't bring together thousands of players, they were simply multiplayer games.

Technological and economic restrictions during this era made it very difficult for developers to make complicated games on a large scale. Game creators also had to take into account that not many people could afford to have access to the internet.

Neverwinter Nights (1991) was arguably the first MMO to display graphics. Developed by Stormfront Studios, the game featured simplified versions of most of the things that are present in video games today. At its peak, the game hosted 115 000 players

across its servers — this was huge for its time.

Two other contenders for the title are Ultima Online (1997) and Meridian 59 (1995). However, this is most likely due to their increased popularity, with each game boasting subscriber numbers in the hundreds of thousands. Tibia (1997), RuneScape (2001) and MapleStory (2003) were some of the first free-to-play MMO games that made themselves more accessible to their players and also for people who didn't have the money to pay a subscription fee. This trend is becoming more popular nowadays, as companies are finding new ways to make money (such as unlockable content and in-game currencies).

In 1999, Daybreak Game Company (formerly Sony Online Entertainment) released the incredibly popular EverQuest. This game definitely paved the way for what we now commonly know as the MMORPG. EverQuest brought an amazing story world to life with new features that games had never offered before. They introduced an extremely open 3D world that let the players be heroes by taking down increasingly difficult foes.

It just so happened that a few of the dedicated players of EverQuest also worked for Blizzard Entertainment, who were, at that time, working on a project called Nomad, which was failing badly. Allan Adham, co-creator of what we know as Blizzard Entertainment, decided to cancel Nomad and try to create.

Blizzard announced this new venture in September of 2001 and the game finally went live on November 23, 2004. This game, World of Warcraft, changed everything. Blizzard had brought a world that we had previously known in the RTS (real-time strategy) Warcraft trilogy, and made the player the hero. They made an environment for everyone to come together in order to enjoy something new and amazing, no matter what you looked like, or how seriously you played. They expanded on what games like EverQuest had initially introduced, and made it even more accessible to everyone.

After a few generations, we have now entered into the modern MMO era, with new games being released more frequently. It seems everyone is trying to cash in on the genre after seeing the billions that Blizzard are raking in each year.



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