

HOLD FAST

ISSUE NINE

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RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS: OPENING THE DOOR FOR MODERN MASCULINITY



Feature pg 4

Photo credit: Sarah Brady

SLEEPING OUT FOR THE HOMIES

The Sleep Out, which occurred from July 30th to the 31st, was an event organised by the leadership team in order to raise awareness of the conditions of youth homelessness. It involved a total of

around 40 students and 6 teachers sleeping in the study centre overnight. The night started with Nick Pearce, a speaker from HoMie - a clothing brand that specialises in helping aid young peo-

ple who are experiencing homelessness - who told us about the brand and their impacts in helping those experiencing hardships enter the workforce and provide sustainable clothing to raise money for

them all. We then played a small game of charades, which was created by the house captains, and trivia. Dinner and breakfast consisted of vegan/vegetarian-friendly meals to

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INSIDE: SPORT, STRIPES AND GRIPES, TRIVIA, MOVEMBER AND MORE

NEWS IN BRIEF



Fires rage across the Amazon

Amazon Rainforest

The Amazon is the largest tropical forest in the world and is home to more than 30 million people, covering more than five million square kilometres across nine countries: Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela. Currently, the rainforest is on fire and the fires are burning across a range of states in Brazil's section of the rainforest.

Fires are a regular and natural occurrence in the Amazon during this time of year in the dry season, and the National Institute for Space Research (INPE) recorded nearly 73,000 fires in Brazil between January and August this year. However, environmentalists and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have attributed the record number of fires to farmers setting the forest alight to clear land for pasture. There has been and continues to be an outpour of concern, grief, and anger, creating a lasting impression for people that the Amazon is absolutely essential to the world's future. Public demonstrations also took place in several major Brazilian cities and protests have occurred in surrounding countries. As fires raging

in the Amazon draws attention at the alarming speed of deforestation, critics say businesses aren't doing enough to stop the deforestation cycle in their supply chains.

Titanic Wreckage Footage

For the first time in 15 years, new footage has been released of the Titanic. An expedition team led by Caladan Oceanic CEO and deep-sea explorer, Victor Vescovo, recently dove to the wreck five times over the course of eight days, sourcing the most up-to-date images of the famous shipwreck. These pictures and videos depict the ship returning back to nature with the microbes on the surface eating away at the iron.



New footage of the bow of the Titanic

Scientists are now speculating that the Titanic will have disintegrated entirely within the next 30 years. However, some are hopeful it will take longer with Vescovo telling TIME, "but we should remember that the wreck has been down there 107 years in strong currents and seawater." This never-before-seen footage has been captured and aired as the National Maritime Museum thought it imperative now that the survivors have passed away, to use the wreck while it still has something to say.

Danny Frawley

On the 9th of September, the world lost a star in a single-car crash near Ballarat. Danny Frawley was many things: a father, brother, husband and idol for many football fans. A key theme at his funeral was mental health. While the car crash is still under investigation, Frawley's wife, Anita Frawley, made a statement saying that "Danny's mental health had deteriorated in recent weeks." Family and friends spoke fondly remembering Frawley, his kindness, humour and his genuineness touched all who knew him. A quote Frawley said regularly which resonated

with many: "manning up in the past was to suffer in silence, manning up now is to put your hand up." Supporters donated to beyondblue in honour of him, to keep his legacy alive. He will be missed, and never forgotten.

Wage Rage

Daniel Andrews - Premier of Victoria - defended the process that awarded him a 12 per cent pay rise on the 17th of September. Unions were outraged as they battle for public sector workers to receive an annual increase of more than 2 per cent. This wage increase for state politicians has made Andrews the nation's best-paid premier on a salary of \$441,000 - over a \$46,000 pay increase. The independent Remuneration Tribunal made the decision, with their Chairman, Warren McCann, justifying their verdict as it will "reduce complexity and increase transparency."

While the Government had no say in the tribunal's decisions, unions are urging them to turn down the increased salary, and for Daniel Andrews to create new legislation to keep MPs' pay rises consistent with those available to public sector workers. However, Andrews agrees with their decision and refuses to budge from a 2 per cent limit on public sector wages. Organisations such as United Voice - which represent paramedics - are shocked, arguing that if they accept this pay rise they are saying politicians are worth five times more than paramedics. Opposition Leader, Michael O'Brien - whose pay will increase by \$37,102 - has offered his support in the fight over work conditions and pay.

Editorial

For our final issue in 2019, we thought it necessary to discuss the importance of respectful relationships. How do you have one? How do you know you're in one? What role does society play in this? These are all valuable questions which Hamish and Alexandra explore in our feature. Their take on respectful relationships provides us with different insights, including the media's impact, the issues with modern masculinity, the development of victim-blaming and information on domestic violence helping you to look at this issue through an ulterior lens.

We were lucky enough to include an additional piece from the Hold Fast team for our Year 12s: our very own Guide to Adulthood. This little handbook includes tips, tricks, and advice from the likes of trusted organisations and teachers; the former providing a more traditional sense of what to expect as an adult, while the latter features guidance on what our teachers wish they knew sooner. We hope that this will provide some much needed insight on what to expect with little things, as well as allowing for a smooth and comfortable transition into life after high school, whether that be by learning how to host people, or even how to cook rice!

It has by no means been an easy job to stay on track with every issue whilst being a busy Year 12 student, but it has been the highlight of our year. As editor and sub-editor, we have had the opportunity to immerse ourselves in a rich environment of talented writers, which has helped to improve our own writing and editing and for that, we are immensely grateful. We wish the utmost luck to the journalism team next year and we also want to express one main piece of advice: have fun! Take this opportunity on your shoulders and let it drive you, but also know that you are in control. And that goes for everyone else too!



It has been the utmost honour to be a part of this team and we want to thank each and every person who was involved, either directly or indirectly, from the bottom of our hearts. It's been an amazing opportunity to help create six issues for 2019 - each issue filled with a wide variety of articles, from important current events to trivia and school activities. A lot of time, energy and thought went into each creation with many talented contributors working to make each issue the best it can be. We would also like to give a special mention to Ms Bermingham who has worked non-stop, making each issue special and being the rock for this project; she pushed us to always do and be the best and for that, we thank you. We truly look forward to seeing how this paper will further develop in the years to come and we know 2020's Journalism Captain - Olivia Vlahakis - will do an amazing job!

Olivia Meehan and Nicole Toma
Editorial Team
Hold Fast

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RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS: OPENING

A Male Perspective

In psychology, toxic masculinity refers to traditional cultural masculine norms that can be harmful to men, women, and society overall; this concept of toxic masculinity is not intended to demonise men or male attributes, but rather to emphasize the harmful effects of conformity to certain traditional masculine ideals. According to the dictionary, this is the definition of toxic masculinity and it makes sense. It's not about demonising men, or saying all men are the same, it's simply about how traditional male values can result in harm. You men hear it all the time: "don't run like a girl!" "Take it like a man!" The list goes on. These voices are coming from the top and infecting young minds. There is a social stigma around being a man. The "musts" include: play sport, don't cry, be tough, don't care about anything, etc. Yet in reality, not every boy is going to be like that. There should be no pressure to have to be a certain way just for being a male. It's not as if the things people are trying to enforce on males are particularly positive either - they are often what crafts a dangerous man in society and that is what needs to be stopped. Parents and the older generation have the responsibility of being role models, they need to change their views and ways in order for the next generation to be more accepting. The old saying "you can't teach an old dog new tricks" is, at the core, a conservative way of thinking. It assumes that there is no need to ever try to change anything, "just don't bother, it's



Footballer Danny Frawley had previously spoken about his struggles with mental health Photo courtesy of Getty Images

never going to happen." However there is considerable evidence that this just isn't true - the older generations have had to have changed to get where we are today. The way we go about changing things needs to be rethought, it's not about the older generation telling each other to change because they won't listen. We need to educate the younger generation to stand up for each other and themselves. In school, teach these kids that if your parents or 'role models' are being toxic, call them out. This might sound silly, how is a kid going to tell off a parent? Well, the more it happens, the more it will become normal and eventually, these toxic behaviours will be filtered out.

Additionally, it must be highlighted that domestic violence is an issue that is killing many people; 25 children every year, one woman a week by their partner or ex-partner and this doesn't account for the suicide from mental illnesses due to domestic violence. Asking friends and family if they believe you are in a respectful relationship is a good way of knowing whether or

not what you are doing is healthy. Being in a relationship should be a positive experience for both parties. It is important that you feel wanted, cared for, and appreciated in your relationships. In saying this, it is necessary to know the signs of domestic violence: unfairly and regularly accusing a partner of flirting or being unfaithful, controlling how they spend money, deciding what they wear or eat, humiliating them in front of other people etc. There are many hotlines and services out there to help with family violence. Peers need to look out for each other and speak up if they see something they don't believe is right in a relationship - especially if children are in-

involved - as this is how toxic behaviour is able to be spread and how it inserts itself into the next generation. A few ways of helping someone who you suspect is dealing with domestic violence, as expressed by Beyond Blue, is to: believe the person, make sure they understand it is not their fault, listen without judging, be supportive, encouraging, open and honest. Letting someone convey their hardships is the first step in supporting them, and this needs to be considered by all.

If you're an Australian sporting person or an audience of the news, you would know that toxic masculinity is topical with the recent death, and alleged suicide, of Danny Frawley. In 2017 Australia, 2348 men committed suicide. This means that 6 males would have taken their own lives every day, including today. Men are most likely to die by suicide between ages 40-49. The way that males are brought up doesn't encourage males to speak up when they are having mental health problems or thinking about suicide. I, being a sports person, have been listening and watching many of the

If you or someone you know needs assistance contact your Student Welfare Co-ordinator, a trusted adult or

1800 RESPECT: For confidential information, counselling and support

Men's Referral Service: 1300 766 491

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Relationships.org.au : Supporting Australians to achieve respectful relationships

Woah.org.au Providing information for young people on family violence

Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre:
1800 015 188

<http://lovegoodbadugly.com>

THE DOOR FOR MODERN MASCULINITY

Feature by Hamish Tambourine and Alexandra Solomos

tributes to Frawley. It has struck me to see how damaging it has been for his close friends and family. It is crucial that males watch the tributes and understand that speaking up is much better than putting family and friends through

ent and reinforced. When following heterosexual romances in media (which is most often the case and the lack of LGBTQ+ representation is something to consider though not the focus today), the role and power dynamic between

Consequently, when a woman doesn't conform, she is categorised as a "slut" merely due to not acting like the female ideal of the submissive, innocent, quiet girl. It is here that these sexist standards can spiral even further, delving into the deeper, more taboo topics of relationships: victim-blaming. Indeed, how relationships are portrayed drastically differ to how the status of the relationship truly is - staying in a relationship doesn't necessarily mean it's a good one. Essential-

and being a part of the new and growing generation, we have the power to set a better example of healthy, respectful relationships. Firstly, a relationship should not be rushed or forced, although the idea of saying "I'm in a relationship" may sound appealing, there really is no purpose to it if you're in it for the sake of not wanting to be single anymore.

So what makes a good relationship? Unfortunately, like many things in life, there's no one linear answer to this question, the definition of a 'good relationship' is indeed subjective and everyone has varying levels of standards and expectations, nevertheless, this doesn't mean there's not some sort of baseline for basic respect. Ensure there is mutual consideration of independence from the relationship, do not neglect family and friends to have only one person in your life. They may be your 'significant other' but they're not your 'only other'. Support one another, carry the load between the two of you but don't tip over the scales. Communicate your emotions, they're valid. For the relationship to prosper, both parties must be equally happy; by discussing the problems, you guarantee a brighter future for your relationship as well as demonstrating your partner's resilience in not-so-easy times. But, in the end, as we progress through our lives after high school, we will continue to learn and grow from our experiences, mistakes and all. If we choose to find the one, that one will love us for us, flaws and all.

"This Cinderella love-story doesn't really seem all that much of a real loving relationship, more a demonstration to society of fitting into their own glass shoe of constrictive social roles."

emotional turmoil. The death of Frawley has sent a significant message to the stereotypical male figure: the classic footy fan. The person who drinks too much, yells at the umpires, has the 'hot tip' and a passion for the sport. Although Frawley was never associated with domestic violence and spoke publicly about his mental health, many of these men may not feel comfortable to speak up. Through all the tributes and sharing of mental health helplines, one stuck with me. "Man, I would 100% rather listen to the things you are going through for as long as it takes than sit here through your 15-minute eulogy."

A Female Perspective

For a teenage girl living with a single mother, having never been exposed to the 'real world' outside high school nor having much experience in long term, fulfilling relationships, the only understanding I have of romantic relationships is through media. Whether it be those (tacky) love shows, like The Bachelor or Love Island, or romantic comedies, gender roles are appar-

ent and women is painfully apparent; the submissive female and the stoic, macho male.

Indeed, it is these exact societal ideals that may be reflected in real relationships themselves and the idea that males 'must ask the girl out', or 'must initialise the flirting' all stems from the male-dominated ideals of society.

Where men are seen as the 'man' of the relationship, the 'big spoon', the ones that 'must pay for dinner', they are often forced within the confines of their gender roles and become too scared to break out of these constrictions in fear of being called not 'manly enough'. By continuing this cycle of sexist power relations, the female is consequently subverted herself and the standard, ideal woman is seen as the exact opposite as that of a man: timid, submissive and waiting for a male to whisk her off her feet. This Cinderella love-story doesn't really seem all that much of a real loving relationship, more a demonstration to society of fitting into their own glass shoe of constrictive social roles.



Photo credit: Sarah Brady

ly, victim-blaming is the tug and pull of emotional manipulation, subtle degrading attacks that chip away at the independence and self-worth of a partner until reaching the ultimate destruction of confidence that makes them feel trapped within the relationship. It is difficult to recognise, so ensure there is support from family and friends and maintain a social circle that is aware of the relationship status.

However, we are in a more accepting, ever-changing society; contemporary ideals continue to improve

Australia Dominating Across the Board



Boomers Beat Team USA in a nail-biter at Marvel Stadium

Australia vs USA:

"De-fence! De-fence! De-fence!" Was heard in Melbourne's Marvel Stadium as Aussie fans chanted, witnessing history on the 24th of August when the Boomers beat the USA Basketball team for the first time in 55 years. With more than 50,000 people watching, Ben Simmons led the Australian Men's team to a four-point victory with 98 baskets to USA's 94. The match was close the entire way through and after it seemed that Australia was ahead, the USA defence forced a shot clock violation on Australia. The final minutes of the game were exhilarating with Aussie, Patty Mills scoring 30 points to help seal

the deal for the Boomers. With just over 3 minutes to go, Australian Miles Turner hit a three-pointer to give Australia the final push into the lead!

Rugby Union Win Against NZ & First Win on Home Soil:

Green and gold have been stirring things up on yet another international arena, with the Wallaroos and Wallabies tearing up expectations. Amidst the cheering fans of Australia, the Wallaroos have had a record triumph against Japan. Not only did they win their first bilateral series in 25 years out of 50 tests, but on top of this, they had their first-ever victory on home soil. Wallaroos Cap-

tain Grace Hamilton said she was impressed with the team's performance, stating that "this opportunity shows how much support we've got for women's rugby now and how far we have come." Further astonishing rugby fans, the Wallabies pulled off a 21 point win over the furious black ferns in Perth last month. This extraordinary result will go down in the history books with our Aussie boys prospering the most points any team has ever scored against the All Blacks. Australian fans are ecstatic about this shattered record that has withstood 587 tests and that stretches all the way back to 1903; an outstanding victory that ex-

plains the many smiling faces from down-under.

Cricket loss to England:

Aussies battling up a fight, with a test that has been contested since 1883. The Ashes have an extremely close total tally; across the 70 times the cup has been contested, there have been 5 draws and Australia has won 33 times, just once more than England. The British team has a chance to level the score after the amazing comeback in this year's third test. Following Australia's 251-run win, the two teams found themselves in a draw but Steve Smith was a showstopper in the final test, despite Australia's one-point loss.

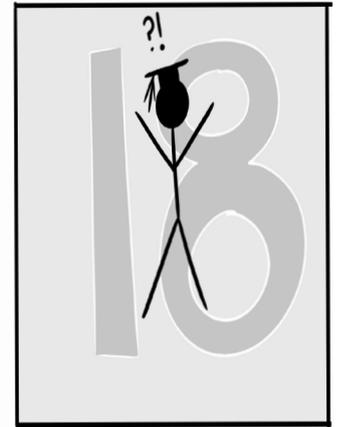
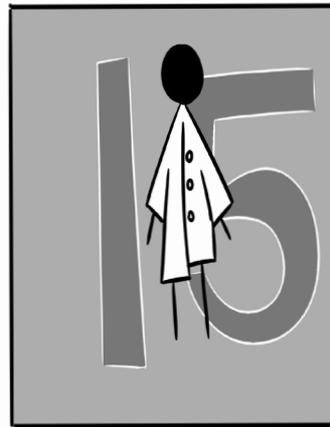
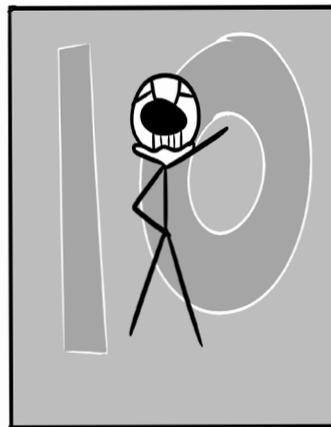
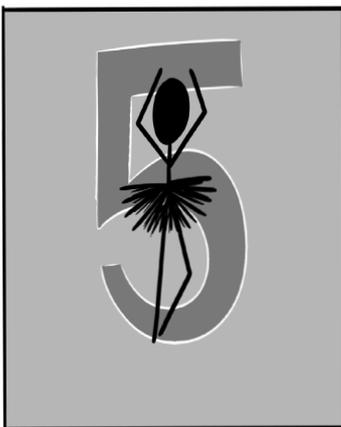
Trivia Time with Daniil McIntyre

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| 1) What vitamin is known as the 'sunshine vitamin'? | 2) What is the tallest mountain in Australia? | 3) In what war were tanks first used? | 4) In 1893, New Zealand became the first country to do what? | 5) What European city is the game 'Assassin's Creed Unity' set in? | 6) The movie 'Cool Runnings' focuses on what Winter Olympic sport? | 7) Who put Humpty Dumpty back together? | 8) In what year did Australia first compete in Eurovision? | 9) What is the name of the winged horse in Greek Mythology? | 10) What is the first element on the periodic table? | 11) Who directed 'Jurassic Park'? | 12) Who were the minor premiers of the 2019 AFL season? |
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Artwork by Nelly Bowyer and Hannah Smith

CONSENT TO A T



Still from *Consent: It's Simple As Tea*

By definition, consent is the "permission for something to happen or agreement to do something." Many people would have grasped this concept from the famous 'Tea and Consent' video, shown to most students during the relationship portion of physical education in school. Within relationships, it is imperative that consent is given for everything, whether it's a romantic relationship or otherwise. If someone says "yes", then it is alright, yet there is still the occasional confusion when a person says "no." A person is allowed to say "no" both before and during the activity in mind and just because the person may have done it once does not mean

they are required to agree to the event every time. Not only that, but a lack of "no" does not constitute as a "yes." Silence is not a substitute for permission. A hesitant "yes" should be questioned. Just because someone is wearing certain clothing or flirting does not mean that they give consent to physical touch. Unfortunately, society is still struggling with this concept. It is crucial to understand that you have a choice, and that the moment that choice is taken from you, it is not a healthy relationship. It is toxic and it's important to seek help, you're not alone.

by **Olivia Vlahakis**

HOPPING INTO SCHOOLIES

Schoolies is a chance to relax after intense exams and worrying about the end of year marks. It's important to celebrate school-life ending with your group of mates and ponder what's to come. While most people will have a blast, it's also important to think about safety. Here is some advice on how to stay safe at Schoolies.

Make sure you look after your friends by not leaving them on their own, as well as helping them stay away from risky situations.

It's also important to talk about an emergency plan should things go wrong. For example, have a meeting place in case you and your mates split up, and always carry enough cash for a ride back to your accommodation.

Another hot tip - watch your drinks! Try buy-

ing bottled drinks when out at a nightclub or bar to avoid drink-spiking.

When with friends, think about what you or someone else is taking pictures of or videoing - social media means this could go anywhere.

Finally, think about safety in your room - avoid balconies if you have been drinking and lock doors, especially at night. Keeping note of support services, such as The Red Frogs - a program which assists young people - is also vital in case anything does go wrong. Have fun and enjoy Schoolies!

For more Schoolies advice check out www.redfrogs.com.au

by **Daniel Meehan**

ASK ANYTHING by Anon

I want to be healthier and feel better. What are the first steps I can take to achieve this?

Being healthy and feeling better is subjective to the individual in that feeling good and happiness can come in many forms. Here are some ideas that are cheap and effective.

Exercise:

This shouldn't be surprising. Wow! An advice col-

umn suggesting exercise to make me feel better, nice! It won't fix all of your problems, but it will work towards helping your mind relax, as well as not allowing it to become distracted from the stressors bound to come about from studying. We all need something like exercise to get through the year, whether that be a walk, jog, or run.

Sleep/eating right:

This also should be self-ex-

planatory; the way you treat your body impacts your outlook and view of life substantially. Also, you will feel better naturally by recognising that you are taking care of yourself. It's like tricking your brain into thinking you have your life together.

Dedicate times to do something for yourself:

Having time in the day to look forward to when you've been burnt out

from the week, unable to study or just feeling down, can genuinely help keep you motivated and let your brain rest for a second. This can be in the form of journaling, watching a film, doing yoga, going outside or reading. Give yourself time to de-stress and realign yourself; life is tricky and strange if we don't settle down and rest once in a while.

Hope this helps, Senseofships

Q&A WITH WHITE RIBBON FOUNDATION'S HIKARI

I had the opportunity to interview Hikari from White Ribbon - an organisation that aims to prevent men's violence against women. They discuss the importance of seeking help, along with key advice and knowledge.

Q: What can we all do to actively address respectful relationships?

Great question! I would say knowledge is key, so an important first step is to educate yourself on what respectful relationships look like and what consent means so that you can identify signs of an unhealthy or disrespectful relationship. Did you know that 1 in 8 young Australians believe that women mean 'yes' when they say 'no'? This shows we need to do more to promote respectful attitudes and behaviours and reflect on our own actions.

Once you can clearly notice the red flags, then you can start actively calling out disrespectful and sexist comments or actions. Being an active bystander isn't easy, but it's important, and it's the kind of thing you get better at the more you do it. Plus, it's likely that if you were to act, you'd have the support of your friends.

One thing to remember is that you don't always have to use words to show that you don't agree with what's being said or done.

Q: What key advice would you provide someone experiencing domestic violence?

If someone is experiencing domestic violence, I would encourage them to contact 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732) to speak with someone who can offer them professional advice and support. If someone discloses to you that they are experiencing violence or abuse, I would recommend you follow the 3Rs: recognise, respond and refer. It's really important that you believe the person who is making the disclosure and make sure they understand that what they are experiencing/have experienced is not their fault - there is never an excuse for violence or abuse. Finally, if you are worried about their safety, you must consider helping them find support.

Q: Making a difference can't be easy. What are some challenges White Ribbon has had to overcome?

It's been a long road to changing people's minds

so that violence against women is no longer viewed as a private issue, but one we all have a responsibility to prevent. The global White Ribbon movement and the national White Ribbon Australia campaign has been working hard at this, but we have the courageous and persistent efforts of many women in decades past and present to thank for the momentum created so that gender inequality and violence against women is now viewed as an important community and government issue.

Q: How has your work impacted individuals?

I believe the symbol of the white ribbon offers people something to rally around; a common cause through which we commit to standing up, speaking out and acting to prevent men's violence against women. We've heard many wonderful stories from community members, organisations and schools who have seen positive changes in behaviours and attitudes since beginning their journey with the White Ribbon movement.

I've had the opportunity to run workshops with young men in different parts of the country and it has been an inspiring experience working through topics like gender stereotypes and active bystander

empowerment with them.

Q: How has the issue of domestic violence progressed overtime?

Not only is domestic violence no longer a taboo topic in many communities, but our understanding of the issue has also expanded beyond physical violence to include emotional, social, spiritual, psychological and financial forms of violence and abuse. Unfortunately, with developments in technology, there has also been a rise in technology-facilitated violence and abuse, which is a big concern.

As active bystanders, we can help those around us to understand what behaviours in a relationship are considered abusive and support them to seek help when they are ready.

by Elena Turner

Unfortunately on the 3rd October White Ribbon closed its doors, but their message is still relevant and the work of communities will continue. Other organisations that work towards the same goal include: Respect.gov.au, Nomore.org and Amnesty.org.au. White Ribbon urge people to continue raising their voice. Eliminating violence against women still remains a priority.

SLEEPING OUT FOR THE HOMIES CONT'D



Beach yoga to start the day. Photo credit: Olivia Meehan

suit all. We finished off the night with face-masks and skincare routines in the school bathrooms and watched a *Filthy, Rich and Homeless* episode to lull us to sleep (on the floor of the study centre). The following morning, in order to watch the sunrise, some of us woke up at 6AM for yoga on the beach shore. Personally, I got a coffee, but it was beautiful nonetheless. Then we got ready for school

(in the bathrooms once again) and went upon our day, tired but rightfully so. It was a great bonding experience and as the student leadership team organised the night, there was a new sense of independence and fun activities.

To find out more about HoMie, shop or donate go to <https://homie.com.au>

by Kim-Vy Ngo

Stripes and Gripes

Film Reviews with Nicole Toma

IT Chapter Two Warner Bros. Pictures

Intro:

Well, well, well, it seems we have reached the end of Stripes & Gripes: Cynical & Bitter 2019 Edition and it is with a heavy heart that I end this chapter with another chapter: *IT Chapter Two*, starring Bill Skarsgård as the ever-terrifying Pennywise and whole bunch of Hollywood actors who completely threw the film off... but more on that later!

Stripes:

Now listen, I didn't intend for my last issue to be negative, trust me, I really didn't. But then I realised who I was and I knew I couldn't just change my personality and opinions in order to end with a joyful tone, and so for old times' sake, you're going to listen to me complain about a film that a lot of people enjoyed once again! I will start off with the positives, as always, and I'll be honest in saying that it took me a while to think of them. The beginning of the film is entertaining and it directly reflects the novel in many ways - I will refrain from comparing it to the novel for the remainder of this review - and it aids in recreating the atmosphere of the first film quite well. It was equally enjoyable, creepy, and gut-wrenching, which highlighted its significance in the horror genre and even granted its stance

as "the most successful horror movie". And that's where it ends. Visually, the casting is pretty spot on, yet the connotations and opinions that come from casting the likes of Jessica Chastain and James McAvoy completely threw the vibe of the film off for me, but more on that later. Bill Hader (adult Richie Tozier) and James Ransone (adult Eddie Kaspbrak)

part: the negatives! Ever heard of the saying "too much of something is bad enough"? No? No Spice Girls fans out there? Well anyway, the charm that *IT Chapter One* delivered so well with the children felt extremely overused in this sequel. So much so that I felt that the heavy reliance on it on the writers' behalf felt entirely like "oh, how do we fill this scene and

was extremely disappointing to watch the supposedly "scariest film of the year" without so much as even an increased heart rate. One of the main reasons I remain bitter about the sequel is due to the whole focus being on romance instead of horror. Sue me I guess, but I had full intentions of being absolutely petrified at a child-eating clown instead of bored-out-of-my-mind and slouched in my seat at a sorry excuse for a love-triangle. Walking out of a film with a grimace is never a good way to end what should be a good experience, but neither is casting James McAvoy either I guess.



Bill Skarsgård as Pennywise the Clown in *IT Chapter 2*

Final thoughts:

Listen, if you want to give it (no pun intended) a try, go ahead! Just do not expect to find what you loved about *IT Chapter One* to remain the same in *IT Chapter Two* and trust me in saying this. I had to learn the hard way. Also, I heard that there are talks for a part three which deeply confuses and yet also intrigues me... I guess we will have to see what happens in the future. From the bottom of my heart, I bid you all an always-cynical "see ya next time" and officially hand over my bitter cap of disapproval for next year!

Rating:

★★

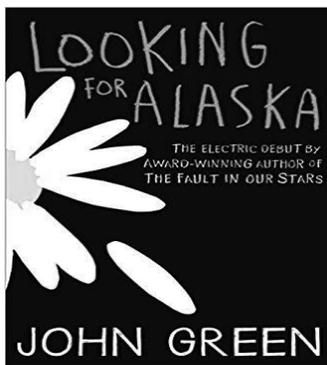
Now showing at the
Sun Theatre
Yarraville

were immediately cemented as the highlights in terms of acting and general looks. They took their respective roles and went for them completely and the transition from seeing them as children to adults was in no way as jarring as any of the other members of the Losers' Club. The only truly good portion of this film was Skarsgård as Pennywise, but are we really at all surprised? Hey, that rhymed!

Gripes:

Now onto my favourite

remind people that they should enjoy the film? Oh yeah... the kids!" It felt as if they were clawing at the children to deliver the same delight they had in the first film and with that, it made them feel almost unnecessary. If one of the reasons why you didn't want to watch the sequel is because you were too terrified of the first one, don't worry. It is not scary. The jumpscare are predictable, the killings are delivered without care, and even the atmosphere felt incredibly played up after the opening scene. It



Looking For Alaska
John Green
Harper Collins

In 2005, John Green published his first novel *Looking For Alaska*, and ultimately made a name for himself. Many avid readers know the name John Green, particularly from his hit novel *The Fault In Our Stars*, which is now a hit movie. *Looking For Alaska* follows the life of the character Miles "Pudge" Halter as he decides to enter a boarding school in Alabama during his junior year (Year 11 in Australian terms). During his time at the boarding school, Pudge becomes infatuated with a fellow student named Alaska. As suggested by the title, this novel focuses on Miles' relationship with the ever-elusive Alaska and their evolving relationship. Filled with profanity, Green's book was considered controversial for a young adult novel of its time; it's romantic themes entwined with that of controversy, doubt and death. Green's structure of the novel does nothing but exacerbate the suspension that the reader feels towards the climax, each chapter counting down to the great event. It's safe to say that John Green's first novel more than sets the path for an array of great literature entailing friendship, self-realisation and love. There's no question that *Looking For Alaska* is a definite must-read at five bookworms.

by Olivia Vlahakis

REVIEWS & THINGS TO DO

November

As the term draws to an end, a very important month approaches: the month of November, or rather, November. Every year, moustaches are grown to help raise awareness for men's health issues, including prostate cancer, testicular cancer and suicide. Unchecked, the rates of these cancers are expected to double over the next fifty years, and it is estimated that every minute globally, one man commits suicide. Climbing rates of mental illness among males, such as depression and anxiety, are key contributors to this statistic. Despite society slowly accepting the importance of mental health, it remains prevalent among the male demographic. The stigma that men should be tough and don't need help still remains.

November is a worldwide organisation that examines health through a male lens and aims to stop preventable male deaths. They help fund research towards more effective diagnosis and treatment methods for male-related diseases, improve early detection methods, and ultimately reduce the likelihood of early male deaths. The organisation encourages men to grow their own mo to help "inspire donations, conversations and real change," and has raised hundreds of millions of dollars to support men since the program's inception in 2004.

By choosing to grow your mo, you help support the boys and ensure that no guy ever feels truly alone.

So pack away those razors and let the beard flow free!

by Daniil McIntyre

The Indigenous Literacy Fund

The Indigenous Literacy Fund (ILF) assists in closing the gap in Indigenous illiteracy. This is important because on average, 36% of Indigenous Year 5 students in remote areas are literate, comparatively to the 96% of non-Indigenous students in major cities (NAPLAN 2018). The ILF helps to close this gap by removing the common barriers that stop many Indigenous people from becoming literate, such as cost and accessibility of books or cultural divides. Earlier this term, the Pasco campus held a fundraiser to help the ILF. We had a 'book-week' themed casual clothes day, a nostalgic throwback to the classic primary school theme, and all proceeds went to the ILF. Thank you to everyone who dressed up in the theme and helped Williamstown High make a difference. For more information, or to donate, go <https://www.indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au>.

by Calum Gray

After hours of great music and plenty of dancing, Mr Ardley performed an unanticipated rendition of 'Love Is In The Air' by John Paul Young and was shortly followed by a band consisting of himself, Mr Clifford, Mr Fear and Mr Salisbury which brought much joy to the crowd. Warchild is a student-run event in which all proceeds go towards the War Child charity. This charity is incredibly important as it provides support, education and protection for children and families affected by war across Africa, Asia and the Middle East. By creating this event, our school has donated thousands of dollars to the charity over the years and this year, in particular, we raised a total sum of \$2500! This annual concert is a beloved tradition and we look forward to seeing Williamstown High continue to share its musical talents - without which there would be no show. Warchild would not exist without the support of other students, friends



Schwarzewolke Perform. Photo credit: Bryanni H-M

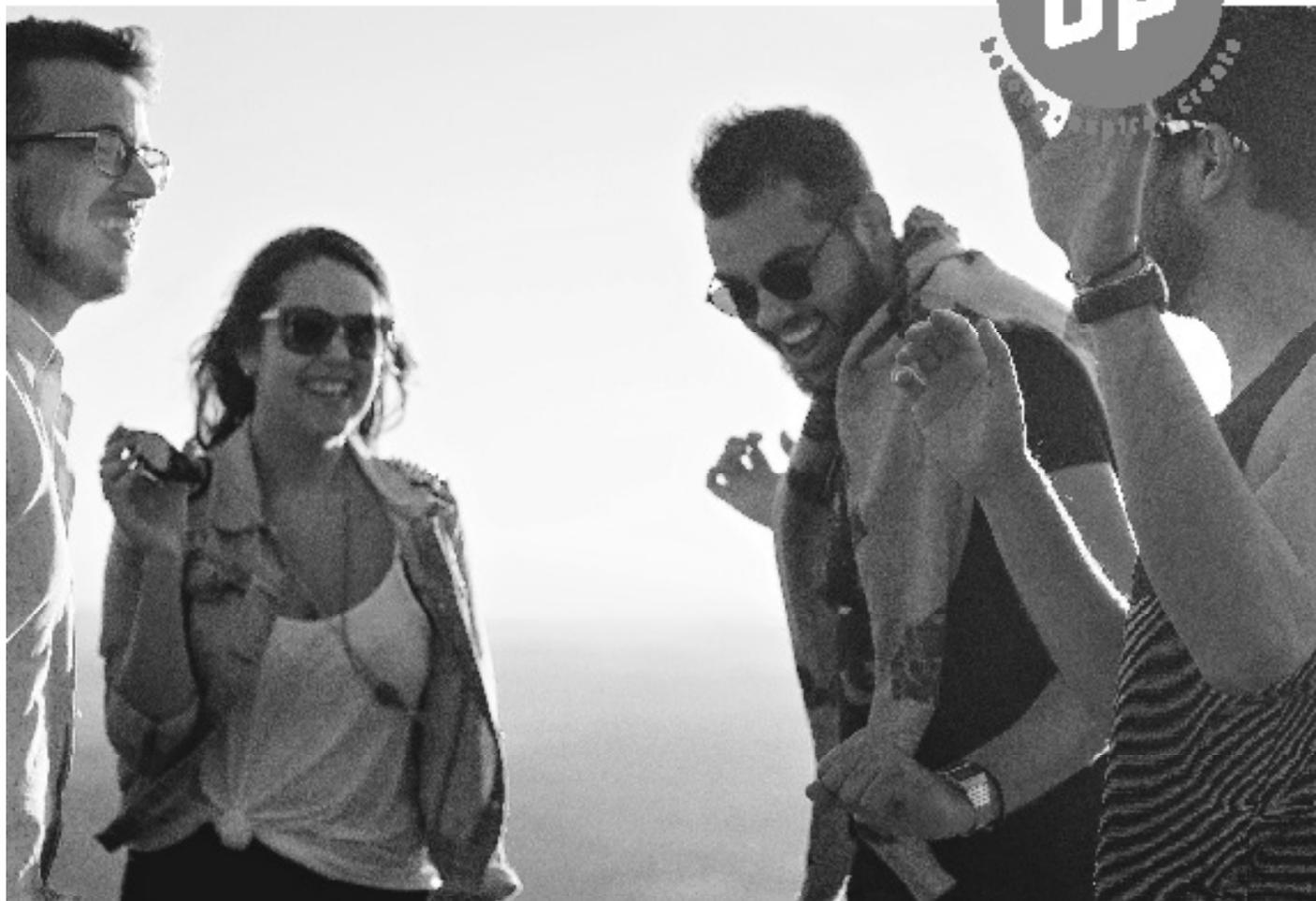
Warchild

For the 11th year in a row, Williamstown High School's Warchild was a smash. The night began in earnest with performances by bands formed by our very own students.

and families. So, please do consider coming next year to give back to the school, the students and performers, and of course, the children affected by war.

by Nelly Bowyer

Health and Wellbeing Workshops



Happy mind Happy life

Adolescent stress is very common, so recognising stress and learning how to reduce symptoms are important life skills. Some things that can contribute to stress for young people today include; study worries, social media, relationships, family conflict, self-identity and high expectations. This three week workshop will teach young people in year 11 & 12 a set of skills that will help them reduce stress and physiological tension. The workshop will focus on mindfulness and relaxation practice that is inclusive of many diverse methods.

DATE Wednesday 16, 23 and 30 October
TIME 4.30pm - 5.30pm
LOCATION Hobsons Bay UP - Level 1 Aspire Lounge
Newport Community Hub



To register go to www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/wellbeingworkshop and fill out the Health and Wellbeing workshop form/s or call UP services on 03 8652 4000.

