

fedpress

Magazine

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Federation University's
Student Publication

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THANK YOU


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Thank you to Cameron for helping in the places where more coffee and less sleep wouldn't help.

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WILL THE BALTTIC STATES BE AROUND IN 20 YEARS

Throughout time the Baltic region has been a devastating mixing pot of religion, war, and social conquest, and the recent stabilisation of the Baltic states may not last in the near future.

It was only when the great Soviet Empire collapsed in 1991 that the nations of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia broke free of their socialist iron shackles, the economic collapse of the USSR allowing all annexed territories to regain their freedom. However, after nearly 27 years there is reason for worry because of recent Russian ambitions to invade previous Soviet territory; one example of this was in 2008 when Russia invaded Georgia, another in 2014 when they invaded Ukraine. Vladimir Putin proclaimed Russia was 'forced' into taking back Crimea from Ukraine, when he said in a meeting before the invasion, "We are forced to begin the work to bring Crimea back into Russia". The reason Putin supposedly said this was because Ukraine's president (who was pro-Russian) had just been illegally kicked from power, but it seems a little strange that Russia needed to take control of nearly a whole landmass. Ludicrous comments like this show why there is a chance that in the next 20 years the Baltic states may be Russian states. While the Baltics may have a miniscule population and economy compared to Russia, they are strategically important.

Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania all take up substantial portions of the land next to the Baltic Sea. Additionally, the coastal areas are near Poland, Germany, Norway, and Denmark who are all NATO members, which could be seen as threat to Russian defence capabilities because Moscow and St Petersburg are so close to the Western border. If Russia had the Baltic states it would put an extra barrier between the Western NATO members and the Russian motherland.

"an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all"

So what could save the Baltic states in the next 20 years? One major guard against the might of Russia is NATO. NATO is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization that comprises 28 member nations and includes some of the world's finest militaries, such as the United States, United Kingdom, Turkey and Canada. NATO's official job is the security of the region including Article 5, a proclamation signed in 1949 that, "the Parties agree that an



armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all". This year British troops arrived in Estonia as part of the agreement to protect each other's borders, but while it seems great to have the protection of foreign troops, my doubts come from the will to fight.

Why would a Dutch or Canadian soldier who has no problem with the Russians want to risk being killed in a foreign land that has very little resources or population? The Russians have military hardware and thousands of nuclear weapons that could cause doubt in any mind. What is stopping these foreign troops retreating? Fortunately, NATO has never been put in such a situation so I can't truly say that would happen. NATO has actually done a fantastic job at protecting its members, including the Baltic states: just this year the German Air Force dispatched four fighter planes to patrol the Baltic region.

The Baltic States' independence could also be protected by Russia's economy. While the Russian stereotype of being strong and powerful does seem motivational, it does not pay the bills. That was one of the main reasons the USSR collapsed: they couldn't control their economy. Today Russia is coming

back from economic sanctions and has home-grown business problems. Additionally, Russia's largest export is oil, but that doesn't last forever and other nations also have large sources of the material. For instance, Saudi Arabia, Canada and the United States all export copious amounts of oil globally, causing price wars and flooding the market. This could cause more income to be diverted from the Russian military to other government programs, such as finance and industry.

From what I know I believe the Baltic states can remain independent, however with only a population of 6.12 million combined they must want that freedom if they are to retain their independence.

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY
JACK BARNES



Ramadan

(the month to get fit)

SYED ZAIN ALI

What is Ramadan?

Ramadan is the name of the ninth month of the Muslim year. Muslims fast from dawn to dusk, which means no eating and no drinking. The idea is to take time from our busy daily life and spend time with family and friends and appreciate the things and luxuries we have and take for granted. One glass of clean drinking water is a normal thing for us but it is a luxury for some people in the world. Ramadan makes you realise that it's just not only about ME or MYSELF, we have to understand the duties we have towards the less fortunate, and help them as much as possible to make their life easy as well.

How do you practice Ramadan?

I get up around 4am to prepare a meal with my family and we eat *sehri* (the meal before starting our fast). I offer *fajir* (the morning prayer) and then get along with the day. The first two days are a bit different as the body takes time to get used to not eating and drinking during the day, but after two days it kind of becomes a habit. If I am at work or at university it is just a normal day, which includes two more prayers: *zuhr* (the midday prayer) and *asr* (the evening prayer). By dusk I try to be at home so I can break the fast with my family. It really helps to organise life in a better way, you get up early in the morning and you get to bed early as well, which makes the day more productive.

How long does it go for?

Ramadan is the name of the month, so it lasts for almost thirty days. We start fasting before dawn around 5am, and we break the fast around 6pm (near dusk).

What happens at the end of Ramadan?

Once Ramadan is over we get three days of celebrations known as *Eid-ul-Fitr*. *Eid* is an Arabic term meaning 'festivity' or 'celebration' and *Fitr* means 'to break the fast'. The most important is the last night of Ramadan, known as 'moon night', which is very similar to Christmas Eve. I spend the night out shopping with my friends. Muslim communities organise family fun festivals which are great fun for everyone. After the day prayer we spend time at the community centre and catch up with friends and family.

What does Ramadan mean to you?

There are a lot of ways to look at Ramadan: it's the month to get fit; it's the month that brings you closer to your community and friends; it's the month that brings you closer to God when you physically accept the fact that you won't eat or drink anything for a certain period of time as God doesn't want you to; and it's the month of charity and donations, as Muslims all around the world donate 2.5% of their yearly savings to charities for supporting people in need. It's also the month to get more social.

To me, Ramadan is the month to get fit; as we eat and drink most of the hours of the day, our stomach is always busy doing the job for us and when we don't eat or drink anything from dawn to dusk it helps the digestive system relax for 10 to 11 hours, which ends up increasing our metabolism. Metabolic fasting for fat loss is a healthy way to burn fat and shed weight. I love this month of the year as it brings people together. I try to break the fast with my family, we eat good food, and spend more time with family and friends which make this month itself feel like a festival. Also, when I am fasting I understand how fortunate I am that I can afford food whenever I want. I see people around me eating and drinking and it's like putting myself in someone else's shoes, someone who doesn't have everyday access to proper food and water, which makes me more considerate and generous towards others.

What Will the *University* Look Like in the *Future?*

DAMIAN BROWN*

**Fedpress's Raoul Duke.*

After the rousing reception that my previous article looking towards the past received, I turn my blurry eyes to the future of higher education, and what FedUni will look like after we are all long gone. Of course, it is not possible to 100% predict what will happen even in the next second of time, but that won't stop me from trying to predict what university will be like for the next generation.

Technology will continue to become a vital part of the education experience. Cybernetic implants will allow for the fast tracking of information directly into a student's brain, via a patented 'Applesoft' port (created after the multi-trillion dollar merger of Apple and Microsoft into a biggest monopoly since the roaring 1920s). 'Classrooms' will be full of standing desks (because of the dangers of sitting) with high-speed ports pumping information in at a staggering 100,000 mbp/s. In 15 years there will be no tutors, only lecturers who prepare their course for direct input. More and more professional jobs that students are studying for today will be done by robotics, so more theoretical degrees such as Arts, Psychology, and Philosophy will become popular, as currently the only thing a robot cannot do is think. Virtual Reality will take off, allowing for history students to experience documented historical events, social welfare students to provide counselling, animal husbandry students to take care of virtual animals, and so on.

Moore's law indicates technological impact doubles every 18 months; ten doublings in 15 years gives an increase of over 1,000 times by 2032. Imagine your mobile device, your games console, or your personal computer over 1,000 times more efficient. Students would have to receive more payments to be able to go to university with the reduction in part-time jobs. This will mean many people will be inspired to create their own businesses and work, so degrees in Business and Finance will continue to have increased enrolments because of this. Depending on whether the current conservative political trend continues or the liberal approach makes a comeback, university education will either be free or will continue to be funded by HECS-debt or similar. There would be a vastly different amount of degrees on offer, and technology-specific degrees such as Engineering and I.T. would be completely different, both in content and delivery.

I am fully aware that some academic in the year 2032 will read through old back copies of FedPress, and in reading my article will laugh their head off in the same way we laughed our head off in 2015 when the hoverboards, flying cars, and microwave pizzas of 1989's *Back to the Future Part II* failed to come to fruition. To which I say that I feel education in the future will be better off, if my predictions are true.

Active Triathlon Series Race Five

MOLLY IRVINE

After being selected for the Triathlon Victoria team for the 2016/17 triathlon season, it was my third and final race of the Active Melbourne Tri Series for the season.

With the race being held in Mordialloc in Melbourne, it was an early morning on Sunday to arrive at the event location by 7:30am to check-in, collect my race numbers, rack my bike and set up my transition area (which includes my towel, cycling shoes, helmet, sunglasses, and runners). Despite having to leave Traralgon at 5am, it was a perfect morning and a warm finish made for a spectacular morning to celebrate the end of the Active Tri 2016/17 Series.

After taking up the sport of triathlon five years ago, it was about time that I stepped out of my comfort zone and enter myself into the 'Elite/Pro' category, rather than just my normal 'Female 20-29 year old' category. Racing in the elite category means starting on the start line with the best triathletes in the state and being able to race for prize money/vouchers, as well as getting your name out there for potential sponsorships from national coaches/clubs.

After numerous 5am wake up calls, dry chlorinated skin, goggle and swim cap marks, sore knees, sore legs, tired arms, tired eyes, a hungry and exhausted body, not to mention the countless hours of training, it is always so nice to be able to



stand on the start line and know that I have well and truly done the training. It's what the day brings, how it all pans out and how the body is feeling on the day that determines a good race from a not-so-good race.

My starting group were the second wave of competitors to start the race (two minutes after the Elite/Pro males) at 8:30am. We entered the water of Mordialloc beach after a quick run start into the water, a few dolphin dives and then a short and fast 750m swim around two floating buoys, before heading back into shore.

Another quick run to the transition area to collect our bikes and then it was onto the 20km bike leg. I was quite happy with my cycling leg as I managed to average over 35km/hr for the up-and-back lap along Beach Road.

After coming out of the swim around the middle of the pack and then managing to ride down a few fellow competitors on the cycle, I got off my bike in 4th position out of the Elite/Pro females and it was time to give the 5km run everything I had.

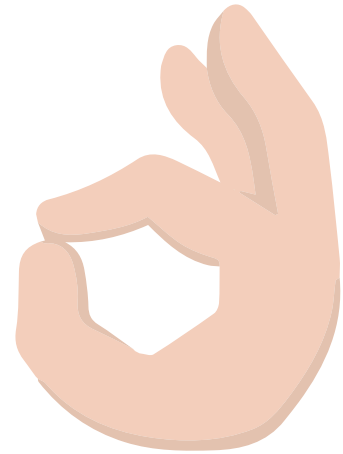
The run is usually my strongest discipline and with a bit of competitiveness and determination, I managed to catch two of the girls on the 5km run. This allowed me to finish the triathlon in 2nd place out of the Elite/Pro category, 1st place in my age group and 5th female overall.

Results (Molly Irvine):

750m Swim Time	Transition #1	Bike time	Transition #2	Runtime	Overall time	Division rank
12:57	02:00	35:36	2:24	20:43	1:12:30	1st Open Age 21+ category 2nd Elite/Pro category 5th Female Overall



100



REBECCA FLETCHER

I've been thinking a lot about emojis, and it's not just because I'm a thrilling, up-to-the-minute individual – to be honest it's probably because I spend way too much time on Reddit.

I spend a lot of time thinking about language – editing FedPress means that you get a lot of content from a lot of different people, and one of the key considerations for editing (especially when it's one person doing it) is making sure that you maintain 'authorial voice', which means that things shouldn't read like I've written them if I haven't. Deep in the bowels of the magazine administrative material (a huge Word document no one wants to look at) is a note that the magazine is written in something called 'standard register'. Standard register (as opposed to formal or informal register), basically means that we aim to make things readable without sounding dumbed-down. We cull manners of speaking that unnecessarily obfuscate fundamental messages and avoid articles where we just talk about things and stuff, y'know?

Language is powerful. We can tell other people a lot about ourselves by how we talk (anywhere from accent to word choice), which is why a lot of people, when writing, sometimes feel the need to write more formally than strictly necessary, and why people often get a little judgemental at mistakes that they can see (presumably that the writer did not see).

Now while I may suck my teeth at 'peaked' interest and errant commas, as far as I'm concerned (as a reader), if I know what's going on, I'm not going to spend too much time on what I think it *should* say, because in all honesty, I *know* what it says. There was much tutting and pearl clutching going on a few years ago when people were (supposedly) using 'text speak' (like u use

on ur phone) for résumés. I don't know how much was true compared to how much was urban legend (like the serial killer who hides under your bed and steals all your bandwidth), but it showed there was a strange fear about this new type of language because suddenly people couldn't tell whether it was laziness or just people not knowing any better.

So, poor spelling is bad, poor grammar is bad, and lazy language use is bad. We instantly associate a teenage disinterest with all of these, a petulant refusal to accept the rules, even a deliberate action calculated to irritate the kinds of people that rule-breaking irritates. But how does something like an emoji compare to bad spelling or grammar? While it's not strictly 'correct', does that necessarily mean it's incorrect? The kneejerk response is to say it's the same thing, but I feel that's because an emoji feels like the language equivalent of a shrug, just non-verbal disinterest.

I think a lot of this attitude comes from the fact that English uses a phonological writing system, which means that our words tell you how to say them, not what they mean. 'Dog' doesn't tell me anything about what a dog is or what it does, just how to pronounce the word (sometimes anyway, English has more exceptions than rules). On the other hand, logographic languages (such as Chinese and Japanese) use symbols that represent ideas that give you no idea of how to pronounce them (for any students of Japanese out there, *kanji* is logographic, but *hiragana* and *katakana* are actually phonological).

So in the case of emojis, I think that when we see something used alongside words, we want to assume that it's a word as well, but we can't process it the same way. It's not a code



to be broken, it's exactly what it is. But we've had a layer of understanding stripped from us, so it feels flat and we don't trust that it can possibly convey the same thing as a word. What we forget is that language is a tool, and like other tools, we play with it – so when I say 'dog' and put a picture of a dog next to it, it's not like it gains some other meaning, it's just a fun way of talking about something we might talk about every day. It doesn't need to add anything, it's just window dressing. The same can be said for using a dog emoji *instead* of the word.

There's an instinct to protect what we already know, because there's an inherent mistrust that we can communicate the same ideas with less information. We can argue about vocabulary and all the rest, but at the end of the day, I believe we feel like we've been wasting our time using words when we can use pictures instead, and I think there's a cohort of people who reject changing the rules solely because knowing all of the rules has made them feel better about themselves, or more importantly, better than *you*.

What people don't accept is that those years of rumination have given us the materials to completely legitimise this as a mode of communication – and like all messages, it still lends itself to scrutiny and interpretation, and the instant there is a rule about use, there will be those who doggedly attempt to keep the meaning pure and original, without realising that there is, at the very least, decades of linguistics research and documentation outlining why this is a failed pursuit. I mean, who wants to think about the impact of 'okay' compared to 'ok' or just 'k'? How do you even categorise that? Let me tell you, if you start placing

values on communication based on how long someone spent putting it together, it's pretty likely that I'm going to flunk out of uni.

So rather than complaining about everything new that pops up, I think we should use all of the tools available to us to communicate. We should try and keep the simple things simple, and we should make the complicated things as complicated as they need to be. Whether you send an 'okay' or a thumbs up, I know that it means you're fine with what's happening, and for every person mourning the death of the English language (and they've been around for hundreds of years now), there are precisely zero people demanding full sentences and punctuation on traffic signs. I'm sure that throughout history there have been a great many revelations had while barrelling white-knuckled down the highway, and I'm pretty sure that most of them are better summed up by a poop emoji rather than another argument about the Oxford comma.



fedpress

FedPress magazine is a student publication — it is composed entirely by students with content exclusively by students. Everyone involved with the organisation, contribution and compositing of the magazine is a student volunteer. Want to share a poem or a story you wrote? Want to share a photo you took over the holidays? In high school? Send it in! The work you send in doesn't need to be new or written to the theme — if you want to share, we want to help!

Want to submit something we don't normally print? Send it in! We can't print something we don't have. Worried it's too funny, too political, too topical, too silly? It isn't!

fedpress
Magazine



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Federation University's
Student Publication

THE CONTRIBUTORS

fedpress 

We need writers and editors

Contributors (poets, essayists, authors, joke writers — anything you like!)
Copy editors and proofreaders (Professional Writing and Editing students,
I'm looking at you!)

Social media captioners and posters

Website people to upload and tag content

All of your material is read and edited before publication (so you don't
need to worry that it's not good enough) — we work on every submission to
make sure that everyone is happy!

We need designers and artists

Contributors (photographers, artists — if you made it, we want to see it)

Designers (website and page layout, social media banners and images)

Typesetters

Do you make things we can't print in a magazine? That's okay, we have a
website! Let us share your work with your fellow students.

If you have something you think you can bring to the team, we would love
to hear from you.

Want more information or to contribute?

Check out our website at

fedpressmagazine.com

or email us at

FedpressEditorialTeam@gmail.com

The All Nighter's Guilt



ALISHA HENDRICK

Tick tock, tick tock
I hear the second hand of the clock
As frustrating as writer's block
I can't seem to write a word
I gaze out the window, oh look a bird!

The deadline is near
I fill with fear
I have put this off for too long
I do this every time, it's so wrong
So much distraction
I must take action.

I wish to rest my head
But there is no time for bed
I suddenly get an idea
Do I still have enough time? Oh dear.

I quickly begin to type and scrawl
Will I make it? I may bawl
A bead of sweat drips down my face
Against the clock, I race.

To my surprise
The sun begins to rise
It took all my might
But I finished by morning light
I submit and I sigh
Another assessment comes by
Left till the last day again
Why do I put myself through this pain?

My stomach begins to churn
I guess I'll never learn
One is done, it's over, it's through
Now it is time for round two.

The National Broadband Network: is it just a national nuisance?

DAKOTA RICHARDS

It seems a day doesn't go by without a conversation about the National Broadband Network (NBN). Lately, it's been getting dragged through the mud more often than emphasised as a move in the right direction, and rightfully so.

Since the change in government in 2012, The NBN Co. have become notoriously private. The website used to inform consumers about an exciting new rollout that would bring Australia's internet speeds up to par with the rest of the world, as well as creating jobs that would boost the economy. It was plastered with statements such as, "Directly supporting local jobs over eight years", "Provide equal wholesale access to retailers" and "next generation wireless". Now, that has been filled with subliminal mixed messages that the average consumer would not comprehend, simply stating in their purpose that it is to "design, build and operate Australia's new broadband network".

This change continues with a rebrand of the speed plans on offer through internet service providers (ISPs) — with the website stating that it offers the NBN 25/50/100. Whilst it can easily be assumed that 25 would be the slowest speed and 100 would be the fastest, it's intriguing to note that there is no mention of specific average download or upload speeds. It just gives certain indicators as to what that plan is best suited for (25 is best for basic surfing of the web, streaming in standard definition and emailing, whilst 50 is best for streaming in HD, online gaming and the upload/download of large files and so on). The only disclaimer they include is that the use of 'Superfast' means that the download speed is above 25mbps, which means very little to the average consumer.

This is an interesting sentiment, as NBN Co. recently underwent an ACCC review to address concerns that the listed speed of the network was misleading and not up to the promised standard. It revealed that NBN customers are getting 1/500th of the speed that they are promised. Other customers have voiced their frustrations at the repetitive dropouts they experience with some reporting that their Internet can drop out for 10–11 days at a time.

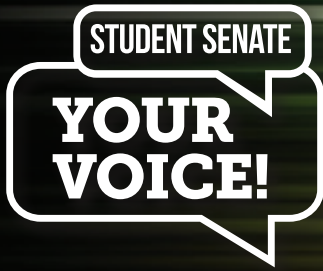
As a result, the ACCC plans to implement a 'monitoring arrangement'. Rod Sims, the ACCC chairman, said that individual households who have the NBN can be used as population samples to ensure that the NBN is delivering speeds as promised. However, when this will be applied is unclear, and funding is needed from the government for the testing to begin.

In the meantime, NBN Co. are directing the blame towards ISPs, saying that the reason consumers are experiencing slow speeds is largely due to providers, such as Telstra and Optus, not purchasing enough bandwidth to keep up with the demand. On the contrary, ISPs say that it is in fact the infrastructure of the NBN — particularly the federal government's decision to opt for cheaper infrastructure — that has affected their ability to provide the speeds outlined in their plans.

Additionally, they also seem to think that Australians simply aren't ready for a faster internet connection, with NBN Co. CEO Bill Morrow stating that, "Even if we offered it for free, they simply would not use it", suggesting that until augmented reality or artificial intelligence become more prominent, there is nothing to justify such speeds. However, I believe that there is always room for improvement, and even if we don't utilise such speeds, it's good to be prepared for the future ahead. We've always been trailing far behind and with comments like this, it's difficult to see change occurring.



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meet your StudentSenate

Faculty/Committee

- Sports Rep** — Rhys Jameson
- International Rep** — Emilia Wu
- Postgraduate Rep** — Ankita Mishra
- FedCollege Rep** — Subada Faroughi
- Sustainability Committee Rep** — Jess Powell
- Learning and Teaching Committee Rep** — Liam Mudge
- Academic Board Rep** — Amy Rickard
- Appeals Committee Rep** — Haydn Taela
- Faculty of Health Rep** — Drew Black
- Faculty of Business Rep** — Adrian James
- Faculty of Education and Arts** — Erin Morgan

Mt Helen

- Higher Ed Reps**
 - Haylee Govan
 - Liam McDonald
- TAFE Rep**
 - Sam McColl

Gippsland

- Campus Reps**
 - Adam Farrell
 - Eric Robinson

Camp St

- Visual Arts Rep**
 - Brittany Brayshaw
- Performing Arts Rep**
 - Chloe Prendergast

Wimmera

- TAFE/VET/VCAL Rep**
 - Sam Markby

Distance Ed

- Online Reps**
 - Wendy Almenara
 - Karissa Lloyd

meet your
StudentSenate
executive



Chair
Amy Rickard



Vice-Chair
Eric Robinson

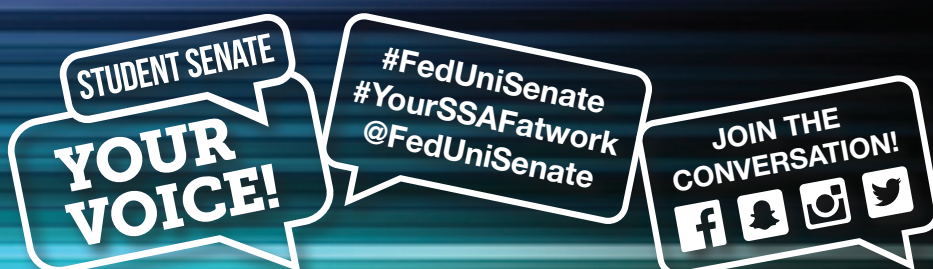
Portfolio Chairs

Communications — Sam McColl

ITS/Facilities — Brittany Brayshaw

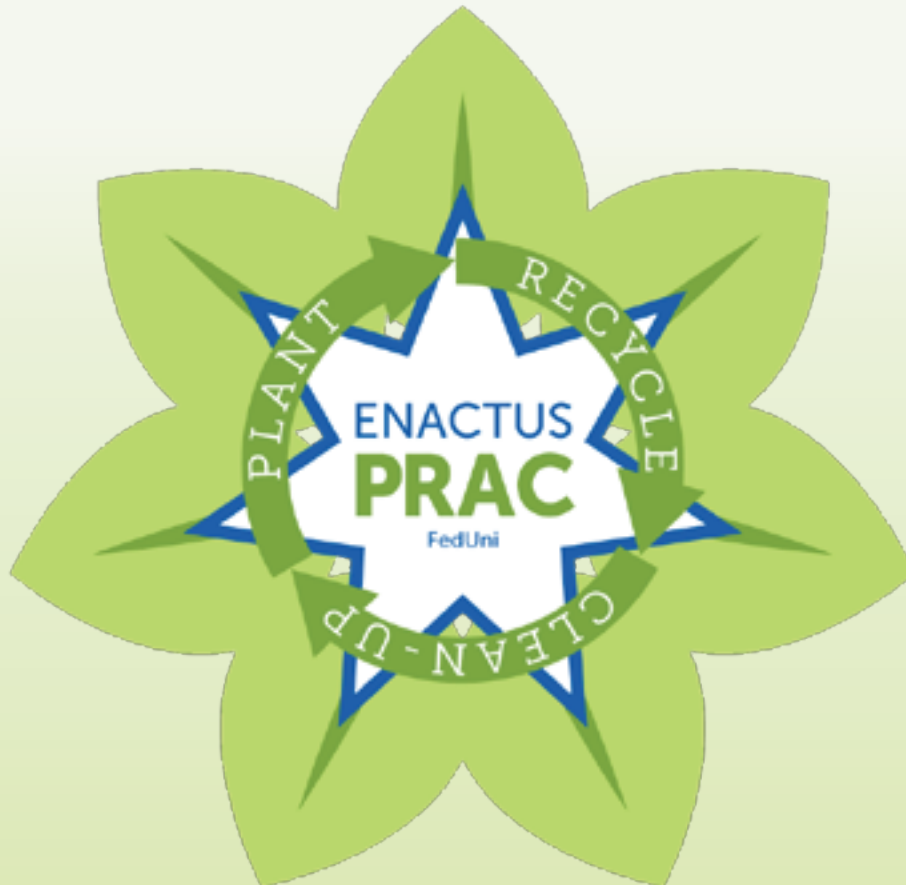
Student Connect — Ankita Mishra

Academic — Drew Black



Make a Difference to Your Campus With ENACTUS

GEMMA HALL



If you saw someone leave a brown paper bag from The Hub on a bench, would you step up and say something? How about if you saw someone step on a small plant, whether or not that person realised their mistake? Would you tell them?

A group of students say, “Enough is enough!” and YOU could HELP us make a difference! Yes, we’re talking to you! We know you’re reading this, and we want you to take action and help the next generation. To quote some inspirational guy in America, hundreds of years ago, “We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children” (Chief Seattle, a hundred years ago). See that APA reference style? Yeah, you like that...

Anyway, we better get serious and get to the point: **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

This semester’s ENACTUS students are developing a pilot program to tackle the issues surrounding environmental factors at Mt Helen, and are actively looking for staff and students to

volunteer their time or money to help us:

- Clean up waste around the wetlands area
- Plant native trees, shrubs and grasses
- Recycle the waste we have collected, and reuse the stakes and guards donated by Landcare Victoria

What is ENACTUS?

ENACTUS is a global student organisation bringing together business leaders and students ‘to Enable Progress through Entrepreneurial Action’.

EN•ACT•US

- **Entrepreneurial** — initiating business innovation with integrity and passion
- **ACTion** — the experience of social impact that sparks social enterprise
- **US** — student, academic, and business leaders collaborating to create a better world



Our Project – PRAC

The ENACTUS Planting, Recycling, and Clean-up (PRAC) Project is a pilot program organised by a team of dedicated business students from Federation University Australia's Mt Helen Campus, focused on sustainable environmental issues and practices. By fostering resourcefulness, custodianship, and collaboration with academics, university leaders, and the wider community, ENACTUS PRAC aims to revive the indigenous environment and create a successful business model that can be adapted by other communities.

PRAC was designed to tackle issues and environmental factors including removal of waste, planting native plants, and recycling the materials we have accumulated. By collaborating with stakeholders such as students, academics, university leaders, and the local community, we can take action and develop a better solution to deal with the environmental issues identified.

Recent Events

The ENACTUS team organised some events recently during National Volunteer Week (Week 9 of Semester 1). We held the following events.

8 May 11am–1pm: BBQ in Mt Helen quad

9 May 10am–1pm: Clean up at the Mt Helen Wetlands

10 May 10am–1pm: Planting native trees, shrubs and grasses at Mt Helen

Remember that any volunteer hours you spend with ENACTUS count towards your Leadership Award and you can add it to your résumé. If you're interested in helping us or keeping in touch, tell us on our Facebook group.

Facebook: [@FedUniENACTUS](#)

Twitter: [@FedUni_Enactus](#)



CHRISTIANS @ UNI

*TIRED OF THE
SAME MUNDANE
THINGS?*

**ANXIOUS AND
OVERWHELMED
BY THE PROBLEMS
SET BEFORE YOU,
OR JUST FEELING
LIKE YOU WANT
MORE MEANING
AND PURPOSE IN
YOUR LIFE?**

*MAYBE IT'S TIME
FOR A FRESH
PERSPECTIVE!*

JESS POWELL

A university group called Christians @ Uni are active here at FedUni and have been a great support and encouragement to me. Last year after some friends invited me along, I joined in with an 'Equip' night to get a taste of what it's like. It's not what the stereotypes might suggest, rather it's just about good company and fellowship with other like-minded people.

A small-scale survey conducted on a random sample of University students revealed that although many students are interested in finding out more, very few have read the Bible, the primary source of information about God and Jesus. So far this year however, it seems that many people are showing an interest and coming along to make an informed decision for themselves. I invite you to join us!

Christians @ Uni extend across the Australian Catholic University (ACU) campus as well, so there is plenty of opportunity to meet other students! I've established some really valuable friendships with people from here, and always look forward to events to catch up with them. In addition to the Equip (training) nights, they also host a range of other talks, studies and nights providing opportunity to just network or check out what Christianity entails.

The Equip nights are held each Tuesday from 6pm at the ACU campus — usually in the Forbes Centre and a free meal is provided! Who doesn't love free food??! Bible studies are also currently held on a Tuesday or Thursday at Mt Helen and across Camp St and Gippsland campuses.

If you're interested, please contact our staff leader Chris Angel. He'll be able to tell you all the ins and outs and provide a more thorough overview of Christians @ Uni. You can email him at Chris.christians@uni.org.au

Thanks for taking the time to read.

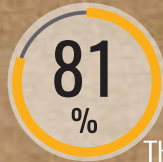
★ What Ballarat Uni Students think of Jesus ★

Stories of Jesus healing people



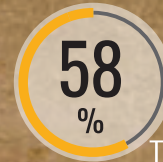
Think they're true
"Fair dinkum"

Jesus crucified on a Roman cross

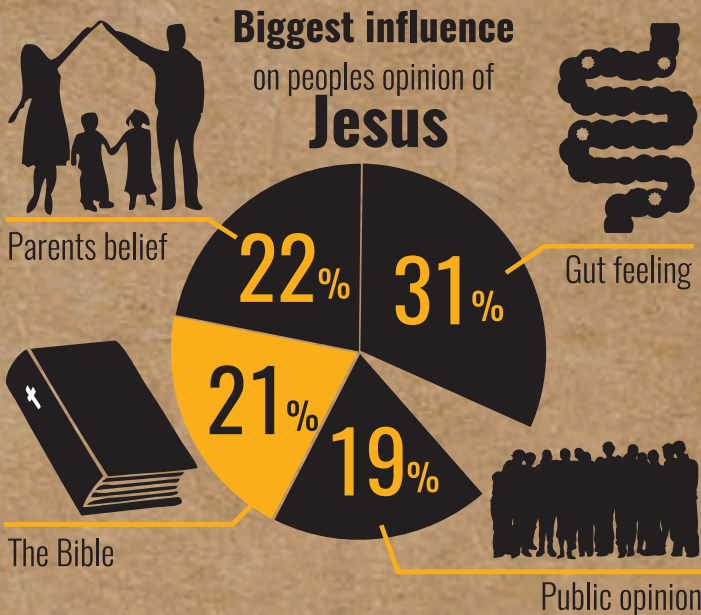
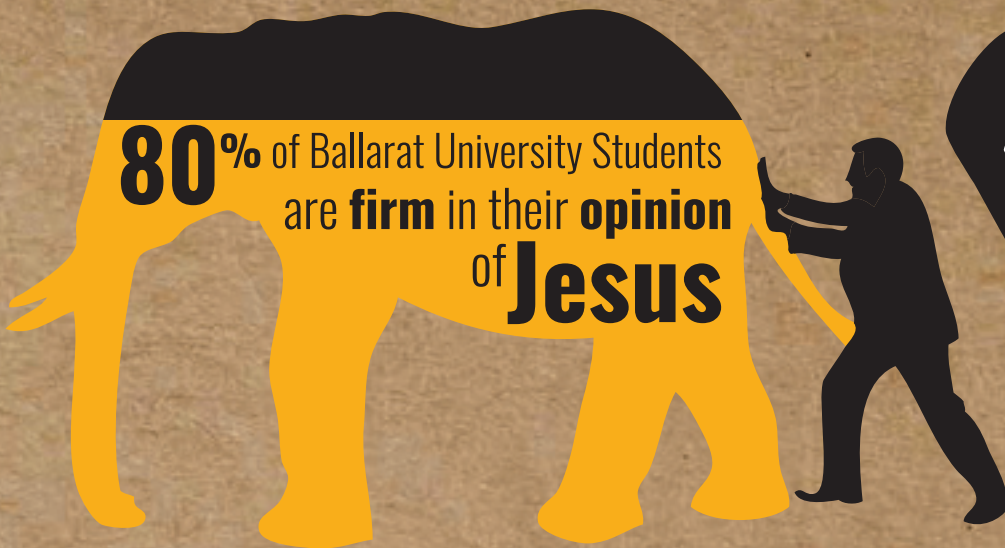


Think it happened
"Deadset"

Resurrection of Jesus from the dead



Think it's made up
"A load of baloney"



Almost **1 in 3** Ballarat University Students want to make an **informed opinion of Jesus** while at Uni



Are you **1** of them?

The Little Glass Sun

ZOE

Night and day has stopped coming and going.
This little world is white and too bright and too soft.
I no longer fall into the stupor called sleep.
I remain awake because the little glass sun never sets.

I look at the big unblinking eye that is next to the little glass sun.
Who is behind it for this little while?

Do I frighten them?
Do they know that I am not cold even though I cannot help but hug myself?
Do they see my friends?

I am not allowed to see who looks through the big eye.
I am not allowed to see the waiter.
I am not allowed to see the candy man.
But I can see my friends.

My friends come and go like day and night used to do.
They come to me after I've had the candy and I feel greedy
Because I want to share.
They play silently in my eyes
And their colours saturate this little white bright world

Where the big eye watches,
And the little glass sun never sets.

I envy that my friends can freely wander.
So, I stay alone for a time, eagerly waiting their return
In this little world that is too bright and white and too soft.

With the big eye watching,
And the little glass sun that never sets.



Aries, the Ram

April 19 to May 13

You'll discover something quite unexpected while digging in your garden later this month. Who would have thought you would find an unexploded, live bomb in your street? Certainly not anyone living anywhere near you!

LUCKY RATIO: 1,000,000 TO 1

Taurus, the Bull

May 14 to June 19

As assessments come due and the end of semester approaches, remember to take a break when things start getting stressful this month. Try to avoid ones that leave you in a full body cast.

LUCKY PENCIL: 2B

Gemini, the Twins

June 20 to July 20

Pianos and anvils only fall on people from above in cartoons. What this says about your life and that large chest freezer is up to the news media and social commentators to decide over the coming months.

LUCKY CLOTHING: SLIP ON, SLIP OFF SANDALS

Cancer, the Crab

July 21 to August 9

While it will feel good to get out of the rain this month, you may never learn how exactly you arrived in the middle of the desert. Try not to mind the buzzing flies or the flying buzzards.

LUCKY ANIMAL: A HORSE WITH NO NAME

Leo, the Lion

August 10 to September 15

Even the fact that you have a small, dark and dusty workspace with a very low ceiling won't belittle your enthusiasm for work this month. After so many years with no results you're almost guaranteed a lucky break this time.

LUCKY TUNE: HI HO, HI HO

Virgo, the Virgin

September 16 to October 30

You will go on a long journey with a motley collection of strangers. If you do manage to guess your final destination before you arrive, remember to put on your 'surprised' face.

LUCKY NUMBER: THREE SCORE AND TEN



Libra, the Scales

October 31 to November 22

Between work, school and home, you may feel like your load is dragging you down a bit over the next few weeks. Take heart in the knowledge that no one knows how much Maat's feather actually weighs.

LUCKY ELEMENT: LEAD



Scorpius, the Scorpion

November 23 to November 29

Once you were considered tall and mighty, but recent developments have left you feeling a little short and abnormally afraid of snakes. The upcoming Whacking Day celebration may help lift your spirits.

LUCKY CONSTRUCTION ITEM: WOODEN TWO-BY-FOURS



Ophiuchus, the Serpent Bearer

November 30 to December 17

As a member of the newest sign of the zodiac, you often feel left out by the older signs. You won't feel that way this month when they all meet up and invite you along to Springfield's annual Whacking Day celebrations.

LUCKY DATE: MAY 10



Sagittarius, the Archer

December 18 to January 18

Second opinions about medical matters are often seen as a good thing. On the other hand, perhaps you should be alarmed when your GP calls four of their colleagues into the room to look at your test results.

LUCKY NURSERY RHYME: MISS POLLY HAD A DOLLY



Capricornus, the Goat

January 19 to February 15

A great thinker once said "Cogito ergo sum" which really is just a mouthful of gibberish. Honestly, the bar has been set pretty low, so when you can't find the right words just make them up. Everybody else does.

LUCKY SOUNDS: MOO, CLICK AND TITTER



Aquarius, the Water Bearer

February 16 to March 11

While you're not known for your meticulous living space or exceptional organising skills, losing your friend's favourite horse and your mother's chest freezer in the same week won't go over well with either party.

LUCKY LOCATION: MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



Pisces, the Fish

March 12 to April 18

Many mystical fortune tellers use crystal balls to peer into the spooky future. This month you'll discover just how easy it can be use the bottom of a bottle instead.

LUCKY SONG: 99 BOTTLES OF BEER





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