

VOS

The Voice of SANITI

Issue 1 2008



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Vos

Voice of SANITI

Magazine of the Student Association of NMIT

People Who Did Stuff

Fraser Heal
Clare Caron
Jaycob Brown
Hayden Campbell
Neil Hodgson
The Anonymous Café
Reviewer

Special thanks to Aroha
for her proof-reading skillz

Finance Manager

Alison Hart
saniti@xtra.co.nz

Advertising Manager

Hayden Campbell
hayden.saniti@xtra.co.nz

Voice of S.A.N.I.T.I.

Private Bag 19
322 Hardy St Nelson
Ph. 03 546 2425
Fax. 03 546 2426
saniti@xtra.co.nz
www.saniti.org.nz

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Da New Prez Sez

Da New Prez Sez

Fáilte (welcome), Clare, your new Pres here! I am Irish but have been in NZ for six year now. I was welcomed into SANITI in January this year and boy, has it been busy so far - there is just so much going on so we had to make a bigger magazine! So here is a bumper edition of VOS!



One of the big deals, for kiwi students, at the moment is 10 BILLION \$\$\$\$ worth of student debt! This situation is totally unacceptable - remember to enrol to vote (SANITI has the forms) so you CAN make a difference at this year's NZ general election!

This year already I have been attending quite a few meetings, including the NMIT Council and NZUSA conference as YOUR representative, read more inside.

Orientation was a blast with the games, prizes, giveaways and of course the famous SANITI BBQs. The Mr Tuiverse competition was one of the funniest moments and who would have known that the Nursing students were so strong - winning the tug of war. Then there was St. Paddy's; the green bread and bar tab prizes went down a treat as usual, sure, great craic was had by all!! You gotta see the pics inside on page 6.

A big hello to all our new class reps and this year's Executive committee, elected at the AGM on the 8 April. I really look forward to hearing from the Class Reps and Execs what is goin' down and working with the Execs to govern SANITI so that it continues to ensure students get a fair deal in these turbulent times and can succeed in their studies!

Go néirí leat (Best of luck) for the rest of the semester.

Clare Caron

INSIDE

\$10,000,000 DEBT DAY

ORIENTATION



ST PATRICK'S DAY



\$10 WINE REVIEWS



MEET THE NEW SANITI PRESIDENT

Clare Caron

Background?

Born & raised in N.Ireland during 'The Troubles' (30+ years of civil war), which probably accounts for me being interested in peoples' rights / human rights.

Emigrated with my family to Oz as a young adult, then back to Ireland & UK for a bit....then back to Oz... then back to Ireland... well, you get the picture & anyway now I have settled here and love it. Married to a Kiwi with three wee 'Ireiwis' (Irish-Kiwi) kids!



Growing up?

All green fields, fairies and Enya. No, really it was! I grew up in a small (poor) mountain village and had an incredibly romantic childhood (except for the bombing and stuff).

Adult Life?

BA (Anthropology and Art History) from University of Adelaide, Grad Dip (Anthropology) from Australian National University (Canberra). Lots of student activism experience especially in Canberra – the seat of the Australian government. More recently undertook some part-time study at NMIT. Lots of experience working as an advocate for arts/artists – working for community arts organizations. I've also worked in environmental, human rights organizations and retail.

Political persuasion?

Anyone who stands for human rights, women's rights, students' rights and looking after the environment gets my interest!

What drew you to the president position?

I was the Student Rep on the Board of Management for the NMIT child care centre (Campus Corner) and I really enjoyed that (which surprised even me!) I thought that it would be great to do it full time and I was right – it is great!

Current issues facing students and SANITI?

- \$10 Billion of Student Debt – it's not acceptable!
- All the repercussions of student debt/money difficulties
- The 2007 tertiary reforms – how that is impacting on NMIT students
- The environment and climate change and what we can do (as students)
- The next election – voting the right party in (with student's issues at heart)



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Clare Caron is an appointed student representative. She represents students on the highest level of Governance at NMIT - Council. Clare is very vocal on Council, which deals with all courses, campuses and facilities. Clare is also the student voice on the Audit and Risk Management Committee, The Health and Safety Committee and

FEDEX, the NZUSA Federation Executive. Clare feels that NZUSA provide good advice and training, but more importantly a unified student voice that can make things happen on a national scale, such as interest free student loans.

With advocacies, Clare represents students on a one-on-one basis for personal and

academic issues when dealing with large organisations such as NMIT, StudyLink, the Police and so on.

If you need help with advocacies, feel free to come into SANITI and make an appointment with one of the staff.

MICHAEL HARRISON - VICE PRESIDENT

Michael Harrison is the SANITI Vice President. His main role is to support President Clare Caron. As a student representative, Michael plays a very active role on Academic Board and several committees at NMIT. A student himself, Michael also gathers feedback from Class Representatives. Michael requires feedback from students, especially on the impact NMIT policy has on them. He can be contacted through SANITI but also feel free to approach Michael if you see him around campus.

Academic Board

Academic Board has the overall responsibility for developing, ratifying and advising on academic policy, and monitoring and maintaining academic standards that are consistent with the institution's charter. NMIT deputy C.E.O Caroline Seelig chairs the board which features the Heads of Schools amongst others. Program development and course structure are the main issues the board deals with.



Disabilities Advisory Board

Student Services Marty Clark chairs the Disabilities Advisory board in which Michael Harrison is the student representative. The board features community groups, government organisations and local Iwi. The Board monitors, and is actively involved in, the general well-being of all students, with a focus on students with seen and unseen impairments, including those with learning disabilities.

SANITI MAY JOIN NATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Since the middle of last year, SANITI has been an associate member of the New Zealand Union of Student Associations (NZUSA). NZUSA is the only national collective of Student Associations representing student issues on a national scale.

The government, media and other national bodies look to NZUSA as the voice for tertiary students. SANITI pays \$2 per student to be an associate member, in return, SANITI gets limited voting rights at NZUSA's conferences.

Some full members of NZUSA are the Student Associations of Otago University and Polytech and the Universities of Canterbury and Victoria. Other associates, like SANITI are Auckland University Students' Association and Massey at Wellington Students' Association.

NZUSA elects 2 full-time co-presidents and a full-time National Women's Rights Officer. It also hires a full-time researcher, who looks into student welfare and academic issues, a Representative and Logistics Co-Ordinator

and a Campaigns and Communications Co-Ordinator.

SANITI can only be an associate member for two years. The Student Executive make a recommendation to students at SANITI's Student General Meeting on the 21st of October.

To find out more about NZUSA check out: www.nzusa.org.nz

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SANITI A.G.M '08

What's an AGM? Do you know? Does anyone? For those of you who thought AGM stood for 'Air to Ground Missile', you were right, apparently it does. But it also stands for Annual General Meeting.

Dictionary.com defines it as "A mandatory yearly meeting of shareholders that allows stakeholders to stay informed and involved with company decisions and workings".

Okay so what's all this talk of stakeholders and shareholders? Well put it this way, replace the word 'shareholders' with 'executive' and while you're there swap 'stakeholders' with 'students'. And finally the company would be SANITI... you get the picture.

So in basic terms AGM is a way for the students to have direct input into how the Student Association spends your student fees. It's also a time to look at the direction the Association is going and stay informed about when and how things happen.

At SANITI's meeting there will usually be:

- **The President**

The President runs the meeting, reading

out reports and explaining any points that aren't clear. The President also directs the flow of the meeting making sure everything is covered and moves along at a reasonable pace

- **The Associations Manager**

The AM presents the accounts for the association, explaining in detail the financials of the Association. As well as addressing any concerns around budgets and what has gone where.

- **The Returning Officer**

Runs the election part of the meeting. The returning officer makes sure that



everything is run in a clear and transparent manner and the election of executives is run fairly and according to the constitution.

- **The Accountant**

The accountant answers any questions relating to the financials that the Association manager is unable to answer; the accountant also explains issues related to the difference between

governance and management.

- **Students**

And you! SANITI can't run without the input of you the student, this year we were lucky enough to get a good turnout with a number of students from different classes showing their support for the association by turning up.



Two winners of our Victorian Rose Bar/Cafe and Student Centre Coffee Card winners as part of AGM. Thanks to The Student Cafe and The Victorian Rose for sponsoring the prizes

CLASS REPS

Class Representatives play a very important role; providing feedback to the Student President and Vice-President to represent students on Council, Academic Board and all the other committees. Class Reps meet once a month with Student Prez Clare and VP Mike. More Class Reps are desperately needed, especially from Te Tari Māori, Nursing years 1 and 3, the Nanny course, the Tourism courses, Social Work, Yr 2 Counselling, Art and Media courses, BCom yr 2 and cookery courses.



Here are this years Class Reps enjoying some pizza at SANITI

If you want to help your fellow students and be a class representative - come and see us at SANITI!



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DISTANT CAMPUSES

2008 SANITI STUDENT PILOT CONFERENCE

Dust off the headsets and sharpen those propellers and rotor blades it's almost time for the one and only SANITI Student Pilot Conference. Now into its fifth year the conference has grown to become a must attend for all student pilots throughout the country. This year the conference will take place from July 3 to 5 in the heart of the South Island's best little city, Nelson.

Last year 40 pilots from all over New Zealand attended and this years conference is going to be bigger and better than ever. SSPC 08 will cover key issues from training as well as answering the all-important questions relating to gaining

employment in the aviation industry. It is a fantastic opportunity for trainee pilots to meet key players in the aviation industry.

However it's not just about serious issues and information the conference ends with an awesome party of jumbo jet proportions.

Student reps from all flight schools affiliated with NMIT have already secured fully funded places at the conference but you don't have to be a class rep to take part. We have 40 partially funded spots up for grabs. If you can book a plane or Robbie

and make it to Nelson, SANITI will pay for all of your accommodation and all of your meals.

If you're interested in attending contact SANITI's aviation guy Hayden (hayden.saniti@xtra.co.nz) before the end of May.



STUDENT ALLOWANCE AND LIVING COSTS WARNING

Over the last six months SANITI has had a large increase in the number of student pilots contacting us having had their student loan living costs or student allowance cut off.

Please remember that students who are enrolled through NMIT on a CPL course only have living cost and allowance funding for 52 weeks which is the official length of the CPL course. This part of your

funding will be cut off regardless if you have completed your CPL or not. SANITI's advice is to monitor your progress closely and raise any concerns you may have with your providers at an early stage and if needs be contact Hayden (hayden.saniti@xtra.co.nz or txt 021 226 4646). Remember don't leave it to the last minute contact SANITI sooner rather than later.

...students who are enrolled through NMIT on a CPL course only have living cost and allowance funding for 52 weeks...

STUDENT ID CARD DISCOUNTS IN BLenheim

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WWW.AVIATIONCAREERS.CO.NZ



\$10,000,000 DEBT DAY

Wednesday the 10th of April was 'Ten Billion Dollar Debt Day' to raise awareness that Student Loan Debt has reached the rather over-whelming amount of ten billion dollars!

To commiserate SANITI had a soup kitchen for debt ravaged students on both the Nelson and Marlborough campuses. Student President Clare and Events Co-ordinator Fraser Heal dressed for the occasion with prison outfits and balls and chains representing that they were 'shackled to debt'. Clare was also marched down to the Nelson Police cells for a photo-op. The day was marked by Student Associations all around the country. There was also a lot of media interest. The Nelson Mail and The Marlborough Express both had coverage of the SANITI event. The event was mainly aimed at raising the awareness of Student's plight especially in an election year.



SO WHY SO MUCH DEBT?

Since 1991 public tertiary fees have risen from practically zero to an average of \$5,874. During the 1990's fees rose an average of 14% every single year. Up to 2005 interest was also charged on Student Loans, increasing the debt level. Now less than one third of students receive the Student Allowance meaning the majority have to borrow money to survive. Student debt now increases about \$1,000,000,000 every year.



HOW MUCH IS \$10,000,000?

Enough to fill 222 Olympic swimming pools with Porsches...
Enough to bankroll a Peter Jackson epic 156 days long...
Enough to buy 53 new stadiums for Dunedin...
Enough to buy ALL the tea in China and ALL the sheep in New Zealand...



ST PATRICK'S DAY



With an Irish Student Prez, there was extra emphasis on putting on a good spread for St Paddy's Day 2008. Alongside some fine traditional Irish music (and a bit of U2) we had the not so traditional green bread for the SANITI BBQ. The Victorian Vose and The Prince Albert kindly donated \$50 each for a potato sack race and The House of Ales sponsored the 'Potato and Spoon Race'.



The
Victorian Rose
Pub & Café

The Prince Albert

HOUSE of ALES
Nelson

SANITI AMIT ORIENTATION '08

Orientation 2008 started on the Marlborough Campus on Saint Valentine's day and culminated on Friday the 22nd with pancakes on the Nelson campus - here's a day by day run down of all the fun and games...

THURSDAY 14th FEB

A BBQ started the day rolling for Marlborough's Orientation. Being St Valentine's Day the games had a love heart theme. To win the \$50 Copper Bock voucher contenders had to throw water balloons and wheel barrow each other around the course, whilst dodgy more water balloons thrown by NMIT CEO Tony Grey, amongst others.

MONDAY

To kick of O'Week in Nelson we had the Dominos Pizza Eating Race. After a huge feed of the famous SANITI sausages and veggie patties, keen students lined up to munch their way through some tasty Dominos Pizzas and then wheelbarrow each other round. Pei Yuan and Zhou Rui claimed the win taking the \$50 Stingray voucher.

He may be ugly, but there were plenty of young ladies keen to kiss the Debt Monster for the Cocoa Box of choices - thanks Cocoa!

Thanks heaps to Pomeroy's who supplied six big bags of primo coffee that got thrown into the crowd.

The Carpentry lads enjoyed the Bouncy Boxing especially and Sam the Musical Man kept the crowd going with an accoustic set.

TUESDAY

The inaugural Newbies Morning Tea was a hit. The Student Centre Cafe supplied the tea and coffee plus some very popular slices as a group of over 30 students meet and talked with the new Student Prez Clare.

The local rugby team The Tasman Makos and the local basketball team The Giants were on campus throwing some passes and shooting some hoops with students, then entertained them with 'The Game of Two Halves' quiz comp.

WEDNESDAY

ASB came on campus sponsoring the BBQ and events of the day plus offering their great student banking package. The 'Strapped For Cash Tug of War' pitted student against student for cold hard cash. The Debt Monster was also feeling amorous in giving away straw hats from Urban Beach for a kiss. Everyman CD's were also given away for a song, a line or two of Bob Marley over the mic. If that wasn't enough prizes - half a dozen Subway vouchers went out for Tug Of War runners-up. But wait there's more! Liquid very kindly donated over 20 coffees and vouchers to students. You guessed, even more prizes! ASB provided 5 \$50 Shooters vouchers which were given out in the Tug Of War and in The Scone The Debt Monster water balloon throwing competition.

The sun was shining, the sausies sizzling, and the brews were chilling. A great crowd of about 100 gathered for a fun filled afternoon sponsored by Tui. The 'Misster TuiVerse Race' involved the guys running around various spots and being dressed by the girls. There were prizes galore from Tui, Shark Club and Fashion Island. We then headed down to The Shark Club for a bit of Speed Pool. Tui and Shark Club prizes were up for grabs as contestants had to sink as many balls as humanly possible in one minute.

THURSDAY

After another morning tea to meet new Prez Clare, Maori Pacific Island Day kicked off with some music and chop suey. Art was on view in the Student Centre and Kim from NMIT Student Services and his mate Ivan sang a song.

FRIDAY

To round out a great Orientation, pancakes were served up for peckish students.



MARLBOROUGH



DOMINOS PIZZA RACE



THE DEBT MONSTER AND SOME FRIENDS



THE CARPENTRY LADS TRY THIER HANDS AT BOUNCY BOXING



CLARE BRINGS THE MORNING TEA



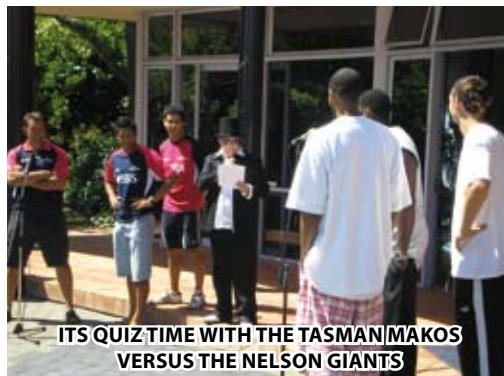
THE ASB STRAPPED FOR CASH TUG-O-WAR



A HAPPY STUDENT WITH A NEW HAT FROM URBAN BEACH



STUDENT PREZ CLARE AND KIM FROM STUDENT SERVICES



ITS QUIZ TIME WITH THE TASMAN MAKOS
VERSUS THE NELSON GIANTS



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GRADUATION 2007

To celebrate the 2007 graduation SANITI held a garden party on the Nelson campus in conjunction with NMIT. SANITI also held a fine shin-dig at The Copper Bock for Blenheim students to revel in their success.

Good luck to all those aiming to graduation in '08!



FOR MORE PHOTOS OF SANITI EVENTS - CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE! WWW.SANITI.ORG.NZ

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into consideration such things as the use of discretionary power and the relevancy of information used by the government organisations.

An Ombudsman can only make recommendations for resolution. Although an Ombudsman has no power to force a government organisation to accept a recommendation, most recommendations are accepted.

An Ombudsman may refuse to investigate a complaint when they deem not enough has been done to try and find a resolution before they have been involved or there are other options available to find a resolution. The complaint must also have occurred less than 12 months ago. The person making the complaint must have sufficient personal interest in the action. The complaint must

also be relevant and not trivial.

The Ombudsman cannot investigate non-governmental organisations, private individuals, companies, Court decisions, the Police, trustees or Ministers of the Crown. If you want to make a complaint to the Ombudsman, first ensure that all action has been taken to resolve the issue through internal procedures and enough opportunity has been given to address the situation. If you want to proceed write your details, the institutions details, details of the complaint including what has been done to try to resolve the issue. Send this to your nearest Ombudsman office, the addresses are on www.ombudsmen.govt.nz There is no charge for the Ombudsmen services.



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THURSDAYS IN BLACK

WEAR BLACK ON THURSDAYS TO SHOW YOU ARE AGAINST VIOLENCE



Do you remember a time before people wore accessories to show what causes they supported? Who decided? The point being, there are a myriad of colors whether they be in the form of ribbons, bands or shirts that today's socially aware individual must be able to decipher.

Until recently I was unaware that black was one of those colours. So what does wearing a black T-shirt on Thursday mean?

Thursdays in Black according to the NZUSA (New Zealand Union of Students Association) website (www.students.org.nz) is part of an international movement that focuses on working towards a world without rape and violence.

It seems to have grown out of a number of campaigns and movements worldwide,

the Mothers of the Disappeared, Black Sash in South Africa and the Women in Black movements in both Israel and Bosnia and women who opposed the Israel occupation of the West Bank and the abuse of the Palestinians.

Thursdays in Black, as a human rights' campaign, was started by the World Council of Churches during the 1980s as a peaceful protest against rape and violence. The campaign focuses on ways that individuals can challenge attitudes that cause rape and violence. It reinforces at both a personal and public level that there is something wrong with a world that will allow the human rights of women, men and children to be abused and threatened.

It provides an opportunity for people to become part of a worldwide movement

which enables the despair and pain and anger about rape and other forms of violence to be transformed into political action.

It seems rather big, as in how will wearing a black shirt with white writing on it change anything? Like all great movements and changes it starts somewhere small, somewhere close to home. It starts with education. And it starts with participation.

So how do you get involved? You get involved by buying that black T-shirt, and when people ask what wearing black on Thursday means, you tell them. Wearing black on thursday means that I'm against violence and rape, of anyone by anyone.

**Contact Jaycob Brown at the
SANITI office for more info on
how to buy a t-shirt**

HOW TO STAY SAFE WHEN OUT ON THE BOOZE

On average, a rape is reported to Nelson Police every fortnight. Rape Crisis estimate that only one third are actually reported to Police making it a very scary statistic. Here are some helpful hints to stay safe when out on the town as recommended by the Police.

DRINK SPIKING

Alcohol is the most common drug used to assist sexual assault, to make things worse drink spiking is on the increase. It only takes a pill, some powder or a few drops of liquid to drug someone. It can take as little as 10 minutes to start to take affect. Symptoms can start slowly; dizziness, sleepiness, relaxation of inhibitions, and the loss of being able to defend oneself. It can ultimately end in loss of memory and unconsciousness.

The drugs may change the colour, cloudiness and/or consistency of drinks but can also have no taste, colour or smell at all. Keep a close eye on your drinks. Buy your own and avoid sharing. If you start feeling strange - tell a friend straight away and stay with them. Tell the bar manager. Keep the drink as evidence if you think you have been drugged. If someone falls unconscious, call 111 immediately.

GETTING HOME AT NIGHT

- Stay with your friends.
- Take money for a taxi and tell your friends when you leave. If you feel uncomfortable in a taxi, tell your friends then text your friends when you get home. If you prefer, ask for a female taxi driver.
- Don't go home with people you have only just met.
- Keep to well-lit areas. Avoid walking alone, don't take shortcuts. Avoid parks, empty dark streets, alleyways.
- If one of your friends gets drunk or starts acting strange, stay with them.
- Organise a sober driver before going out.

IF YOU ARE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED

Remember - it is not your fault. To help with the chance of a conviction, don't shower as it will wash away evidence. Go to a doctor or hospital. A urine test could prove whether you were drugged, if done within 24 hours. Contact the Police and Rape Crisis.

NELSON RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE NETWORK

With 20 years experience in providing support, counselling and education for woman, children and whānau, they are the first stop when dealing with cases of date rape and sexual abuse. They help with dealing with Police and Doctors 24/7 and provide on-going counselling.

**Rape Crisis 548 2407 • Nelson Police 546 3840
24 Hours**

SHOULD SMOKING BE BANNED ON NMIT CAMPUSES?



A sub-committee has been established to investigate smoking on NMIT campuses. SANITI staff member Fraser Heal canvassed students about their opinion.

150 students on the Nelson and Marlborough Campuses were asked to choose between a total ban or designated areas for smoking. 87% of both smokers and non-smokers preferred designated areas. This mirrors a survey conducted by SANITI just over a year ago of 99 students who used the free phone in the office with only 11% wanting a total ban. A similar on-line survey carried out by NMIT found 44% of students wanting a ban. VOS could find no guarantee that only students and staff could vote in this survey and that people could vote only once. The sample size could also not be confirmed. Further questioning in the most recent SANITI poll showed that 20% of non-smokers felt that smoking on NMIT Campuses affected them. An informal survey of a number of NMIT staff showed that while most were unaffected by others smoking on campus, a few groups did experience problems with people smoking around windows and doors; the wafting smoke can be quite unpleasant. "No Smoking" signs have been placed in certain areas, which have been shown to be effective.

The SANITI survey also showed that only one in five students know of NMIT's rules concerning smoking. The most definitive rule is New Zealand's own smoking laws; specifically, no smoking in the Institutions buildings and cars. NMIT only has a 'guideline' that there is no smoking within 7 metres of doorways, walkways and frequently opened windows. This guideline thus restricts smokers to the middle of the lawns and carparks.

A smoking shelter is provided, but while this is solidly built (thanks to the carpentry department) it resembles a small, dingy woodshed with all the appeal of the stocks from the days of yore. Some may say that smokers are lucky to get that. But the shelter is a mere stopgap, and not a very effective one judged by its use. It also contradicts NMIT's own guidelines as it is located beside a pathway. NMIT also provides ashtrays in handy locations beside seating right outside buildings. If NMIT is really going to clear the air regarding smoking, then it needs to stop sending mixed messages to students and staff.

The sub-committee uses the title 'Sub-committee For A Smoke-Free NMIT' proudly showing its bias. Does this mean that NMIT has already made a decision on banning smoking?

Designated areas for smokers is the most pragmatic resolution. The majority of smokers said they would use such areas, providing they were 'appropriate'. Covered, centrally located and attractive designated areas on all 15 NMIT places of study would cost big bucks. Keeping the issue on a slow-burner or applying a total ban would avoid capital expenditure. Accommodating smokers would also not appease those against smoking altogether.

Enforcement of a total ban is problematic: what is the deterrent? Three strikes and you're out? A reduction in grades? There are already laws covering smoking in the workplace and smoking after all is not illegal. Will NMIT need to hire security guards 24/7 to enact

its crusade of social change? Why take the draconian route of a total ban when the majority don't want it? It would also cause more problems than it solves. Arguably recycling is a more relevant issue to studying and working at NMIT as it affects everyone and not a vocal minority.

Some students said that when faced with a total ban they would still smoke while on campus as a protest. With a ban in place, smokers would smoke out on the street for the public to see. Not quite the image NMIT would want.

The rights of both smokers and non-smokers need to be taken into consideration. It is a common courtesy to not expose non-smokers to wafting smoke and cigarette butts and it is smokers right to smoke. Smoking would be less of an issue if smokers cleaned up their act and sufficient accommodation was made for their requirements.

A non-smoking world is an ideal, though everybody has a different idea of perfection. We should strive for ideals but for some people a ciggie and a coffee is an ideal. Social change should be left for those that govern, and from the results of SANITI's surveys, the far majority of students want NMIT to stick to what it does best - provide tertiary education.

Want to Quit?

Massive smoking-cessation subsidies are available. Contact Student Nurse Alison Horn in The Student Centre in Nelson or call 03 546 9175 ext 804

TUMMY BUGS ON NELSON CAMPUS

The Nelson NMIT campus has been susceptible to outbreaks of what has commonly known 'Norovirus'. Norovirus is actually a group of viruses that cause of gastro-enteritis with symptoms of diarrhoea, vomiting and stomachaches. It can also cause fever, headaches and muscleaches. Symptoms appear quickly and can last a few days or more. These viruses are very contagious and it is important students and staff wash and dry their hands thoroughly after using

the toilet and before consuming food, this is the best defense against catching it. If you get the virus please avoid coming onto campus for 48 hours after the symptoms have abated. The bug also affects people beyond our campus.

If you come across an NMIT toilet that needs cleaning please contact a staff member urgently. Cleaning staff are aware of these outbreaks and have been diligently cleaning toilets frequently.

Other helpful hints if you get the bug are keep hydrated and avoid food if you are vomiting and/or have diarrhoea. If you have any questions please contact Alison Horn NMIT Nurse in the Student Centre or call her on 546 9175 ext 804, or email alison.horn@nmit.ac.nz. Alison's hours are weekdays 8.30am-12pm. If symptoms persist, see your doctor.

POLITICAL COMMENT

Nandor Tanczos spoke at the Student Centre on Nelson Campus on Saturday 10th May as part of SANITI Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics Conference. Here is an article on environmental issues from Nandors Office.



At The Tipping Point

We face some enormous challenges in the world today. Shit, everybody knows that.

Climate change, peak oil, metals depletion, and the over allocation and pollution of waterways are just a few. The environment is now on the agenda for all political parties. Businesses are queuing up to promote their green credentials. Newspapers are covering ecological issues, and even the Catholic Church is talking about it.

You could be fooled into thinking we are taking environmental issues seriously.

But what are the real implications of the global economy running into the environmental limits to growth? What does it mean for our politics, our economics, our cultures and our aspirations? And do the decisions being taken by governments and corporations today in any way match these concerns?

For all the rhetoric about 'carbon neutrality' there is a lack of real action at nearly every level. It doesn't take enormous thought to realise that the deeper implications of resource depletion require a much more radical, fundamental shift than any being currently discussed.

In 2030, the world population is expected to reach 8.2 billion (against 6.2 billion today). Like any animal population, human population rises and falls in line with available food supplies.

Rising oil prices will reduce the amount of food available and increase its price. We are seeing that now, with food riots or protests in Egypt, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Mauritania, Mozambique, Senegal, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Bolivia and Indonesia.

In addition, climate change is likely to mean both an increase in extreme weather events like hurricanes, cyclones and typhoons, and a disruption to established weather patterns, making weather prediction and crop planning more difficult.

Conflict over resources is a major element of human history, and this is predicted to increase. In addition we are likely to see an increase in migration, and increasing internal and international tension as a result.

Economic growth will become increasingly difficult to sustain, unless we can find some way of decoupling growth from resource throughput – an unlikely prospect at this stage.

There is no reason to think that we are incapable of developing systems that provide us with an increased quality of life, less reliant on stuff, but instead based on strong relationships and a sense of connectedness, a slower and richer pace of life, and work that is meaningful and ecologically restorative. But are we willing to start the transition before it is too late?

The psychological and political obstacles are significant. Real food security, energy security, water security and political security are possible, but require a rethink of the assumptions that underlie our current ways of doing things. In particular we need to design systems that do not just attempt to incorporate elements of sustainability, as a kind of clip-on to corporatism, but which incorporate ecological principles as an intrinsic aspect of the design process itself.

We are heading into an energy descent. We can either crash, or we can negotiate a landing. Either way we are going down. How we do it is up to us.

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CULTURE SHOCK

VOS talks to five NMIT Students who are recent arrivals in Godzone about the differences between their countries and ours...



STEFFAN

Originally from Haldensleben in Germany, Steffan has been living and working in Nelson coming up to a year now. He describes his hometown as a "boring little city".

What are the biggest differences you see between New Zealand and your home country?

The people are so laid back and open-minded. They are actually interested in foreigners.

Everything in New Zealand is so close: the mountains, the sea. There are so many out-door opportunities in New Zealand. It is hard to be spontaneous in Germany. To go anywhere in Germany needs planning and money, here you can just jump into your car and drive there.

Apart from family and friends, what do you miss most about Germany?

Fresh pastries in the morning. In Germany there are great bakeries everywhere and they are open seven days. The cheese is also really good in Germany.

What do you think about NZ food.

I like it! I really like the Asian influence and the vegetables are nice and fresh. The meat is of a high standard as well. It is easier to live healthy in New Zealand. You can't really buy direct from growers and producers in Germany. I like being able to do that. It's not really a fast food culture. And you actually have a good cafe culture, the coffee is really good.

What makes NZ unique? What should we be proud of?

You should treasure what makes you unique. I think NZ should resist European and American ways of life and culture. I think it is the best place in the world and part of it is the great lifestyle.

ZEZO AND FAHAD

Zezo and Fahad describe their home town of Riyadh City in Saudi Arabia as "A big city, modern, crowded with people". They've been in NZ 1 month, 2 weeks

What are the biggest differences you see between New Zealand and your home country?

Very different culture and different people.

Apart from family and friends, what do you miss most about your country?

Miss the strong interest in all peoples – international interest.

What do you think about NZ food?

You mean fish and chips!? Good but makes you fat. NZ has good meat, cheese, honey and vegetables.

What makes NZ unique? What should we be proud of?

Can't think of anything yet, maybe too early to say?

ALFREDO

Alfredo has been visiting New Zealand for seven years, on and off. From Mexico City, he has this to say about it 25 million people. Huge rush. Stress"

What are the biggest differences you see between New Zealand and your home country?

Green, friendly, safe, easy-going – 'cruise-y'

Apart from family and friends, what do you miss most about your country?

Nothing

What do you think about NZ food?

What is NZ food? I love the international variety of food in NZ.

What makes NZ unique? What should we be proud of?

Quality of Life. Quality of services (banks, roads, education to name a few). The Nature (sea, rivers, lakes, bush). The "Can Do" attitude and "Quality" mentality (to do things properly) and the honesty of Kiwis.

VINITA

Vinita describes her home city Mumbai in India as "A city full of life and light". Studying Viticulture and Wine Production in Blenheim, she has been in New Zealand for 2 months.

What are the biggest difference you see between New Zealand and your home country?

Enough place for 10 elephants to walk the road, ie; not too many people (if compared) to Mumbai

Apart from family and friends, what do you miss most about your country?

Social life & Saturday nite Parties.

What do you think about NZ food?

Healthy! Although I'd prefer a bit more of salt, pepper & spice

What makes NZ unique? What should we be proud of?

The scenic beauty is amazing. Minimal pollution & population. The government does most of its job & alot of benefits are provided to residents unlike other parts of the world. And obviously the vineyards!



wednesday
WTF!
Wow that's Fantastic

**2 FOR 1
STEAKS**

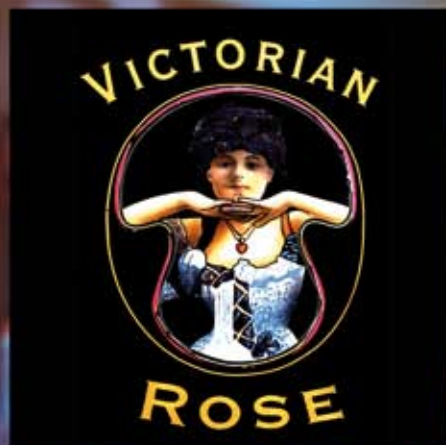
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VOS TO DRINK?

VOS challenges local wine guru Neil Hodgson to find some good wines for under \$10 in....

The Ten Dollar Challenge



The team in the SANITI office are forever telling me that poor students don't have enough money to pay more than ten bucks for a bottle of wine and I am forever telling them that you get what you pay for; as a general rule you can't buy decent wine for less than \$10.

The only way for me to prove myself right was to set up a challenge – me providing bottles of wine I bought for under \$10 and them tasting them blind to see what they thought of them. Being the nice person I am I also threw in a curve ball by including a wine worth \$18.99 which I bought for \$12.99 on special.

Making this a little more interesting was that two of the three brave SANITI staff had spent a day with me learning about how to get the most from each bottle of wine – except Jaycob that is because instead of trying to learn something he simply drank the wine and needed a little help getting home at the end of the day.

I digress, back to the \$10 challenge. I went to Countdown and then went where I have never been before, the bottom shelf! I was surprised how many wines I found in the required price range so set up the tasting with nine wines. First up was a \$7.99 South African sauvignon blanc that smelled rather nice but Ali summed it up when she said it tasted like paint stripper.



Wine two was an unbranded \$7.99 Hawke's Bay chardonnay that was single dimension boring at best. Fraser reckoned it smelled like something rotten and tasted like off milk. Neil is off to a good start!

A \$6.99 South African chardonnay was simply bitter and bad!

The first surprise for me was a Signature brand wine – Discovery Wines '05 chardonnay (\$7.99) which was actually drinkable. I won't give in and say it was good but I think you could work your way through a full bottle without it feeling like you are being poisoned.

Wine five was my bolter, Montana Reserve Marlborough chardonnay (normal price \$18.99 on special for \$12.99) and even

Fraser went weak at the knees when he finally got to taste a reasonable wine. Ali, of course, recognised class when she tasted it and Jaycob just asked for more!

.....
***"...it smelled like something rotten and tasted like off milk...
Neil is off to a good start!"***
.....

Four reds were a very mixed bag, ranging from flat, flavourless rubbish to the Robard & Butler 2006 Hawke's Bay Merlot Syrah

(\$8.99) that was packed with ripe, sweet cherry and dark berry fruit flavours with a touch of liquorice and was the pick of the reds.

So what did we learn? Neil is always right, you can't buy decent wine for less than \$10 unless it is on special but keep your eyes open for bargains like the \$18.99 chardonnay on special for \$12.99.

Please note: alcohol was purchased by individuals not by SANITI

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The Anonymous Café Reviewer

Well it's a new year and Nelson has even more cafés out there so I will try to get to as many as I can so that you won't have to suffer a bad coffee (because let's face it there's nothing worse than plonking down \$4.00 only to get an undrinkable coffee).

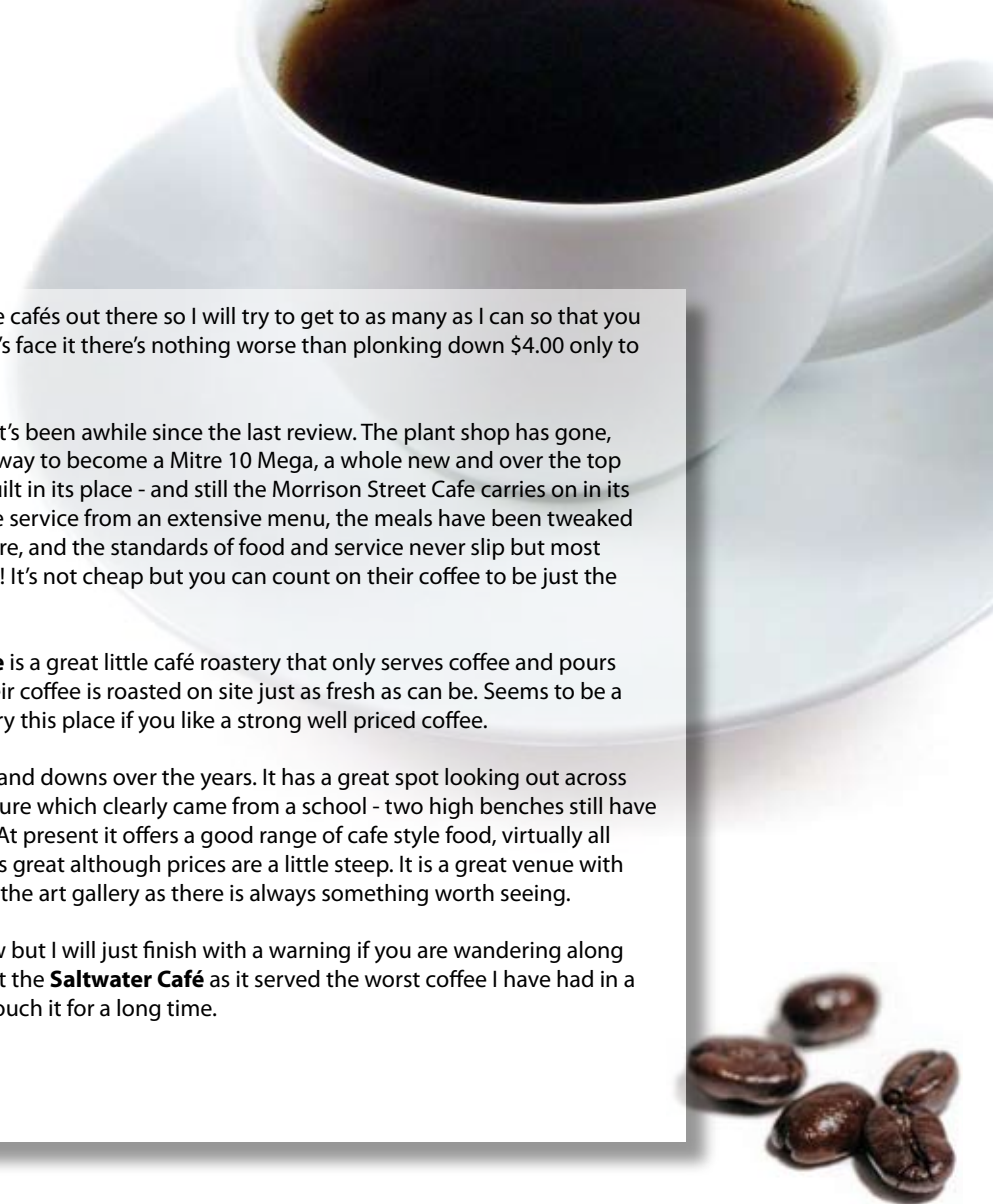
We will start with the **Morrison Street Café**. It's been awhile since the last review. The plant shop has gone, the hardware next door has migrated miles away to become a Mitre 10 Mega, a whole new and over the top shopping village (Fashion Island) has been built in its place - and still the Morrison Street Cafe carries on in its restored Victorian building. You now get table service from an extensive menu, the meals have been tweaked to be even tastier and more special than before, and the standards of food and service never slip but most importantly you get a great coffee every time! It's not cheap but you can count on their coffee to be just the way you like it.

Hidden away in the Wakatu Sq, **Divine Coffee** is a great little café roastery that only serves coffee and pours doubles as standard! The prices are good. Their coffee is roasted on site just as fresh as can be. Seems to be a secret of the local's but I am outing them so try this place if you like a strong well priced coffee.

The café at the **Suter Gallery** has had its ups and downs over the years. It has a great spot looking out across the Queens Gardens, and some curious furniture which clearly came from a school - two high benches still have gas outlets from their days in the laboratory! At present it offers a good range of cafe style food, virtually all vegetarian, the coffee is good and some times great although prices are a little steep. It is a great venue with beautiful views and don't forget to check out the art gallery as there is always something worth seeing.

Well that's probably all we have space for now but I will just finish with a warning if you are wandering along the waterfront and want a coffee don't stop at the **Saltwater Café** as it served the worst coffee I have had in a while, over extracted and so hot I could not touch it for a long time.

See you next time
The Anonymous café' reviewer

A promotional image for two radio stations. It features three people: a woman with blonde hair on the left, a man in a blue t-shirt in the center, and a man in a grey t-shirt on the right. They are all smiling. Overlaid on the image are two logos. The first logo, for 'THE MORNING MADHOUSE', is in a white box with black text and includes the time '6 to 10' and the hosts 'JJ, Mike & Dom'. The second logo, for 'THE FM EDGE 1890', is in a blue and orange box with a large '1890' and a stylized arrow. At the bottom, a green banner with white text reads: 'See the Roadrunners for great giveaways and visit the Nelson Roadrunners page at www.theedge.co.nz to check out what you can get your hands on.'



**This issue the Ticket Slapper heads down to
State Cinema 6 in Nelson to review...
'Lars and the Real Girl'**

It's been quite a while since I reviewed a movie; I felt it was time to put down my Piña Colada, hang up my gold velour stiletto's and go places where entertainment is not fueled by large amounts of classy cocktails and not so classy patrons (hard to imagine I know).

To the cinema it is! Ah but what to see. Actually the decision was made for me. As I was perusing the choices, one of the young cinema attendants, let's call her Ethel made a very audible statement. Ethel voiced an opinion which galvanized me into action. "A man with a doll is sick!" Poor Ethel, you need to get out more.

Naturally being the contrary person I am (no really) I decided I would see this movie of male depravity, and by doing so punish the conformist, small town Ethel. I've made bigger decisions, with less information and even less forethought (the gold velour heels for instance, what I was thinking?).

The movie that inspired such biblical horror in young Ethel was of course Lars and the Real Girl. Written by Nancy Oliver (Six feet under), Ryan Gosling plays the introverted and kind hearted Lars. Lars lives in a small for the most time snow cloaked American town. He holds down a full time job and a part from having dinner with his older brother Gus (Paul Schneider) and his loving sister in law Karin (Emily Mortimer) spends most of his time in the garage where he sleeps.

One night Lars asks to bring a female guest to dinner, both Gus and Karin are beside themselves with happiness, as Lars' lack

of social contact makes them worry for him. One of the most memorable moments of this movie is when Karin and Gus meet Bianca, whom Lars met on the internet. Bianca is in fact a life sized doll that Lars believes to be a real girl. The look of stunned disbelief on both Karin's and Gus's face is quite hilarious.

As each character struggles to deal with Lars' delusion from the church group to family and friends, what emerges is a story of compassion and humanity. One of my favorite characters is the family Doctor Dagmar played by Patricia Clarkson. Her quite, empathic and sensible treatment of Lars was heart touching. But so was the way in which the town embraces Bianca and there by Lars.

What I enjoyed the most about this movie was how believable it was at times. The characters said and did things that I could imagine doing and saying. It is easily the best movie I've seen in ages. It's nice to see there are filmmakers brave enough embrace the more diverse subjects that humanity has to offer.

So thanks Ethel for providing me with the best watch I've had in ages, although it was obviously unintentional I greatly enjoyed it.



Four and half Slappas outta five



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