

# fedpress

Magazine



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Federation University's  
Student Publication



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Year in Review

2015

NEXT ISSUE

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# HUMANS OF FEDUNI

Marian Chiwanha

"I turned 40 this year, so this is my first and last degree. It is a very important thing that I need my family to witness, especially my kids. I have twins which turned 18 this year. It is something that I am showing my kids to be a good role model and if I tell them we can do it, they'll say "Yes, Mum managed to do it." So I really need my kids to witness the graduation hat being put on my head. That age, your nationality, your accent, cannot be an obstacle to what you really want to do in your life. The sky is the limit. At 40 I am getting my bachelor's degree of nursing and I was working as a full time mum and a full time student. I would go to bed sometimes at 2am, start my lectures at half past 8 in the morning, finish at midday, start work at 2.30 and finish at 11.30 at night. But I was always getting distinctions and high distinctions in my exams. to emulate so that they can know that you can do anything. The sky is the limit."

#FedGen

## Get to know the Fedpress team

HELLO MY NAME IS

Theahna

If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

This is harder to answer than anyone realises but I would have to say a lamb kebab. Meat salad, bread and sauce—that's a meal!

What was the last book you read?

Time Bomb by Jonathan Kellerman.

How old were you when you learned Santa wasn't real? How did you find out?

I honestly can't remember, but living in a house of grinchies, I would say pretty young. I still got all the presents though.

Are you related or distantly related to anyone famous?

I'm pretty sure I have a Welsh journalist cousin—I would have to confirm this though. My dad has also been on the news before, if that counts.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Probably dead via suffocation from inhaling too much animal hair, or having been murdered by my grump of a cat. But seriously, I don't know, check in with me in ten years' time.



# Student Senate Snapshot

It was a roadtrip to the Wimmera for our fifth meeting, as we joined Higher Education representative Evie at the beautiful Horsham campus at the end of the mid-year lecture break. Guests included Ryan Hsu, the new manager of Student Engagement, and Elizabeth Luciani, the manager of the Student Advisory Service.

Some of the key issues for discussion at the meeting included:

## Student Charter

The Student Advisory Service proposed that FedUni should develop a student-specific charter in addition to the university-wide charter. The charter would outline the expectations, rights and responsibilities of all FedUni students during their time of study. The Senate Chair and Vice-Chair will draft an early Student Charter for review by the wider Senate, before opening it up to the student community to ensure university-wide feedback is obtained on the document—which will be an easier to read, student-specific charter for access by all students.

## Exams

Jess, A Higher Education Mount Helen representative, raised a university-wide discussion regarding exam feedback stemming from a number of Mount Helen student concerns. The closure of the temporary car park during the exam period at Mount Helen was raised and followed up by Senate with staff in the facilities team, outlining the OH&S causes for keeping the park closed. Traffic control will be implemented at Mount Helen for Semester 2 as well as additional presence and advertising of available student services given the success of the student advisory service stall. A number of other concerns will be collated and raised with the exam organisers for attention, though overall it seemed the predominant response was positive from all campuses.

## Current Student Webpages

Ryan Hsu discussed the current review and planning for a large makeover to the 'Current Students' section of the FedUni webpage. Senate provided feedback on the team's early plans to make the site more user-friendly, with the idea of a current students app in the planning stages, to provide a customisable directory just for you. If you've got a bright spark idea for improving the student webpage, let us know.

## eVALUate Improvements

Amelia, The Academic Board representative has taken Senate feedback to senior organisers of the system. The introduction of a major culture shift regarding staff accountability based on student feedback is a current focus area for improvement. The university has an emphasis on 'closing the loop' between feedback and student experience, which will be an ongoing process as more changes are implemented.

## Key Actions

- Semester 2 Forums: Check out our social media channels and posters around campus to know when your next forum is being held, to make sure you have your say.
- Online Student Transition: Reviewing and improving the student consultation process in place for moving students into online modes of delivery is a key ongoing action for the Senate in reponse to a number of negative experiences have been raised across multiple campuses.
- The Senate would love to have your input on the above via [student.senate@federation.edu.au](mailto:student.senate@federation.edu.au) or [www.facebook.com/student.senate](https://www.facebook.com/student.senate)

If you would like to read the full version of Senate Meeting Minutes, input into any of the projects above or attend a future Senate meeting, please contact the Executive Officer at [student.senate@federation.edu.au](mailto:student.senate@federation.edu.au)



@FedUniSenate



Fed Uni  
Student Senate

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



Student Confession

## "First Click into Social Networks"

By Amanda Mill

Recently, I admitted defeat and made a Facebook account. When I finished the sign-up-tell-me-all-your-details process, I felt a mixture of pride, loss, fear and excitement. I had survived without any social networks for many years and I was completely okay with it. I didn't care that I wasn't part of the masses of friend calculations, or involved with the whole overload of what people had been getting up to. I didn't care that I wasn't receiving minute to minute updates of their lives.

I had actually vowed to myself, more than once, that I would never get Facebook. That declaration then turned into that I would only make a Facebook account if I needed it. My top excuse being if I was about to die and needed to get in contact with everyone ASAP.

I admit, it was disheartening each time I caught up with my friends and found out how much I was missing. "Get Facebook," they said to me, "then you won't miss out on anything." I was told that once I got Facebook it would change my life. That I would get so addicted that I should say goodbye to my social life altogether. If it's just me that finds that ironic, then I will take it as another compliment to add to my long list of being weird.

Yet here I am, with a Facebook account, my friends total racking up, me checking out what people have been up to, enjoying it but still wondering what all the hoo-ha is about.

## "Carl's First Time"

By Keegan Wade

When I was a younger man, I quite enjoyed going camping with my friends. The camp that this tale is concerned with was a large one; 1000 or more kids between the ages of 15 and 18. Wink, wink, nudge, nudge, say no more. The hero of our tale was a young stallion, let's call him Young Carl. Early in the piece he was getting quite friendly with a lovely lass, which caused my colleagues and I to ensure that he was well versed in the requirements of intimacy. As it turns out he was not.

So, we invited Young Carl to accompany us down to the supermarket with the aim of enhancing his education. Upon arriving we picked up a litre of Gatorade each (it was a warm day), and proceeded to the condom aisle, at which point Quentin (the most knowledgeable of us) launched into the do's and don'ts of protection and pleasure.

Young Carl was noticeably over-whelmed by Quentin's exposition, and was finally pushed over the edge by a comment from a rather solid 50 something-year-old woman: "Go the glow-in-the-dark ones, boys, they're great." Quick as an antelope fleeing the lion, I replied: "No, we're in tents. If he does a runner everyone will see him" This exchange devastates Young Carl's confidence. Gavin (the craftiest of us) contrives a solution. He proposes that each of us purchases a box, as moral support to Young Carl, to which we all agree. On the way to the check out, I nudged Quentin and Gavin and nodded towards checkout four, where a rather beautiful woman sat. Gavin and Quentin understood my meaning immediately.

Inconspicuously, we took our place in the three-person-deep line. "Christ it's hot" complained Quentin. "I'm going to get us some ice-cream. Carl hold these." Two people.... "Hey I know those blokes" exclaimed Gavin. "He owes me \$20! Carl hold this." One person.... "Far out! I need to pee" I tell Carl. "Take this mate, I'll be back in a sec." Young Carl.... Young Carl stood at the checkout, 48 condoms and a four litres of Gatorade on the conveyor belt, the three of us start to clap and whistle. Young Carl is no longer nervous about buying condoms.

Got something  
you want to get  
off your chest?

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# In a Nutshell: HECS-HELP Debt

by S. Hooley

A lot of us know the basics of the Higher Education Loan Program: the Australian Government pays our university tuition fees and we pay them back once our income hits a decent figure, which usually happens after we've graduated. HELP is a blanket term which covers the many kinds of assistance you can receive, and that is determined by the kind of study you're undertaking. Being uni students, most of us will have HECS-HELP but I am going to refer to it simply as a Loan. A Loan that stays with you until it is paid off.

## But how does the rest of it work?

Each semester you might have noticed the university banging on about a census date, and aren't sure what it means or why it's important. This is the date when the uni charges you for whatever classes you are enrolled in. If you want to swap a class, you can do it without paying for it (financially, at least; you still have some catching up to do in class) before the census date. After the census date, the uni sends all the information about who is enrolled in what to the Australian Taxation Office (or ATO) to have the tuition for that course added to your Loan.

## Why is it sent to the ATO?

The Loan is paid off only when you start earning enough money (there's more to it than that, but we'll get into that later). This is called a compulsory repayment. How does the Government know how much you're making? You tell them every year through your tax return.

But let's start from the beginning: you've found a job that balances your studies with your need to feed yourself or pay rent and other silly things like that. Maybe you had this job before you started uni and your boss is cool enough to let you work whenever your timetable allows. Regardless, you may remember when you started your job, you filled out a form that required a nine digit number on it. This is called a Tax File Number (or TFN) Declaration. On this form, one of the questions is 'Do you have a HELP loan?'

If you do, naturally the answer to this is 'yes'. So you cross the box, sign the form and away you go. Crossing the 'no' box means you risk having a debt from your tax return. The reason this question is on the declaration is to tell your employer to withhold a little more tax than normal, to cover the HELP repayments.

Here is where a lot of people get confused: the tax that is withheld throughout the year doesn't go straight towards your Loan. It sits in the Reserve Bank until they know what to do with it. You tell them what to do with your money by lodging your tax return (or by getting a tax agent to do it).

With the information you put on the return, the ATO figures out whether or not you need to pay any of your Loan back. As I said earlier, this doesn't need to happen unless you earn over a certain amount (there are a few other figures considered as well, the total of these figures is called your Repayment Income). If your Repayment Income for the financial year just past (2014/15) is \$54 126 then you will need to make a compulsory repayment. Good news, though: you've already done that throughout the year. This figure changes every year (usually increasing) and can be found on the ATO's website ([www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au)).

## So what happens to the extra money that was taken out of my pay?

Hopefully, you'll get it back from your tax return or it might go to covering a debt (if you've got one) with the ATO, Centrelink or Child Support. Basically, you've had too much tax withheld, and that money doesn't belong to the government, so they pay it back with the rest of your tax return. The downside to this is that you also haven't paid off any of your Loan. That's okay though; you don't have to. As long as you don't meet the criteria, you're not paying it off.

## But if it's a Loan, isn't there interest on it, making it bigger every year?

Short answer: no. BUT, each year on the first of June, the ATO applies indexation to the unpaid Loans. In English, this means that the Loans are adjusted to keep them in line with the actual cost of things, like inflation. If the Loans are not indexed, essentially the longer they are left unpaid, the cheaper they will get, in theory. Of course, the ATO is smarter than us, and so it indexes the Loan cost relative to the cost of eggs and Big Macs et cetera, essentially keeping the cost of your tuition the same no matter how long it takes you to pay it off.

However, if you are nervous about having a loan, the ATO encourages you to put forward voluntary payments. And, if you make a voluntary payment of more than \$500, the ATO will pay off another 5%. So if you pay \$1000, the ATO will add on their 5%, making the repayment \$1050.

## Awesome, how can I do that?

You can call the ATO on 13 28 61 between 8.30am and 8.00pm Monday to Friday, or between 10.00am and 4.00pm Saturday and Sunday. Make sure you have your TFN ready and have paper and a pen to write down the important bits.

So you've lodged your return, and for another year, that's that. Until you have to start paying it off.

Not enough nut in this shell? For more details visit [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au)

# Enactus National Conference

by Jess Kelly

The Enactus ideals of enabling progress and inspiring action were on full display recently as university teams from across Australia came together, at the Grand Hyatt in Melbourne, to showcase their entrepreneurial initiatives to improve the lives of people in need. The FedUni Enactus team, consisting of five active students along with our Faculty Advisor Deb, prepared our presentation for delivery to judges from major corporate sponsors, such as KPMG and Woolworths, as well as representatives from over twenty universities active in Enactus Australia.

After facing a tumultuous twelve months, the FedUni team were in a league competing against five other universities, including University of Queensland and La Trobe University, in a special new competition. After a full day of competition, the FedUni team were excited to be declared the winners of the Best New Team prize in recognition of our work on projects Adesua and FedUni Succeed, against a strong representation from all universities involved.

The national competition winners were the University of New England, who will be heading to the World Cup in South Africa. We're excited to head back to nationals again next year in the main competition leagues and compete for our chance for a position in finals.

If you're interested in the chance to develop your professional skills, help those less fortunate, travel or network with some of the highest executives of Australian business, contact us via Facebook or [fedunienactus@gmail.com](mailto:fedunienactus@gmail.com) for more info on joining our winning team!

No matter your course, skill set, availability or interests, we can help you achieve your personal goals and create positive change in people's lives.



THE CONTRIBUTORS  
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HAVE YOU  
GOT WHAT  
IT TAKES?





# A Call to Alms

by Rebecca Fletcher



I've never met anyone who's told me that they need more stress in their life or that they didn't feel like they had enough to do. Day-to-day living seems more than enough, never mind the constant reminders we have thrown at us about how we can get more out of life and be better people. Work out, keep happy, eat well, maintain your friendships, travel, engage in your local community. It's usually a coin toss whether we run out of time or energy first.

I can't give the world a day off, but what I'm proposing takes seconds of your time

Waiting next to stranger one day (we'll call her Heather), a man walked past while making an off-colour racist comment. Realising he'd been heard, he apologised to Heather and me. Heather's reticence to accept his apology meant that he stopped to have a chat to us—the remnants of a cigarette in one hand and an open can of Jim Beam in the other.

It would have been easy to ignore him and get mad about public drunks ruining my day and dragging down the tone of the neighbourhood. Instead, I did what my mother always told me not to do – I chatted. Within five minutes he had told us that it was his birthday next month (he was turning 52); he had served in the army when he was younger, he had rescued dogs from illegal dog fighting years earlier, and that when his mother had died no-one had called to tell him. He apologised for drinking and said that he couldn't refuse it if a mate offered it to him. Heather told him that was no excuse. I told him he should get in touch with the local RSL for help. At home later, I realised something: where the woman next to me had seen an alcoholic, I had seen someone who likely had PTSD.

A week or so later I was riding the bus home when an older man, smelling a little more of scotch than anything else, decided to engage a friend and I in conversation. We could have ignored him and moved to the back of the bus, but instead we started chatting with him. He told us that he was a Vietnam veteran, with sons currently serving in Timor and Iraq. I'm not going to condone his behaviour, but in light of his circumstances, I can understand why he would choose to spend his days as he did.

You might be wondering what any of this has to do with stress though. On the wrong day, these would have been stressful events for me. Strangers, clearly inebriated, confronting me in public? No thank you! But by ignoring the knee-jerk reaction and showing interest, I feel like I was rewarded. I don't consider these negative experiences. They reminded me that, although we all live in the same space, we don't all live the same way. For the sake of a little bit of my time, patience and understanding, both parties went away feeling a little better.

It's so easy to judge. We're all guilty of making snap judgements. But by recognising that their situations might be more complicated than they seemed on the surface, it was easier for me to not get angry about it. They didn't want money from me, they didn't want to get angry at me, they just wanted someone to talk to—something I could manage. What would judgement have done? Suddenly I feel like I'm living in a world full of strangers that I don't want to interact with. It makes me think about problems I have to deal with, and it makes me feel like I'm swimming against the tide.

Now, it's easy to see the mental health issues in my stories and see how some people might be deserving of some type of special treatment – but I'm not asking you to feel sorry for them, and I don't want to exclude anyone. Everyone deserves patience and understanding. Every interaction you make on a daily basis has the same potential for judgement or understanding—everyone has bad days! Maybe it's just a high stress day, maybe they just heard some bad news, maybe you have a cold and everything is just that little bit harder. Sometimes you're at the end of your tether and you don't have time for other people. Sometimes you snap without even thinking about it. You don't see that the supermarket cashier has an assignment due at midnight and is at the end of an eight-hour shift, you just see that he keyed in your apples as pink lady instead of royal galas and now they're going to cost you twice as much. You can choose to get angry about it, make a fuss and make him reverse it, or you can point it out, laugh about it and sympathise about being tired or distracted. Why go straight to anger when you can get a smile out of someone? You'll get your money back either way.

Traditionally, alms are charity given to the poor, usually clothing or food. I propose that we're all patience-poor at least some of the time, so we all need a little bit of charity. When you feel like you have enough to give, then it's time to give alms. We can't pay back the patience and understanding that people have shown us, so we should pay it forward. Stop looking for things that make you angry. Instead of reacting immediately to people or situations, take a moment and try to think why it might be happening like this. I like to think of it like driving. Most drivers have their eyes on the road, but if someone swings into your lane, you're not going to hold your ground and let them hit you to prove a point; you're going to move out of the way because it's the best thing to do. It should be the same with other people—two people having bad days is no reason to make both days worse. Stress is contagious and we need to stop the spread.

I'm not saying that we should condone ignorance. I'm not saying we should excuse bad behaviour. I'm not justifying self-medication. I'm not saying that you should actively engage people who seem disturbed. What I am saying is that sometimes one fact can change your entire perspective on a person, and making snap judgements about people is doing them a disservice. I wouldn't want to be judged on my worst day, so why judge someone else on what might be their worst day? If we all relaxed and took a little bit more time to react positively and sympathetically to the world around us, I think we'd enjoy our time a little better and be less stressed.

To quote my 70-year-old newfound bus buddy, "Enjoy life!"

## PHRASES THAT HAVE BEEN CHANGED BY SOCIAL MEDIA

by S. Hooley

Ever stopped in the middle of a conversation and wondered what effect the same words would have had fifty years ago? I tried it and here are a few phrases that stuck out:

### "Have you seen my post?"

Now, people might wonder what the post was about, and pull out their phones to have a look. Fifty years ago, however, you were probably building a fence. People would have wondered why you were asking them that, and looked at you a little differently. Or maybe your letters have gone missing. This could still apply if you live with a kleptomaniacal housemate/partner/family member/pet.

### I'm going to write on your wall

This would have been a threat fifty years ago. You might have ended up with a fine for vandalism, and some cleaning up to do. Or maybe your friend would have lost the bond for their house.

### Tweeting

Bird impressions were never cool. Never. And there are plenty of other sounds to make. All are fewer than 120 characters.

### Hash Tag

Doesn't make any sense on its own. Some kind of cannabis-related chasing game, maybe? This really has no predecessor, as far as I know.

### "I took a photo on my phone"

Fifty years ago, the idea that a phone could take photographs would be ridiculous. You would only be able to take photos as far as the cord could stretch. But maybe you'd get a good pic of when your friend wrote on your wall.





## ULTIMATE TEAM ONE

"Being one of two Ultimate Frisbee team managers was a fantastic and meaning experience. It allowed me to take on a leadership role and develop my interpersonal skills by assisting participants with any issues or queries that they had. Although I enjoyed being a team manager, I recommend that if you take on the role you need to be organised and ready to work with others in a positive manner."

—Stephanie Hocking

## ULTIMATE TEAM TWO

"Ultimate started the week off with a draw fought out right until the end. The rest of the week was harder as we recorded only one win from the rest of the games. However we decided to take two even teams rather than one strong team so it was good to see both teams were positive and happy throughout the games. Off the field the team had a lot of fun playing together and making sure everyone was safely back home at the end of the night. Another great uni games had for FedUni Ultimate."

—Tyler Ryan

## MIXED NETBALL BALLARAT

"The Ballarat-based Mixed Netball team enjoyed plenty of success throughout the week, however not the exact success we were hoping for on the court. Of the 16 teams in the competition, we finished a disappointing 11th...In hindsight, we were certainly capable to finish inside the top 5 teams. Notable performances from the week were Sean Martin's sheer ability on the netball court, he had all opposition teams baffled; Remeny McCann's love of the contest and not letting any of the boys push her around; Adam Romeny's buzzer beating shot to force an epic draw against La Trobe; and Ben Wormald's surfing abilities. Each team member had a red-hot crack on and off the court, giving it their all."

—Elliot Small

## GOLF

"FedUni took two golfers to the Southern Uni Games, and while we didn't walk away with any silverware, we put in a solid effort on a couple of golf courses that were far from easy. The golf was played on the North Course and the South Course at the North Adelaide Golf Club, and the competition was split into two events: a handicap event and a stroke event. In the handicap section, our shining white light was Cameron Myers from Ballarat. Playing off a respectable handicap of 32, Cameron played extremely well and was in medal contention for the first 3 rounds. The last day, however, would prove to be a bit of a struggle for Cameron and he dropped to 7th overall in the handicap division, still a great effort. I was the other golfer and I was trying to take out the stroke event. My first two rounds were horrible, and the next two weren't much better. In amongst all that, I finished 4th somehow. Short of that, both of us had a great week and we would just like to thank Tegan, Chloe, Jeannie and Ryan for all the organising they did."

—Dean Williams

# SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY GAMES

## Wrap Up

The 2015 Southern University Games (SUGs) were recently held in Adelaide. FedUni had a total of 90 participants attend, including students from the Ballarat and Gippsland campuses, as well as online students.

## FUTSAL

"As a first year student attending the Southern University Games for the first time, I was blown away by how amazing it was and it is by far the highlight of my university experience so far. The SUGs offer a wide range of sports for either new or experienced athletes in either single or team competitions. It gave me the chance to compete against some of the best futsal players. SUGs offers a range of social events to meet not only other teams of a variety of sports but people from my own university and I have made friendships that will continue long after the SUGs."

—Jake Richardson

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

"As a first year student, the Southern Uni Games provided a great opportunity to meet students from other courses, campuses and universities. The women's basketball team, although only winning one game, managed to enjoy themselves both on and off the court. Team dinners and the themed social nights were a fantastic opportunity to mingle and boost morale. I would highly recommend Unigames to all students."

—Abby Collinson

## MIXED NETBALL GIPPSLAND

"Gippsland Mixed Netball started off well with a 29 – 1 win against Swinburne. Each game got a lot harder but the team never failed to keep their spirits high and played on with a good attitude. We had some tough games that pulled us together as a team, making sure not to let the opposition have an easy run. This year's group was one of a kind, never failing to entertain both on and off the court. Considering the amount of preparation we had prior to the games we came out stronger than many expected and proved to be a team to be reckoned with"

—Asha Linn

## CROSS COUNTRY

"Being a part of FedUni at Southern Uni Games 2015 in Adelaide was a great experience. Having competed last year in Wodonga in Cross Country, I was looking forward to the event this year to catch up with the competitors from last year's race. This year, the Cross Country course was quite tough. After torrential rain and hail during early morning, the course was quite muddy and very heavy under foot. The course was four laps of 2kms which comprised of a range of different terrain which was great to see. For approximately 200 metres, the incline was almost 65 degrees. Hopefully next year, FedUni can get a team of three girls so we can enter as individuals and also in the team event as well."

—Courtney Scott

More photos and information on the week can be found on our Facebook page (FedUni Sport&Rec). Training sessions are now underway for the Australian University Games which is being held in the Gold Coast during the September holidays. Check out our webpage for more details ([www.federation.edu.au/sport](http://www.federation.edu.au/sport))



# BallaRatCat COMEDY

By Pietro Angeli

As an aspiring Open Mic enthusiast, I know how tough it can be to run a successful comedy room. I can't count the times I've performed to tiny crowds in tiny bars, where the audience was so dead, even the couple of friends I'd paid to come with me couldn't muster the courage to laugh at my poor excuses for jokes.

Because of this, I feel like I know what bad comedy is, and I also know what it feels like to be well and truly spoiled at a comedy gig. The BallaRatCat Comedy club did exactly this. From the venue, with the bar only a couple of meters from the nearest seats, to the room, where the stage seems so close to the crowd you feel like you've personally met the comedians, to the comedians themselves, I really can't think of a better environment to spend a couple of hours every month.

The most impressive thing about BallaRatCat, however, is the stellar line-up they produced. The MC and two support acts were some of the best comedians I'd never heard of (but certainly 'google searched' afterward), and the headline act, Tom Gleeson, somehow managed to surpass even the ridiculous amount of hype his name alone produces. Plenty of audience participation from all the comedians meant that the night felt less like a performance and more like the interactive experience a comedy room is meant to be.

Gleeson was as charming as he was obscene, and turned any would-be hecklers to bumbling messes with just a couple of polite insults. News flash, there's no need to travel to Melbourne for top-notch comedy anymore—BallaRatCat is quickly making a name for itself and we can only expect bigger and better things from here on out.

For more information on upcoming gigs, go [www.ballaratcat.com.au](http://www.ballaratcat.com.au)



By Scarlett Baum

Athenas Wake made sure the lull in attendance on their August show at Karova didn't deter them from packing the intimate venue wall to wall with the heaviest of metal and brutal riffs. Though the crowd was small, it was anything but quiet.

Opening acts, Hollow World, The Hazard Circular and Nemesium, were for the most part relatively unremarkable and unmemorable but for their out-of-this-world hairstyling choices (Korn throwback, anyone?)—it was the headlining act that made the \$10 entry worthwhile. Taking to the stage around midnight was the Geelong based five-piece, Athenas Wake. Best described as a new breed of technical death metal, the band is currently free of a record label and writing songs for their upcoming album.

Bathed in the blood-red glow of the small stage's spotlighting, Athenas Wake busted out a six track set with an urgency that can only come from having a serious passion for their craft. Body convulsing, possessed by the beat provided by drummer Matt Davenport, frontman Adam Caciolo screamed the undisputable best vocal performance of the night. His energy carried not only through the windmilling audience, but also to his other bandmates: guitarists, Alex Bell and Alex Hill, and bassist, Toby Thomas. While these boys showcase a level of artistry you don't often see in the now indie-pop driven industry, Athenas Wake's string section is still as effortlessly cool, somehow managing to appear serene and chill amongst the pure havoc they ooze onstage.

Ears stretched to the limits and tattooed with nothing to lose, these boys are sure to go far. If you're a fan of Behemoth, Avenged Sevenfold, tandem head-banging and a casual mosh session, keep an eye out for their soon to be released single, 'Witches'.



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/athenawakeofficial>  
Bandcamp: <https://athenawake.bandcamp.com/>



# Trainwreck (2015)

By Kobe Charles

Sex? Tick. Alcohol? Check. Cringe inducing comedy? Yep.

If I was talking about another episode of *Sex and the City*, you would not bat an eyelid; however, in this case I'm talking about Amy Schumer's new film *Trainwreck*.

Amy Schumer plays a hilarious and promiscuous, out-of-control young journalist not really trying to get her life under control. Thanks to her father's beliefs that monogamy doesn't work, Amy tries constantly to avoid relationships that last for more than a few months (or a few days). That is until she is assigned to write an article on an up-and-coming new sports doctor that is changing the face of sports medicine, one knee at a time. Amy somehow falls head-over-heels for Doctor Aaron, even though he is incredibly goofy and the complete opposite of Amy.

This 'opposites attract' concept somehow comes into play and Amy finally learns to embrace a real relationship. I know you're thinking that this is probably just a slightly better love story than *Twilight*, but I can assure you there's more to this story than meets the eye. *Trainwreck* is a film with an incredibly strong female character that, shock and surprise, is not perfect at all—in fact, she has a bucket load of issues that probably need several more sequels to address.

Although Amy is a mess and eventually she does find a great man, what is really refreshing about this film is the fact that Amy is never a damsel in distress; she is her own knight in shining armour that comes to her own rescue in the end. *Trainwreck* is so painful and yet so delightful to watch, because in a way we can all relate to Amy and her search for self-happiness in an imperfect world.



## Wet Hot American Summer (2001)

By Zach Mullane

I know what you're thinking this is and no, it's not. Get your mind out of the gutter. Geez...

*Wet Hot American Summer* is one of the most ridiculous movies I have ever seen. It's so absolutely insane, I don't even know where to begin.

The cast is probably the best place to start, just because of how awesome it is. Paul Rudd, Bradley Cooper, Amy Poehler, that bald guy from that cop show and the voice of Bob from *Bob's Burgers* (and only his voice) are just some of the people that show up. In every scene a new face will pop-up and you'll be like, "Oh, that's the food-loving cop from *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*" or "There's the actress that got knocked up in *Knocked Up*". It's an amazing cast and they look like they had an absolute blast during filming.

The story of the film is a little harder to explain. It's set on the last day of a summer camp in some small town and follows the trials and tribulations of the camp counsellors and guides. But those trials are just so over-the-top and weird—everything from crashing space stations to humping fridges. It's great.

But maybe you're wondering, "Hey, what happened on all the other days at this camp?" or maybe you're not, but let's just pretend you are so I can segue into this next part of the review. Well, wonder no more because Netflix has recently launched a miniseries that is exactly this. I mean sure the actors are all 14 years older and most of them were too old to be playing 16-year-olds in the first place but... umm... just watch it. It's hilariously stupid. And who doesn't like Paul Rudd being hilariously stupid?



## Go Set A Watchman

By Danielle O'Donnell

Harper Lee's first book, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, has stayed with me over the decades. It is a wonderful evocation of a small town in the grip of racism over two summers, told from the point of view of a six-year-old girl named Scout, or Jean Louise Finch.

Told from the point of twenty-six year old Jean, *Go Set a Watchman* is its sequel. Once again, Lee explores such subjects as small town life, growing up, love and justice. The trial of a black man for rape is the main action of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and the attitude of the small community of Maycomb to black people is the main concern of *Go Set a Watchman*. Lee takes a theme, black and white, makes the most of both its symbolic and literal implications, fills her pages with well-rounded characters and leaves you thinking about the most important interactions between human beings.

The clear, rhythmic prose of Lee's writing captures all the moods of her protagonist. Scout is impulsive yet vulnerable, humorous and cheeky, opinionated and outraged. Scout grows up some more as she discovers that her loved ones, including her adored Atticus, don't see life in terms as black and white as she does. It is a book of important conversations establishing direction for each character. It does provide a challenge for those unfamiliar with some legal and political aspects of the American civil rights movement—you may want to read some background to get the full meaning of some scenes. Despite this, its portrayal of Jean's final steps to an adult identity make it a compelling read.

This short novel is a memorable portrait of a young woman making important decisions and standing up for herself.







By S. Hooley

Only two people get away with slow exposition: Morgan Freeman and Stevie from *Malcolm in the Middle*. So when *Paper Towns* opens with clear, slow narration, I sigh.

The narration gives us young love. “Fine,” I say in my head. Then a suicide. “What?” Then narrated character development over a five-minute montage showing two kids aging. Sigh again. But to be fair, the protagonist, Quentin, and his soon-to-be-obsession, Margo, are only kids.

They grow up and apart, their names become initials, and I’m sitting in the cinema, halfway through a block of chocky, feeling like a prophet. In my head, I know already know how this ends: some sort of event triggers M to realise that Q loves her, she can’t handle it but eventually comes to realise that she loves him too. All I will say on that is I will never be a prophet.

So we meet the supporting cast, conveniently paired off during a (thankfully condensed) twenty-two hour road trip. It’s not clumsy, but it is obvious who is going where. But I do have a heart. There are moments of intense emotion within the film, and some really very pretty shots. Yes, pretty.

In terms of laughs, it has a few unpredictable jokes. I’m guessing some are better explained, or even just explained, in the novel. Have somebody you’re trying to impress who liked *The Fault in Our Stars*? The same author wrote the novel that this film is based on. My advice: buy two tickets, but leave the tissues at home.



By Zach Mullane

*Zoo* is a television series based on the novel of the same name by James Patterson and Michael Ledwick. It’s about animals all over the world fighting back against humanity. Except when they’re not. It’s weird.

The coolest thing about the series is how worldwide it is. You have about four or five separate points of view from characters in France, the United States, and Botswana. There are even scenes where they introduce new characters, make you care about them and then just kill them off just so you can see what is happening in other parts of the world without it getting too cluttered. It’s as if there are all these smaller stories but we are only seeing glimpses of them and it really helps sell the idea of a global catastrophe.

But overall the show is just not very exciting. The animal attacks look cheap and even though they sometimes were using real lions there isn’t a lot of tension. With the exception of one scene involving the pet cats of an entire neighbourhood but that, unfortunately, didn’t really go anywhere.

The cast, writing and direction are all just average and nothing really stands out. There’s an attempt to give it some sort of environmental message but it just feels kind of forced. I’ll admit I haven’t read the novel so I’m not sure how much is from the show and how much comes from the book. It’s a decent enough show to watch if there is nothing else on, but that’s the best I can say about it. That said, I probably will continue to watch it in the hope that it gets better—I’m only up to episode six.



# THE SAMUEL L. JACKSON SEARCH



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RAY ARNOLD FROZONE NEVILLE FLYNN LAZARUS NICK FURY ROBBY GATOR  
MACE WINDU ZEUS CARVER RUSSELL FRANKLIN JULES WINNFIELD

## Trivia Time

### 1 Pointers

1. What percentage of our body weight is water?
2. True or false? Harry Potter’s middle name is James.
3. True or false? The Statue of Liberty is taller than the Eiffel Tower.
4. How many consonants are there in the English alphabet?
5. In which country were *The Lord of the Rings* movies filmed?



### 2 Pointers

1. Which singing voice has the highest pitch?
2. Which Roman numerals represent the number 40?
3. True or false? Donald Duck’s middle name is Fauntleroy.
4. Which character did Clark Gable play in *Gone with the Wind*?
5. Who sang the 2015 hit song ‘All About That Bass’?



### 3 Pointers

1. What was the name of Moses’ brother?
2. How many years was Nelson Mandela imprisoned for?
3. Which of the five senses develops first?
4. How many keys does a standard full size piano have?
5. What is Lady Gaga’s Christian name?



One Pointer: 1. 60% 2. True 3. False 4. 21 consonants 5. New Zealand Two Pointers: 1. Soprano 2. XL 3. True 4. Rhett Butler 5. Meghan Trainor Three Pointers: 1. Aaron 2. 27 years 3. Smell 4. 88 keys 5. Stefani



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