



**FAREWELL TO
CHICKS HOTEL**

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**OUSA DELEGATES
HEAD TO CAPITAL**

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**2016 SUPER RUGBY
SEASON PREVIEW**

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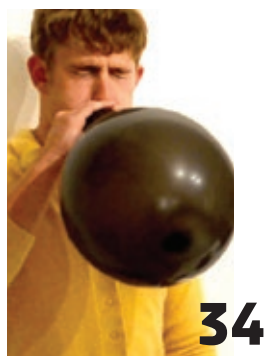




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WELCOME BACK DOWN SOUTH

COME LATE FEBRUARY, THERE'S NO BETTER smell throughout North Dunedin than burning couches and stale alcohol. It tugs at my heartstrings in a similar way to fresh cut lawns in spring, or pine trees at Christmas. It can mean only one thing, that the academic year has begun and the students are back.

Once again Otago has proven through its Orientation week why it is New Zealand's best destination when it comes to the student experience.

A huge congratulations has to go to all of those who have spent countless hours organising and curating the week. It's a hell of a task putting together the whole gig and takes a lot of time, patience and resources. Hats off also to all those punters in the campus area who have opened their homes to the masses only to awake to doors hanging off hinges, tin cans with no labels and shoes with no laces.

However, this O Week, just as every other O-Week before it, has come with its fair share of criticism and negative press.

Once again the usual crowd who believe that Otago student culture is dragging the reputation of the city have reared their ugly heads to chuck in their two cents, claiming that the student population who bring culture, character and most importantly business to the community are nothing but a hole for the taxpayer to throw dollar after dollar into.

A quick look around town over the past week though, and you'll see a steady flow of students

heading in and out of local shops and retailers adding to the local economy in a positive manner. The student community in Dunedin accounts for a fifth of the total population and should be welcomed to the city, not deterred.

This O week has also highlighted the fact that the student name is being dragged through the mud from those outside the campus. As of Thursday, out of the 16 arrests, only two were students, contrary to the many headlines across national new agencies claiming that students have been running riot. I feel that for the most part, except of course for certain outliers, students respect their own backyard and all that goes with it.

Sadly though, after a heavy week of thrashing livers, it's time again to dust off the exercise books and head to class.

If you're ever kicking around campus with a spare few minutes up your sleeve, cruise on up to our offices and show your face. We're always on the lookout for writers and are always interested in hearing your stories.

Best of luck for this upcoming week!

HUGH BAIRD
critic editor

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■ OUSA DELEGATES HEAD TO CAPITOL

by JOE HIGHAM

OUSA Welfare Officer, Bryn Jenkins, and Campaigns Officer, Sean Gamble presented an oral submission to the Social Services Select Committee in Parliament on behalf of OUSA on February 17. The submission was in relation to amendments to the Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill.

The submission Bryn and Sean made was centered around five key recommendations, including an increase in the length of time the landlord may enter the premises from 14 days without payment to 21 days as standard; the abandonment of fixed term leases when Police or other relevant agencies determine there to be serious safety concerns; the creation of a nationwide heating standard for all rental properties; and a mould and ventilation standard with updates to relevant regulation to draw attention to landlord's obligations on this issue.

OUSA's Student Support Officer, Philippa Keaney, said sub-standard flats, commonly characterized by facing significant problems in relation to coldness, mould, dampness and general disrepair, is one of the most common issues brought to them by students, which shows just how significant an issue this is.

Bryn Jenkins said being in parliament was a "terrifying, yet brilliant experience" and although there were a "few jokes when we started about it being the first time they had ever seen an Otago University student in a suit... it could be the single most important thing I do all year in my role, as it really was a chance to get true fundamental change and so I can't value it enough."

Professor Philippa Howden-Chapman, Director of the Housing and Health Research Programme, said that according to "our best estimate is that only a third of all New Zealand houses are

insulated and as rental housing is more likely to be the older stock, it's a safe bet that a high percentage of rental properties are uninsulated too."

Although Bryn had a general goal of improving flatting conditions in Dunedin when he ran for the position at the end of last year, those aims centered on working with the curtain bank and student support locally. Being able to present their recommendations to Parliament and potentially affect legislative change on a national scale is a "great opportunity."

Whether OUSA's presence in Parliament is likely to actually make it into the bill and then, in turn, into legislation, is hard to judge, although their submission has many similarities with Victoria University's Student Association, the New Zealand University Students Association and Auckland University Students Associations. The combined student voice on the issue is something "you would think would be listened to," according to Bryn.

One of the potential answers to the poor standard of rental properties in New Zealand is a warrant of fitness for rental properties, which would be implemented in much the same way as it is for vehicles. If the rental property has any major problems, it will be deemed illegal for them to be rented out. Councilor David Benson-Pope told *Critic* he is "an absolute advocate for a warrant of fitness, and I don't mind whether it is implemented by central government or local



government, but I sure as hell think we need it." However, Mayor Dave Cull noted he thinks it's "just a means to an end for 'minimum standards.' The more factors you include in any move, the more expensive and complicated the process gets." The bill does go some way to providing the minimum standard for rental properties that Cull calls for, and Bryn and Sean's parliamentary visit certainly helped to provide a strong advocate for tenants.

FORSYTH BARR STADIUM PICKS UP ITS GAME

by HENRY NAPIER

The parent company of Forsyth Barr Stadium has posted a \$1 million profit despite forecasting significantly smaller earnings for the last financial quarter.

The company, Dunedin Venues Management Limited (DVML), manages a number of Dunedin City Council owned venues including the Dunedin Centre, the Dunedin Town Hall and Forsyth Barr Stadium.

DVML confirmed their profit in the release of their latest six-month report. Their financial report showed the company had successfully generated profits of \$461,000.

The development came as a surprise following \$1.03 million loss for the period ending December 31 in the previous year. DVML forecasted a modest profit of \$440,000 for the 2016-17 period, which would rise to \$500,000 in 2017-18 and then \$550,000 in 2018-19. The company says the



future forecasts will likely be updated considering the larger earnings for this year.

However, DVML says the increase in profit has not come as a surprise. Company spokesperson Kim Barnes said that increasing profit has been a major focus for DVML over the past year.

"A major focus of DVML [has been] to deliver a profitable business to the ratepayers of [Dunedin]."

Ms Barnes also offered a number of reasons believed to have stimulated the rise in income.

"There are numerous factors including the awareness and confidence from international promoters, not just for Forsyth Barr Stadium but

also the Dunedin Centre and Town Hall. [The] increased event schedule and the focus on consumer engagement" have all contributed to the improved performance of the company said Ms Barnes.

Ms Barnes went on to say that the company plans to continue its efforts to maximise profits in the future.

"DVML will continue to deliver profitable events that generate economic benefit to the city and maximising room utilisation across all venues."

STUDENTS NOT ALL TO BLAME

by JOE HIGHAM

POLICE HAVE ARRESTED 13 people during O Week in Dunedin after some parties got too wild. Several large parties were shut down due to lighting couches on fire and bottles being thrown. Four people were arrested at a party attended by 150 people where four couches had been set alight.

The title of an article on the News Hub website changed over night from "Arrests as Dunedin students burn couches" to "Non-students causing problems during Otago Uni

orientation." The change was made to seemingly alter the implication that only students were arrested, when in reality, only three of the twelve offenders were students.

Laura Harris, OUSA president, commented on the arrests by saying, "the majority of students don't cause problems, and they don't like

**in reality,
only three of
the twelve
offenders were
students**

being tarnished with the same brush as those who do. It doesn't help that stories like this may encourage more trouble makers to

come to Dunedin over Orientation Week."

The Proctor told Critic: "the University of Otago is generally pleased with student behaviour during Orientation Week so far. However the actions of non-Dunedin University students and visitors, coming from outside of Dunedin... have concerned the University of Otago Proctor and Campus Watch team."

Harris also added: "it would be great to see the media pushing out the good stories rather than one person's 6h0 seconds of stupidity... [because] in spite of the occasional upset, ultimately Orientation has been fantastic for students so far."

Amongst the thirteen arrests made since Saturday, one involved

a 16 year-old who was arrested for allegedly threatening another man with a craft knife.

Harris ended by mentioning that OUSA's "primary concern is about the welfare of Otago students. It is worrying that these non-students are targeting such a welcoming student community." Police will be hoping the last few days of orientation week, especially Saturday night, will go ahead smoothly without any major issues.



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■ CHRISTCHURCH REMEMBERS FIVE YEARS ON

by JOE HIGHAM

Monday 22 February marked the fifth anniversary of the 2011 Christchurch earthquake that killed 185 people. Along with the human cost, the quake caused approximately \$30 billion of damage to the city and surrounding areas, according to the New Zealand Treasury, and ended up as the second worst natural disaster in New Zealand's living memory, behind only the Mount Erebus airplane crash that killed 257 people in 1979.

Around 1,000 people gathered in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens as a mark of respect for the victims and to reflect on the significance of the day. John Key attended along with several cabinet ministers, laying a wreath during the event, before the names of the victims were read out in remembrance.

"There is still some way to go until Christchurch is truly reborn," said New Zealand's governor-general, Jerry Mateparae, The Guardian reported.

The city is feeling a bounce in its step following the enormous task of rebuilding the city as tourist numbers are almost back to pre-earthquake levels in many areas. However, some areas are still feeling the effects of the disaster to this day, with tourists still steering clear of them largely due to continuing damage to infrastructure.

During the event, a man threw what was described as 'muck' over Earthquake Recovery Minister Gerry Brownlee, before saying that the Government had "no compassion" and were "heartless", reported the NZ Herald. Brownlee has received a large amount of criticism for what some describe as a lackluster performance in the rebuild of New Zealand's third most populous city. Former Labour leader David Cunliffe was quoted by Stuff as saying Brownlee is a "minister who has the power of God, who is a human wrecking ball cutting a swathe through the center of the city."

On Valentines Day Christchurch was rocked by a 5.7 magnitude earthquake, which came as a reminder to Christchurch's 370,000 residents that the earthquake risk remains a prominent danger.



"There is still some way to go until Christchurch is truly reborn"

New Zealand's governor-general, Jerry Mateparae

[Brownlee is a] **"minister who has the power of God, who is a human wrecking ball cutting a swathe through the center of the city"**

Former Labour leader, David Cunliffe

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STUDENTS BUNK, MORE ROOM FOR SO MANY ACTIVITIES

*Put the power tools
away Dale!*

by **HUGH BAIRD**

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY HAS INFORMED OVER one hundred first year students, just days out from their arrival that they will have the pleasure of sharing a bunk bed this upcoming year.

Students from Katharine Jermyn Hall, Te Puni and Weir House have all been notified that as compensation for their inconvenience they will have their rooms discounted.

Katharine Jermyn Hall notified affected students in a letter that their rooms would be discounted from \$359 per week to \$220.

NZUSA President Linsey Higgins described the situation of herding students together similar to the handling of stock.

"You can't just cram students into rooms like they are cattle. These students were days from moving into their new single room only to be told that they are now sleeping in bunk beds.

These students are now being denied the privacy that they had signed up for."

Victoria University President Jonathon Gee also weighed in on the topic:


"The situation must be a great deal of stress for these new students, many of them leaving home for the first time and being told less than a week before move-in day that they didn't get what they signed up for. I hope that halls management urgently engages with the students affected to hear their concerns about sharing a room. It sounds like they were given no option but to accept the bunk room."

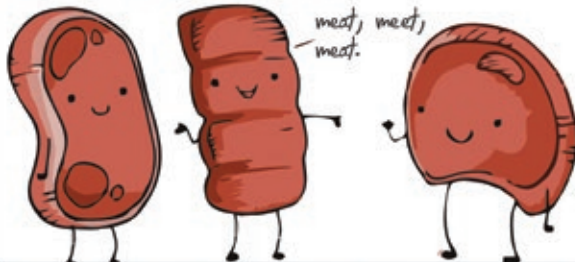
However hall staff are confident that the problem will be resolved in the coming weeks and students will be back in single rooms, although student president Higgins disagrees questioning whether or not "the University was hoping for students to fail and drop out so students will get their rooms back?"

**"You cant just
cram students
into rooms like
they are cattle...
These students
are now being
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TRUMP KEEPS ON WINNING

by JOE HIGHAM

Donald Trump's political juggernaut continues at full pace after claiming two emphatic victories in the winner-takes-all South Carolina primary, claiming 32.5 percent of the vote, and then in his business home of Nevada, he left the rest of the republican candidates floundering behind him, winning by over 22 percent. In both the South Carolina and Nevada primaries, Florida senator Marco Rubio secured second place and Texas senator Ted Cruz came in a very close third, although both were some way off the number one spot.

Jeb Bush, the son and brother of two former presidents, who was once favourite to win the republican nomination, suspended his campaign after receiving just 7.8 percent of the vote. Such a departure is yet another reminder of how unpredictable the republican race has been so far, with energetic yet incoherent populist Trump successful thus far, as the Bush family name is served a huge blow from a dissatisfied voter base.

Although it is not entirely surprising that Trump won in Nevada, due to it being home to Las Vegas, which forms a large part of his real-estate empire, it does leave his anti-establishment campaign seemingly unstoppable, having won three of the four states contested so far. With 'Super Tuesday' looming on March 1, where twelve states will go to the polls to choose their nominee, the remaining candidates will be desperately looking to appeal to the fallen Jeb Bush's supporters now he is out of the race. For some candidates, it will form a last-ditch attempt to stall the real estate mogul and keep their hopes of being the republican nominee alive. However, the percentage of the vote formerly claimed by Bush is expected to be snapped up by Marco Rubio, who is now the establishment frontrunner. A lot of donations will also follow the popular votes, as the establishment frantically searches for a candidate to

both reflect their interests and strike a blow to Trump's campaign. Super Tuesday is now more pivotal than ever.

On the same day Trump surged to victory in South Carolina, the democratic candidates fought over Nevada. Hillary Clinton defeated Bernie Sanders by a closer than expected 52.6 to 47.3 percent, leaving Clinton opening up a gap on Sanders, and gathering momentum going into 'Super Tuesday', a day that could more-or-less decide the democratic nomination. Sanders, although he has ploughed money into advertising in Nevada at a rate of almost 2:1 in comparison to Clinton, will be pleased he pushed Clinton so close. Despite this though, Clinton has regained momentum in her formerly stalling campaign with the result, and becomes even more of a favourite in the two-horse democratic race.

Although Sanders has remained dignified and quiet on the subject of Clinton's email controversy, she does remain in murky waters. The controversy stems from her use of a private email server during her tenure as Secretary of State in Obama's Administration, using the server for both work-related and personal communications, which the New York Times claimed was "alarming" and "may have violated federal requirements." During her campaign so far, emails have been drip-fed into the public sphere, and have have created doubts about how appropriate it would be for her to be elected president in light of the revelations. An FBI investigation is on going, and now District Court Judge for the District of Columbia, Emmet G. Sullivan, has ruled that Clinton, along with state department officials should be questioned under oath about her use of the server. Additionally, Sullivan also did not rule out a subpoena for Clinton and her top aide, Huma Abedin.

Jeb Bush, the son and brother of two former presidents, who was once favourite to win the republican nomination, suspended his campaign after receiving just 7.8 percent of the vote

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PLANS FOR CEASEFIRE IN SYRIA

by HUGH BAIRD

THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA HAVE reached a new ceasefire agreement in Syria, set to take effect on Saturday despite questions still remaining over how the truce will be enforced and the response to any violations.

Under the terms of the agreement both the Syrian Army and the Syrian Armed Opposition are being asked to agree to a cessation of hostilities. However the truce does not apply to either Islamic State, Nusra Front or any other terrorist group as stated by the U.N Security Council.

After weeks of talks between world powers The White House has confirmed that President Obama had phoned the Kremlin at the request of Putin to discuss efforts surrounding a ceasefire in the war-torn country.

"A phone call between Barack Obama and Vladimir Putin, at Putin's request had in fact taken place. With plans around arriving at an understanding of cessation of hostilities in Syria,"

a spokesman from the US State Department confirmed last Monday.

After the phone call a joint Russian-US statement was released.

The statement declared that the truce was set to begin at midnight on Friday 27 February, Damascus time, however was still subject to both the Syrian government and Syrian opposition formally agreeing to the deal by the deadline at midday Friday.

Participants of the ceasefire are then obligated to cease attacks with any weapons, including rockets, mortars, and anti tank guided missiles and also refrain from acquiring or seeking to acquire territory from any other parties to the ceasefire.

According to the White House, Obama's main emphasis during the phone call with Putin was on the need to ensure that both Syria's government and opposition groups faithfully implemented the deal. However the five-page plan

released by the U.S State Department leaves open how violation of the cease-fire will be dealt with.

Moscow and Washington are expected to now work together, exchanging intelligence such as information on those who have agreed to the ceasefire and their location. As a consequence both countries will now concentrate their collective firepower on those jihadist groups who fall outside of the ceasefire.

More than 250,000 Syrians have been killed in the bloody civil war, which began in March 2011, with millions of others being forced from their homes, all whilst growing numbers have fled the country.

Last Sunday it is reported that at least 140 have been killed in bomb blasts carried out by Islamic State in the Syrian cities of Homs and Damascus.

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CYCLONE WINSTON: GOVERNMENT SENDS \$2M IN AID

by HENRY NAPIER

The New Zealand Government has sent \$2 million in aid relief to Fiji following the destruction caused by a recent tropical cyclone dubbed "Cyclone Winston". So far Cyclone Winston has killed 42 people, according to latest reports from the BBC, with fears for remote areas and islands yet to be reached by relief teams. The Cyclone made landfall as a category 5 storm, reaching wind speeds up to 320kmh and waves of up to 40ft.

Last week Minister of Foreign Affairs Murray McCully released a press statement confirming New Zealand's aid contribution to Fiji. The statement announced the further funding of \$1.8 million, adding the initial release of \$200,000 following the cyclone landfall.

"This evening a New Zealand Defence Force C-130 will depart for Suva carrying relief supplies and a Joint Reconnaissance Team made up of NZDF personnel, and Fire Service and Ministry of Health staff.

"The \$1.8 million in funding announced today will take New Zealand's total contribution to more than \$2 million. The funding will be used to support New Zealand non-government or organisations working on the ground in Fiji and to respond to requests for technical assistance from the Fiji authorities" Mr McCully says.

The Labour Party Spokesperson for foreign affairs, David Shearer said the response was adequate but what happened next would determine the Government's effectiveness.

"I think it's contributed enough originally, I was pleased to see we're sending up a second C130 yesterday. So getting off the mark fast has been important.

"It's pretty clear that in the coming few days there's going to be bigger infrastructure needs that we will need to send a ship up the Pacific for, when Vanuatu's cyclone occurred, it took



NZDF/FACEBOOK

two weeks for our ship to leave the dock here in New Zealand, and really what people need is a response faster than that we need to get up there as quickly as we can.

"I think our initial response has been adequate but it's really going to depend on what we do next and how go forward from here" says Mr Shearer.

The category five cyclone has since been downgraded to a category four following its devastation in Fiji. Initial weather models mapped the cyclone to begin heading west towards Tonga, however recent reports have indicated the storm will likely head south, hitting New Zealand in the North Island in up to a week's time. Officials have already reassured the public that any damage will be marginal in comparison to the significant damage caused in Fiji.

Cyclones are characterised by low-pressure areas, with the centre of the cyclone commonly referred to as the 'eye.' The six requirements necessary for cyclones to form are warm sea surface temperatures, atmospheric instability, high humidity in the lower to middle levels of the troposphere, enough Coriolis force to develop a low pressure centre, a preexisting low level focus or disturbance, and a low vertical wind gradient.



NEWS IN

BRIEFS



1

President Barack Obama on Tuesday announced a long-awaited plan to congress to shut down the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, insisting that the prison is contrary to American values. "It undermines our standing in the world. It is viewed as a stain on our broader record of upholding the highest standards of rule of law" he said, talking to the press last week

2

Martin Peter Trenneborg, a Swedish doctor has been sentenced to 10 years in jail after being found guilty of kidnapping a woman and keeping her in his bunker for six days. Although he had plans to hold her captive in the purpose built bunker for years, Trenneborg denied and was subsequently acquitted of rape

3

It's estimated that 140 people have been killed in what's being described as a "bloody spasm of violence" in the Syrian cities of Homs and Damascus. Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the attacks, which reportedly came in the form of car bomb explosions and suicide bombings

4

US chocolate giant Mars has ordered a massive international recall of Mars and Snickers bars made at its Dutch factory after a piece of plastic found in one snack was traced back to the site. After the individual had complained to Mars, the plastic was traced back to a Mars factory in the town of Veghel. It was determined that it came from a protective cover used in the plant's manufacturing process

5

Kurdish special forces have rescued a 16 year old Swedish girl from the Islamic State in Iraq. In a statement released by Kurdish forces, they claim that the girl was misled and lured to Syria by an Islamic State member in Sweden, before later travelling to Mosul

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6

A commuter train was derailed in the Netherlands after crashing into a crane which was crossing the tracks, resulting in the death of the train driver and injuring several more passengers

7

The wreckage of a small plane in Nepal, carrying 23 people has been discovered in the mountainous area in central Nepal. All on board, including two foreigners were confirmed dead

FACTS —and— figures

21 YEARS The length of a summer on Uranus

BIKINIS WERE INVENTED BY MEN

Heart attacks are more likely to happen on a Monday.

1,300 The amount of inventions patented by Thomas Edison

A sheep, a duck and a rooster were the first passengers on a hot air balloon

If you lift a Kangaroo's tail off the ground it cant hop



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

1ST MARCH 1692- SALEM WITCH HUNT begins. In Salem Village, Massachusetts, three women are charged with the illegal practice of witchcraft

5TH MARCH 1953- JOSEPH STALIN, leader of the Soviet Union during World War II dies in his sleep

7TH MARCH 1876- ALEXANDER BELL'S U.S PATENT for the telephone is granted

6TH MARCH 1899- The Imperial Patent Office in Berlin registers **ASPIRIN** on behalf of the German pharmaceutical company Friedrich Bayer and Co.

17

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■ NOTHING JOHN KEY SAYS THIS YEAR WILL MATTER

by JOEL MCMANUS

I'M GOING TO START THIS COLUMN OFF WITH A prediction for 2016. It's not a very bold prediction. In fact it's pretty much as safe as you can get in the unpredictable world of politics:

At some point this year, John Key is going to say something really dumb and/or offensive.

It may be a bad attempt at a joke, like his "Gay red shirt" comment. It may be a political attack gone too far, like his "You support THE RAPISTS!" outcry. Or it may be some completely weird story about his personal life, like his personal affinity for pulling the ponytails of young girls.

Whatever it ends up being, the result is fairly predictable. It will cause a small media storm, left wingers will be baying for his head, Mike Hosking will jump to defend his honour, and your news feed be full of indignant outrage from your annoying friends.

And it won't make a lick of difference. His polling will remain unchanged. Anyone expecting the Key legacy to be destroyed by a mildly offensive gaffe is going to be sorely disappointed.

There are two key reasons why this is.

Firstly, swing voters don't pay attention to gaffes. Here's the thing: the only people really intently following political news in non-election years are, bizzarely enough, people that care about politics. And if you're the kind of person that cares about political news, you are probably also going to be an individual with pretty well-developed political opinions. The kind of opinions that aren't easily swayed by gaffes. A left-winger that doesn't like John Key is only going to have his opinion reinforced, and a right

winger isn't going to rethink his entire philosophy based on something relatively minor. However, the swing voters that could go either way? They aren't paying attention at all. Because they aren't the kind of people who follow every political news story. Its 2016, man. They've got better things to do.

Secondly, scandals don't have the same impact on incumbents. Political scandals matter when they colour the public's perception of a candidate to the point that their judgement and basic ability to govern is called into question. Mitt Romney's "47%" comment made him seem like a heartless autocrat and Rick Perry's "Oops" moment made him seem like a blundering idiot.

But those stumbles don't incite the same doubts in the public when they come from an incumbent, because people have already seen them in action and had time to form an opinion. If they're governing well and the economy is strong, the public can be extremely forgiving. That's why Bill Clinton could survive the Lewinsky affair with 70% approval ratings, but

one photo of Ed Milliband looking weird while eating a sandwich was enough to end his career.

Holding out hope that John Key will go down in flames in his own personal Watergate is an exercise in futility. The next election will be decided the way elections have been decided for centuries, with two simple questions: How well are the current guys handling things (specifically the economy)? And can the other guys do it better? We'll just have to wait and see what the answer is.

That's why Bill Clinton could survive the Lewinsky affair with 70% approval ratings, but one photo of Ed Milliband looking weird while eating a sandwich was enough to end his career



PHOTO OF JOHN KEY/C.BY-SA 2.0 KEVIN HU (Flickr)



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KIWIS IN AUSTRALIA ON NEW CITIZENSHIP PATHWAY

New Zealanders who have lived and worked in Australia for five years or more are set for easier access to citizenship under a new deal.

by HUGH BAIRD

TALKS LAST WEEK BETWEEN JOHN KEY AND Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull have made it easier for Kiwis living in Australia to seek Australian citizenship.

Prime Minister Turnbull announced the changes recently in a joint press conference during John Key's trip to Sydney to meet with Turnbull.

However, the pathway to citizenship was not about work skills, but money. If an individual was to have earned \$53,000 over five consecutive years between 2001 and now, they would be able to apply for permanent residence and then eventually citizenship.

Most New Zealanders living in Australia do so under a special category visa, which, after law changes in 2001 excludes them accessing a range of benefits and support as well as being unable to apply for citizenship.

More than 300,000 Kiwi's are thought to be living in Australia on special category visas. Mr. Key estimates that 100,000 of these would meet the criteria.

However, the deal is only applicable to those who had already been living in Australia previous to the announcement last Friday.


"It takes place up to today, effectively if someone came here yesterday to Australia, then they could work through over the next five years and apply," Mr. Key said.

Mr Turnbull also recognised the work in which John Key had put into getting the deal across the line. Showing more admiration for the Kiwi leader after he showed high appraisal of Key last year following his appointment as Prime Minister in the wake of the Tony Abbot debacle. "It's an important step and in recognition of the advocacy that John Key has made on behalf of the many New Zealand citizens who are in

Australia, who are working here and part of our community," He said.

However, whilst Labour MP and foreign affair spokesman David Shearer claims it was a step in the right direction, he believes still there was a long way to go if we were to try and restore the rights which we were priviledged to previous to 2001.

"There is still a wide inequity in the way New Zealanders generally are treated across the Tasman, including the fact we have no access to social services despite paying taxes there," he said speaking to 3 News.

"This small concession should be just the start in restoring a more equal relationship with Australia."  critic@critic.co.nz

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2016 NEW ZEALAND TEAMS PREVIEW



Luckily for the Blues in 2016 the only possible way to go is up. The franchise had a 2015 to forget, winning only three of their matches, losing their first nine and dealing with a raft of off field challenges, ending with the resignation of coach Sir John Kirwan.

Players to Watch: Akira Ioane

Best Buy: Rene Ranger

CHIEFS

The Chiefs will be looking to go two games further in 2016 after finishing 5th in 2015, bowing out to eventual champions The Highlanders in the quarterfinals. It's a new look team this year with 14 new faces, including 2011-world cup hero Stephen Donald.

Players to Watch: Aaron Cruden

Best Buy: Stephen Donald



For the first time in a while the Crusaders will be without both Dan Carter and Richie McCaw. Not since 2008 have the seven time champions lifted the trophy, last reaching the final in 2014. There are high hopes for a better season for the men from Canterbury after a tough 2015, missing the play-offs by one point after being edged out the Brumbies.

Players to Watch: Israel Dagg

Best Buy: Marty McKenzie



Sadly for the Hurricanes, a loss in last years final has left them as the only team in New Zealand to have not won a Super Rugby title. After coming so close in 2016, after an almost flawless season, the men from the capital will be looking to continue that form this season and take it one step further, securing some gold for the trophy cabinet at headquarters.

Player to Watch: T J Perenara

Key Player: Beauden Barrett



The 2015 champions will be looking for a repeat this year. At the start of last season, Highlanders were unlikely champions. However, they finished the season strong and ended up beating the season favourites, The Hurricanes, at home in the final. There are high hopes in 2016 for back to back championships with a large number of the squad returning to defend their title.

Player to Watch - Malakai Fekitoa

Best Buy - Luke Whitelock

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SINCE 1996, SUPER RUGBY HAS ESTABLISHED itself as the premier rugby competition in the Southern Hemisphere, if not the world. It began originally with 12 foundation teams, growing again in 2006 to 14 with the inclusion of the Cheetahs and the Force and more recently 15, with the Melbourne based franchise; the Rebels being included in 2011.

However in 2016, just twenty years on from its original inception, the competition is set to add three additional teams in an attempt to add new fans, new markets and new excitement.

Those three teams will be the Jaguares from Argentina, Sunwolves from Japan and the Kings out of South Africa.

This has seen a drastic change in the formatting of the competition with teams now divided into two regional groups, each of which will contain two conferences.

However, it does mean a few changes to the scheduling for teams. Each Kiwi team will play six games against other Kiwi franchises, five games against each of the Australian teams and then four games against opponents from one of the South African conferences.

The finals series will then see eight teams compete in the quarterfinals. These finalists will be comprised of the top team in each conference and then one wildcard, the team with

the next best points from the African group and three wild cards from the Australasian group. Finalists will be seeded from highest to lowest and will face off in quarterfinals series with the winners advancing to the semi finals and on to the final in which a champion team will eventually be found. critic@critic.co.nz

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DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING

*feature writer **Lucy Hunter** pays a visit to the
National Poison Centre.*

If you've eaten something strange by mistake or fallen in a puddle of toxic sludge, the National Poison Centre can advise you on what to do, who to go to, and which super-powers you may or may not have acquired.



CAUTION
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

If you have accidentally swallowed something poisonous, or are trying to help somebody who has, do not make them vomit. It is not an effective way to remove poison from the system. The stomach contractions that cause vomiting can make the poison absorb more rapidly into the bloodstream. If the swallowed substance is corrosive it can do more damage to the oesophagus and mouth on the way up than if it stays in the stomach, and violent retching can push poison into the lungs, especially if it is a foaming substance like dishwashing liquid. Light liquids like petrol can release vapours that are harmful when inhaled. Small children can become drowsy after vomiting, which can be dangerous. Instead, you should call the National Poison Centre immediately.

Have you ever wondered who answers the phone when you call the number on the back of poisonous product bottles? Dunedin is home to the National Poison Centre, which gives free advice and peace of mind to New Zealanders every day.

A poison is any substance that is dangerous to health or life if it is ingested, inhaled or exposed to the skin or eyes. Almost anything, such as a medicine, chemical, plant, or hazardous creature can be a poison.

The National Poison Centre was opened at the University of Otago 51 years ago. Now they answer 30,000 calls a year, have eight regular staff members plus two poison information specialists. The staff have a variety of health-related degrees including Bachelors, Masters or PhDs in pharmacology, toxicology, neuroscience or nursing. They have also undertaken intensive training in the specific management of poisoning. Their work involves answering calls from concerned citizens and, between calls, updating the poison database, which now has information on about 200,000 substances collected over five decades. Over 20 countries, including many developing countries to which the Centre allows free access, use the database.

Workers at the Poison Centre also need the strength of character to deal with emotional, dangerous situations, and even some criminal behaviour.

I spoke to the Centre's Operations Manager Lucy Shieffebien. She told me the Centre deals mainly with four types of calls. The most common calls are about children who have swallowed things they shouldn't have. Unintentional poisoning calls are when someone has used a product correctly but for whatever reason they have suffered an

exposure, for example, if the wind picks up while you are spraying the garden and the spray blows in your face. There are calls concerning intentional misuse of substances for recreational or self-harming purposes. People also call with worries about "therapeutic error" – anything involving a medicine that went wrong. These include people taking the wrong medicine, the wrong dose or formulation (such as giving children adult paracetamol,) and taking medicine via the wrong route of exposure, such as putting eye drops in your ears or mouth. Medicine can also be given to the wrong patient, particularly in places such as care homes. Accidental poisoning is a huge problem to New Zealanders. 20% of families with pre-school age children have a poisoning scare every year. Keeping data helps the centre understand where mistakes happen and what they can do to educate people.

Poisonings tend to peak early in the morning when small children wake up, and around dinnertime when parents are busy with cooking. Daylight saving times mean more time for children to be outside in the sun, getting into strange plants, pesticides, and gardening products. Only one person is on from midnight to 8am. Nighttime calls are different to daytime. They often concern significant self-harm or multiple substance overdoses. People who have attempted suicide sometimes call the line after taking something poisonous, sometimes wanting to talk about their mental health predicament; the staff at the centre are not counsellors so only give advice on the poisoning at hand. They have to calmly tell them to call the hospital or go to their doctor. People will sometimes text their friends, often from other parts of the country, telling them they have self-harmed. The friend will call the poison line but struggle to give adequate information on the situation from a distance.

Some things many people think are poisonous actually aren't. The little sachets of silica gel that come in shoeboxes won't hurt you despite their melodramatic DO NOT EAT labelling. It says that because although they aren't poisonous, you can choke on them if you swallow the packet whole. White-tail spiders are also not poisonous. They are, however, aggressive hunters who will not hesitate to attack a human. There are only two venomous land creatures in New Zealand – the native katipo and the Australian redback spider. The Centre also has pet fire-bellied newts that ooze poison out of their skin, the only poisonous pets they are allowed to keep. Shieffebien introduced me to her favourite, Isaac Newt, a ten-year-old female who was heavily pregnant. The Poison Centre staff told me people can panic when their child is found fraternising with animals.

ation
Prolonged inhalation may cause
headache or nausea
Ingestion of large amounts may
cause injury

One small child was found eating ants in the garden. The child's mother, terrified at the thought of ants living inside her child, called the poison centre after giving the child ant poison to drink. The poison was, of course, far more harmful than the ants.

The Poison Centre sometimes sees tragedies waiting to happen long before the government can be convinced to do something about it. They were trying to get a maximum pH level on washing powder for

The toxicologists are aware that despite their massive knowledge of poisons, there is probably the same number of unknown or unregistered poisons as there are in the database

a long time, seeing the potential for injury to children if they managed to eat it. Nothing was done about it until a little boy tipped a bottle of the powder down his throat, causing massive injury and costing the country millions of dollars in health costs. The boy had to have a tracheotomy as the result of his accident. The price of his healthcare was the catalyst in importing and manufacturing laws being changed, not the trauma the child and his family went through. In 2007 the legislation was changed to prohibit the sale of powders with a pH higher than 12.5. "Often it's not till something actually happens – risk is not enough. They have to see the results to make the changes."

Every year when the government put up the price of cigarettes and tobacco the Centre notices a spike in nicotine poisoning. People call Quitline and get nicotine lozenges and gum, which children get into and eat, thinking they are lollies. Nicotine is highly toxic to anybody who is "nicotine naïve," particularly small children. A high enough dose can kill a child. Medsafe at the Ministry of Health had trouble

believing that a child would eat the gum, thinking it tasted too bad. The staff at the Poison Centre had to convince them that the poison risk was very real, and one child had managed to eat around 15 pieces of gum and become very sick.

Adults, too, can unintentionally harm themselves with household products. When a toxic product is put into an unlabelled container like a coffee cup, sometimes somebody will drink it by mistake. A mother called the Centre because her teenage son had accidentally drunk a pesticide that had been stored in a drink bottle. He hadn't mentioned it until the next day when his throat was so sore he couldn't swallow. The call taker said this was one of her more distressing calls in the decade she has been at the centre. She knew the outcome of the poisoning would be dire, and could only tell the mother to take her son to hospital immediately.

Shieffebien told me how the arrival of certain products into the country could increase the number of calls to the Centre. One such product was the Duck Fresh Disc – the little coloured disc that you put in your toilet to make it smell clean. Within a week of them going on the market they were the Centre's number one call. Though not actually poisonous, they are a choking hazard, and because they make kids climb headfirst into toilets, they are a drowning hazard too. The Centre discovered that the same product had been withdrawn from Europe because of the danger it posed to children, so the company dumped it on Australasia.

Product labelling is useful in giving information about dangerous substances directly to the consumer, but often their legal obligations are not very helpful. Packages can be too small to list first aid procedures for every kind of poisoning – if the product is swallowed, in the person's eyes, on the skin etc. – and so will have the Poison Centre's number instead. Party pills and legal highs used to have to list the phone number, but because they weren't legally required to inform the centre what was actually in the pills, sometimes the phone operator would be unable to help. Many parallel imported products at dollar stores do not have ingredients listed in English. If someone calls having swallowed hair dye but they can't read the Chinese instructions, they are in trouble. The phone operators then have to go off symptoms and references to similar products to give advice.

The Poison Centre's call database is also where dangerous trends in poisoning are often first observed. If there is a spike in poisonings from a particular product or medication, the poison helpline will know about it before the rest of the medical world. In the '90s there was a powerful antihistamine marketed as a sleeping aid, called "Goodnight," which was available over the counter at pharmacies. The Poison Centre had noticed a trend of misuse and overdose of the drug, with at least 67 intentional recorded adult poisonings before the legislation around its sale was changed. Unfortunately fatalities did occur. Most were young women under the age of 30. The average overdose was about 30 tablets. The centre notified the Ministry of Health who changed the regulations on the product. The drug can now only be sold by licenced pharmacists. In 2009 Christchurch woman Helen Milner was convicted of murdering her husband by sedating him with the same drug. She slipped crushed tablets into his food before smothering him in his sleep with a pillow.

The Centre can also keep tabs on the general population's poison habits by looking at what people have searched online in relation to poisoning. Sometime it will be a certain product or drug, but, Shieffebien told me, "Generally people search things like 'poisons that kill instantly.'" This is one kind of information the Centre never gives out. They will not tell people the toxic dose of any poison over the phone. The staff

The Centre also has pet fire-bellied newts that ooze poison out of their skin, the only poisonous pets they are allowed to keep.



member will ask the weight of the person and calculate whether treatment is needed based on milligrams of poison per kilogram of human. They give medical advice without saying how much poison would be needed to kill the person.

This precaution is necessary. The poison line attracts some unsavoury behaviour. Colin Bouwer, the Dunedin psychiatrist who murdered his wife in 2003, used the poison helpline to assist them in their crimes. He called and asked under guise of a genuine medical enquiry how long hypoglycaemic drugs remained traceable in the blood. He used the information to time how long he would wait to call emergency services after he had put his wife in a hypoglycaemic coma with dangerous doses of the drug.

The Poisons Information Officers are aware of other unhealthy behaviours, such as Munchausen syndrome: a psychiatric factitious disorder where people feign disease, illness, or psychological trauma to draw attention, sympathy, or reassurance to themselves. They had a case of a man who had been banned from the Wellington Hospital for impersonating a doctor. He started poisoning himself on purpose and calling the Poison Centre, then getting himself an ambulance so he could enter the hospital via A&E. The same individual also managed to hack into the Centre's poisons information database, allowing him to expand his knowledge of all things poisonous. As a result criminal charges were laid and the man was successfully prosecuted.

The toxicologists are aware that despite their massive knowledge of poisons, there is probably the same number of unknown or unregistered poisons as there are in the database. Poisons also vary from country to country: for example, Australia has far more poisonous animals than we do. Shieffebien was at a toxicology conference where some Dutch toxicologists told everybody they had seen a snake on the beach and had had a good look at it and took photos because it was "brown and not poisonous." It turned out to be a deadly poisonous brown snake: an attack could have been embarrassing to the toxicology community!

The Poisons Information Officers answered several calls in the space of 40 minutes. They answered in calm voices and with fingers tapping on the keyboard as they listened to the problem. They need to find a balance between communicating the gravity of the situation and preventing undue panic. Most calls are from distressed parents. 75% of poisonings can be dealt with at home. I overheard a call about a two year old that had swallowed rat poison, but the dose was far too small to do much damage. Most of the rat bait is to attract the rodents – only a tiny portion is poison. Another person with a terrible rodent problem had laid poison and was also attracting rats to traps with peanut butter, but discovered peanut butter contains the antidote to rat poison, Vitamin K. The Poison Centre calculated that a rat would need to eat a couple of jars of peanut butter to counteract the poison.

The workers at the Poison Centre are unsung heroes in the medical world. I have gone through my whole life without ever thinking of the people who answer up to 120 calls a day, giving free advice to New Zealanders in moments of worry or desperation. They are saving children's lives, giving parents peace of mind, helping adults who have made mistakes or hurt themselves, and even foiling the occasional criminal.

If you or somebody you know has been poisoned, call the New Zealand Poison Information Service immediately at 0800 POISON (0800 764 766) or seek medical advice from another health professional

A full-page photograph of a man with a beard and bald head, wearing a black t-shirt with a graphic of a wolf's face and two people's faces. He is playing a dark electric guitar. The background is filled with smoke and vibrant blue and purple stage lighting. A microphone stand is visible on the left.

A FINAL FAREWELL

Dunedin's best
alternative music
venue, Chick's Hotel,
is about to close.

Mikayla Cahill
pays homage
to the venue,
its history,
and her
memories.



pictured: Jakob (opposite), Beast Wars, and No Broadcast

Richard slammed his hand over the guitar strings and a ringing tore apart the room. Everyone began to cheer in unison. A second later the guitar riffs and sharp drum beats were ripping apart the walls. My hair whipped me in the face, and beer spilled out of my glass as I swayed side to side with the crowd. The disco ball above us spun around, shining flecks of light onto the faces of both strangers, and friends. The air smelled of hops and sweat. I grabbed my friend's hand and we sang along as we danced with the masses. MALES said thank you and hung up their musical instruments for the very last time as they walked off of the stage.

Chick's Hotel, an iconic Dunedin music venue is set to close by the end of March in 2016. It is hard to imagine that this once rowdy place will be an urban legend to those yet to discover the magic of Dunedin's night life. The devastating rumours were confirmed in late November of last year by a Facebook post. Michael McLeod's words shocked a community whose cultural centre has been at Chick's. However, in a money run world like ours cultural wealth sometimes just isn't enough to keep businesses alive.

Known across both Dunedin city and New Zealand, Chick's Hotel was not once all the glitz and glamour it is today. Erected in 1876, the popular music venue used to be known as the Jerusalem Hotel. The building was commissioned by Henry Dench, a former mayor of the town. Like many people in


today's society, Dench ran into financial problems and was forced to sell the building in late 1878. A local carrier of Port Chalmers, George Chick, came along in 1879, and purchased the hotel – oblivious he was creating a legacy that would be infamous over one hundred years later. George was an immigrant from England, much like the rest of the European population in the country at the time. He and his wife Helen birthed nine children, who lived with them in the hotel. Unfortunately, George had a bad stroke of luck with his off spring; of his nine children only three managed to reach adulthood and four of his nine children died in the hotel. Spooky, right? The gothic filtered life of George Chick ended in 1894, where his lamentable luck got the best of him. Chick was one of the 134 passengers to die on the horrific Wairarapa incident off of Great Barrier Island.

The spookyness doesn't stop there either. Farfetched ghost stories of a basement dungeon and a tunnel that runs out to sea are still thrown around by some people to this day. Michael McLeod, the current co-owner of the venue, describes it as a "smuggling tunnel" where legend has it that those whom got a little too rowdy "might wake up the next day sort of halfway out to sea on board a fishing vessel enjoying [their] new career as a fisherman." However, everyone can sleep in peace knowing this smugglers den is fully bricked up, and no longer in use. Despite these Victorian-like

horror stories, the music venue has succeeded in creating a cultural explosion; one that will be missed by its subcultural community and local frequenters.

Robert Scott, musician in both The Clean and The Bats, says that "[Chick's] wasn't set up as a specific music venue but it was a pub that had music. Then Hazard took it over, put a lot of work into it, fixed it up, and hired *a lot* of bands." Hector Hazard, a connoisseur of Dunedin's unique and distinctive music culture scene, opened the venue in 2008. Before Hazard took over the bar Scott described it as being "very, very rough". Hazard's crusade of turning around the venue, and releasing its potential was founding factor in the role that Chick's would play in the Dunedin music community.

By the early 2010's Chicks Hotel had been sold once again to four co-owners: Michael McLeod, Thomas Bell, Morgan Oliver, and Jake Langley. It had also established a reputation not only as a popular music venue but as an iconic piece of Dunedin culture throughout New Zealand; with artists from all over the nation, including Anthony Tonnon wanting to perform in the mysterious and inviting venue. The venue draws a specific type of crowd; one that encompasses the eccentricity of Dunedin's image, and sound, something Port Chalmers as a suburb also shares. Scott says that "lots of musicians and artists actually moved out here in the eighties because the housing was very cheap."



**Remember to also
be happy though;
realise that you
participated in a
distinctive part of
Dunedin's history.**

Even though Chick's Hotel was not established as a music venue at the time, the location of these artists at the beginning of the internationally acclaimed 'Dunedin Sound' was centred within the suburbs of this small port town located 10 kilometres outside of the Dunedin city centre.

Regardless of its small size and the drive out of the city, Chick's Hotel often pulls large amounts of people for gigs and special events. Why? Perhaps it makes us all feel closer to each other. Richard Ley-Hamilton, lead singer of Dunedin band MALES describes Chick's as "a very intimate venue, you don't need a massive amount of people to fill it up and have an incredible atmosphere." Once a dark and rough hangout for sailors, the venue is now catered to an increasing group of individuals who enjoy the historic aspects of the intimate music venue. I have been fortunate enough to have never been denied entry but many are not so lucky. Some might not think that travelling on windy roads to attend a gig is worth it, but those people have clearly never been to Chick's Hotel. Many of us Chick's goers choose to travel on the

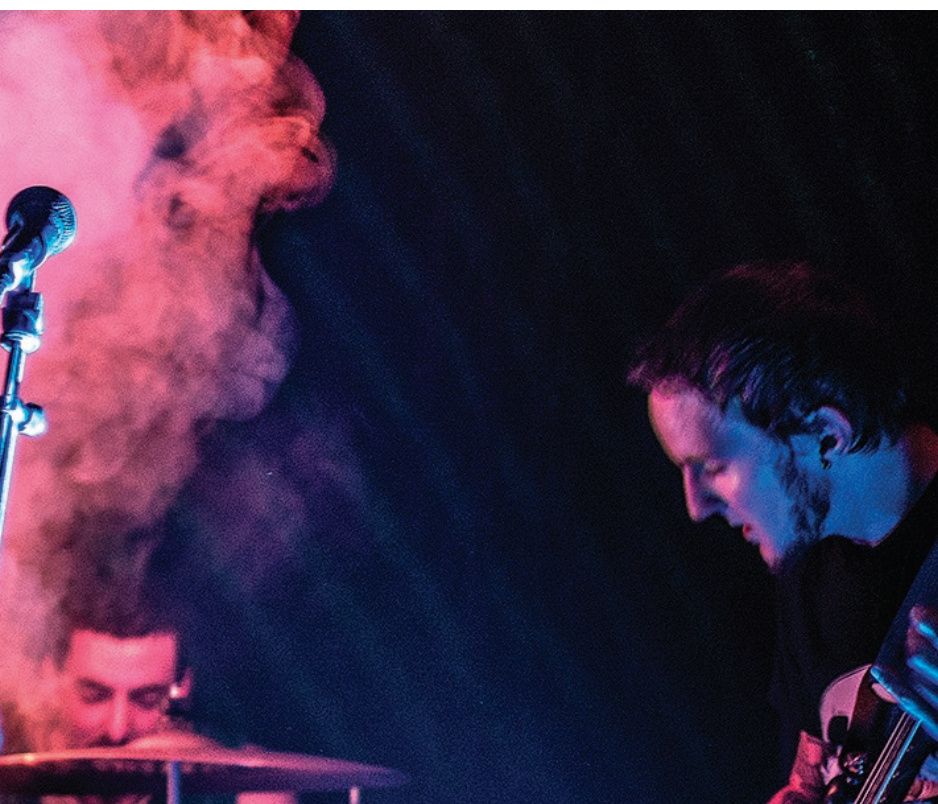
Magic Chick's Bus; a bus service run by the venue that charters its attendees both to the venue and back into the city for free with your Radio One card. An ingenious idea that enables Chick's to stand out from other popular music venues in the city, the magic bus nearly came to a close in late 2013 until an online Pledge Me campaign and a birthday show enabled the current co-owners to buy their own bus rather than hire one for each gig; something that began to bring a lot more people into the venue after a year of reliable bus services.

A night at Chick's – for me at least – almost always begins on that bus ride. There is something wonderful about waiting on the university steps with some of your best friends, going to see a band or two you all really like. That's why Chick's is my favourite place to go. The times at Chick's that have formed life-long memories, friendships, and one or two regrets are what makes the venue so special. Other than the impeccable décor of the stage and the cosy, intimate setting of the bar and outdoor areas, Chick's has a very homey atmosphere, and I think that's why so many people become infatuated with



it. A feeling that I think the building was destined to be stuck with: Michael McLeod spoke to Anthony Tonnon during a radio interview in 2014 and stated that "Some people often think that Chick's refers to females, hot babes, 'chicks' or whatever, and that it's some kind of groovy place for chicks to hangout, but it's actually a family name."

The warm and inviting venue has hosted a marvellous array of local, home-grown, and



pictured: **Iron Tusk**, and **Death and the Maiden** (right)



photographs supplied by **Danielle Michelucci**

international artists since its opening as a venue in the late 2000's. Over the last few years Chick's has hosted some of the best acts to come to Dunedin in recent times including Princess Chelsea, Fazerdaze, HEAVY, Lou Barlow, DIE DIE DIE, Shellac, Anthony Tonnon, Trip Pony and Unknown Mortal Orchestra just to name a few. Not even a decade old, the Chick's Hotel that we all know and love is coming to an end, and it is something to be sad about. Remember to also be happy though; realise that you participated in a distinctive part of Dunedin's history. I would love nothing more than for Chick's to stay open indefinitely and continue to let new memories and friendships blossom, but it isn't just about what I want, it's about something bigger than that.

Other than the demanding hours, and managing to put up with masses of intoxicated people, the hard working staff who work there want to move on with their lives. Just like anyone, or anything in the world, Chick's cannot last forever. At first when I heard the iconic venue was closing I was angry, but, then I learnt something.

Chick's might have been wonderful for all of us, but it was a different story for those who saw the other side. For those whom make the spectacular of Chick's possible there is both a lot of time and hard work involved, and one can only do so much. It is rude of us to expect Chick's to stay open because we want it to, or to try and find reasons why having the venue stay open will be worth it in the long run. Yet as wonderful as those ideas may be, no matter how much dedication and spirit they may show, it is not what needs to happen now. Just like many other wonderful music venues in Dunedin that have shut down, such as Queens, Chick's will leave its mark on the people of Dunedin, and be remembered by those who loved it. It is natural for things to come and go in life; we should remember Chick's for what it was, what it is and what it has been throughout our lives, rather than just what it could be.

Goodbye Chick's, we will miss you.

C critic@critic.co.nz

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DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE

Curious Adventures and Cautionary Tales of a Former Playboy Bunny

Author: Holly Madison



Reveiw by **HAYLEIGH CLARKSON**

FOR THOSE OF YOU LIKE ME WHO SPENT THEIR teenage years in the early 2000s, you will already be familiar with the pop-culture take over that was Playboy. Ranging from bedspreads, jewellery and temporary tattoos through to the popular hit TV show *The Girls Next Door*, Playboy took over every teenaged girl and boys' bedroom for many years. Being a huge fan of the show, I was thrilled to hear that Holly Madison, the star of *The Girls Next Door* and Hugh Hefner's Number One Girlfriend, had written a tell-all memoir about her time in the Playboy Mansion. Entitled *Down the Rabbit Hole – Curious Adventures and Cautionary Tales of a Former Playboy Bunny*, Holly Madison takes the reader on a wild ride through a bitchy and gossipy jungle of lies and manipulation, dragging us down the rabbit hole and destroying the picture perfect idea of wholesome young girls and an abundance of sex that Playboy had provided us for years.

The revelations within this book are mind-blowing. Beginning when Holly was 22 years old and just entering the mansion through to her final departure, Holly reveals a world of vicious, manipulating Bunnies who are stabbing each other in the back to become a Playmate. She divulges bizarre orgy-style bedtime routines with all the girls in pink pyjamas, unbelievably strict routines and oppressive rules around clothing, make-up and who they can and cannot speak to. Holly even gives us the inside goss on what life was like filming the TV series, revealing how plots were twisted to make her look like a devoted girlfriend or portraying a happy friendship that was quickly becoming nasty. She goes beyond her time in the mansion to show how outside its walls,

life was not all that rosy with people using her for her fame. But what is really shocking are the revelations of Hef. From temper-tantrums and soul-destroying control of Holly through to using money to silence the girls, Hef is portrayed as the perfect villain trapping a helpless Beauty in her tower.

The memoir includes many references to Marilyn Munroe, old Hollywood glamour and Alice in Wonderland which creates a fairy-tale narrative of a beautiful damsel taken hostage by a nasty sex-crazed old man. Each chapter begins with a quote from either Alice's *Adventures in Wonderland* or *Through the Looking Glass* which sets up the chapter to follow. Woven throughout the memoir are hints of Alice from costumes Holly wears to Playboy parties or mentions of the world inside the mansion which twists, turns and confuses each Bunny that sets foot inside its doors.

The memoir is easy to read and it flows smoothly from one point to another. She did change the names of the girlfriends in the book, however a quick Google search reveals who each character is if you get curious. So, if you spent your teenage years watching Holly and the girls on the E! Channel, you will not want to miss this memoir. A mixture of 70's porno meets fairy-tale glamour, this is one memoir that I promise will not disappoint.

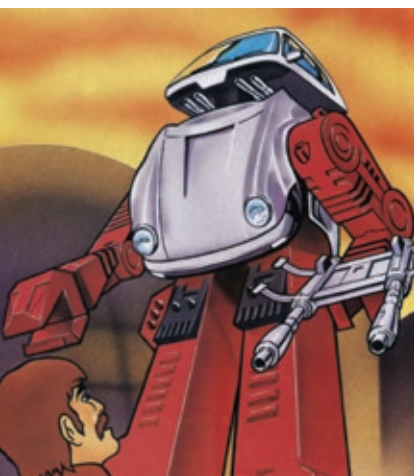
a fairy-tale narrative of a beautiful damsel taken hostage by a nasty **sex-crazed** old man



WHY DO WE NEED...

Revolution 4.0?

Anthony Marris reviews tech ideas, gadgets, and websites to tell you how they will help or hinder your life



Rev4.0's "smart factory" uses vast networks to analyse data to review market needs and global commodity trends to assess and change the level of production needed. On the micro level, the factory will be able to quickly compare input and output levels on the factory floor, track materials and goods from manufacturer to market, and build things with technology already used in development for smart cars, 3D printing, and robotics.

But care is needed. With a self-contained and more efficient workforce, what place is there for the human element? Humans need food, sleep, and social interaction. Robots and computer programs work until they break, can be upgraded, and do not need love. If we were to continue on the road of the "smart factory" then human labour will become redundant. The IBM computer Watson is capable of reading every single medical paper ever published and make a judgement call. No human can comprehend that much information.

Larry Elliott of The Guardian notes three myths that need to be debunked about Rev4.0. The first is that impact of change will not be

REVOLUTION 4.0 (WHICH I WILL CALL REV4.0) IS the ménage a trois that connects robotics, the internet we use for shopping, streaming etc, and cloud computing. The aim of Rev4.0 is to create "smart factories", a more intelligent (read efficient) means to manufacture goods.

The "First Revolution" in the history of technology was the development of steam powered machinery. "The Second" was the adoption of electricity, and inventions like the aeroplane and nuclear power, and "The Third" the development of personal computers and the internet. Rev4.0 announces itself as the next massive leap in human technology.

big. He argues the lack of a properly educated workforce is an issue. Even if we had a properly trained workforce, we will have a wide skill gap between humans and robots. To devote entire generations to learning an ever-changing growing field at the expense of understanding what we already know is foolish. But what would I know, I studied history.

The second myth is that there will be economic advantages of machine based workforce if left to the market. Yeah Right. Cos we all know that trickledown economics works....not. Implement a system based on efficiency into a capitalist financial system and let us see which people are displaced.

The third myth is that the new technology associated with the "smart factory" will allow for more time for leisure activities. Look around, we have replaced the time we saved from practical labour saving devices like the washing machine and spent it on mental masturbatory tasks to appease our fragile egos. We spend all our time looking at our crotches pretending to care about who slept with whom and "liking" the rubbish posted,

rather than looking at and enjoying the world around us.

To conclude, one of the few things that is preventing us from World War Beta (the robot uprising) are coders who seek out weak points in security systems. The total adoption of the "smart factory" is hindered by flaws in computer security and stable M2M (machine to machine) programs. If companies can't guarantee their proprietary code and technology are protected, then there is no point in investing in this technology. So we need the likes of Anonymous and other coders to push, poke and prod computer security. Because if WWB kicks off, I am pretty sure Ctl-Alt-Del is not going to work.

TL;DR - Revolution 4.0 is the goal of using our current technology to propel humanity into the future by outsourcing tasks to machines capable of analysing vast amounts of data from many sources. My fear is that we will code ourselves out of a job.

With a self-contained and more efficient workforce, what place is there for the human element?





OBJECTIVITY & POSITIVITY

*the balancing act
of music criticism*



by **MILLCENT LOVELOCK**

MUSIC WRITING IS FRAUGHT. FOR THE PAST four years of my life I have studied English Literature, and I understand all too well that often, to write with clarity and objectivity, there needs to be, in the mind of the critic, a clear distinction between author and text. I also understand that sometimes clarity and objectivity are not possible, and it is crucial that Critic is open to navigating that liminal space where creator and creation co-exist. Furthermore, as a woman and as a musician, I feel immense discomfort at critical assumptions made regarding my response to, or my intention with, a work of art. So, for me, writing about music is a balancing act.

I have at times positioned myself strongly against journalism that attempts a simultaneously objective and subjective assessment of a piece of music. When I agreed to be music editor for 2016 I worried that I would contribute to a field of writing fuelled by trends, and propelled by childish jibes and totalising statements. But, I do firmly believe that good criticism is an integral part of any healthy creative community, and I think I have almost convinced myself that my contribution to a practice that makes me a little bit uncomfortable can be positive.

When I read music criticism I am often struck by the polarity of responses. It seems to me that critics either whole-heartedly applaud a work, or lambast it alongside the artist. As well as being indelicate, this kind of criticism breeds a culture where liminality is ignored, and the artist is either worshipped or abhorred. When I listen

to music I am not listening with my emotive responses set to one or the other, I am not listening uncritically, nor am I listening with an agenda. I listen to music for the same reason I play music, because I love it, and because it helps me to think, and to feel, and it pushes me to figure things out in a way that nothing else can.

So, because I find myself in a precarious position, I have set myself a few ground rules. There is a lot in music that I take issue with, there is a lot of music that I feel uncomfortable engaging with, and a lot of music that I just don't like. Consequently, while I hope to challenge myself with what I listen to this year, I am not going to go out of my way to review music that I know I will actively dislike. There will always be albums I don't love, and that is fine, I will try to treat them with the same care and respect as I would an album I love. There is very little point to writing an entirely negative review, and I won't waste my time.

Secondly, I will remind myself at every point that I am an individual responding to a work of art that does not exist in isolation. My response may be visceral, or it may be unremarkable, but it is not the only perspective.

Finally, my intention in writing about music is to encourage people to listen to music that has the capacity to make them move, or to think, or to feel something. The music industry is already very good at turning people away, at alienating people from things they might like, a music column in a student magazine doesn't need to do anymore of that.

I hope, along the way, as I struggle with how to review something without being an asshole, that maybe someone will read a review of an album that will later change their life. Most of all I hope to positively engage with so much music this year, and to share that with those around me.

The music industry is already very good at turning people away, at alienating people from things they might like, a music column in a student magazine doesn't need to do anymore of that



BLUE OYSTER GALLERY

by CHLOE GEOGHEGAN



**The Yellow Men
RePerform, 2013**
(left)

**Samin Son Work
& Play, 2014 (right)**

MOST OF THE TIME, THE BLUE OYSTER Gallery is quiet, almost too quiet. My shoes, my squeaky office chair, the phone, the stapler, and my keyboard form the percussion section of an administrative orchestra that intermittently plays through the quiet gallery spaces, a new verse every minute from 11am until 5pm. Background noise is provided by the parking warden's scooter and random people jumping out of their cars to head into Les Mills next door. With a new exhibition of quiet, contemplative work every month for the past seventeen years, the Blue Oyster is a place people expect to be awkwardly peaceful.

What I love most of all though, is the few times in a year the Blue Oyster is so noisy that it is beyond belief. During these times, we get all manner of complaints and questions from our neighbours and passersby. "What is going on in there?!"

The answer is: performance art. Performance art is synonymous in Dunedin and if you're new to town this may not be the last time you will hear about it. Performance art is scripted or unscripted, random or carefully orchestrated, spontaneous or otherwise carefully planned with or without audience participation. For the

Blue Oyster, performances are often quiet too, but they involve such tension that you feel as though you can hear the artist's mind ticking as he or she is undertaking their work before you.

In 2014 Samin Son possibly made the most noise we've ever heard in the gallery. Hammer Piece was exactly as it reads – loud. In 2013 the Yellow Men performed a series of their own endurance based works as well as re-performances of past Blue Oyster works such as Audrey Baldwin's, where she sealed herself in a toffee cage and licked her way out for two hours. They also re-worked Mark Harvey's 2006 performance, where he took a journey down George Street on the ground using plungers to propel himself forward.

This year we are paying tribute to the rich history of performance art at Blue Oyster by

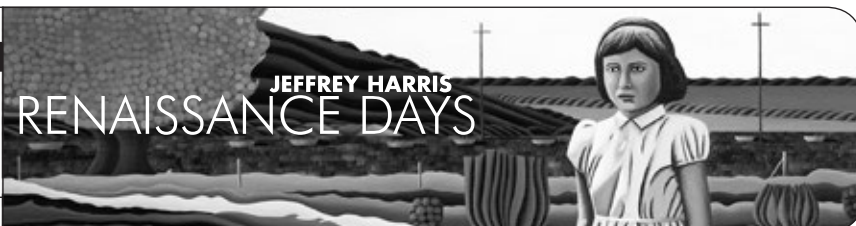
inviting Mark Harvey back to town on the tenth anniversary of his work to conduct a two-day workshop that you or anyone can attend for free, thanks to funding from the Dunedin Fringe Festival. Give yourself a chance to be part of this history and get to know one of the city's favourite experimental galleries. The workshop runs Friday 4 and Saturday 5 March 10am–5pm and there are still spaces available. You can sign up by emailing me: director@blueoyster.org.nz

Chloe Geoghegan
Blue Oyster Gallery Director

Jeffrey Harris Magdalena at French Farm 1996-2012 (detail).
Oil on board. Private Collection, Australia.



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CAROL

Directed by Todd Haynes

Rating: B-

review by ANDREW KWIATKOWSKI

After viewing this film, one is left with bruises from being bashed over the head with the themes.

Carol is an adaptation of the novel *The Price of Salt*, which follows two women falling in love in 1950s USA. The social norms of that time and place, of course, do not permit homosexuality, and so the two leads Carol (Cate Blanchett) and Therese (Rooney Mara) suffer stigmatism from their peers when they go against the grain. The novel may have been groundbreaking when it first appeared in 1952, however it's now 2016 and times have changed. If you have seen the films *Thelma and Louise*, *The Imitation Game*, *Blue is the Warmest Color*, or *A Single Man*, you will probably not be too surprised or entranced by anything in *Carol*. Suffice it to say, their forbidden love makes things tough and tearful, and what they suffer from society, particularly men, is very unfair, gross, and controlling. But I wouldn't really

have thought the performances of Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara were worthy of Oscar nominations; more like par for the course.

Director Todd Haynes skillfully brings your attention to the artifice of the medium, as his Wikipedia bio suggests he is wont to do, but this definitely enhances the film's impact. A lot of the exposition comes in the form of lyrics from 1950s doo-wop love songs in the soundtrack, helping us remember that we are only watching a film with a perspective about these people and not the people themselves. It was clever and endearing film making, and a welcome alternative to being brow beaten with visual cues; like being trapped in glass prisons, running through the

rain when you are crying on the inside, and sadly watching model train sets circle endlessly on their predefined rails.

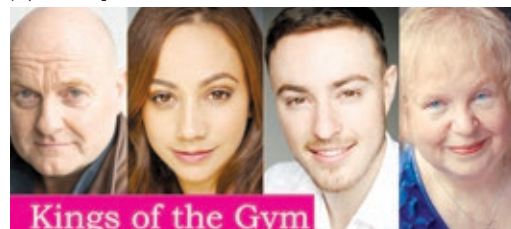
All in all, *Carol* is worth seeing. The tension of 'will they or won't they?' is engaging, and keeps you involved in the film in spite of some tiresome subtlety. The character of Therese is a particular highlight, displaying a daring and fearless streak that inspires you to speculate on whether you would have had the balls to be more than simply one of the herd, given the film's particular setting.

like the hidden but well used dartboard of Principal 'Cleavage's' face (played by Fortune mainstay Lisa Warrington), and Laurie's wide-screen television constantly displaying live sport, effectively convey added layers to the plot and production value.

As the central character, John Leigh shines as Laurie, the ageing, unfit and stubborn Head of Department who has over time declined into a general pain in the butt for Principal 'Cleavage'. From the hilariously uncomfortable nicknames he assigns to the schoolchildren ("Chopsticks, Harry Potter, Reffo"), to his outrageously sexist quotes, asserting, "I don't bet on women's sports, you never know who will be menstruating", Laurie steals the show. These, along with his blanket refusal of new curriculum instruction, and consumption of alcohol during school hours paints a fairly awful picture, but somehow his attachment to the students, comic timing, and genuine kindness when the play serves up more

serious moments, makes Laurie the driving force behind the enjoyment of *Kings of the Gym*.

Overall, *Kings of the Gym* is an intelligent, engaging and for the most part humorous production, that plays very well to its audience. The sports related satire, human characters, and the multi-layered plot certainly makes for an enjoyable departure from the cinema.



Kings of the Gym
cast members

KINGS OF THE GYM

Directed by Patrick Davies

Rating: B-

review by NITA SULLIVAN

For a long overdue and largely enjoyable foray back into local theatre, I went along to the opening night of *Kings of the Gym*, written by Dave Armstrong. A comedy product of the Fortune Theatre, the play is centred on the Phys-Ed department of a low decile South Auckland School. The production's plot follows the in house dynamic of new student teacher Annie Tupua (Rhema Sutherland), who joins Laurie and his young but lazy sidekick Pat (Jared Kirkwood) for her final placement at teachers college.

The production of the setup alone is clever, with the set simply consisting of the inside of the P.E office, with a window serving as the imagined outdoor classroom backdrop, where Laurie bellows lesson plans and curt instructions to his unseen classes. Designed as a nostalgic throwback to old school gyms and dated office spaces, it serves an inventive use of stage space for the play to be set. Subtler finishing touches



THE HATEFUL EIGHT

Directed by Quentin Tarantino

Rating: B

review by BASTI MENKES

Over the course of his career, Quentin Tarantino has dabbled in an eclectic mix of styles. He's done a crime thriller that functions as a stage play (*Reservoir Dogs*), martial art revenge flicks (*Kill Bill 1 & 2*), an alternate-history war movie (*Inglourious Basterds*), and perhaps most iconically, a non-linear black comedy (*Pulp Fiction*). But as different as these movies might look or feel, there are two recurring features to every Tarantino film: extraordinarily well-written dialogue, and copious amounts of violence.

As expected, Tarantino's octonary outing *The Hateful Eight* delivers both of those things in spades. The titular eight characters let loose a flock of delicious anecdotes and one-liners, long before any bullets fly. It really is incredible how

much of this three-hour Western consists of nothing but dialogue, all the while keeping a firm grip on your attention.

Captured on glorious 70mm film and with great costume design, *The Hateful Eight* looks stunning. The brooding score by composer extraordinaire Ennio Morricone adds a palpable sense of dread to the film's darkest moments.

Without spoiling anything, I must say I wish the film played out a little differently. The scenario that Tarantino sets up is an exciting chess problem with eight unique pieces, a Gordian knot of intrigue and ulterior motives. I don't feel as though the film quite makes the most of its own potential. Perhaps I came in with a degree of amnesia about Tarantino's career, forgetting how volatile all of his films have been. Quentin's proven himself far more likely to knock a chess

problem violently onto the floor than solve it in a deliberate and intellectual way. So while *The Hateful Eight* brings superb thrills and plenty of toothsome dialogue, don't come expecting a subtle, clever resolution.

SUFFRAGETTE

Directed by Sarah Gavron

Rating: B



review by JESSICA THOMPSON

I had high hopes for this film after watching the trailer. With a respectable cast, a female director, female writer and killer trailer music, who could blame me? Despite this, I was determined to enter the cinema with a completely blank mind then exit with an unbiased and logical opinion. This was easier than I expected it to be.

Suffragette depicts a struggle that goes beyond its ending. We follow the tough laundress Maud Watts, (played by the extremely diverse

and intelligent actress Carey Mulligan), in her inevitable entanglement with the *Suffragette* movement in 1912. Recruited by workmate Violet Miller (Anne-Marie Duff), Maud battles through arrests, beatings, force feedings and the loss of everything she loves for a cause she appears to have slipped into, yet holds onto fearlessly from the very beginning.

I was on the edge of my seat for most of the film. The acting was at its finest - who could resist Helena Bonham Carter's ever so English 'onwards and upwards' airs, or Meryl Streep's simple, effortless cameo as the political activist Emmeline Pankhurst - but the stars of the film were clearly Mulligan and Duff. Mulligan has played a fair few roles that stole my heart (*An Education*, *Never Let Me Go*) but this appears to be her most mature role so far, while Duff complemented Mulligan nicely, acting with great ease and conviction.

Suffragette depicts more of the violence of the situation than most people know of today. The beatings are harsh, the prison scenes are bitter and the physical and emotional toil wears the viewer down over the course of the film. The climax was brilliantly executed, and I found myself weeping thrice for Maud and her misfortunes. The fact that the film does not accuse but tells its story as well as educating its viewer delighted me all the more.

Overall, it was a powerful and emotional film, but don't go if you can't handle the feels. I walked out with the dawning realization that I had exhausted an overwhelming amount of empathy, but decided it was totally worth it.



THE BEGINNERS GUIDE

PC | Developed & Published
by Everything Unlimited Ltd

Rating: 4/5

by **CAMPBELL CALVERLEY**

FAR FROM BEING A DIGITAL INTRODUCTORY HANDBOOK FOR ANY NEW STUDENTS, THE BEGINNER'S Guide is hard to describe. That is not surprising, given that it is from the creators of the excellent Stanley Parable, a sadomasochistic journey into unreliable narration. The Beginner's Guide, by contrast, is a game about videogames, presented in the form of a patchwork series of smaller incomplete games and narrated by its real-life creator, Davey Wreden.

The Beginner's Guide belongs to the walking simulator genre of games (think Dear Esther with slightly more interactivity). The fractured story contained herein is of a game designer and ex-friend of Wreden's named Coda, who started designing many games between 2008 and 2011 but never finished any. They range from very simplistic first-person shooters (which lack any enemies or even a reload function) to platformers that are deliberately unfinished. Most of them could simply be called absurd art pieces, but the only element they share is their incompleteness. Wreden acts as a tour guide through each of the games, explaining their subtleties and how they provide a glimpse into Coda's mind, for better or for worse. None of these games are difficult in any way. It is impossible to die, there is exactly one puzzle repeated a few times for narrative purposes, and there is very little for you to do except walk down every linear corridor and do exactly what the game tells you.

To begin by describing a few things that I don't like about The Beginner's Guide, it almost shoots itself in the foot with how short it is. It is barely two hours long. Given its narrative framework of a number of short games – the first of which is a static reskin of a Counter Strike map – one could easily presume that all of these levels were made randomly and then strung together in an order that happened to make sense. It is also not nearly as clever as the cohesive experience that was The Stanley Parable. While The Stanley Parable explored the element of choice in videogames and demanded multiple playthroughs, the few choices in The Beginner's Guide are completely illusory and give the game little replay value at all. It feels like a step backwards as far as Davey's self-aware, post-modern storytelling style goes.



So why am I awarding this game four out of five stars? Because this is a game about depression. It is about the weight of the self-hatred, self-deception and self-expression that can accompany creative stagnancy and feelings of worthlessness. It is about wallowing, and how difficult it is under any circumstances to drag oneself out of a negative rut. Most importantly, however, it is about the companions of the depressed, who project themselves unhealthily onto their friends without even realizing they're doing it. They subconsciously work against their friends' recovery and self-betterment for the sake of feeling like they're helping someone.

While introspective and thought-provoking, the commentary is occasionally rather ham-handed. Some of the games fall into the ridiculous and the blasé, such as one that requires you (as Coda) to reveal all of your darkest fears to prevent a giant door from crashing into a spaceship, or another where you take on the role of an insecure motivational speaker delivering a lecture in a classroom right next to a flaming vortex. As such it feels like it is on the cusp of revealing some very wise insight about depression, but doesn't quite hammer it home in the same way that The Stanley Parable does. That game was essentially about depression too, and in a much more brutal and confrontational – yet also self-parodying – manner. Fortunately, none of this makes The Beginner's Guide any less worthy of your time.

It may not be worth the full price for its short length, but it is definitely worth getting The Beginner's Guide the next time a Steam sale rolls around. This game is strongly recommended to anyone interested in non-conventional narrative games, or anyone who wants further reason to have a long, hard think about themselves.

MANGO STICKY RICE (KHAO NIAO MA-MUANG)

Vegan | Serves 6-8



- 1 ¾ cup sticky/glutinous rice
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup coconut cream
- 2 ½ tablespoon brown sugar
- ½ tablespoon salt
- 1 can of sliced mangoes or 2 fresh mangoes

*Optional: sliced almonds or "pinipig"

THIS WEEK WE HAVE A THAILAND DELICACY. I took a cooking class while I was there this summer so I'll probably share a few of the curries and noodle dishes I learned (Pad Thai anyone?). Since I am the kind of person that doesn't mind having dessert first, let's start off with this easy, tropical rice pudding.

This is street food and in all Thai restaurants there. It's really simple with only a few ingredients. You can get "sticky" a.k.a glutinous rice from the international aisle at the supermarket. Canned mangoes is ideal for this recipe since they'll be soft and sweet from the syrup, if you're using fresh mangoes make sure they're ripe enough as you want a soft mango to slice in to.

Dried mangoes work too though. If you get the dried stuff don't bother with cutting it up. Just dip the mangoes in the rice like you would with carrots and hummus.

I just so happened to come across a variation of this meal on Facebook, where they rolled the rice with a chunk of mango in it and fried it. Please share your experience if you try this!

METHOD...

- Wash and soak the sticky rice for at least 6 hours
- Steam for 20 mins. You can get pots/rice cookers which have the two compartments for this, or you could use a strainer for a steam basket. Steam until the rice gets "sticky" and translucent.
- Once rice is sticky, turn off steam
- In a medium pot on medium heat, add coconut cream and water, simmer and stir. Add the sugar and salt to taste, simmer and stir
- Add the sticky rice to the coconut cream sauce. Thoroughly stir rice through the sauce and break it up so there are no large clumps of rice in the mixture. Sauce and rice should be a thick pudding texture
- Take the sticky rice off heat
- Serve warm with sliced mangoes and extra coconut cream on top. Sprinkle sliced almonds if you wish. There was flattened rice puffs sprinkled on my street food version. It's called pinipig in Tagalog, if you can't find it, rice puffs would work too. Just for a bit of crunch.

JB HI-FI

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**DAVID
CLARK**

HI

Introducing David Clark, your Elected Member of Parliament

ENJOY LIFE ON CAMPUS, AND ALL THAT GOES WITH IT. I WOULDN'T have spent so many years as a student here otherwise. Nor would I have returned to take up my previous job as the head of a residential College. Otago University has been very good to me.

One of the best bits about being the elected Member of Parliament representing the University area is that I get to keep up my connection with life on campus. No-one else in New Zealand can claim to represent an electorate with more students.

Representing an area with more students than anyone else also means I know the issues facing young people and students more than most. Crippling student debt is one of those problems. That's why I'm proud of Labour's policy to introduce free tertiary education. Labour has always stood for equal access to education and the opportunity for everyone to pursue the Kiwi dream. We see it as a path to opportunity that everyone should be able to take.

Things have swung out of balance. When I was a student it was possible to get through university working part time. Loans were accessible. Sure, I racked up some debt at University even

though I worked on the way through, but I also was able to live reasonably well and knew I could pay it off down the track. Unfortunately, it isn't that easy any more. An increasing number of people are put off study because costs have risen, and the Government has failed to adequately support students. Some can't imagine how they would make enough money to pay the bills and fit study in at the same time. If we value education and people achieving their potential it shouldn't be that way.

You'll hear more from me about our fee free tertiary education policy through the year ahead.

Please feel free to bend my ear when you see me on campus. I can also be tracked down at my regular campus clinics or at my office on Albany Street between the Captain Cook and the Rob Roy Dairy.

I'm stoked to be offered the opportunity to continue my regular column in Critic as the local electorate MP for Dunedin North. I've found it a great way to get your feedback so I can represent you and your issues directly in Parliament.

BONDS

Dear Ethel,

How can we get last year's bond back? Our landlord from last year won't answer any of our texts. So broke for Ori. Can't wait for course related costs...

-Cut My Bonds



by **STUDENT SUPPORT**

Dear Cut My Bonds,

It sounds like you're all still together this year, which makes it a bit easier. The best way to get things moving is to send the bond form in yourselves, without bothering to get the landlord to sign it. So, print yourself off a new form, fill it out with the amount of bond you think you should be getting back, get all the flatties from last year to sign it and send to Tenancy Services (the address is on the form). Tenancy Services will then contact your landlord to see if they agree with the amount. If they do, sweet, you get your bond. If they don't, the bond money is held in dispute. You can either negotiate a new agreed amount with the landlord -- which could be tricky if they're ignoring you -- or you can apply

to Tenancy Tribunal to get the bond back that you think you're owed. It costs \$20.44 to put an application into Tribunal. If the outcome is in your favour, the other party usually has to reimburse that cost to you as well as whatever bond is determined you are owed. Our Student Support Advocates have loads of experience with this stuff and would be happy to help you out. They can help with getting hold of your landlord or going through the Tribunal process if that's what you want to do. Feel free to drop us a line at help@ousa.org.nz or drop into 5 Ethel B. If you're in need, you can also pick up a food-bank pack while you're there. Wishing you a spectacular O Week!

xox

-Ethel

THE WEEKLY DOUBT

The Placebo Effect

by WEE DOUBT

OF ALL THE STRANGE THINGS I ENCOUNTER IN indulging my love and hate of alternative ideas, the placebo effect is the strangest. A guest writer covered this last year but I wanted to revisit it to hammer home just how weird the placebo effect is. What marks the placebo effect out from other wacky ideas and supposed paranormal phenomena is that it is real.

A placebo is anything that seems to be a "real" medical treatment, but isn't. It could be a pill, a shot, a spell, a potion, or anything a person is told will make them feel better. What all placebos have in common is that they do not contain an active substance that demonstrably affects health.

But they can affect health. Placebos are effective in a large enough percentage of people that doctors routinely prescribe them to patients.

The best scientific hypothesis I can find for how the placebo effect could work is that if you are sick

or hurt, it takes a lot of energy to get better or heal. Taking a placebo medication could trick your brain that your body is getting help with the healing process, and so it will put extra effort into healing, "believing" it is receiving energy from an outside source. This could be the reason many alternative therapies seem to work even though they perhaps logically shouldn't have any affect on your health or wellbeing.

The weirdest thing of all with the placebo effect is that it can work even if you know it is a placebo. I, the killjoy sceptic, feel better when I hold onto pretty "healing" crystals, even though I know they can't be doing anything beneficial for me.

The placebo effect's evil twin is the "nocebo," which can make you feel sick even if you have no reason to. The two work together in parts of our lives beyond the world of medicine. If you spend all day talking about how tired and bored you are, you may cause yourself to feel tired and bored. Conversely, if you approach a difficult task and think: "I am excited about doing this," you may achieve it more easily than if you approach it with fear.

The placebo effect is an example of how freakin' weird our brains are. Human brains are so peculiar; you could swear they have a mind of their own.



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I, the killjoy
sceptic, feel
better when I
hold onto pretty
"healing" crystals


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MATTERS OF DEBATE

This column is written by the Otago University Debating Society, which meets for socail debating every Tuesday at 6pm in the Commerce Building.

"SHOULD NEW ZEALAND ACCEPT MORE REFUGEES?"

AFFIRMATIVE

by **BY OLD MAJOR**

WHY SHOULD WE ACCEPT MORE REFUGEES YOU MIGHT ASK? CHARITY begins at home you might say. The government should be feeding starving New Zealand children your inner Andrew Little might yell (although probably not yell, Andrew Little doesn't seem to have a vocal range beyond that of a dull monotone). Anyway, the point is why should you care about foreign refugees who, if we were to allow to come here, would cost the New Zealand tax-payer money.

We already do accept refugees and have done so for a long period of time. A couple of hundred years ago the New Zealand locals accepted economic refugees from the United Kingdom (otherwise known as "colonialist-settlers-who-then-proceeded-to-steal-Maori-peoples'-treasures-and-oppress-them"). Since then we've continued to accept refugees, just at an ever diminishing rate. In 1944 we accepted 800 refugees from Poland. In 1987 New Zealand had a policy that we would accept 800 refugees a year. Ten years later this was reduced to 750 people and, until 2015, that number remained unchanged. Last year, though, the government announced that New Zealand would accept 750 refugees from Syria over a three year period. 150 of those places are from the normal annual quota, so New Zealand will be accepting only 600 people more than we otherwise would have. This isn't enough. We can do more and should do more.

"Hold on a second," you might think, "look at how things turned out for Maori in the 1800's following the massive influx of foreigners. Why would modern New Zealand want to repeat that?"

"Very good question Mr. Trump," I might reply.

New Zealand is a wealthy country. We also have a stable government and strong, established social institutions. This means that we do have the capacity to accept more refugees. Any government policy has an opportunity cost (the next best thing you have to give up to be able to carry out the first policy) and at the point that we do accept more refugees there will be something else we have to forgo. But, on a rough balance, spending money to provide people with a safe country to call home is probably a pretty efficient way to use government money to do good.

Syria is a cluster-fuck right now and if I were living there I'd definitely want to leave. Refugees don't want to come to countries like New Zealand to indoctrinate us, or to commit terrorist acts. That's what they're fleeing from!

If you still need convincing, consider that Australia currently takes five times more refugees and asylum seekers per capita than New Zealand. So let's one up the Aussies and say to the refugees of the world: "where the bloody hell are ya? Get over here!"

NEGATIVE

by **SQUEALER THE PIG**

THE QUESTION OF TAKING REFUGEES ISN'T AN INDEPENDENT ONE, AND it's important to note the message that New Zealand sends when it fails to take substantive action on the Middle Eastern crisis, and instead treats the symptoms of a disease that requires immediate, interventionist surgery. The long-run aim of the international community must be a safe, secure nation in Syria that respects the rule of law, and the health and prosperity of its people. The truly compassionate policy is the one that enables the safety of the millions of people who live in Iraq and Syria: a true homeland for a people whose rights have been flagrantly violated.

When an opportunity to effectively topple the Syrian regime existed, the world failed to act. In doing so, isolated dictatorial oppression has evolved into a crisis which is continuing to expand beyond the Levant with no resolution in sight.

A refugee policy must be temporary, and coupled with intent to end the original cause for the existence of the refugees. Unfortunately, many countries have chosen to supplant responsible geopolitical action with piling ambulance after ambulance at the bottom of the diplomatic cliff, rather than taking a stand at the precipice. When New Zealand chooses to take thousands of refugees over the coming years, we reinforce those principles which have left hundreds of thousands dead. When the West takes millions of refugees, we make it easier for the Arab region to ignore their responsibilities in dealing with the crisis.

We should be pressuring our government to take a tough but necessary stand on the security of the region, not merely take an easy route out.

We need to use our position on the Security Council to actively encourage intervention. ISIS needs to be defeated in open military combat: a campaign that needs leadership from the heavily armed and funded Sunni Gulf States. The Assad government's use of chemical weapons against its own people necessitates its removal from power. These are actions that could be taking place, but aren't, because much of the West is claiming that the acceptance of refugees solves the humanitarian crisis.

The neighbourhoods of Damascus and Homs can be rebuilt, and people can move home to streets that the people of the Levant have inhabited for centuries. Our refugee policy hides our obligation to re-establish those communities, and enables the wholesale destruction of a culture that is intrinsically valuable to millions of people who need long run hope.



The G-Spot by SEXCELLENT

Dear Sexcellent,

Does every woman REALLY have a g spot? Because I cannot find mine, and not from lack of looking. I have dedicated hours – possibly DAYS – over the past couple of years searching for the little fucker and I swear there just doesn't seem to be anything there. All this has made me anxious and miserable. I feel like I'm missing out on an awesome experience all my friends are enjoying. Do you have any tips for locating the elusive little bastard? Or is there a genuine chance I just do not have a g spot?

Yours in frustration,
Spotless and Sad
X



Dear Spotless,

Your determination is admirable and I only wish I had as much dedication to my education as you have to finding your g-spot. Do you REALLY have a g-spot? I can't answer that. But it's highly likely.

My first suggestion is to go take a piss to empty your bladder completely, and then have a clitoral orgasm before you even go looking for the g-spot. When you are fully aroused, the g-spot increases in size, making it a bit easier to find. The experts say that you should be looking for a rough spongy area on the front wall of the vagina, but that can be difficult, because to me, that's what most of the vagina feels like. The next step is patience. Seriously, you have to hammer on it for ages before you even get to

the "needing to pee" stage (if you feel like you need to pee, that's a good sign, because the g-spot is beside the bladder). Just relax and go with it – as you've already peed recently, you won't have to worry about peeing again. After the "needing to pee" stage, you must persist because then rewards may be offered. But it does take a decent length of time – set aside a good 45 minutes for a full g-spot masty. The other thing is that our delicate wee hands get tired easily, and if you have your hand all contorted up to stimulate your g-spot, you'll end up with a hefty case of third-degree wanker's claw. So do yourself a favour and get a sex toy that's got a really good curve for g-spot stimulation. I recommend the LELO Mona, or anything that resembles that shape.

Lastly, leave your anxiety at the door –because the more you stress about it, the less likely it is to happen. So what if you have trouble having a g-spot orgasm? Your friends might be lying to make themselves look cool, you know.

Just have fun!
Love S.



*Would you kill if you
were told to?*

how far people would
go when ordered by an
authority figure to cause
physical pain to another?

by AUTHOR NAME

STANLEY MILGRAM WANTED TO see exactly how far people would go when ordered by an authority figure to cause physical pain to another. In the 1960s, he gathered some volunteers and told them that he was conducting a study about the effect of punishment on learning. The volunteers would be the 'teachers', and they would be testing a 'learner' (actually an accomplice of Milgram's) on his memory of word pairs. Every time the learner made a mistake, the teachers were told to administer an electric shock, and to increase the intensity of the shock each time. I guess the fact that the learner was sitting in an electric chair with a maximum capability of 450 volt

shocks (enough to leave you completely fried and/or dead) didn't ring any alarm bells, since the experiment was conducted at the esteemed Yale University.

The learner gave mostly incorrect answers on purpose, and was 'shocked' accordingly by the teacher (note that the learner was not actually shocked, but he managed to convince the teachers that he wasn't acting). The learner would eventually scream in pain, plead with the teacher to stop, bang on the wall demanding release, and even complain of a heart condition. When the teachers expressed confusion or hesitation, the experimenter instructed them that they had no choice but to continue.

The teachers became agitated, distraught, and angry, yet they continued to press the button despite the learner's perfectly audible and agonised cries, sometimes laughing hysterically as they did so. At 300 volts, the learner would fall into an eerie silence, feigning death. Disturbingly, this resulted in an almost 100% compliance in continuing to deliver shocks up to the maximum 450 volts.

In the end, 26 of the 40 teachers delivered shocks of 450 volts; only 14 of them stopped before this point. Milgram had initially thought that only approximately three percent of people would deliver the maximum shock, when in actuality the study suggested that 65% of us would.

To be fair, there was a scientific reason for the experiment. Milgram conducted it to see if the killings and atrocities committed by Germans during WWII were down to genuine malice, or were attributed to obedience to authority figures. In the process he revealed a dark aspect of human nature: that many of us would be capable of killing someone under the obedience of authority.



University Book Shop

LETTER OF THE WEEK

The letter of the week wins a \$25 book voucher from the University Book Shop.

PUT THE GUITAR DOWN, PAL

Does anyone else hate when you're at a party and some twit picks up the guitar and starts playing? I'm sick of going out each night and hearing a solo

version of Wonderwall. Am I right? Somebody tell me I'm right.

- Noel

LOVE TO HATE

I see recently that Facebook has introduced a panel of new emotions to show your connection with the post. When the hell are they going to add a dislike button? When am I going to be able to show my disdain

towards some people and their horrible posts.

- Perfect Mike

FRANKLY, I'M PISSED OFF

Could Frankly Sandwiches please define more clearly the difference between chili sauce and sweet chili sauce. I recently decided to treat myself to a large Vogels with the intention of covering it in sweet chili. Instead however, due to the unclear

branding of sauce bottles I found myself for the next half hour icing my mouth and drink milk by the gallon.

- Fucked off patron of Frankly's

**riddle me this:
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OF COAT IS
ALWAYS WET
WHEN YOU PUT
IT ON?**

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Critic's infamous **BLIND-DATE COLUMN** brings you weekly shutdowns, hilariously mis-matched pairs, and the occasional hookup.

Each week, we lure two singletons to Dog With Two Tails, ply them with food and alcohol, then wait for their reports to arrive in our inbox. If this sounds like you, email critic@critic.co.nz. But be warned —if you dine on the free food and dash without sending us a writeup, a Critic writer will write one under your name. And that won't end well for you.



his

TIM

I'D COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN THAT I APPLIED FOR THE BLIND DATE last year, but I agreed to drinks and a meal on Critic's dime because I hate to disappoint strangers.

I was a nervous wreck by the time I arrived 20 minutes late (smooth) and feeling the most sober I'd been in my entire life. The smirking bar staff pointed me in the direction of my date and she was gorgeous; a cute wee fringe, big green eyes, beautiful smile, and adorable glasses - you know the look. She was exactly my type.

Once profuse apologies and awkward introductions were done, we sat outside while I tried to put as many pints into me in quick succession as humanly possible without looking like I had a problem.

I couldn't help feeling like I knew her from somewhere but struggled to put my finger on it. She brushed it off and blushed. Cute.

We covered the conversation basics like religion, politics, music, and shit lecturers. We also agreed that while the food on offer looked great, our time was better spent swilling vino and staring into each other's eyes so the staff let us turn the rest of the tab into more drinks (the real MVPs here).

After we developed a fair head of steam, the Q&A became increasingly liberal and got very spicy. Throwing caution to the wind with a big bit of "eh fuck it" I asked her if she felt about some Netflix and chill. She smiled and winked. It was game, set, and match.

Not one to kiss and tell, I can disclose that we enjoyed some aggressive adult naptime with the old horizontal greased-weasel tango. The next day we called in sick to work to spend the day together. A+ experience! Thanks Critic and Dog With Two Tails for giving this dog a bone.

hers

LAURA

WELL THIS WAS THE LAST THING I EXPECTED TO DO ON MY Wednesday Night but when I got the call up last minute I thought hell, why not.

I waltzed down the road a nice 10 minutes late but ended up being the first one there. The lovely waitress showed me to the reserved table which was awkwardly placed right in front of the bar.

I sat there waiting, checking out every dude who walked through the door... lo and behold my uni crush walks through the door and to the bar where he then walks straight towards me. What are the chances? I'm thanking my lucky stars for putting this gorgeous specimen in front of me. We all have them, that kid you always see around campus that you go to class and fantasize about but never ever think you will actually meet. This was my uni crush.

After a rather awkward introduction, we both decided to move to outdoor seating where we had less of an audience. I learned that he had come straight from work and was rather thirsty so after a couple of Emerson's he charmed the waitress into letting us spend most of our food tab on booze as well. Slightly regretting my pre-gaming I slurred my way through some small chat and we soon became aware of having a number of mutual friends.... turns out I know his best friend, um a little too well. My summer fling and uni crush are best friends. Luckily for my va-jay-jay they don't live together. After demolishing far too many wines we decided to make a move, next thing you know we're at his swanky apartment doing things I wouldn't dare share. His friend was a distant memory.

After all my years of fantasizing, it was just as great as I'd imagined and let's just say I think we may live happily ever after.

Thanks Critic and Dog with Two Tails for making dreams come true.



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President's Column

Hello and welcome everyone to the first issue of Critic for the year.

This page will hold a little chat from me each week, as well as info on what is happening at OUSA. Occasionally I may farm out this column

to one of my executive members if they are doing something fantastic that we think you might like to hear about.

Last week was orientation, and what an incredible week it was. Speaking to 5000 people at the Convocation Ceremony was no easy feat, so to those of you who were there I appreciated your gracious laughter when I gave humour a go, and your generous applause that didn't let my speech end with a pin drop (I genuinely feared this). I loved the enthusiasm you had for the wonderful singer Lani Metitilani - how incredible was he? The same enthusiasm was magnified throughout the week as you settled into campus life. It was wonderful to meet as many of you as I could whether that was as part of Are You Okay?, partying at the late night music gigs, hanging out at Clubs Day, or coming by Tent City. I hope you have a feel for what this

year will be, and how dedicated the executive and I are to making it the best year yet. I strongly encourage you to come to us with your ideas, suggestions, feedback and dreams. We're here to help, so please do get in touch!

If you feel it was all a bit too much for you last week, and you didn't make as much of getting involved as you wanted to - it's not too late! Head to the Clubs and Societies Centre to join a club, society or course, jump on to our Facebook page to keep up with what we have going on and sign up to our newsletter (bit.ly/ousanews) to be in to win prizes and keep up to date.

Best of luck for the year ahead.

Laura Harris

Laura Harris - president@ousa.org.nz

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