

FLORA XIE & NAOMII SEAH EDITORS IN CHIEF

editors@craccum.co.nz

JESSICA HOPKINS NEWS EDITOR

news@craccum.co.nz

CHARLOTTE PARKER CHIEF REPORTER

chiefreporter@craccum.co.nz

OMNI ARONA TE AO MAŌRI EDITOR

maori@craccum.co.nz

GRACE BURTON-MCKEICH FEATURES

features@craccum.co.nz

MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY ARTS

arts@craccum.co.nz

NANCY GUO LIFESTYLE

lifestyle@craccum.co.nz

ARELA JIANG STAFF WRITER

staffwriter@craccum.co.nz

GABBIE DE BARON VISUAL ARTS

visualarts@craccum.co.nz

MICHELLE TIANG SOCIAL MEDIA

socials@craccum.co.nz

NICK WITHERS DESIGNER

design@ausa.org.nz

AARON HAUGH ADVERTISING

marketing@ausa.org.nz

EDITORIAL OFFICE

TOP LEVEL
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Jasmine Ouyang, semester in USA and summer school in South Korea



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360international@auckland.ac.nz



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WRITERS

Grace Burton-McKeich, Arela Jiang, Jessica Hopkins, Charlotte Parker, Madeleine Crutchley, Ben Mollison, Jay Alexander, Omni Arona, Naomii Seah, Nancy Guo, Polly Prophet, Sophie Sun COVER GABBIE DE BARON AND ZACH DEDEL

ARTISTS

Gabbie De Baron, Flora Xie, Sophie Sun, Lewis Creed, Georgia Wu, Lucy Leddy, Zach Dedel, Kiki Hall, Kath Yang, Chloe Bayagas



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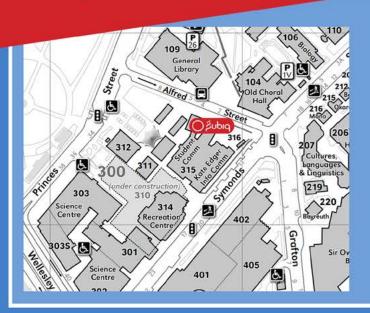
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A Welcome Back to Online Uni, From Your Local Wine Aunts

Back to school is an exciting time of the year where you start your new journey with old friends and make new friends along the way. You'll learn about where all of your classes are, find the hot spots on campus to hang out, and the top secret ideal study spots. Clubs will eagerly welcome you into their arms as you walk down the aisles of the annual Clubs Expo. Kia ora koutou and welcome, or welcome back, to 2022!

Ha! Imagine that.

Thanks to the not-so-friendly neighbourhood virus, these back-to-school rituals will all remain online. March has rolled around again and here we are, still on Zoom in another COVID year.

To those of you who have read or contributed to *Craccum* before, we're the new Co-Editors this year. You may have seen our work in the magazine last year as 2021 section editors, but either way, we're glad to be back and we're gearing to go. The start of this year has been tough with Omicron at everyone's doorsteps, but we'll make it through as we always do, and it can only go up from here (right?).

To the freshers this year (and those of you who've been around the Uni for years but only have just picked up a copy of *Craccum*

now), you might be wondering right now what the hell you've just picked up. We're Craccum, the University of Auckland's student magazine. We're here to break the latest Uni news to you, keep the student association (AUSA) and the bureaucratic powers-that-be in check, and make you laugh in your downtime (hopefully). Ultimately, we're here to give your voice a platform and make room for the issues that are important to you.

Our aim this year is to make Craccum better and more accessible than ever before. If you're reading this in print format, congrats! You're one of the few students motivated enough to be on campus during this trying time. Our hats off to you, honestly. Drink lots of water, wash your hands, and stay safe out there, kids. But for everyone who can't come onto campus, we've got you covered too. This year Craccum is on TikTok (@ craccummag), Instagram (@craccum) and of course, our ever trusty Facebook page. If you'd like to contribute or just follow along, give us a shout on any of these platforms, or, of course, at our email editor@craccum. co.nz. No idea is too silly, or big, as long as it's important to you and other students.

We've also collected the most amazing whānau this year, who've been working tirelessly to bring you all this first issue,

and who we know will continue to amaze us throughout the year. Big love and big shoutout to Jess, Charlie, Grace, Michelle, Arela, Omni, Maddy, Nancy, and Gabbie, who've juggled jobs, study, and worked overtime to make *Craccum* this incredible. So, come join the family. We don't bite, we promise!

Although it may feel frustrating to yet again be stuck at home in the same sweatpants for days on end, we're here to let you know you're not alone. So, get comfy, get that sourdough starter, half-knitted scarf, or yoga mat out. Or, who are we kidding, grab yourself a glass of wine and settle in for the third round of a Sex and the City binge. That's what we'll be doing anyway, along with a healthy serving of takeaways. Look, we're not judging you if you're not judging us. We all need a little comforting at the moment, no? So, we'll have our pile of last year's Craccum issues on hand too, for whenever you need a laugh, an update, to feel seen, or hell, even indulge in this week's Wordle crossword (page 37). We're looking forward to hanging out with you.

XOXO

Arohanui,

Flora Xie and Naomii Seah.

Free Drugs?



JESSICA HOPKINS

During Uni orientation, the NZ Drug Foundation and Know Your Stuff NZ offered information and advice about drugs and confidential drug-checking services at campuses across the country. The cheeky orange shirts might have been what caught students' attention. But while there weren't any party pills on offer, they stayed for a judgement-free conversation about what drugs they may be using during O-Week festivities.

Since the passing of the Drug and Substance Checking



they don't feel like they're doing something wrong, but that they're



"Wellington Occupation a Public Health Risk and Cultural Affront" – Taranaki Whānui



Members of Taranaki Whānui have released a statement detesting the acts of anti-mandate protesters outside parliament. Reports and videos online show protestors emptying human waste into the stormwater drains and polluting the harbour. "This behaviour is both culturally offensive and a public health risk."

Taranaki Whānui has called for a political solution to end the ongoing occupation outside of Parliament. Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust, which represents Taranaki Whānui, says that a law enforcement solution will not be enough.

Trust Chair Kara Puketapu-Dentice has asked political leaders to resolve the ongoing disruption and harm to local businesses and residents. "Our own people have been affected by the occupation, including threats against our kuia and kaumatua and vandalism of our offices and buildings in the city."

Previously, Ngāti Toa released a joint statement with Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Chair Callum Katene and Chief Executive Helmut Modlik urging protestors to leave. Both Ngāti Toa and Taranaki Whanui have stated they support the right for peaceful protest but noted that the behaviour from protestors had been "disgraceful and disrespectful."

This comes after multiple reports of abuse, threats, and intimidation from protestors towards businesses and the public. Ngāti Toa marae and iwi members were also victims of protestor abuse.

Ngāti Toa also released a statement urging anti-vaccination protestors in November 2021 to stop using its Ka Mate haka. "We do not support their position and we do not want our tupuna or our iwi associated with their messages." Ngāti Toa have been hands-on in protecting their whānau against Covid through use of Ora Toa Health Services who have provided vaccinations in the area.

She Doesn't Even Go Here: Wellington Students Want Their Campus Back



Victoria University of Wellington students are calling for Parliament protesters to give them their campus back after more than two weeks of chaos.

The Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association (VUWSA) has asked for anti-mandate protestors to be removed by authorities from Pipitea Campus and essential bus routes. They are calling on the government, police, Wellington city council and the University to help remove the protestors by the 28th of February, when semester one begins.

The University's Vice-Chancellor announced that campus would be temporarily closed until the 11th of April, as the protestors are occupying Bunny St, Molesworth St, the Lambton Interchange and Old Government Buildings. This occupation makes It unsafe to travel to Pipitea Campus and obstructs necessary bus routes.

As of the 22nd of February, the change.org petition "Give VUW Students Their Campus Back" has gained over 28,000 signatures. Respect to the right for peaceful protests is noted in the petition, and suggests opening alternative locations for protesters to park their vehicles to restore the safety of the university. The petition does not focus on the protest itself but its location, stating "Students deserve to be safe. Students deserve to be free from the risk of harm. Students deserve their campus back."

One VUW student told *Craccum* "it feels like the scale of this protest was underestimated by the government/law enforcement" after being unable to return to work at the university since the protest began. They further said "[the protesters] make me feel unsafe".

Another student reported to *Craccum* that there was music blasting in an "active|ly| flinching and covering their ears way," and that "people were clearly laughing at |other's| discomfort." They said that resuming university study from home with this disrupting and anxiety inducing environment may be detrimental to the amount and standard of work students are able to produce.

The petition ends with "We want to see action now. Not complacency."

NAMES HAVE BEEN REMOVED TO PROTECT SOURCES' IDENTITIES.



Train Train Don't Go Away! A Rail Bus Won't Help!



Closures to Auckland's rail network have proved a challenge for students travelling to and from campus. With the University of Auckland due to start predominantly online learning, *Craccum* investigated how the closures affected summer school students and may continue to affect students in semester one.

Over the summer, Auckland Transport undertook a higher number of rail line closures and replaced the missing trains with rail buses. The timing of the closures aligned with school and university breaks, and the holiday period, where it was expected that fewer people would need access to public transport. However, this summer it seems AT were unprepared for the amount of Summer School students and work returnees there would be on the buses.

AT sent out a notification in January on their mobile app stating, "there's a few more of you then we expected," and gave a timetable with additional railbuses. They later followed up with another notification with a different timetable, as the one they had initially sent out was incorrect.

On AT's website it lists the reasons for rail closures as being a combination of maintenance work, a shutdown of overhead power supplies for trains, and equipment movement across the lines. It further states "we try to do most work at night." AT does provide their Journey Planner service on their website and through the AT Mobile App, which gives regular updates and up-to-date information about network closures and alternative routes.

For Summer School students, rail line closures during January were implemented some weeks from Monday–Friday, making it impossible for some people to get to class. Students also showed concern over the amount of people being moved onto the buses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Bus users reported to multiple media outlets that there was little to no social distancing when travelling, and an increase in the number of users.

The reoccurring closures have also proved an issue to students with physical disabilities. The University does provide disability resources, but for those with invisible disabilities these resources may not be enough to help them with transportation. Sam, a University of Auckland student, said that constant closures to the system make it hard for disabled students to manage transportation, as "everyone's a

stranger on the bus. They can't see I'm in pain, they're not just going to give up their seats for some random student."

This March, the Eastern and Southern train lines will be closed for three out of the four weekends of the month, with the Western and Onehunga train lines closing for two halves of the weekends. For students who only have time to work or socialise on weekends, this presents a logistical challenge, as well as a mental one, as the inaccessibility to other activities may harm a student's study-life balance.

Students aren't the only ones who are angry at AT. A quick search on Google Reviews shows the public's perspective on AT, with a raving total star rating of 1.5/5 from 224 reviews since 2016. Just like Tyra Banks on America's Top Model, two months ago, one reviewer said they "Would give zero stars but unfortunately there is no option."

The first-ever Google Review given for the service six years ago tells a different story, stating "really good service" and giving a full 5/5 stars. Perhaps once AT finishes work on the rail lines, this will aid future students in their travels. But amidst constant maintenance, students are left uncertain if they'll ever be able to trust AT.

The reoccurring closures have also proved an issue to students with physical disabilities. The University does provide disability resources, but for those with invisible disabilities these resources may not be enough to help them with transportation.



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- · able to have your say in decisions about services.

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For more information visit: www.nzqa.govt.nz/know-the-code



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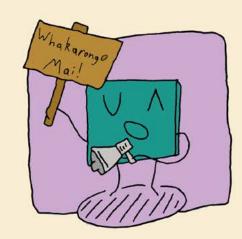








What it's Like Living in Halls in 2022

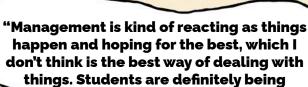




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"COVID is here and there's not much we can do. Maybe we won't all get it but it's probably gonna be in the halls. There's two people on our floor isolating as close contacts. We just have to live with it I guess."

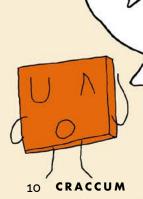
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negligent about masks use and social distancing."

ARITHMO ABOUT IT. SIX I FEEL LIKE (nade the same connections "We've already caught many students smuggling alcohol in sprite cans and water bottles and pretending it's water. It's pretty obvious but kind of funny."





The semester has officially started, however, you won't catch hall residents running to an 8am lecture in their PJs. And it's not because they're hungover, but because we're living through a Black Mirror episode.

Residents of Grafton, O'Rorke, University Towers, and Waipārūrū, many of whom are first-year students, moved in on the 19th of February. But with a temporary ban on guests and alcohol due to COVID-19, they won't be getting all the O-Week action they were hoping for.

Craccum spoke to residents and resident advisors about what it's like living in a hall right now and if it's worth it despite uni being online.

Jake*, Resident Advisor

What COVID rules are in place? How well are they being followed?

"During O-Week there's an alcohol ban and a guest ban. We've already caught many students smuggling alcohol in sprite cans and water bottles and pretending it's water. It's pretty obvious but kind of funny."

"In terms of the rest of the semester, communication to students and RA's about what the rules and expectations are is not great. Management is kind of reacting as things happen and hoping for the best, which I don't think is the best way of dealing with things. Students are definitely being negligent about mask use and social distancing, which we are trying to counteract."

What has the first-year experience been like for residents so far?

"At the moment, spirits are pretty high, and they're still trying to have a good time and celebrate O-Week as best they can even though there are all these restrictions in place. You feel a bit bad for them not being able to go clubbing or fully experience independence for the first time."

"If I relate it to my own experience, I think [online learning] will make it more challenging for first-years to orient themselves with uni study and how it all works. But uni started online last year, and people adapted pretty quickly. As long as

they have that comradery within the halls, they don't feel that sorry for themselves. But If restrictions continue, that might change."

Is living in halls worth it despite uni being online?

"Even though it's limited, residents are still getting the uni experience they're after. It surprised me how much they're making the most of it and taking part in the events we can hold despite restrictions on numbers. I'd say it's worth it for them because halls provide that first-year university community which they might otherwise be completely missing out on if they were isolated to their homes or could only come to uni to study while physically distancing."

Georgia, Hall Resident

What COVID-19 rules are in place? How well are they being followed?

"It depends what RA you have. It's different for each floor. Some RA's are super strict about COVID and others are more chill. But the hall as a whole has good protocols. The communication to residents is good. We got an email today about whether we are a close contact or not, and luckily I'm not."

How do you feel about living in a hall during COVID-19?

"I come from a small town where we only just got COVID there this past week. I haven't lived with the same threat as there is in Auckland so I'm very alert about it. But COVID is here and there's not much we can do. Maybe we won't all get it but it's probably gonna be in the halls. There's two people on our floor isolating as close contacts. We just have to live with it I guess."

Do you think you're missing out on getting a real first-year experience?

"I was really looking forward to being in a lecture theatre and meeting new people, not just in my hall. Because then you can meet students with the same interests as you. I'm glad campus is still open, and we can go to the library for a change of scenery. We've met people from other floors but not through University run things."

"I know events for O-Week got cancelled, but I'm not sure what they are, so I don't know what we're missing out on. We're having a toga party, but it's floor-based."

Is living in halls worth it despite uni being online?

"I'm not from Auckland so unless I wanted to stay at my Auntie's I had to stay in halls. It wasn't something I chose to do, I had to if I wanted to come here. But we're still getting amazing food, and they're setting up events for us."

Ella. Hall Resident

How do you feel about beginning your study online?

"To be honest, I loved online classes in high school. I think I did better because I could email my teacher whenever I had questions. Recorded classes might be harder, but halls are a good environment to study in because everyone is doing the same thing."

Why did you choose to live in a hall despite lectures being online?

"I moved into a hall to meet new people and experience new things. I was sort of questioning it being in Red Light and only decided to go ahead with it the day before. So far I'm really enjoying it and think it was a good choice. I was umming and ahhing about it. But I feel like if I stayed home, I wouldn't have made the same connections with people."

How do you feel about living in a hall during COVID-19?

"It's hard because you don't want to be known as the 'COVID person' and have people worrying about being a close contact of you and messing up their week."

"I think the University should be flexible, and if you wanna to isolate home or if you're sent home, you shouldn't have to pay accommodation fees."

'NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO PROTECT STUDENTS'

Can We Cancel Old People Yet?

Will old dogs ever learn new tricks?

Ahh, the holidays. Such an excellent opportunity to spend time with family. We love them (of course), but our three-day visits might not seem like three years if it weren't for certain family members' comments that, if posted on Twitter, would lead to their swift demise. I'm talking about the racist grandad who declares that targeted admission schemes are the real unfairness in society or the great-aunt who criticises her boss for making her put pronouns in her email signature. Or maybe they aren't family members, but whoever they are, we tend to go through the bevs just a little quicker than normal when they're around.

While many of us may feel an urge to speak up, pointing out an old person's wrongness is difficult, to say the least. First, there's the "respect your elders" dynamic at play. Second, depending on your relationship with said old person, telling them that their comment is racist, sexist or whatever-ist may see you cut out of their will for good. Third, is it even our job to show them the flaws in their thinking? It's not like we're lecturers.

Then there's the critical fact that engaging in these discussions can be upsetting and draining. This is especially the case when they get defensive or take your statements about racial injustice as a humble opinion rather than fact, supported by social analyses and statistics. (Seriously, just Google it, okay?). Even more frustrating is when they retort that you're "too politically correct." It can feel like you are kicking Albert Barrack's Wall, making you wonder if the whole thing is worth your time.

Why are old people like this? I decided to go to the source and ask my own family.

According to some relatives, it's not necessarily calling out their bigotry that makes them standoffish, but that you're challenging their opinion at all. Some of my more senior relatives "learned to accept their [parent's] view, but to keep [their] own to [them]selves." They said they never went

against their parents because challenging them was seen as insulting. In other words, for some older people, it doesn't matter if you're telling them that you think chicken is better tender instead of drier than the Sahara Desert or that they cannot equate the waiter's gender expression to their sexuality—they're going to be offended regardless.

Another relation described how raising an issue is confronting, again not because you are pointing out some prejudice, but because it goes against their expectation



of you: "[they] may be intimidated by [your] opinion because they're still looking at you as a little seven-year-old with bouncy curly hair who would be quite happy to do anything and everything that someone asked."

It's as though the demonstration of our maturity is too hard for some older family members to accept. Instead of facing reality, they try to avoid the conversation altogether.

Admittedly, these answers prompted a little more empathy on my part. But, I feel their



sentiments reflect the "it's just how they were raised" or "you can't teach an old dog new tricks" rhetoric that old people employ to excuse their refusal to change.

Funnily enough, when I asked my various family members what they thought of the idea that "you can't teach an old dog new tricks," they all felt it was untrue. One offered the example of the pandemic, saying, "everyone has had to learn something new, whether it be because it's gone online [...] or that you have to remember to wear a mask when you go into a place." That's right Beryl. There's no hiding that even though Apple was only a fruit in 1965, you figured out how to share from your iPhone 'what negative personality trait is revealed from the way you draw a Y' on Facebook pretty quick.



That got me thinking that perhaps my arguments were the problem. I asked them if they found my claims convincing and found that it's not what I say that sounds wrong per se, but that we value different kinds of evidence. For example, a relative said, "sometimes I think we're approaching it from different viewpoints. Mine is a life opinion and interactions I've had, whereas sometimes yours is more a book version." Another said, "we just take for granted that what we see on the news is the gospel and what people tell us is correct."

Admittedly, it's practically impossible to deny something you've seen. It's also hard—and possibly unfair—to expect everyone to question what they see, especially if they haven't been to university, where asking "but, why?" is constantly encouraged. Similarly, traditional media outlets don't tend to reference systemic injustice every time they run a story on race relations, limiting some people's ability to understand the whole picture.

I mentioned it earlier, but waiting for old people to die is undoubtedly easier than standing up to them. However, letting them say whatever they want maintains frameworks of division and does nothing to protect the victims of such messages. While Christmas dinner is probably not the best time to point out that the reason why there are less white children going to school hungry has very little to do with parental choices, if you're in a position to do so, I believe it's important to say something. Apparently, old people enjoy hearing our perspective. (At least the ones I spoke to do.)

To help us have more productive intergenerational conversations, the boomers proposed some tips.*

Suggestion 1

Do not abruptly end a discussion by saying you are tired or some other excuse (this is definitely an attack on me—oops). If you notice the conversation going around in circles, let the other person know. Suggest returning to it later after you've both had time to reflect and collect your thoughts.

Suggestion 2

Take into account what might be going on in the other person's life. Just because they're willing to engage in a difficult conversation doesn't mean they don't require compassion.

Suggestion 3

Use anecdotal evidence when making your case. That is not to say you should disregard the data, but if the person you are talking to is unlikely to ever read a journal article, then quoting academics will not help them understand your POV.

Obviously, everyone's family situation is different. It is more than okay if pointing out an older person's prejudice is not an option for you. Furthermore, no one's expecting us to shut down every problematic statement that comes out of an old person's mouth, or for one conversation to turn Beryl into the next Desmond Tutu (may he RIP). Exhibit A: during one of my discussions with a relative who I have had numerous debates with, they said, "we think there is a lot of reverse racism in this country now [...] we've always been led to believe that there's been equal opportunities for every single New Zealander." I mean—facepalm.

Yet, if Beryl is the kind old lady she mostly appears to be, then hopefully your words have an effect. Maybe the next time she feels the need to make an unconsidered comment, Beryl thinks, to quote Rebel Wilson in *Pitch Perfect*, "mmm, better not."

'Please note these suggestions are useful but have come from amateurs with limited experience. There are many great resources on having conversations about contentious and taboo topics. If you are interested in further reading, I like: "So You Want to Talk About Race" by Ijeoma Oluo and "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism" by Robin DiAngelo.

Haumaru: Another Day, Another Breach

Another day, another breach of the treaty. We aren't surprised anymore.



OMNI ARONA NGĀPUHI, NGĀTI WAI

New Zealand's pandemic response has been world-leading in many ways. Still, it has room for major improvement regarding its indigenous population. On December 20th, The Waitangi Tribunal released a pre-publication version of their inquiry, titled Haumaru, into aspects of the Crown's response to the COVID-19 pandemic at the request of the New Zealand Māori Council. The report highlights the many ways in which the Crowns decisions during the pandemic have negatively affected the health outcomes of Māori and breached the treaty. The report focuses on the Crown's failure to engage with Māori on key decisions in its pandemic response, their failure to jointly design a framework that respected Tino rangatiratanga, and the disproportionate risk Māori face due to the abrupt transition to the protection framework on December 15th, 2021, from the previous Four-Level system.

This isn't surprising: the Ministry of Health has a record of dismissing the treaty. In 2006, the Ministry of Health instructed all District Health Boards to make no reference to the treaty in any policy, actions, plans, or contracts due to "government concern of backlash from the general public." The fact that simply referencing the treaty could cause public backlash shows how uninformed and prejudiced this country can be towards New Zealand's history and Māori. This is further displayed by the government preferring to turn a blind eye and abandon mention of Māori topics and issues within important healthcare legislation as they favour to appease an anti-Māori population within New Zealand. Never forget that turning a blind eye to oppression and watching from the side-lines is in and of itself, oppression.

At the release of Haumaru, Māori made up 15.6% of the population but comprised more than 50% of Delta cases, 38.6% of Delta hospitalisations, and 45% of Delta deaths. This gaping inequality can be connected to many factors, including lack of equitable education and healthcare access. The numbers do not lie and point to a health, housing, and education system not made for Māori or Pacific people. It displays systems that do not understand

our Tikanga, way of life, and our situations amidst an ongoing pandemic. It is not uncommon for Māori and Pacific youth to live with older generations of their family. Because of major land theft, a housing crisis, and Māori culture not conforming to Eurocentric concepts of a "nuclear family", Māori find themselves in overcrowded homes that limit their ability to self-isolate and increase the likelihood of our whānau catching Covid. We don't have second homes or holiday batches to run to. Hell, we're lucky to have a first home to begin with.

The rollout of the vaccine is perhaps where the largest disgrace exists. The decision by cabinet to reject an age adjustment for Māori places our people at a disproportionate risk. The Ministry of Health was informed of the need to account for ethnicity in the vaccine rollout as Māori face many disproportionate health outcomes. Having an adjusted age for the initial vaccine role out would've accounted for the large-scale inequities in Māori health outcomes. The report notes that Māori were 2.5 times more likely to be hospitalised from COVID-19 compared to non-māori and



non-pacific people. It also meant that a 59-year-old Māori patient with Covid had the same risk of hospitalisation as an 80-year-old pakeha.

The country's transition from the Four-Level Lockdown scheme to the Traffic Light system was sudden and put Māori health providers under extreme pressure. The ministries' unwillingness and delay in providing vaccination data and framework information inhibited these Māori-led initiatives to deliver equitable and acceptable care. This decision to transition was also made in the face of united opposition from iwi and Māori health leaders. The Ministry knew Māori health providers were essential in ensuring the vaccination programme was successful across Aotearoa but continued to ignore requests for data. The delay inhibited certain providers from engaging with Māori who were vaccine hesitant. It was clear from the initial vaccination rollout that Māori vaccination rates rose when performed by Māori health providers. These providers include the Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency and the National Hauora Coalition whose heath serves networks span across the country.

The rejection of an age-adjusted vaccine rollout allowed a narrative to form which placed the blame on Māori for lack of vaccine uptake. It formed the notion that my people were more anti-vax than other ethnicities. While Māori rates were lower than other populations during Delta, it was found that Pākehā doubled the number of Māori who were unvaccinated. I believe that issues such as housing, lack of access to health care, prolonged exposure to misinformation, and a delayed New Zealand's vaccine rollout were the main contributing factors to low vaccination rates among Māori. Haumaru illustrated the view of Associate Professor Matire Harwood (a South Auckland GP), who noted that the surrounding narrative of Māori being unvaccinated was unfair and empowered a portion of the population to be bolder with their racism. Daddy Dr. Bloomfield emphasised that

very few people are anti-vax and put the percentage at "less than 5%." Today, the population with at least a first dose sits at 96.5%. An inspiring number shows that while anti-vaxxers are really fucking annoying and disrespect past generations who had no means of disease prevention, they do not represent the majority.

Our elders know too well the horrors of past pandemics that have ravaged our people with no vaccine to prevent death. The influence pandemic of 1918 spawned 500,000 cases, with 9,000 perishing. The European death rate; 5.8 per 1,000. The Māori death rate; 50 per 1,000. The 1897 measles outbreak among East Cape Māori, Typhoid outbreaks within Māori districts in 1911 and 1936. The 1938 measles outbreak caused 163 European and 212 Māori deaths, and the 1959 tuberculosis outbreak where cases for Pākehā were 4.1 per 10,000 while Māori cases equalled 31 per 10,000. The urupā of past generations speak to us and warn us of an unnecessary fate.

While I feel for those leading our countries response and support many aspects of their approach, I stand by the needs of my people. Tino Rangatiratanga and the right to information on how our people perform within an unsuitable health system need to be addressed. Ultimately, I hope the Ministry takes the advice this report has recommended to improve the health outcomes of Māori, but I'll be holding my breath and sadly, there is no vaccine for asphyxiation.

The Ministry knew Māori health providers were essential in ensuring the vaccination programme was successful across Aotearoa but continued to ignore requests for data.

Dragon's Den, but it's on Zoom and the Entrepreneurs are Clubs

"The key is in not spending time, but in investing it" - Stephen Covey



GRACE BURTON-MCKEICH

Is the thought of another six weeks of online learning getting you down? Then let me remind you that online uni means our longest commute is likely only from the bedroom to the kitchen, saving us so much time! We are, therefore, like the dragons in Dragon's Denonly with spare time instead of cash. That 6.3% inflation really be wrecking our budgets. Entering the den to help you decide where to spend your time are some UoA clubs, each pitching, not a business venture, but what their club has to offer you during the first half of the Semester.

COVID-19 still interrupting your study abroad or OE plans? Perhaps, French Club can help. I'm not sure if they have free croissants, so your food budget might remain wrecked, but at least you can all pretend to be in France

Bonjour! The French Club offers events throughout the year and welcomes everyone from first-year French students or complete beginners to native speakers. Come along to our games night in week two to learn more and sign up!! Find more information here: https://www.facebook.com/uoafrenchclub.

If berets aren't your thing, but puletasi are, then it sounds like Auckland University Samoan Student's Association (AUSSA) will happily make you a member of their family.

AUSSA is dedicated to catering to the academic, cultural, spiritual, physical and social needs of our Samoan students and fostering the curiosity of our non-Samoans who are keen to learn about our unique culture and people! We will be starting the year with God through our upcoming Fellowship Evening (4/03), which will be followed by our Meet and Greet (9/03) and the beginning of our Study Fono sessions (from 14/03). Follow us on Instagram @ uassa_uoa for more info!

After spending the day binge-watching The Witcher, I mean lectures, you may feel the need to learn some sword fighting skills. Lucky for you, the Fencing Club could have you swinging like Geralt faster than you can get the results of a RAT.

Looking for a COVID-safe sport? Try fencing! We've always used masks, gloves, and stayed

1m apart! Come along this Wednesday, March 2nd, at 7 pm at the Sports Centre on Wynyard Street and take a stab at a prize! Beginner classes start next Wednesday from 7:30-9:30 pm at the Sports Centre—first two sessions free, plus free fencing gloves when you sign up! Gear provided.



The Sustainable Future Collective (SFC) has "the makings of a dream team." They had a mini Dragon's Den, a battle of the pitches, if you will, to make sure all 25 members of their executive had a say in what they shared with you, Dragon. If working together to combat the climate crisis sounds like your kind of thing, then maybe SFO is the club for you.

If your flat is growing a new species of mould, sustainability may not be a pressing priority. We get that it can be expensive to make good choices, which is why our club membership and events are free! Whether

you are interested in what is possible, political or profitable, there's no need to wallow in your eco-anxiety alone. On March 19th, you have the potential to win \$1000 cash by participating in our Downer X SFC Hackathon! Stay up to date with us @ sustainablefuturecollective.

In the male-dominated world of science, finding a sister to pipette with can be tricky. If you're female or non-binary and pursuing a BSc, who knows? By joining Auckland University Women in Science (AUWS), you could meet the one who helps you find a cure to Covid. What's better than one female Nobel prize winner? Two female Nobel prize winners!

Feeling alone in your STEM classes? Tired of trying to make friends mid-Zoom? AUWS aims to help female and gender nonconforming students feel at home in the Faculty of Science. Join us for new friends and mentorship, on or off-campus! Sign up is in our IG bio (@auws.uoa) and on our Facebook—we can't wait to see you!

Maybe you're a female that doesn't study science but business. The University of Auckland Women in Business (UAWB) is a team of future (actual) Dragons (with real money) who can help you build a LinkedIn network Kate Sheppard would be jealous of.

Enjoy Sip & Paints? Cocktails? Boxing and Yoga classes? Welcome to UAWB! We're dedicated to promoting female empowerment in business, although we aren't exclusive to females. We're centred around professional development, female leadership and community culture supported by our sponsors from around the business world. If interested, visit our virtual Club Expo booth, website, Instagram, Facebook or LinkedIn. We look forward to seeing you there!

It turns out an article about clubs brings all the girls to the yard. While the **Women in Health** Network (WiHN) has a lot to offer all females pursuing a career in health, their mentorship programme could help you enter the clinical programme of your dreams.

Applications for our highly successful annual mentoring programme close March 4th, 11:59 pm. First-year biomed/health sciences female students are carefully paired with an

ILLUSTRATION BY GABBIE DE BARON

older woman in a health programme who provides guidance and support through a very tough first year. Mentoring can be life-changing, and we're excited to bring this opportunity back in 2022. Check out @ womeninhealthnetwork on Instagram or email us at info@wihn.org.nz.

The summer got you feeling some type of way? Perhaps life in Orange and Red has got your creative juices flowing, and you need an outlet to channel that inner Shakespeare. To join or not to join the UoA Poetry Club? That is the question.

Do you like words?

Do you use words?

Do you read words?

Great news, you can be a poet! Join an inclusive community that supports your craft and creativity; we host fortnightly workshops, open mics, poetry competitions, discord hangouts and more. Come to our workshops and see how you like us! It'll be the one zoom session where everyone turns on their cameras. Flick us an email at uoapoetryclub@gmail.com.

Stringing words into something beautiful, let

alone something coherent, can be hard. If you would rather dance to tunes than create them, **UoA Folk Club** that may just tickle your shamrock.

At UoA Folk Club, we play, dance to, and sing mostly traditional Celtic music. Every Thursday evening of the semester, we meet on campus to learn new tunes and jam together. All instruments and experiences are welcome! Extra workshops, sessions, ceilidh dances and performances to come throughout the year—like us on Facebook for events and updates (or if you're not the Facebook type, hit us up at uoafolk@gmail.

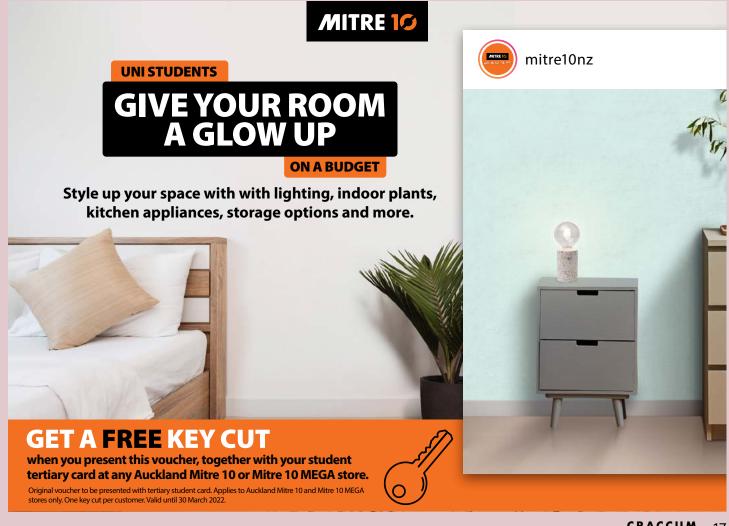
After day two of learning from home, your room can start to feel like a dungeon. So, why not escape to other worlds with the Auckland Role Playing Guild (ARPG)? Let your imagination run wild—no vaccine pass needed to enter The Forgotten Realms.

Play out larger than life experiences with ARPG! During the first three weeks of semester, anyone can try out the club. We'll have online board game nights on Tuesdays, and one-shot roleplays on Wednesdays. Later in the semester, we start organising longer campaigns. You can find us on Facebook at Auckland Roleplaying GuildARPG, or check us out at Clubs Expo. We hope you take the chance to roll the dice with us!

The anti-mandate protestors are an inspiring bunch, if only for their comedic value. It could be that they need the **Public Policy** Club's (PPC) help more than you do. But, if you see yourself affecting upstream change, then exposing yourself to a little extra blue light to PPC could be worth the small risk of cataracts.

We're all about informative discussion and professional development. Our semester one events include competitions (money prizes!), a mocktail network evening, panels, mock interviews, and social events, like our pub quiz. If you're into, or want to get into, politics, policy, or professional development, we're the club for you, no matter your degree! Follow us on FB to see more, then sign up to become a PPC 2022 Member!

Maybe you can't see the potential for profit in any of these clubs, or perhaps you're ready to make so many investments, Sharesies is quaking. Nonetheless, I will leave it up to you to decide where your time is best spent.







Now, The Party Don't Start 'Til I Sign-In

Didn't your mother teach you to sanitise the yardie?



ARELA JIANG

We all follow the unspoken rules of parties. Steal someone's drink? Opened, half-full, and uncomfortably warm: fair game. Boxed RTDs in the lounge corner behind the couch? Drink hand sanitiser, scab. To be fair, there's really no consequence if you step out of line—just let it be known you're a bit of a dickhead. But Covid has rewritten the rulebook. So, after almost 4 months inside (for the lawful, at least) we're experiencing some hefty social doof-doof gatheringrelated culture shock. Https://covid19.govt. nz/doesn't really say anything about vapesharing etiquette (fuck reading between the lines), and you're taking the piss if you think I'm following @uniteagainstcovid19 for clues. It's time we unmask some of the iffy party hijinks floating around. You can be the judge, jury, and executioner of whether these acts get the greenlight, or whether they should be pfizer-ed out at your next 100 person gathering. Or for every one you've done take a shot (you pick the poison).

Scanning-in, seriously?

This should be a no-brainer, right? The Ola dropped you at some janky, Dunedin-esque flat. Proudly blu-tacked to the entrance sits the flat's custom Covid location QR code. Before you've even debated whether this shithole deserves the shoes-off treatment, you've hit a new social protocol dilemma. You're confused: "Is this Covid-location scan thing serious or is this a gag?" (it's both, probably), "Oh fuck, did I need a Covid scanin for my flat-warming?" (would've added to the décor, yes), and "Is it gay to Covid scan-in to your homie's flat party?" (sure, why not?).

Honestly though, it's such a non-issue to scan-in on a DIY QR code. Even if it's a piss take, it's so low effort but potentially high reward (of limiting Covid). If you scan in, meet up with your mates, and find out you're the only one that took the QR code seriously, who cares? No one, unless you're the weird conspiracy guy at the party. Relax about looking a bit dumb after resorting to manual sign-in when the QR code fails.

Surely, it is better to have scanned-in for the Bit, than to have not scanned at all.

Mask-wearing

I admit this one is tricky. You should be wearing that damn mask on the dance floor under current restrictions. But in practice, mask-wearing is so context dependent—it's a balancing act between social awareness and risking a deadly disease. You've scanned the crowd for what the go is with everyone else at the party and surprise, surprise, not a mask in sight. But you still feel the guilt once you take it off. Even if you do commit to the mask, it's a struggle. Finally having the chance to show off your whore fit after months inside, only to have the fugliest mask ruin the look (can't pair shit with those blue ones). And it would make anyone an anti-mask Karen to spend hours getting ready at pres, only to smear \$35 worth of MAC lipstick on the mask in the Uber enroute to the party. But of course, the driver let their entire schnozzle hang outside their mask so what the fuck was the point.

Stealing a vape (or two)

To hoon or not to hoon? That's the question a few drinks into a Wednesday night. For those with supervised visitation rights with their flatmate's vape, a stranger's Alt. is a lifesaver at a party. But gone are the days of walking up to a complete random, all nonchalant and innocent with the casual "Hey, what flavour's that? Reckon I could have a hoon? Yeah, yeah, of course I've tried Pina Colada Energy Drink™ 50 nic before." What used to be a bonding ritual between strangers is now a potential MIQ sentence. My head (and my lungs) tells me Covid carries the possibility of chronic fatigue, death, and fucked tastebuds for months. But my heart tells me that Covid could taste like cherry cola ice :). These days, if I'm gonna risk it, I'm careful with my selection. I'm thinking whoever is wearing a mask inside would politely tell you to get fucked if you asked. But anyone who's been lipping the Kings

cup seems like they're asking to get sick.

Using a 21st speech for political jabs at jabs

I'm not gonna lie champ, if you're doing this you deserve whatever punishment Brian Tamaki is getting—so, just a warning? I'm stoked to say my 21st speeches haven't been this bad (if you're reading this Linda, I'm still not sorry). I've only second-hand cringed at others' experiences: fidgeting uncomfortably with Pals in hand, silently begging for that one King's boy to just fucking yell "FINISH IT" already so you can scull your drink and try forget that trainwreck of a speech. If I'm at a 21st I'm not here to listen to some shit political take. And I don't care if "it was for the bit" or a bit too honest. No one wants to hear you joke about needing a 10th booster for the next party, or sarcastically thank Jacinda for FiNaLLy setting us free. No one's turning anti-mandate from your vaccinegone-wrong "and everybody clapped" yarn somehow linked to your 11-year friendship. A 21st speech is the opportunity to relive one's greatest moments, embarrass a beloved mate, or realise you haven't been that close since year 12 English. It's not the chance to grab the mic and proclaim the right to party = freedom from masks. That'll get you kicked right out of Lula's Inn.

Covid hasn't been kind to the party experience. It's a new social arena fresh with opportunities for social anxiety and public health emergencies. But with the bad, let's also see the good. There's never been a more legit excuse than a global pandemic to forgo town or to think twice about hooking up with a fresher during O-Week. Next time you're at rager take it all in: the drunk bathroom hookups, the brushes with a deadly virus in every Deep & Meaningful, the inevitable 'Mr Brightside' played from UE booms. Make it last — cause have you seen today's case numbers? All I can say is enjoy it while you can.



VIRTUAL SCAN

IOIN US EACH DAY FOF ONLINE

COFFEE, DRINKS, AND FOOD E

AROHA FR

LIVE MUSIC, GAMES, AN AUSA COURTYARD //

LIVE COMEDY

LAUGH YOUR ASS OFF SHADOWS // 6.30PM

QUIZ NIGHT

"ABOUT LAST YEAR..."
SHADOWS/ONLINE // 6.30PM

COOK V

W/ EVERYBODY ONLINE

JBL'S NEXT

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE THE NEXT I





ONLINE & IN PERSON FEB 28 - MAR 4
FACEBOOK.COM/AUSASTUDENTS

ESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

P & GO TH MADI

GET UP & GO
TOTAL BODY WITH MATT
ONLINE // BAM

GET UP & GO

BARREFIT WITH MADI ONLINE // 8AM

/ENGER HUNT

R A NEW SET OF CLUES

// 9AM

// **8AM**

ows

DEALS AT YOUR STUDENT BAR FROM 10AM

OM AUSA

D GIVEAWAYS GALORE! '11.30AM - 1.30PM

VITH US

EATS EXEC CHEF
// 7PM

COOK WITH US

W/ EVERYBODY EATS EXEC CHEF ONLINE // 7PM **FRIDAY LIVE**

95bFM LIVE SESSIONS ONLINE // 7PM

BIG THING!

BIG THING? OVER \$1000 IN PRIZES TO BE WON



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BOOK

SHE'S A KILLER KIRSTEN MCDOUGALL



MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

She's a Killer, a dystopian climate thriller, explores a subject matter that gains new meaning when read underneath a hot, ozone puncturing sun. In the book, thirty-something Alice, a highly intelligent and highly unmotivated university administrator, is apathetically waiting out the end of the world in near-apocalyptic Wellington (with her imaginary friend, Simp). In worsening climate chaos, the country has sunk into an entirely predictable steady decline—Māori land is sold to and exploited by wealthy doomsday preppers, the arrival of so-called 'wealthugees' has deepened political divides, and the cost of living has skyrocketed to new heights. The dullness of Alice's life is interrupted by mysterious Pablo and his teenage daughter Erika, and she is thrown into radical action, forced to address and acknowledge the issues plaguing Aotearoa

Over the summer period, *She's a Killer* gained an even more pressing significance. The book opens with a hot, pervasive feeling of exhaustion, explaining Alice's complete resignation to the state of things. The push notifications of news sites, our COVID-related fatigue, and increasingly humid and hot weather certainly can push us into a defeatist, tired state. However, **Kirsten McDougall**'s novel moves Alice past complacency and into necessary action (both politically and personally). The plot is energising and pushes the reader from a state of drowsiness into a more promising momentum. In its last pages, *She's a Killer* offers up a cool glass of water, and indicates a way to move forward.

"A summer read not for the faint of heart."



FILM | TE AO MĀORI

A REASON TO RHYME DIR. ANAHERA PARATA



OMNI ARONA NGĀPUHI, NGĀTI WAI At a run time of just under an hour, A Reason 2 Rhyme deserves to be longer. You'll hear tales of how Grandmaster flash inspired young brown people to et tu/stand up and why the Māori and Pacific people could relate to the struggle of African Americans conveyed through their music. Hip-hop in America reflected a very real reality here in Aotearoa. Māori and Pacific people are at the intersections of many social issues. It is why **Scribe** notes that while being "Up against impossible odds, we were able to achieve impossible things." Kids hearing **Che Fus** Chains and **Dam Natives** Behold my Kool Style, it was clear that the music spoke to the children and culture All brown kids in Aotearoa thought hip-hop was made for them.

The documentary has the most poignant thoughts on the subject. Parallels between hip-hop and Māori and Pacific cultures are drawn. This is highlighted through interviews of hip-hop godfather **DLT** and South Auckland's very own **Mareko**. Mareko articulates, "Orators are held in high regard in our society. We saw the similarities straight away, and we could Identify with that structure and that platform." Central to both Pacific and Māori culture is the fact they are oral historians. As a people, we told our whakapapa by passing on our stories and history to the next generations. This parallels hip-hop, where the intricacy of lyrics is a major component of the culture. DLT notes that "Our ancestors didn't write shit down; you had to fuckin pay attention That's fuckin hip hop."

This documentary is for anyone with a passion for hip-hop. It is for anyone with a deep love to speak in a conscious way. The more you hear these originators speak, the more you know that hip-hop is made for us.

"It's in my culture, it's in my DNA, It's in the fuckin wind, and it's in the land" - DLT



POWER OF THE DOG DIR. JANE CAMPION

DIR. JANE CAMPION



Senedict Cumberbatch's Bene-dick is not the only surprise in NZ's top Oscar contender *The lower of The Dog.* **Jane Campion**'s latest is a treat of jealousy, sexuality and sensitivity set in the prawling American ranching West, and is a real show of filmmaking strength.

Our Aotearoa hasn't looked this beautiful on screen since the *Tolkien Saga* with our meadows scenic views and long-grown grass looking incredible. Radiohead's **Jonny Greenwood** once again stuns with a terrifically tense score (his agents' ability to snag these gigs still impresses me). The acting is expectedly amazing between Campion's talented cast. Sure, Cumberbatch takes centre stage, but **Smit-McPhee** and **Dunst** are so close to rivalling his presence, creating tension and drama that seem to drive their emotional capacities to the limits. And it's these dynamics that are subverted by Campion's extraordinary subtlety of story beats and relationships that you'll miss if you blink. A lot of the plot is left up to the viewers to piece together, and you're bound to make assumptions that lead you to miss key consequences and themes upon first viewing. While it can lead to the movie feeling dreadfully slow in it's beginning and, at times, too vague for my liking, repeat viewings are necessary and even an exciting prospect, if you want to uncover the movie's secrets. And even then, you're given a fantastic visual treat, so who could complain?

Eight out of ten. Also, Benedick... so definitely no complaints.



MUSIC

SPACE ISLAND BROODS



BEN MOLLISON

Separation, distance, and fallout. The image of *Space Island* in the context of lead singer **Georgia Nott**'s marriage breakdown becomes clearer.

The instrumentation from **Caleb Nott** and slick production combines elements of 80s pop, with a more modern popfunk sound; popular with artists like **BENEE** or **Remi Wolf**. Thumping synth bass, tight beats, and varied use of synth tones give energy and buoyancy. In contrast, the lyrics cover patterns of emotion emulating the seven stages of grief.

The opening track 'Goodbye World, Hello Space Island' is shock, feelings of helplessness, of immediate romanticisation and deprivation when a relationship ends. Denial comes next in the deceivingly upbeat 'Piece of My Mind' as Georgia Nott tries to distract herself from her own thoughts through any destructive means necessary. Anger and bargaining seem to ping-pong during the rest of the tracklisting. 'Distance and Drugs', with its woozy, trance-inducing synth backing, circles sick mantras and unknown questions—do they still love me? Do they think of me the way they used to?

'Like A Woman' expresses Nott's anger at not being treated as an equal while testing what their time together offers her moving forward. 'Days Are Passing' is depression—time passing, not being in control, sleeping in late, destructive habits, feeling isolated from the world.

The album doesn't entirely reach acceptance. But, on 'If You Fall in Love', Nott admits her flaws while still wishing things could have worked out. These songs describe identifiable themes of heartbreak, detachment, estrangement, and loss.

BROODS still meet their benchmark—producing well-crafted, reflective pop song bangers.



MUSIC

VENUS IS HOME ERNY BELLE



MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

The debut album from **Erny Belle**, the musical pseudonym of Tāmaki Makaurau/Maungaturoto based artist **Aimee Renata** (Ngāpuhi), has already been warmly received on student airways. 'Hell Hole' and 'Burning Heaven', have both enjoyed spots on bFM's Top Ten, and there are certainly other tracks from the gothic, acoustic album that could relish in the same treatment.

With this nine track record, Belle crafts memorable lyrics alongside muted guitar, with contemplations about the comfort of home, the process of creation, and the important connection of familial relationships. The titular track summarises these musings wholly, as it closes out the album with a message to Renata's Nana.

There are also tracks that pull heavily from the country genre. The track 'Nuclear Bombs' is particularly clear with this reference, twanging with sweet acoustic tunes. However, the brutal lyrics, like "Now all the fish have been poisoned/From all of our shit running into the ocean", create an uncanny separation from the melodies, building to a ghostly and absurd sound. Heavy electric guitar closes out the track, cementing this unique mood, and establishing it as a highlight on the album.

The album has also launched with a strong visual style, with the 'Hell Hole' video capturing Renata traversing farm land, and the striking black and white 'Venus Is Home' video showcasing the artist in various beautiful, exceptionally lit natural environments. Enry Belle makes a strong auditory and visual debut that will have you waiting hungrily for more

An exceptional debut, both prickly and sweet!



- **1. Ache** Vase
- 2. Sabbath Shirt
- **3. Toy Box**Current Bias
- **4. Double Dutch** Human Susan
- **5. Dial Tone**Hybrid Rose
- 6. Clubbing In The Time Of Cholera [Deepstate Purerave Remix]
 Baby Zionov
- 7. Pride Of Silence For The Girl Who Has Everything
- **8. TV Show Cop** Half/Time
- **9. Island Time** Erny Belle
- **10. Good Will Hunting**Black Country
 New Road

Dung Beetle



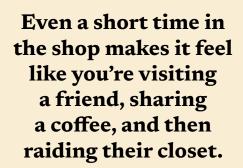
MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

"There're so many fantastic New Zealand creatives around, and it feels awesome to have this space and showcase their work."

'Great North Rd' isn't usually a phrase that evokes a feeling of calm or warmth. Politely put, the second-longest road in Auckland is a nightmare to navigate during rush hour (and nearly any other time of the day). However, New Lynn's newest art space, Dung Beetle, challenges that longstanding West Auckland legacy; bright light streams through the large windows and singing cicadas compose relaxing hums for a stroll through the cosy shop.

Dung Beetle showcases an extensive collection of locally crafted goodies. There are long racks of drool-worthy vintage, secondhand, and designer clothes, along with shelves stacked with seeds, pottery, notebooks, poetry, teas, prints, jewellery, zines, and more. When I pay the shop a visit, I'm greeted by a very friendly mask-up face. Courtney, who co-owns the space with their partner Jazmine, immediately offers me a coffee as I greedily glance around at the racks of clothing. To interview or to shop? That is the question.

When I ask Courtney about the unique name of the space, they laugh a little.



"We just brainstormed with a friend during a chill night at home. Dung Beetle came up, it's quite a sacred little beetle... it felt right, so we just stuck with it. I mean, people remember it, right?"

The space arose from the desire to share art and foster community within the West Auckland area. Courtney explains, "The idea of [Dung Beetle] came about because we wanted to have a creative space. We wanted to feature local artists, that was one of the main things... It's cool to get people involved, and know that we'd have these beautiful creations here when we started out."

Looking around at the eclectic collection of goods, I feel that sense of connection in the space, even though it's just Courtney and me. The secondhand clothing, hand-spun pottery, and the homemade tables (crafted by one of Courtney's friends) make the shop feel alive with all of the people who've come together to fill the space.

Like many other events within the arts scene, the grand opening of Dung Beetle was pushed by Covid outbreaks. The opening, albeit still restricted, finally took place on the 10th of November last year.

"We were in the midst of a lockdown when we started the lease, which meant we couldn't open for a period of time. That was definitely a little bit stressful, but it gave us some time to get the space ready, to a place where we were really happy. By the time we opened it was really exciting."

And the space is inviting, with the walls freshly painted a warm shade of red and thrifted curtains dressing the changing rooms. Even a short time in the shop makes it feel like you're visiting a friend, sharing a coffee, and then raiding their closet.

When I express my enthusiasm about the clothes, Courtney shares in my excitement, explaining how the process of sourcing the pieces started from a personal place.

"My partner and I run the space, and we really like secondhand clothing. We had accumulated quite a collection over the years, and so we went through our lovely things, and wanted to share those, and keep recycling the clothes. We also have some local designers who have put some of their garments in."

Those pieces are from all over the country, including the upcoming label HAMS from Tāmaki Makaurau and designer Paige Jansen from Ōtautahi. Dung Beetle is an awesome addition to the many op shops located in New Lynn, and Courtney seems thrilled with the prospect of becoming part of local "thrifting routes".

Social media also helped to snowball the process of showcasing local artists in the space, Courtney explains. "We started an Instagram, and had people share it, and recommend us to their friends. It's nice to host artists who don't have massive platforms or don't showcase their stuff anywhere else. It feels so good having community art."

The shop doubles as an events space too, with funding coming from Te Poari ā-Rohe o Whau, the Whau Local Board, to showcase work from creatives that live within the suburbs of New Lynn, Green Bay, Kelston, Rosebank, Avondale, New Windsor and







Blockhouse Bay. The first event in the space, a small poetry evening with readings from Aiwa Pooamorn and Gemishka Chetty, was held in early February, under Red Light restrictions. Courtney is clearly elated about the poetry reading and having local artists in the space.

"We opened up the floor, so anyone who came could read if they wanted to. It was lovely, and so cool that people felt comfortable enough to share. It can be quite a vulnerable thing to do, to share your art, so we felt really privileged to hold the space for those other artists. We were making new friends! It all feels so positive."

Aiwa and Gemishka approached Dung Beetle after seeing a call out for artists in the Whau Arts area. With the funding from Whau Board, the artists hosted can be paid for their work (not just 'in exposure'), which is crucial, especially within the current climate of intense restriction.

Aiwa reflects on the experience affectionately, highlighting the welcoming nature of the space.

"The environment was very friendly, supportive, warm, but also really chill and relaxed... It felt like a safe space to share our personal poetry, because our poetry is very much based on our personal experiences of racism, and we're quite vocal about our experiences as... South and South East Asian women.

It was quite an intimate gathering, in a cosy space, and everyone was really close to each other, which is cool! Sometimes these events can be bigger and more intimidating, but this one felt more casual... We got to talk with everybody, and it felt like [we were] friends afterwards."

When looking to the future, with Covid restrictions set to ease in a few months, Courtney hopes to go ahead with a wide variety of events and foster more creative people within the space.

"We also want to do film showings and art exhibitions and workshops. It's really cool to

let that community in and give them a space to show their art... It's still just the beginning, and there are so many more things we can do."

The highlight, for Courtney, has been the connection they've found with locals and friends, and the way that support has helped cultivate a sense of momentum.

"People have been so excited for us and that feels really nice. Everybody has been supportive and wants to be involved.

Jazmine and I are artists ourselves, and seeing that brings that passion in."

It would be a real challenge to pop into Dung Beetle and leave without holding something that feels special, whether that be a piece of secondhand clothing, a book of poetry or a cup of coffee. Upon my departure, I found myself holding a zine and an earnest feeling of fullness. In a time where the arts feel especially precious, Dung Beetle soothes as a site of inspiration and connection. The space is a lovely, timely reminder that there is a community here working hard to nurture art and the people who create it.

Contact dungbeetlespace@gmail.com to find out more about the space, and keep up with @dungbeetlespace on Instagram to find out about upcoming events!

It would be a real challenge to pop into Dung Beetle and leave without holding something that feels special, whether that be a piece of secondhand clothing, a book of poetry or a cup of coffee.







Love and Loss

Auckland Museum will have you down bad



MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

"I remember...sitting myself down and giving my heart a stern talking to. It didn't listen. It's no good being a world-wise philosopher with a heart that's only human."

Welby's love letter to Kevin, 1983.

Crying is not necessarily something that we like to do in public. However, at Auckland Museum's Love & Loss that may not be something you can avoid. Bring tissues and someone you like to this exhibition: you'll be proclaiming your love by the end of the tour.

This intimate collection is made up of all sorts of different forms. There are postcards, telegrams, letters, notes, birthday cards, Facebook messages, and poems, along with short films that explore these inspiring stories in more detail. Nina Finigan, the Museum's Curator Manuscripts, explains the commonality that these pieces share, stating, "All of these objects bear witness to the emotions shared between lovers, friends, and families. Through all of them the same themes and questions apply across generations, such as why do we create these documents, and why do we choose to keep (or destroy) them?"

The space moves between two distinct sections. Love explores various moving and funny romantic exchanges, such as the cryptic telegram engagement confirmed between lovers in Antarctica and New Zealand. There are also some instances of familial love, with a soldier sending his

daughter illustrated stories from an overseas war and another father mailing a flower with his letter, trying to relay the sweet scent from a million miles away. Richard Tukino Grace's film to bring to life his correspondence from the Western Front with his love, Alice Crump.

"Only human... thank God for human hearts eh? At present mine runs on memories and letters and evening phone-calls... but it doesn't grow weaker for not seeing you."

Welby's love letter to Kevin, 1983

The Loss section of the exhibit is, of course, quite an intense experience. There are letters detailing the heartbreaking story of Maurice, where delayed correspondence between a soldier and his sister leads to a complicated grieving process. The section also includes Koe higoa haaku Hiapo, a contemporary hiapo work. It consists of ten pieces of handbeaten hiapo (Niuean barkcloth), as well as a poem from the perspective of a piece of hiapo that has been separated from its home and transported to museums overseas.

Hine e Hine, a well-known waiata that was used as the 'Good Night Kiwi' theme song for many years, scores the space, firmly situating the exhibition in our locative context and creating a melancholic mood.

A surprising aspect of this exhibition is the ephemeral nature of nearly all of these letters. The notes jump forward and backwards in time, and while some are dated by a mention of key historical events (World Wars or pandemics, for example), the sentiments contained between the loopy, messy, and neat handwritings all remain very similar. Writings from our century and the last two are joined by a consistent confessional tone, cataloguing our need and want for

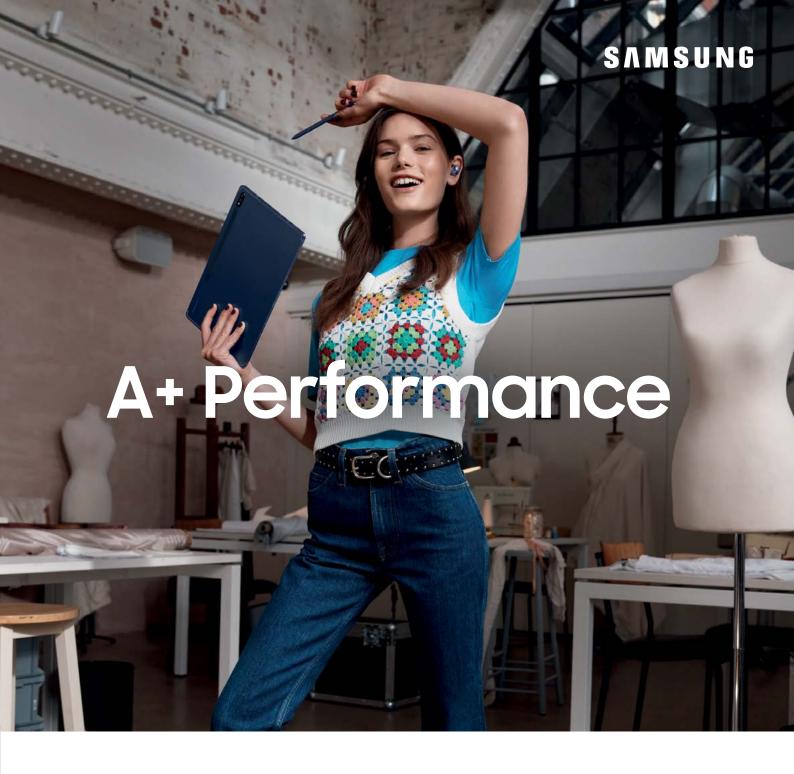
This exhibition is a lesson in the importance of honesty. Hard times, which we're overly familiar with, have the capability to carve us into these intensely sarcastic and cynical beings. Love & Loss reminds us of the emotional rewards that come with being earnest. It even offers up the opportunity to confess your own feelings with an interactive letter-writing table... How brave are you feeling? Will you send or shred?

"I tried not to protect my heart in it, I tried to tell the truth."

Welby speaks about his letter, 2021.

Love & Loss closes on Sunday the 6th of March. Free with Museum Entry (free for all Auckland residents!). Masks, distancing and vaccine passes needed for entry. A virtual version of the exhibition is also available online!

https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/ your-museum/at-home/love-in-the-timeof-covid



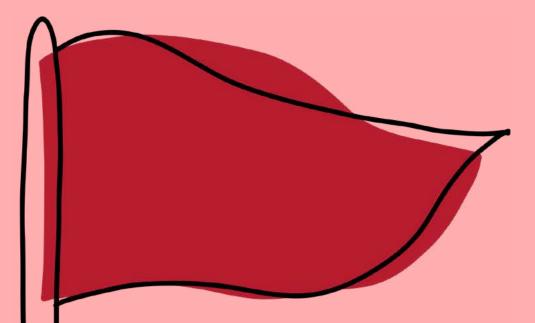
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Valentine's Red Flags

Now that those flowers have died, let's see what's next in line...



NAOMII SEAH

Sorry to rehash this recent trauma for everyone, but whether you're happily or unhappily single, in a situationship, or fully boo'd up, Valentine's day can be a hard time for all. If you're single like me, you'll spend the whole day watching your coupled friends be cute and badly pretending you're not bitter. Or you might take yourself on a date and still have to endure the seemingly endless parade of couples around you. Or—God forbid—someone hits on you on Valentine's. That's the worst, because you know they're probably just sad and a little bit lonely. Nothing wrong with that, but leave me out of it, okay?

If you're in a situationship, you might be wondering what the hell to do. Should you get them something? But what if it's too soon? Do you even like them? What vibe will they get? What if they're allergic to flowers, or chocolate, or what if they just don't like you that much? What if you get them something and they don't get you anything? Embarrassing much.

If you're in a couple, maybe you have it a bit better. After all, you should know what they like and don't like... right? Right?! Ah fuck, guess everyone's screwed. It's almost like Valentine's is a holiday designed to make you feel inadequate and/or spend too much money.

But for those of you who decided to buy into it anyway, there's no shame. I get it, societal pressure is overwhelming or whatever. But I'm here to tell you that the real trap of Valentine's isn't spending too much money, or feeling really insecure—although Valentine's does cause both these things. No, the real trap is that you and your Valentine will definitely inadvertently expose yourselves during the

process of exchanging gifts. I know it's a whole two weeks later, and you've probably wiped the memory squeaky clean already, but I feel it's my civic duty to warn you all. Without further ado, here are some red flags, based on what gifts were exchanged on Valentine's.

Chocolate

Hear me out: if your Valentine buys you chocolate, they're just not that into you. Or they are into you, and they're just kind of unoriginal. If you wanted chocolate, you could just walk down to the nearest supermarket and buy yourself a block. I'll bet you money it's not even your favourite chocolate. Either it's the weird gimmicky chocolate, the sort that leaves you a weird plastic coating on your tongue, or it's some really fancy chocolate and you wished they'd spent their money on something else, like a dentist's appointment. After all, if they really cared about you would they really recklessly play with your dental health like that?

Flowers

If they picked these themselves, I hope they're happy with the fact that they've just reduced local biodiversity. Also, if they really cared they would have shown it with some cold hard cash. Nothing says romance like throwing a bunch of money at the object of your affection. However, if they brought the flowers then the same red flag applies as chocolate. What, do you live in a Hallmark movie? Next they'll be chasing you through the airport to declare their love. Also, giving someone flowers is essentially giving them the chore of looking after the things, and then throwing them out. Or they'll sit in your vase for way too long before



you notice, and they'll get gross and mouldy.

Card

Um, ew. Being open and writing down your feelings? Next.

Jewellery

Woah there, jewellery on Valentine's is basically a proposal. They're super in love with you, but like, maybe too much. Have you checked their closet for a shrine recently? Lock your doors and windows at night, because they're definitely pulling an Edward Cullen. If your ears burn it's probably because they're casting a love spell on you.

Quality time

Oh, so this person just thought that a few hours they would've spent with you anyway on any given day is a good cover for forgetting about you on the day of love? Because I guarantee you they forgot about the holiday and are scrambling to cover themselves. And if they're dead serious about spending time with you as a "gift" on Valentine's, then this person is making themselves seem like

the reward, ergo subconsciously manipulating you into believing that being with them is a prize. Run, and run fast. Trust me, I read Woman's Weekly one time, so you know the advice is legit.

Soft toy

What are you, a toddler? With this gift, your partner is saying: I see you more like a child than an equal member of this relationship. If you have mommy or daddy issues then great, maybe it's a green flag. Actually, don't most of us? Damn, maybe this is the perfect Valentine's gift. Just make sure they also do your laundry and tuck you into bed at night, or else it's all just empty promises.

Okay, maybe don't listen to me. I'm probably just bitter at my many single Valentine's days. If you received any of these gifts and enjoyed them this Valentine's, then great. Good for you. No really, I hope you guys stay together forever. Whatever. Just don't say I didn't warn you.













The F(onion) of Wisdom

Where I take a headline from "The Onion" and write an objectively finer article



SOPHIE SUN

"Woman Shamelessly Sleeps Her Way Laterally Across Corporate Ladder" – The Onion 09/02/22.

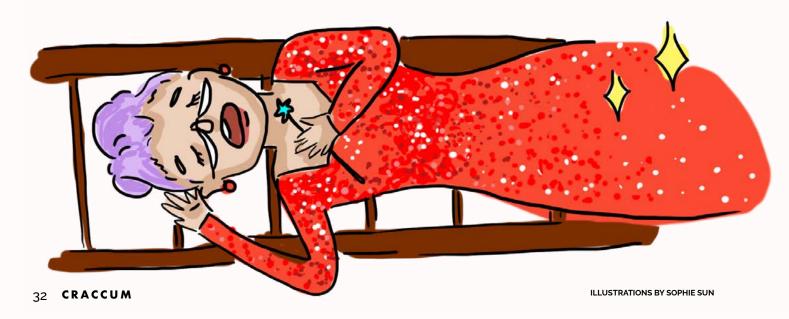
When people asked me what my dream job was as a kid, I used to say being a doctor just like all the other obedient Asian children. Turns out, my dream job is to just be some rich white man's secretary—aka wearing cute loafer heels, colour coding some fancy diary and bringing him overpriced black coffee. Naturally, this imagery of a femme

presenting figure exploiting the system is outrageous. "Women are just as capable as men!" I hear you all cry—and that is absolutely 100% true. It just also happens that this bad bitch wants to put in the bare minimum for the maximum reward. Plus, it's not like in my dream job, I'm sleeping with him

But let's real talk for a moment here: traditional gender binaries are extremely harmful in Western culture in relation to sex. When a man sleeps with multiple co-workers, he's seen as a player or a flirt. Charming, charismatic, and cool are

the three C's that make up this iccck! If a woman sleeps with multiple coworkers, then she's easy, asking for it, or using her body as temptation. Unfortunately, sexist double standards exist in every industry. Why is it another notch on a man's belt, but scandalous for a woman to be even remotely promiscuous?

As we jump back into the uni student swing of things, it's important to remember that sexual freedom looks and feels different for everyone. It's time to end the era of slut-shaming but also accept that there is nothing wrong with sexual conservatism.



When the personal significance of sex ranges from transactional to deeply intimate, all forms of sexual activity (including a lack of) are valid. Therefore, I encourage any of you reading this to go on a wonderful journey of self-exploration. Buy that new toy you were thinking about! Sleep with your coworker who's in the same bubble as you! Message your ex! Okay, maybe not the last one but this year is all about learning where your boundaries are and what various things mean to you. At the end of the day, you are in control of what you radiate and receive—just make sure that you communicate it.

For all the baddies who do wanna sleep their way across the team, here's some case examples of me greenlighting this situation.

First up: "The Man" by Taylor Swift

I did not grow up in the 2010s for y'all to slander Taylor's glow up. When I say the "The Man" is the New Testament, I mean it!!! The number one rule of screwing the crew is confidence. Never have I questioned someone who has walked into a room with confidence. Faking it till you make it really is true and Taylor proves that. If she was a man, then we'd just be treating her like Pete Davidson and his massive dong, or borderline pedophilic serial dater Leonardo DiCaprio. It feels like we're conditioned to hate her for being honest about her love life and feelings but at the same time we applaud Olivia Rodrigo when she does the same. Corporate culture is already hard enough; don't make yourself a challenge in getting that freaky Friday night. Besides, nothing is sexier than the mutual hatred of customers who are oblivious to their surroundings. As long as you're both consenting adults, take that stress out in the break room by breaking someone's back.

Secondly: Me

Screwing the crew is an incredibly biased moral code of mine because I am very guilty of being a bit too flirty with the crew in all settings, shapes, and forms. Statistically, it is embarrassing (and borderline Euphorialevel drama) when you see how many of my past flings and dalliances have been crew members. When I originally pitched this idea, I thought it'd be funny to finally reveal a bit too much about my terrible life choices,

à la Robert Pattinson style, but unfortunately some of the things in my life you just cannot make up. Just a heads up: if you do sleep laterally across the corporate ladder, make sure you're not too invested in your job, and you have an exit plan in place. It's called a ladder for a reason, but no one said you could only go up or down it.

Donkey's conclusion: gorgeous, gorgeous girls sleep with whoever they want!







Before Shit Hits the Fan: A Preventative Mental Health Guide To Feeling Less Poopy

Let's get this (emotionally stable) bread!



I hate my brain. She's insufferable in every way possible. Anxious. Hyper-active. Overly-critical. Numb. Dumb. Essentially the worst party pooper and vibe-killer you'll ever meet. And with the new Semester approaching, I can just feel my long-standing beef with my brain amplifying as the old habits and unhelpful thinking patterns slowly creep back in. Apparently, summer just wasn't enough fun for her!

But, I know how I feel is universal. Uni's never-ending deadlines, social obligations, academic and financial pressures are all external forces that inevitably stir up shit within our lumps of pink squishy soft tissue. The brain, like any other organ in our bodies, will always have its moments of distress. It's not a matter of if, but when.

So, instead of sticking to the routine of waiting till things get so bad that we can't gaslight ourselves that we're still live love laughing anymore—it's time to take preventative action to lessen the impact of when things unavoidably go wrong. Because let's face it, when you've hit the good ol' rock

bottom, no amount of chamomile tea or breathing exercises is going to remedy the damage created. Thus, from one student in desperate need of a calm and collected academic year to another, here's a guide of habits for reducing the collision of when shit hits the fan...

All serotonin is good serotonin

As we all start filling up our Google Calendars or building up our aesthetically pleasing Notion workspaces, it's tempting to pack up every little coloured cell or curate a thousand to-do lists to motivate ourselves to be or feel productive. But how many of our planners actually schedule in downtime? Without prioritising the time to relax, over time our brains end up associating anything fun as inherently a form of procrastination or laziness.

Scheduling time for *queue voice of a car bro who's had one too many vodka cruisers* ~shits and gigs~ should not be some rare commodity, it should be part of your everyday routine.

So, like the rest of your commitments, plan out when you're going to read your silly little book, crochet a new funky sweater vest, re-decorate your Sims 4 home, binge watch *Love Island* or some other choice of serotonin-boosting activity. Whatever gets your happy neurotransmitters fired up (okay maybe not like crack cocaine) should have as equal of an weighting as a gym session



or a walk. Yes, I AM making the argument that harvesting tomatoes on Farmville is as important as a Ponsonby pilates class. And yes, buying 1010 Farmbucks for the small price of 259.83 NZD is a worthy investment into my mental health, thank you!

Schedule regular worry sessions

I'm sure all my fellow over-thinkers and chronic worriers can relate when I say being anxious is fucking exhausting. Having your brain confined in the same obsessive thought loop or just relentlessly picking apart every social interaction you've ever had can pollute all your thoughts. Even when you try to get on with your day, the anxiety continues to hum in the background, like an annoying mozzie trapped in your room, buzzing around as you're trying to get to sleep on a hot summer's night.

However, an approach I was recommended and honestly highly rate is scheduling a daily worry session. Give yourself 10-15 mins to go absolutely bananas and freak out about whatever that's occupying your mind that day. From the immediate external stresses to the unexplainable, this method of condensing your panic helps to make feelings of anxiety a little more manageable.

Build up a reservoir of boring and relaxing content

As much as I blame my poor sleep quality on genetics, 80% of the time I wake up feeling more dead inside than the night before is because my brain does not know







how to shut the fuck up. When the lights are off. the night rave commences! In order to combat the unwanted ince ince ince chaos upstairs you gotta employ your handy dandy arsenal of boring content. Whether that's in the form of rain sounds, acrylic nail tapping ASMR, a 1989 Microsoft Word Tutorial youtube video (a personal favourite) consuming mind-numbingly boring content before bed is honestly your best bet against an overactive brain. Does it mean you'll be knocked out as soon as your head hits your pillow? Definitely not. But it does minimise the number of hours you end up restlessly tossing and turning, wishing you could set your brain on fire during the night!

Switch up your environment

For most of us, lockdown has made it clear that being trapped in the same four walls is not great for the psyche. Especially for those of us that associate being alone in our room with not so fun mems—extended periods of staying put in the same place can feel really suffocating and isolating. Even if it's just moving to the living room, going to the park or the local library—changing up your environment when you're alone can help shake you out of a rut. Plus, the local park magpies who are ready to gauge your eyes out at any given time always make great company.

Silly little tasks are just as important as your long term goals

As great as ambitions and big life goals are, the process to achieving them is often long and discouraging. That's where small everyday milestones like making your bed and eating a good meal, etc. come in. Sometimes huge objectives like becoming a Nobel Peace Prizewinner or the next Bob

Ross are just too much to think about on your average Tuesday morning! Especially on days when it's hard to get out of bed, being able to tick even something small off a to-do list can make you feel a little less like a blob of a human.

Journaling is your new bestie

Before you roll your eyes at this incredibly groundbreaking advice, hear me out. I'm *not* talking about journaling in the form of how those "it" girls on aesthetic TikTok do it with their expensive monogrammed notebooks and iced matcha lattes in some overpriced LA cafe. When you boil it down, journaling is essentially just a written form of venting. You can use whatever you have lying around—old receipts, the back of a maths exercise book from Year 10, iPhone Notes—it doesn't matter! As long as you document every candid feeling and thought that's on your mind, you're good.

Not only is this super therapeutic and prevents you from just bottling everything up til you explode, but it's incredible to look back at older entries and see how you were doing 6 months ago. As someone who's kept semi-regular journals since they could write comprehensible sentences, I can guarantee you that those old cringe entries that never fail to induce unbearable levels of physical pain, are instrumental for keeping yourself accountable of your growth. Yes, I may still be the world's most horrible person, but at least I no longer read One Direction fanfiction or write extensive entries about how my crush was definitely ready to marry me (despite never speaking a word to one another). And that's on character development!

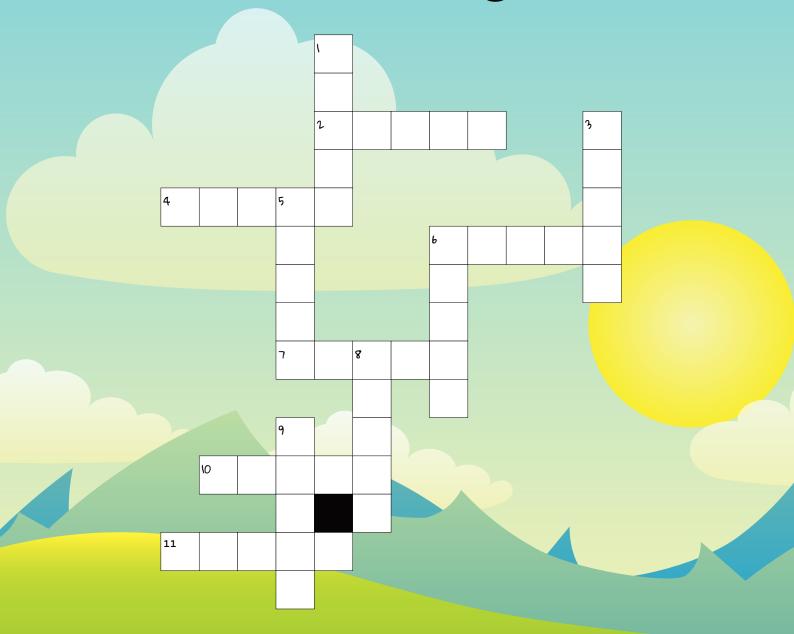




*Only available February 28th - March 6th to students with a valid student ID



The Most Common Wordle Starting Words



Across

- 2. the coalition of uoa's asian clubs
- 4. fancy word for when you're feeling grrr
- 6. something your ears hear
- 7. this action is very caring
- 10. apparently the cumulative net earnings after taxes available to common shareholders—whatever that means
- II. what your craccum editors are great at doing

Down

- 1. what the miley cyrus blue eyes meme is doing
- 3. a small boat that is often confused for a kayak but is not a kayak
- 5. how this semester is going to end in
- b. the disney icon who combs her hair with a fork 8. the french way for saying goodbye
- 9. what hospo and retail workers deserve



2021's astrologer, the formidable **Delma Vinkley**, has unfortunately ran away from *Craccum* due to unforeseen circumstances allegedly involving a team of Olympic curlers and a paranormal swindler. Stepping in their shoes is **Polly Prophet**, a fun-sized, chic and self-proclaimed "astrology girlfriend" who you've probably run into in the bathroom on a night out... She's here to serve looks and dish out your future!

ARIES

Your year has been one hell of an emotional Stratosfear and it's only February... Take time to reflect and relax. I prescribe a relaxing bubble bath. Lint rolling your socks will also do...

TAURUS

I foresee abundance, pleasure and indulgence in the months ahead... this is the time to embrace your hungry hungry hippo self and satisfy all those cravings—and I'm not just talking about food!

GEMINI

Ahh my sweet Geminis... what a year of chaos is in front of you! Whether it's during Zoom, your Pak n' Save weekly shop or at the awkward family BBQ—expect chaotic energy to follow you everywhere.

CANCER

Why are you not live, love, and laughing bestie?
February may have kicked off with a poo poo start but that's no reason to hide in your covers! I foresee a slightly-better future ahead of you sensitive one so chin up buttercup. But not too much! You don't wanna be a Leo!

LEO

Babes, let's not get too ahead of ourselves this year. It's time to give up your equestrian lifestyle for the sake of your friends and get off your high horse. That is all. I see no future for you.

VIRGO

Girlbosses—as much as I admire your hustle, this is the year for you to let go!
Embrace your (lack of) a fun side! Consider growing a personality too, I promise it'll do wonders for you:)

LIBRA

My Libras, this is the year to stop being know-it-alls. You do not need to recite facts like your name-sake sanitary pads or mansplain everything like engineering students. We have enough of those at the university.

SCORPIO

Mysterious Scorpio... it's time to shed your JugheadI'm-a-weirdo complex and just embrace the fact that nobody knows anything about you because, well, there's nothing to know! Like the Virgos, 2022 is your year for cultivating a personality.

SAGGITARIUS

As the likeable fire sign, I sense a wild and romantic future ahead! Don't let your silly impulses get in the way of your success. Would not recommend making any drastic decisions like cutting bangs in the next couple of weeks...

CAPRICORN

Be patient my young Cappies! Yes, that is my new affectionate term for you cold heartless

blood-suckers. This is the year to just trust the process. Make sure to keep grounded in your non-existent values and morals...

AQUARIUS

You quirky, fakewater-sign folks are definitely a challenge to read!

Although the future is looking a little murky, I trust that you will navigate the difficulties and highs ahead with ease...

PISCES

Similarly to your Aquarius friends, your future is looking a little foggy too. Oddly, I have not seen red clouds in my crystal ball

clouds in my crystal ball for quite some time. I expect the universe has passion, excitement and danger installed for you young one... oh wait that was just a Sriracha stain!



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MASSEY, AUCKLAND	28 FEB-01 MAR 2022
MASSEY, WELLINGTON	01 MAR 2022
UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY	03 MAR 2022
UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND	28 FFR — 04 MAR 2022

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FORGOT TO CALL MUM? OH WELL.

FORGOT YOUR PILL? OH NO!

FORGET THE REGRETS

ASK YOUR GP, NURSE OR
FAMILY PLANNING ABOUT
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