



The best news, views and art from UB students

Semester 2, 2010 Issue 2



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Arash Samii: Not just a pretty face

Melita Knight (Professional Writing and Editing)

Arash Samii grew up in Italy, moved to Iran (where his parents are from), then to Dubai, and settled in Australia in 2008. When he arrived at Melbourne airport, he had his suitcase, and no place to live.

The post-grad civil engineering student had been emailing a lady who was going to pick him up from the airport and give him the keys to his house. He emailed her for two weeks but didn't get a reply. So he said, 'OK, I will go myself.' He met 'a really nice taxi driver' who drove him from Melbourne to Ballarat. When they arrived, 'he turned off the taxi meter and said, "I'll help you to find a house and I will not charge you."'

Along with his civil engineering course, Arash also did an EAP course which 'you have to [do] if your English is not that good.' Not only does Arash speak English, he is also fluent in Italian and Farsi. He understands 20% Spanish, Arabic, and he 'can read and understand [French] sometimes.'

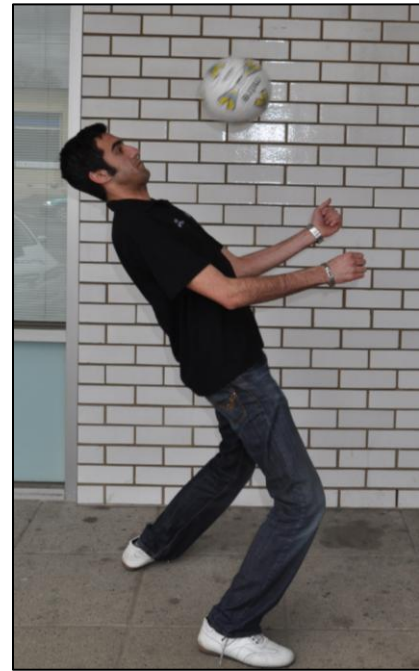
'Whenever there is a multi-cultural activity, I'll do it. Because I respect other cultures...This is my belief, I grew up like this. Respect other cultures, that is it.' He helped organise an opening dinner for Chinese students as well as a cultural day for Saudi Arabian students.

This year, Arash has also organised the UB United vs. Copperoos soccer match, held 23 October. 'Last year I was the player and poster boy. This year I'm player, poster boy, coach; getting others to play.' Does he think the students will win? 'Certainly.'



Arash as the poster boy for UB United vs. Copperoos.

Arash is soccer mad. 'I can't see a soccer ball. I'm sensitive...That's why I'm late, I saw a soccer ball in the library...I'm just too mad about the soccer ball.' Arash attributes his love of soccer to growing up in Italy. Although his parents are both Iranian, he considers himself Italian. 'I grew up in Italy. I have spent half my life there.' It could be this Italian influence that has him labelled as a 'Latin lover.' When asked if he was a ladies' man, he smiled and replied, 'what do you think?'



Arash showing his skills with the soccer ball.

With his charming smile and charismatic personality, he reminds you of a young Al Pacino. Despite his charms, Arash maintains that he is not a player. 'I've been famous as a playboy, but I'm not really.' And for all you single ladies out there, Arash is single.

Arash is not just a pretty face. He is also an entrepreneur. At the age of 24, he opened his own company. 'My uncle was telling me, "maybe you can't get this business done," I said, "Oh well, we'll try at least."' It was just him in the company, in an office with three computers. 'I used to do designing buildings, everything. Everything related to buildings.' His father now runs the business, and when Arash left the company, '[they] had seven engineers working there.'

'My dream is always to have a company...I'll stay in Australia. That's what I want to do.' 'I'm trying to make it.' If Arash doesn't decide to stay in Australia, he might go back to Dubai, or live in Sicily. 'I love Italy. I can't see anything wrong with it.' He is 'happy to do the same things in Italy, as long as I am living [there]...When you are feeling happy somewhere, it doesn't matter what you do honestly. As long as you are feeling happy...The important thing is to feel happy and alive.'

NEWS AND VIEWS

Student issues and opinions.

Student Downturn

Morgan Stewart (Professional Writing and Editing)

It's been thrust into the spotlight and it's something we can't avoid anymore. All Australian universities are suffering, with the University of Ballarat being no exception, because of the dramatic fall of international students studying in Australia.

Not only has the Global Financial Crisis caused trouble, but the rise in violent incidents involving those from overseas has seemed to scare a number of foreign students.



UB's Vice Chancellor, Professor David Battersby, says Australia is in 'a very significant

downturn in the number of international students' and believes there could be a fifty percent drop in the number of them commencing studies at the beginning of next year, whilst the Vice Chancellor of Melbourne University, Glyn Davis, fears it could be up to ninety percent.

Professor Battersby also suggests that visa restrictions are having an effect on students being able to travel to Australia to study, 'It's taking some of our international students, particularly from China and parts of the sub-continent, anything up to two-three months to get a student visa. In some other countries, it can take two-three days.' Prime Minister Julia Gillard however, doesn't see this as a factor, choosing instead to blame the drop on the success of the Australian dollar at the moment.

Considering the increased rate of the Australian dollar has happened recently, and the international student downturn has been an issue for months, Ms Gillard seems to have more explaining to do.

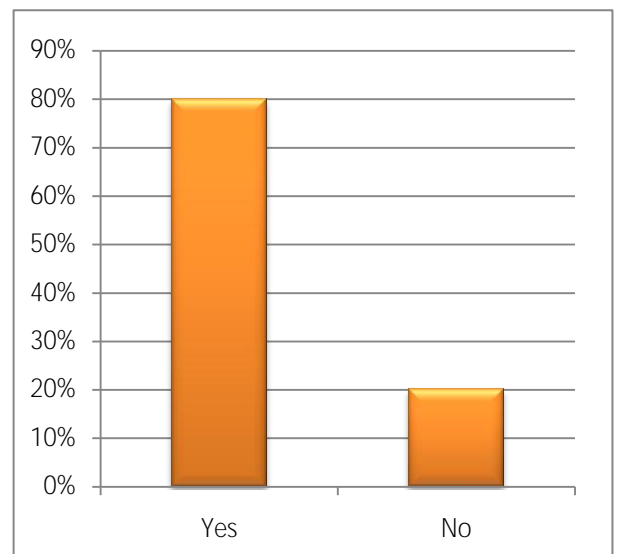
Another major factor that comes from the downturn is the loss of money, which will result in a loss of funding for Universities. The Gillard Government's failure to recognise the importance of the downturn will see Universities looking for ways to cut back, and for staff, this could mean job cuts. Back in May, the University of Ballarat asked staff to take voluntary redundancies, in hope it would help cope with the loss of money. However, Professor Battersby has stressed that these redundancies were voluntary.

The full effect of the downturn will be able to be seen at the beginning of next year when students commence their studies for 2011.

The Buzz Word

The Hotch Potch team went out to the SMB campus and asked:

Should the Government do more to help universities?
We had an overwhelming answer of yes.



What do you think the Government should do to help universities?
Let us know at hotchpotchmagazine@gmail.com

Sometimes I am two people. Johnny is the nice one. Cash causes all the trouble. They fight. – Johnny Cash

THE BALL PARK

For all your sporting needs.

Healthy Hints

Tony Castrignano (Bachelor of PE - Senior footballer with Bacchus March in the Ballarat Football League)

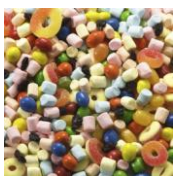
As a footballer, I'm often asked; what is the secret to keeping fit? Unfortunately, I have to answer that there is no secret when it comes to health and fitness! Basically, you can keep fit through a combination of healthy eating and regular exercise. There are hundreds of diets, health fads and exercise tips out there, so it's easy to see why people can get confused! To simplify things, I've provided five quick suggestions on both healthy eating and exercise which can help you to live a healthy lifestyle!



1. Have a big breakfast: A lot of uni students tend to skip breakfast, which is no good as your body needs a big meal to start the day and provide energy for all your activities throughout the day!

2. Find time for 30 minutes of exercise every day:

It can be hard to fit exercise in between university, work and social commitments. But to be healthy, you only have to exercise for about half an hour each day, which really is not long at all! Exercise can be a range of different things, from cardio activities (such as running, walking, swimming and cycling) to weight bearing activities in the gym. The important thing when choosing your exercise type is to do something that you enjoy!



3. Stay away from high sugar foods and drinks: Most people know to stay away from foods with high saturated fat content, but people tend to have a lot of high sugar foods without even realising that they are not all that good for you! If sugar is not used by the body for physical activity, the body stores sugar as fat, providing a similar effect to saturated fats. Lollies, chocolate bars, soft drinks and energy drinks all come under this category

4. Exercise with a friend: Sometimes it can be very hard to be motivated to 'push yourself' when exercising alone. Getting a friend to exercise with you can help you give your best



and get the most out of your exercise session. And you're also helping your friend to exercise too!



5. Avoid eating after 8pm: Your body doesn't need any extra energy at this time of the night as you are preparing to go to sleep. Any excess energy consumed from foods will not be used by the body, and therefore stored as fat

Uni Games

Melita Knight (Professional Writing and editing)

In September, over 90 UB students went to Perth to compete in the Australian University Games. The games ran from the 26 September to 2 October and included a range of sports such as: football, netball, lawn bowls, kendo and handball.

Professor Andy Smith presented students with awards at the awards night on 12 October.

Awards

Volunteer of the Year	Chelsea Ryan
Billy the Blizzard award	Stuart Ward
2010 Sports person of the Year	Rob Doyle

Full Blue Awards

Robert Doyle	Gold Medal in the Men's Individual time trial and Green and Gold selection.
Adam Corbett	Team Gold medal in Kendo and Green and Gold selection
Shaoxiang Zhou (Steve)	Team Gold Medal Kendo
James Doughan	Team Gold Medal Kendo
Guang Da Zhu (Davy)	Team Gold medal Kendo
Mitchell Herbison	Green and Gold Selection in A.F.L
Cassandra Hobbs	Green and Gold Selection in Basketball

Half Blue Awards

Mathew Gambetta	Bronze in the long jump
Phillip Bellingham	Bronze medal in Men's cross country, Mt Buller

The 'blue' is awarded for gold medals achieved at the national level and the 'half blue' is awarded for other medals and awards achieved regionally. A Green and Gold Selection is an honour bestowed on a student who shows an outstanding performance in their sport and who is worthy of an Australian team selection

HOTCH

POTCH

A real friend is someone who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.



Men's Basketball team



Rob Doyle



Women's Basketball team



Matthew Gambetta



Swim team member Luke



Adam Corbett



Athletics team members
Aaron and Matt



James Doughan



Phillip Bellingham



UB Turtles Footy Team



Mitch Herbison



Sammy



Handball Team



Guang Da Zhu (Davy)



Chelsea Ryan



Mixed Netball Team



Cassandra Hobbs



[HOT]CH [POT]CH

Tips and tricks to making cheap and delicious meals.

Ultimate Brownies (15 serves)

Danielle O'Donnell (Professional Writing and Editing - Chef extraordinaire)



This is not a super sweet brownie. This brownie is called 'ultimate' because it crosses the brownie divide. There are two types of brownies: cake-like and fudge-like (the debate and recipes seem endless). This recipe does a pretty good job of 'crossing the divide'. Have some unity for dessert!

Ingredients

250g of dark cooking chocolate (it doesn't matter if you use block or chips-avoid compound)
 1 cup or 125g of butter
 5 eggs
 2 cups of sugar
 1 tablespoon of vanilla or 2 tsps of vanilla extract
 1-1 ½ cups of plain flour
 ½ cup of almond meal
 1 tsp salt
 150 g of chopped pecans or walnuts, toasted

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C. Line a 23cmX33 cm pan (usually called a lamington pan) with baking paper or grease *well* with spray oil.

2. Put nuts into oven for 5 minutes to toast, cool and chop.

3. Melt chocolate and butter in a saucepan over low heat; set aside.

4. With an electric beater, stand or hand-held, beat eggs, sugar and vanilla on a high speed for 10 minutes (yes 10 minutes!)

5. Blend in chocolate mixture, flour and salt until just mixed. Stir in almond meal and chopped nuts. Pour into the prepared pan.

6. Bake for 35-40 minutes. (Don't overbake).

Best served with berries and vanilla ice-cream.

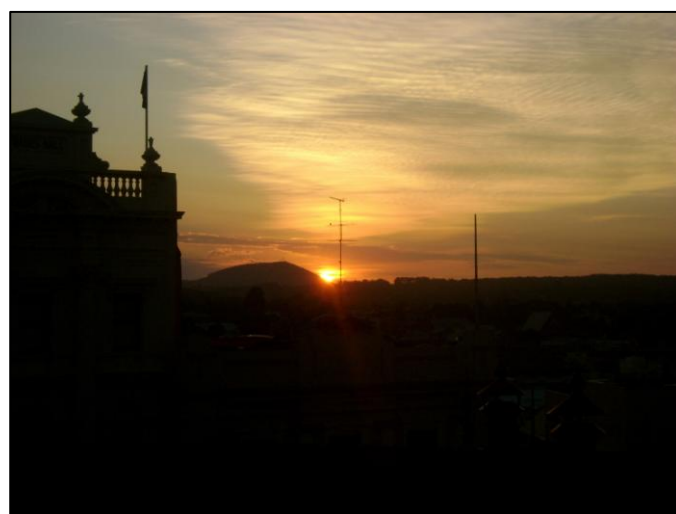
If you have a nut allergy, take out the chopped nuts and replace ½ cup of almond meal with ½ cup of plain flour.

To save money, why not buy homebrand items? They are much cheaper and taste just as good.

Do you have a recipe you want to share? Maybe you know how to make a cheap but delicious meal. Tickle the taste buds and send your recipes or tips into Hotch Potch: hotchpotchmagazine@gmail.com

Photo - Untitled

Georgina Gould-Hardwick (Bachelor of Visual Arts - Fine Arts)



LET US ENTERTAIN YOU

Entertainment news and reviews.

REVIEWS

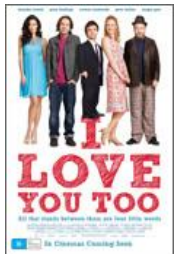


Eat, Pray, Love



Kaitlyn Chadwick (Professional Writing and Editing)

Elizabeth Gilbert's memoir *Eat Pray Love* has been adapted for the big screen. It tells the story of a woman, who divorces her husband, dates a younger man, packs up her life and sets off on a year-long adventure of self-discovery. With the direction of *Glee* creator Ryan Murphy, the visual experience of this film is delightful, as the audience is exposed to the beauty of Italy, India and Bali. With Julia Roberts playing Liz, we are reminded why she is one of the best, as she portrays a woman desperate to find herself again, and find the passion she once had for her life. An incredible ensemble supports Roberts, with the likes of Javier Bardem as Felipe and James Franco as younger boyfriend David, to round out this enjoyable film. If you're expecting a light, funny tale expect to be surprised, as this isn't your typical movie; it has heart.

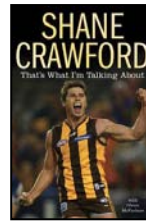


I Love You Too



Morgan Stewart (Professional Writing and Editing)

Girls, you'll need tissues for this one; boys, get ready for a laugh or ten. *I love you too* is the brainchild of Aussie comedian Peter Helliar. It ticks all the right boxes for a good movie; it has humour, romance, drama and a good cast. Filmed in Melbourne, *I love you too* follows Jim (Brendan Cowell) and Alice's (Yvonne Strahovski from *Chuck* fame) unconventional relationship and his trouble to utter the words 'I love you'. Each and every cast member adds their bit to the film (and there are some excellent cameos from Aussie actors), but you can't go past American actor Peter Dinklage who plays Charlie—Brilliant performance. I didn't expect a whole lot from the film, and I certainly didn't expect to be sitting with my mum sharing tears, but it was surprisingly captivating. Do yourself a favour and pick up the recently released DVD even if it doesn't seem to tickle your fancy, c'mon guys, it has Megan Gale in it.



That's What I'm Talking About

Kaitlyn Chadwick (Professional Writing and Editing)



One of the AFL's most respected and loved former players, Shane Crawford, has released his auto- biography, *That's What I'm talking about*. For admirers of Shane, this book will give you an all access pass to his life, before and during his footy career. It details his dedication and determination during his early years at Hawthorn, to his days on The Footy Show. One of the most touching themes throughout the book is his love for his Mum. The way he talks about her and what she did for him and his brother, as she was raising them as a single parent, is nothing short of admiration and love. It has humorous moments but it also shows a side of Shane we don't necessarily see in the public eye, a man who loved the game and would do anything for it. It doesn't just stop with footy, it rolls over into his responsibility as son, partner, father and role model. A truly enjoyable read and even if you aren't a fan of Hawthorn, you can appreciate the player Shane was.



Powderfinger (Live)



Coby Rapsey and Jacob Storer (Bachelor of PE)

Powderfinger, one of Australia's great bands, definitely lived up to their name when performing in the muddy pits of North Gardens on Saturday 16 October. Having not played in Ballarat since 2005, on the Across the Great Divide tour, there was much anticipation for the show. With supporting bands, Jet and Something for Kate front-man Paul Dempsey, they played a show that not even the horrible weather couldn't dampen.

The slow opening of *Love Your Way* built suspense, before bursting into the strong second half of the song, which led to an epic performance. In an array of hits spanning their seven records, the standout songs were *Passenger* and *My Happiness*.

The crowd was given an extra thrill after a short intermission (filled with images from the Russian space race), with the band popping up on a stage in the middle of the crowd.

Powderfinger finished with crowd favourite, *These Days*, to give the crowd a fitting, if not emotional, farewell to one of the biggest Australian bands of their generation.

CREATIVE CORNER

Art, photography, fiction, creative non-fiction and poetry.

Poetry - Untitled

Adelle Brereton (Professional Writing and Editing)

Salt and pepper.
Sugar in my tea.
Contrast equals harmony!

Line Drawing - Untitled

Georgina Gould-Hardwick (Bachelor of Visual Arts - Fine Arts)



Big Job

A serial by Shane Hartwig (Professional Writing and Editing)

I chose my people carefully. This job I was meaning to pull called for a controllable level of **criminal maniac; people like this aren't overly easy to find**, no matter where you are; combing the delicate mix of discipline, crazy brave and insensately violent... I had to start at the bottom, with drug dealers and smack-heads; **work my way up the chain of 'homey'-gangster and drug-barons**, until I finally got wind of the kind of people I wanted. Not meaning to embellish the difficulty of my task, I confide that the final result was **no easy means; gangsters don't get anywhere without being at least a little smart**. More than once I almost met a distasteful end from a paranoid king-pin; some scared I was trying to 'roll on their turf' or 'rat them

out'. A few of the smarter ones did some more digging and guessed, quite correctly, what I was trying to do. Nothing pisses off a savvy drug-lord more than trying to rob a major bank in his territory without giving him a cut; he probably has some of his own cash in it.

In such a wholesome example of modern society, I was just recovering from a meeting with Robert Marretti when Agent Grant first approached me. Having spent the previous twenty minutes staring down the barrel of a .45 in the clasp of a pissed-off mobster, I was still kind of rattled. So I went to a place that promotes my calm, a place of Zen is perhaps a more relatable term; no doubt everyone has a certain place and ritual that fills the purpose of assuaging every days anguish, and in a similar mode, perpetually **ignorant as to why though it is a question I've asked myself many times**, my place was at that time the city zoo. **I'm well aware it's a childish, even corny place** for a grown man to centre himself, and sometimes I admit I feel uncomfortable; going there without a kid, or a date, or being a tourist; surrounded by dozens, even hundreds of other who had and are; but I like it, the place is eternally green, vitalized, tended; loaded with fresh, living trees, and birds, and animals, all ignorant of the anxious trials outside their enclosure that cause each of us so much grief.

I sometimes get a kick out of that tree-hugging **crap, there's something essentially real about it all**, despite the fences and wire. It also has the dual advantage of being a consistently public place, full of (usually) sober and respectful patrons; constantly monitored for thievery, missing persons and liability purposes. There are 157 cameras around this particular zoo, 22 of which are located in and around the café, some way inside the west Gate. I sat once more in the alfresco section, surrounded with tweets and calls, muttering, laughing, movement, sun gratefully warming me, hands twitching around a coffee mug, watching out the back of my head for some thug under kill-orders, or anyone else that seemed conspicuously out-of-place in a zoo on a mid-summer's day.

What happens next? Grab the next copy of *Hotch Potch* to find out.

EVENTFUL

A guide to Ballarat events.

The award goes to...

Melita Knight (Professional writing and editing)

It is that time of the year again. Classes are coming to an end, and UB residents are starting to pack up and go home for the summer. Before they leave, they had one last chance to glam it up by attending the **Accommodation Services' Res Awards night**.

Residents attended an elegant cocktail party in Founders Theatre before sitting down to some comedy from Tom Gleeson, the MC for the night. He had the audience in fits of laughter, covering **everything from 'rooting' to toupées, iPhones and married life.**



It was then time for the awards to be presented. All year, the different residencies have been competing against each other to win the Resfest cup. Peter Lalor South took out the **girls'** footy trophy and Bella Guerin won the boys. The overall winner of the Resfest cup was Peter Lalor South, who were very ecstatic at having won.

The 2010 residential support team (RST) were congratulated and the 2011 RST was announced. Awards were given to the Sportsman and Sportswoman of the year for each residence, as well as resident of the year. It was also announced that next year, the uni will be offering residential scholarships for **those who 'aim for academic excellence.'** More information will be posted on the UB site soon.

After all the awards were given out, residents enjoyed a few drinks and a dance at the Hub after party. It was a fun night, one which Accommodation Services looks forward to putting on again next year.

2010 Resident of the Year

Peter Lalor South	Emilio Viegas
Peter Lalor North	Lisset George
Bella Guerin	Mark Block
Jemacra Place	Jessica Smith
Camp Street	Bree Dignan
Victoria Street	Daniel Thomson

2010 Sportsman of the Year

Peter Lalor South	Matthew Billington
Peter Lalor North	Phillip Bellingham
Bella Guerin	Ibrahim Alsoghayer
City Residencies	Matthew Duckett

2010 Sportswoman of the Year

Peter Lalor South	Emma McAllister
Peter Lalor North	Hollie Frew
Bella Guerin	Tessa Allan
City Residencies	Laura Gosden

Outstanding Academic Achievement in 2010

Alexandra Bauer
Sarah Marrocco
Michelle Ticchi
Karl Wellwood

Photo - Untitled

Tegan Barnes (Professional Writing and Editing)



Q&A with Martin Flanagan

Morgan Stewart (Professional writing and editing)

Australian journalist and author Martin Flanagan is best known for his sports writing in popular newspaper, *The Age*. During Flanagan's recent trip to Ballarat, to talk at a



Ballarat writer's conference, he had a chat to Hotch Potch about journalism, books, football and why aspiring writers should 'just do it'.

Considering you graduated with a degree in Law, how did you get into writing?

It was something I always wanted to do from the time I was seven or eight. And I sort-of never really believed I could do it. When I was at University, I got involved with the University newspaper and I was playing with the University Football club, so I wrote match reviews for them, and noticed a lot of people at the club liked what I wrote, so that encouraged me.

How did you break into the writing field?

I spent a couple of years roaming the world, and when I came back I was trying to write a novel. I landed a job writing scripts for children's radio with the ABC, I went for a job as a journalist for the ABC and didn't get it, I then got offered a job at the *Launceston Examiner* and took it, I had no idea whether I'd like it or not. I got into it and loved it.

What was it like writing *The Line* with your father, Arch Flanagan?

That was pretty enormous. I loved him a lot, I admired him a lot. I knew him, but I didn't really know him, because I didn't know about his experiences. Dad didn't really know if he wanted to do it, and when it came out he was quite shocked, but my father would have made a great journalist. And then the thing that really chuffed me was that my daughter, who was teaching at Ballarat Clarendon College, taught it. So it was three generations, and in fact



my daughter knows it better than I do, because once I write a book, I never look at it again.

What are you working on at the moment?

I've just done a book with Richo [Richmond Football player, Matthew Richardson], that was a joy. We just wrote a book about the game as we love it and that has just come out. I've also had a novel I've been working on for about seven years, so now I've gone back to that.

In terms of your career, is there anything you regret?

No, I've been very fortunate. I've been lucky, Newspapers are a dying form, and I got to experience them. I got offered a job from *The Guardian* in London and I didn't take it, but I don't regret that because I wasn't as interested in England as I am in Australia. Journalism is a battle, but I've had a good run.

Do you have any advice for young writers trying to break into the field?

Read. Whatever your particular interest is, whether it be sport or whatever, read the best writers in that field. For me, and journalism itself, the greatest writer is George Orwell. And if nothing else, read his essay *A Hanging*, a great piece of non-fiction writing. Educate yourself in the best, be passionate about it and take whatever opportunities come your way, just start. At the end of the day, have no better advice than the Nike ad- 'Just do it'.

For the full Martin Flanagan interview please go to <http://thebestkindofbuzz.blogspot.com/2010/10/q-with-martin-flanagan.html>

Photo - Untitled

Kaitlyn Chadwick (Professional Writing and Editing)



UR BALLARAT

Life and leisure in Ballarat.

Model Mobsters

Laura Duke (Professional Writing and Editing/BA)

Wayne Eagles thinks there are three types of 'old fellas' in the world: 'Codgers just bumble around, Curmudgeons are a real pain in the bum and Geezers still love to rock and roll and play their music loud.'



play bowls - I'm not mature enough!

The Modellers of Ballarat (MOB) member is so certain of which category he fits into that his car sports a personalised numberplate entitled 'geeza'. He also thinks many of his club members fit in there with him, saying 'we don't all

Co-founder and current treasurer, Wayne fondly refers to the MOB as 'the mobsters', explaining that the group was started as a way for like-minded people to talk about scale modelling. It began in 1999 with meetings just held at a members' houses, but has now expanded into one of the biggest modelling clubs in Victoria. Gathering at the Koohinoor Community Centre on the first Saturday of every month, Wayne says meetings are very laid back. 'Humour is the core of the club. We have a formal part which we try to make as short as possible so we can get to the fun part!' Although members are encouraged to compete individually, the MOB itself is a non-competition club. 'It doesn't matter how good or bad you are, we're not solving world hunger or anything, we're just making models.'

Contrary to what many assume, modelling is not a case of banging together some wood and slapping on some paint. The MOB members research the correct markings so the final product is an exact replica of the real machine, and models can take years to complete. True to form, Wayne takes his modelling that step further. 'Real tanks or planes aren't pristine, so I splash

a bit of mud on them or something so they look like they've just come off the field, not out of the factory'.

The MOB's annual show is held around April every year, with up to 1000 models on display, with all proceeds donated to the Ballarat volunteer branch of the Make-A-Wish foundation. The timing of the show is deliberately close to ANZAC day as people can associate the models with the day. 'Lot's of old fellas come along and it's great because they talk about what it was like to fly or drive the actual planes or tanks. We often make them models of the exact machines they used to be in.'

Wayne began modelling in the late 1950s when he was given a model in a plastic bag from Woolworths.



Tracked reconnaissance vehicle based on a Panzer 38(t) mit 2cm flak 38.

Stopping as a teenager when 'girls and motorbikes' took over his interests, he resumed the hobby later in life.

Previously a federal police officer, this 'geezer' has been through a lot in his life including open heart surgery and facing a black bear in the Rocky Mountains (in which case 'you run fast!'). He gives many of his models away to children and would love to get scale modelling into schools and hospitals, saying 'it's good therapy and it teaches hand-eye coordination and patience.'

Wayne says 'life has to be humorous. If you can't laugh at yourself you have to pack up and leave because this is not a dress rehearsal. Every day is a new day so make the most of it.'

For more information on 'the Mobsters', you can go to their website: <http://www.themob.websyte.com.au/>

Do you know an interesting place, event or activity around Ballarat? Why not send us in an article about it! hotchpotchmagazine@gmail.com



A Piece of Annelise:

Can you smell that?

Annelise Grundell (Professional Writing and Editing)

Can you smell that? It's a sweet smell and it is getting stronger with each passing day. It's the smell of the freedom that comes with the end of the academic year. Freedom from lectures, tutorials, studying and late nights to finish an assignment due the following day, even though you swore to yourself last time you stayed up until four am that next time, you would be more organised, you wouldn't do that to yourself again. Freedom.

With that freedom comes summer. As much as I love rainy days and flannelette pyjamas, nothing can beat a sunny day. Mother Nature has given us a few teasing glimpses of the better weather to come, serving to make me long all the more for the hottest month of the year.

Days that are long, nights that are warm. Hours spent at the beach, the smell of sunscreen mixed with coconut oil. Sunglasses, hats and beach towels. Digging my toes into the sand and running into the water to cool off, squealing with the shock of its cold temperature.

The weather that heralds the start of backyard barbeque season. Beer that always tastes better on a hot day. Books that can be read for pleasure, not because they are on the prescribed reading list. The season that brings the unmistakable nostril-stinging odour of insect repellent. This is what I'm craving, all of it, and it's not all that far away.

Good luck to all those who have exams. When summer is just but a memory, let's come back and do it all again.

Want more of Annelise? Then check out <http://thelittleboxofcrayons.blogspot.com>



Coming Soon

For all of those saucy and sordid questions you were too afraid to ask your mother. Our resident Aunt has an open-mind and an even more open mouth! Like a stiff drink she is harsh, to the point and is guaranteed to leave

you pink in the face and breathless.

If you have a dilemma, or have found yourself in a pickle; send your submissions to: askagony1@gmail.com But be warned:

Agony will always give it to you hard!

The Hotch Potch team wishes you the best of luck with your exams. Have a safe and happy holiday.



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We also acknowledge the contribution of the *Behavioural and Social Sciences and Humanities Society* as well as *Humanities and Further Education*.

Do you like what you see? Do you disagree? Do you have an issue you want to vent about? Do you want to submit some work? Have your say. Email us at hotchpotchmagazine@gmail.com.

If you want to write an article, know a cool event that's taken place or have a hot tip, drop us a line.

Why not add us on Twitter too. @HotchPotchMag. Come on. You know you want to.