

# fedpress

Magazine

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Federation University's  
Student Publication

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## THE CONTRIBUTORS

<b>Front Cover</b>	Steven Curcio	
<b>Content</b>	Breanna Alexander	Pietro Angeli
	Cliff Broome	Jody Dontje
	Rebecca Fletcher	Frank Gartlan
	Steven Hooley	Jess Kelly
	Joel King	Amanda Mill
<b>Special Thanks</b>	Jeannie King	Naomi Biggs
	Luke Icely and the Student Connect team	

### EDITORIAL TEAM

**Editor:** Kayla Elizabeth Stone  
**Art Director:** Adam Lee  
**Assistant Art Director:** Matthew Potter  
**Copy Editors:** Pietro Angeli, Cassandra Lovett, Amanda Mill and Brianna Storey-Smith  
**Section Editors:** Scarlette Baum, India McGee, Zach Mullane and Rianh Silvertree  
**Staff Writers:** Theahna Coburn, Rebecca Fletcher and Steven Hooley

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# FedUniLive

Do you love live music? Are you interested in attending events with raw talents as well as experienced musicians? If you answered yes to either of these questions, you might want to have a look at FedUni's 'Live on Lydiard' events.

At the SMB Courthouse on Lydiard Street, student organised music events have been performed and webcast since 1998. The events not only allow the students to get hands-on experience in running, operating and organising musical events, but they also allow you—yes you!—to come down and enjoy a great time listening to some great bands at a top-notch venue.

The 1870 Courthouse Theatre has been providing technical production training for almost 20 years. In that time around 900 artists have been recorded and documented, with over half a million viewers watching the work and wealth of diversity from these performing artists as well as the talented and hardworking students.

The course has been instrumental in offering on demand online videos of original music almost six years before the creation of YouTube, and was involved in some of the earliest live music internet broadcasting in Australia.

Because of the wide variety of acts that are presented, there's something to suit almost everyone. Just some of the upcoming performances include Australian folk music, Latin samba rhythms and spoken word poetry.

For more information visit:

[www.federation.edu.au/live](http://www.federation.edu.au/live)

[www.fedunilive.net](http://www.fedunilive.net)

[www.youtube.com/ublive](http://www.youtube.com/ublive)



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# Student Senate Snapshot

With the nights gradually getting lighter and the year quickly coming to an end, Meeting 6 for 2015 saw your Senate reps head back to our SMB campus in Ballarat Central for their second last meeting as a team.

Joined by the DVC of Learning & Quality, Professor Marcia Devlin, the Senate was updated on many key activities within this portfolio with potential student impacts, including the following:

#### • Student Retention and Success Plan

A FedUni-wide project and plan to identify and address key contributing factors to student attrition (dropout) rates. Already the rate has lowered to the equivalent of 56 students, with the influence of early interventions including increased contact center engagements, weekly student futures focuses and lengthened mentor programs. Issues with eVALUate were raised again by Senate Reps and Marcia, who discussed the working party assigned to implement the improvements suggested, and those which have already implemented for this semester. You can find the whole Plan on the website, and as mentioned in the Plan, one goal is to improve student communication feedback by engaging with the Student Senate more so we'll keep you posted.

#### • TEQSA & ASQA Audits

FedUni has been going through and preparing for two compulsory audits which assess HE and TAFE provisions respectively according to national standards. Official reports will be released later in the year once finalised, with initial auditors commenting on the extremely positive attitudes of students.

Other key issues discussed at Meeting 6 include:

- The Student Charter which was decided in Meeting 5. It is being drafted by the Chair and Vice-Chair and is currently undergoing the regular workflow for an official University document.
- Positive updates on many member actions including: increased opening hours of UniSports at Mount Helen, vending machine installations, Camp Street's bike shelter, the Academic Board review, reintroducing IELTS for international students, improved online communication guidelines, Moodle upload issues for IT students, and many more.

Sadly, it was our excellent Senate Advisor and champion for the student experience, Jeannie King's last meeting with us as she announced her well-earned retirement. After almost 18 dedicated years with UB and FedUni, Jeannie is moving on to new adventures. We want to thank her so much for her unbeatable passion and support over many great years.



Keep an eye out for our final Senate Snap shot online and the release of our Annual Report which will be presented to council and the student body later in the year.



@FedUniSenate



Fed Uni  
Student Senate

*“The 2015 Student Senate is dedicated to positively impacting the FedUni experience of our fellow student community through respect, commitment and teamwork.”*





# 2015: A Year in Review

#FedUniSenate hit the ground running with an orientation session in November 2014 as they looked over the cliff face towards a busy and exciting year ahead. With a profound focus on positively impacting the FedUni student experience, from day one the team committed to ensuring all activities were grounded in respect, commitment and teamwork.

Key action areas for the 2015 Student Senate have included:

- Improved textbook access, including running the first ever pre-loved book exchanges at the Mount Helen and Gippsland campuses
- Increased availability of course descriptions by a minimum of one week prior to the beginning of classes
- Refurbishment and creation of student facilities including furniture and a bike shelter at Camp Street campus, and basketball hoops at the Mount Helen campus
- Coordination of student feedback regarding study mode transitions for Nursing students at the Horsham campus
- Expanded student communications channels between the University and Senate as well as the Senate and the student body
- Contributing to the student feedback of the Careers service, ITS, Special Consideration guidelines, Security awareness, Retention & Success Plan, Student Website overhaul, Academic Board review and evaluating eVALUate were among many others which have potential and current student experience implications!

Over the year your Senate has run forums across all campuses to gain active student feedback and concerns. We have also reached over 30,000 people via Facebook through just one of our current media channels.

Throughout 2015 your Student Senate has had many successes that they are proud to share and pass on any continuing improvements required to the incoming 2016 Senate. We hope your 2015 has been as great as ours and can't wait to see what 2016 brings.

Checkout #FedUniSenate to take a look back at 2015.



# SHOULD AUSTRALIA DIVERT SOME OF OUR DEFENCE BUDGET ORDER TO ESTABLISH AN AUSTRALIAN SPACE AGENCY?

## FOR REBECCA FLETCHER

When most people around the world think of Australia, they think about Vegemite, beer and Paul Hogan. The ones who manage to get past that might know that we're a country of primary production—most of our exports are things we grow or things we dig up out of the ground.

What a lot of people don't realise is that Australia has quite an impressive research and innovation history. We've come up with some really impressive advances across a huge range of disciplines and technologies, including the cochlear ear implant, Wi-Fi, and the cervical cancer vaccine. Something else people might not realise is that in 2014, Australia spent \$25.4 billion on our military (1.8% of our GDP).

Can you imagine what would happen if we diverted some of that money to an Australian space agency? It's worth mentioning right off the bat that Australia's economy isn't large enough to support a full-blown space program, but that's okay. A space agency is just an agency concerned with outer space and space exploration—lots of room to play. As it stands, we're already involved with a few international space agencies, so we wouldn't have to build something from scratch.

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) received nearly \$1.3 billion in funding from the government that same year, money that gets divided between their ten research areas, with astronomy and space science being one of those. CSIRO also manages the NASA's Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex (a radio station used for communicating with spacecraft and receiving astronomical radio waves).

Don't like CSIRO? There are a number of related agencies that would benefit greatly from government funding—the Australian Centre for Space Engineering Research (ACSER) for example. The mining boom in Australia has provided our universities with the perfect breeding ground for engineering greatness—why not give those minds an opportunity to flourish on home soil?

With China and Russia rapidly becoming the key players in manned space missions, developing useful technologies would be a diplomatic way to maintain helpful relations without overtly straining other political and economic relationships.

It would create more research jobs and give us the best chance we've had so far of putting an Australian citizen up in space (in the past, Australians have had to acquire US citizenship to have NASA accept them).

Australians are great at providing reliable and practical solutions for real world problems. Reducing our defence budget to increase funding for a space program would raise our profile globally and show that we're more invested in the future than fighting about the present.

Australia: Grounding Space Exploration.

# ME OF ITS MILITARY FUNDING IN AUSTRALIAN SPACE AGENCY?

FOR AND AGAINST

## AGAINST / S. HOOLEY

Let's face it, this is a terrible idea. We're going to need all that military funding when the robot or zombie apocalypse comes around. That's right, I said it. To the robots we're target practice, to the zombies we're 'aaaargh', which means dinner. But here's the worst part: with all the space we have on this continent (not outer space), it will be too easy for robots or zombies to safely gather away from the concentrations of us humans, the robots or zombies will have somewhere to not just gather, but to plot.

They will destroy Australia, unless we have the resources and the human power to stop them. Diverting those resources to explore the nothingness of space is a waste of money. What good is it to search for Asgard if we need to ask New Zealand or Indonesia for help with a handful of undead, or some robots that are slightly better decked out than ours? How embarrassing would that be? We'd be a laughing stock. It's not just about national security, it's a matter of national pride.

And if the robots or zombies do come, we'd have to find somewhere else to live, like New Zealand. Or worse, Tasmania.

And if the apocalypse begins in New Zealand—it could happen—we would be obligated to go and help set the world right again. How can we do that if we're trying to find out what stars taste like on the inside?

If anything, we should be increasing the investments to our military in preparation for the end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it. Think about it: if it's to be a robot apocalypse, where those self-serve checkouts stand up one revolutionary day and go full Schwarzenegger on us, we need to have the technological superiority for any sort of chance at survival. John Connor was no astronaut, but he didn't need to be.

And if something goes monumentally wrong at a Queensland CSIRO lab, and we suddenly have to deal with tens of thousands of undead Bob Katters, you're going to wish we weren't up to our necks in supernovae, so we can knock those bloody Akubras off with more than just whatever telescope we have lying around.

So let's leave space to India, China, Russia, and the US, they've been doing a great job so far. And besides, we have one of the lowest population densities in the world, which means we've already got (prepare for bad pun) loads of space.

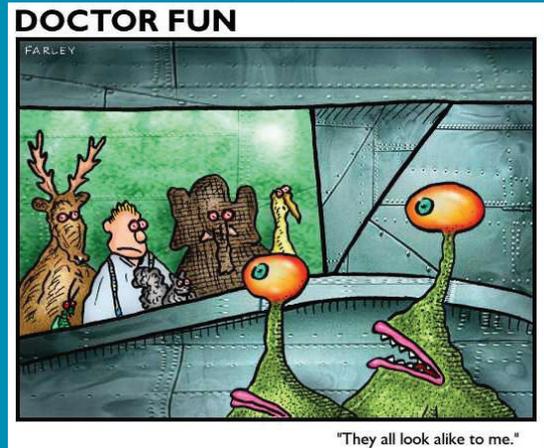
# Animal Rights

The philosopher Tom Regan once said, “We are each of us the experiencing subject of a life, a conscious creature having an individual welfare that has importance to us whatever our usefulness to others”. I keep finding myself coming back to this argument. We think about animals in terms of what they provide us with—companionship, entertainment, clothing, food, and even subjects apt for experimentation. Animals are continuously evaluated based on their usefulness to human beings, and therein do we err. Animals are not our property, they all want, need, and feel. In the same way that humans do, they want to live free from pain and suffering. Every living creature has an innate propensity for survival, it is how we all continue to exist in the world. They may not think the same way that we do, but as famous philosopher Jeremy Bentham once said, “The question is not, Can they reason? Nor, can they talk? But, can they suffer?” And if they suffer, do they not deserve to be free from suffering?

I think it’s time to re-evaluate our treatment of animals, for their tragic fate results only from our view that they are subservient to us and are thus here to suit our needs. As the philosopher Henry Beston once said:

“In a world older and more complete than ours, they move finished and complete, gifted with the extension of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear.”

Animals are not our property. They are, as we are, Earthlings.



# Things that Exist: Bananas

As the time-worn saying goes, “An apple a day keeps the doctor away”. This may be true—of course, if you’ve broken your leg I’d say seeing a doctor is preferable to consult a piece of fruit—but if an apple can really stay a doctor’s visit, then a banana a day keeps the doctor, physio, dietician, psychiatrist, optometrist and oncologist away. Oh, and it makes you way more attractive to girls...or guys. Both, actually.

Seriously, this thing is a super fruit. Bananas help against macular degeneration, kidney cancer, constipation, heartburn, cramping, diabetes and even depression. They’re like the equivalent of Superman compared to all the other DC heroes. I mean the others might look cooler, have better names and unique, niche powers, yet at the end of the day Superman can literally do any of their jobs, but better.

“But apples have natural antioxidants and help prevent the onset of Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease,” whines Batman.

“Shut up,” replies Superman, as he bitch slaps his friend with his perfectly nourished arm, leaps off the ground, thanks to the increased calcium his legs have absorbed, and flies off into the distance where Batman can no longer see him because Batman has macular degeneration.

An interesting fact about bananas though, is that while they’re great at protecting us humans from all sorts of ailments, they’re actually quite a fragile plant. Because the entire world uses the same species of banana—the Cavendish—if something were to develop and damage this particular banana strand, we would lose all the Cavendish bananas world-wide. This happened in the early 20th Century with the Gros Michel species of banana (the world-wide standard before the Cavendish). Certain strains of fungus developed which were deadly to the Gros Michel and wiped it out worldwide—kind of like kryptonite if you want to keep the Superman analogy going.

The Gros Michel was initially preferred to the Cavendish because it tasted better and stayed ripe for longer. If the Cavendish were to be similarly wiped out, we’d have to defer to an even lesser banana strand, which probably tastes worse and lasts even less than the Cavendish. Unfortunately, of the current 1000-ish banana species, none are seen as even a remotely suitable replacement for the Cavendish, as they are either unpalatable, or not durable enough for world-wide export.

All we can do as lowly humans is pray that no-one takes out our Superman any time soon.

**Rating: Better than Batman out of 5 stars**

# Thank you!



The Editorial Team would like to thank all our readers and contributors who made 2015 a year to remember! We hope you enjoy your summer break.



## BE A PART OF STUDENT MEDIA AT FEDUNI

To express your interest in becoming part of the Fedpress editorial team in 2016, please send an email to [editorialteam@fedpressmagazine.com](mailto:editorialteam@fedpressmagazine.com) by **Friday 29 November at 9pm**, with the following information:

- ✦ Name
- ✦ Degree/faculty/year
- ✦ Contact details
- ✦ Area of interest (assistant art director, social media manager, section editor or staff writer)\*

Along with an answer to the following question:  
**Why is student media important?**

\*To find out more information, including position descriptions, visit [www.fedpressonline.com](http://www.fedpressonline.com)



# “THE ‘HELP NEPAL’ APPEAL”

*Through kindness and support hope is given to others*

It was almost a year ago now since I was introduced to the country that had captured my heart. There are moments in life where we find true happiness, true belonging, and true reason. Said simply, my experience in Nepal changed my life.

In November and December last year, I travelled to Nepal with a group of eight others to volunteer through Challenges Abroad. We were able to teach and renovate at the lowest socio-economic school in the Chaukot region of Nepal. When entering the school, my group and I were welcomed with an incredibly kind ceremony of flowers, happiness and love. When I walked into that loving school community each day, nothing else in the world mattered; all I knew was that I had never felt a deeper happiness than that of helping others in need. I left Nepal knowing I would return one day. I knew it had changed my life, but I didn't realise to what extent.

On 25 April 2015, which happened to be on my birthday, devastating earthquakes struck Nepal.

My heart sunk and my mind began to race as I was continuously exposed to personal stories sent to me, with heartbreaking images and footage keeping me awake at night. Though I was already busy with full-time study, volunteering and work, I knew I had to do something. With the support of Federation University Australia, I started “The ‘Help Nepal’ Appeal”. My friend Ram Krishna is the board member of the Shauna Rose Kaufman Foundation, where 100% of the funding goes where it should—helping struggling men, women and children in rural areas of Nepal.

The support from FedUni and community members has been incredible. I have surpassed my first goal of \$5000 and am now truly on my way to \$10000. There have been numerous community events, donation tins in various businesses and I have been able to show the whole process via my Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/thehelpnepalappeal](http://www.facebook.com/thehelpnepalappeal)).

The money raised has already provided valuable resources such as medicine, food, water purification tablets, tents, sleeping bags, blankets, clothing, mosquito nets, metal sheets for rebuilding,

Temporary Learning Centres (TLCs), Temporary Housing, wheelchairs for the disabled, educational resources, sports equipment, and furthermore, hope. It did not take long before my appeal began to save and change the lives of people in Nepal. Little did these people know, however, it also changed mine.

I am now returning to Nepal in November this year, to travel to the rural villages that the money has helped, to continue to support people in need, to provide free education to various school communities, and an English workshop for women of a local area. Furthermore, I seek to continue this appeal for the rest of my life, and to keep returning to Nepal to make a positive difference.

I really need to thank all of the people who have supported my appeal, as none of this could have happened without them. I hope that more people can begin to support “The ‘Help Nepal’ Appeal”, and to live a life showing true kindness through helping others.

Sincerely Jody Dontje



# Bird Song

Bird song breaks the quiet fall  
Upon deaf ears they sorrow reach.  
For shame I am too drawn to stand and wait,  
to stand and listen to your tune awhile.  
No happiness can be brought to a life such as mine.

So beautiful is your voice! So soothing is your tone!  
Ah! pity release me and hold me no longer.  
Allow your hands of torment to release.  
Let me fall into endless rest upon  
The notes so softly given.

Bird song sweet, bird song full.  
Fly off, be sated and linger no longer.  
Find yourself my maiden free,  
Whose eyes alight and breaths quicken.  
Bring her joy and happiness too, for she is willing  
To stay and listen to your tune awhile,  
Whilst I am gone, suffering in lone silence.





# Coming of Age

In life, there are few milestones that truly and completely leave you with the knowledge that you are no longer a child, and have entered into the realm of adulthood. Not being overly religious or female, it is harder for me to mark this time to one specific date. But a time that sticks in my mind, that I believe may have been the start of my adult life, is the day my dog died. My coming of age story didn't bring me, like so many others, happy tidings or well-wishers, or the pressures of womanhood, but the loss of a childhood companion.

I had a Great Dane named Layla who was a giant, lumbering creature that would take evil delight, when I was a child, to stalk me like prey as I walked from the front door of my home to the bus stop. She would pounce and jump all over me in my white school shirt, her big slumbering, drooling lips would leave me muddy and covered in saliva. I'm sure my appearance would have raised a few eyebrows for the teacher who must have wondered if I was homeless.

Layla always greeted me after school with an endless playfulness, wanting nothing more than a stick or ball to be thrown. On special occasions she would whip me with her tail excitedly then lead me to something dead that she would then start to roll in. This always left me with the feeling that Layla thought she had brought me the best present ever.

As I moved away from simple games with my dog, I started to become more self-centred and worried about my looks, "Why hasn't the armpit hair fairy found me yet?" Because when it did, that was going to be the day I would metaphorically rub it into classmates faces and say, "Look, see, I'm a man. Where's yours?"

The day that moved me from adolescence to adulthood was the day when responsibility rested on my shoulders and mine alone. Layla's health declined as cancerous growths started to appear on her body. The vet offered us some platitudes and his condolences after we brought her in for a check-up. In the coming weeks she slowly stopped playing as much, only weakly managing to come and greet me at the bus stop every now and then.

Then the day came when she no longer could move from her bed. She could no longer hold food down and became skin and bone. It was whispered around me that she would have to be put down soon. The next day I went to say my goodbyes after my mother had noticed that Layla had slipped into a coma during the night. Only myself and my mother were present at the time and the grim task ahead was thrust upon my shoulders to bear. I moved Layla out of her kennel and into the light. I'd like to think that she heard my farewell and would have felt the morning sun on her face before my gun came up and ended her suffering.

I dug the hole as a storm front moved in, as if the gods themselves were mourning the loss that I felt right then and there. I dug deeper and deeper, as if staying in that hole for another minute more, one shovelful more, would help somehow to stop the heart-ache I felt. I knew that when I had finished digging I would have to get out of the hole and carry my dog to her last resting place. That was when I knew that this was the day that I was no longer just a boy, but a man who felt the heavy burden of adulthood.

# Beating the Block

Writing is more challenging than mountain-biking and base-jumping and perhaps more difficult than the robust sport of sock-knitting.

I remember my mum knitting socks. She used to rig up a scaffold of knitting needles around a ball of wool. Then after much mysterious engineering a sock would miraculously appear from the middle of the needles.

But here I sit reflecting, pen in hand, waiting for my genius to flow. Sadly my mind is completely blocked and I wonder—could it be that my feet are cold or is my mind frozen too.

When these mental blocks occur I always consult my old friend Bert Skiggs. I value his opinion, because he has an open mind—although on occasions I have heard it called a vacant lot. I wonder how a person whose mind has always been so open has never absorbed anything monumental, except for his mountain-biking and base-jumping skills. Bert once rode his bike up one side of a mountain and base-jumped off the other still on his bike—without really meaning to. That's our 'incredible' Bert.

"Mental blockage," Bert said. "You mean your brain's blocked up?"

"Yes, I suppose so," I replied.

"Why don't you try a dose of salts? That's what I take when I get a blockage," he said.

Typical Bert—man of one remedy for many ailments, but little appreciation for writing.

As a last resort, I decided to look up my great-aunt Maude. She's a good knitter and fast too. Fame came to her when she won first prize at the Wool Festival for knitting up the most balls of wool in one year—the sheep farmers loved her. Her great love was beanies, which was only equalled by her love of people. Visitors invariably departed with a freshly-made beanie to wear on their way.

My great-aunt greeted me warmly and insisted on a lunch of boiled eggs, toast and tea. When it arrived all the eggs had little beanies, as did the teapot, but there were no 'beanies on toast'.

After eating I mentioned my mental blockage and explained the intricacies of the writing game; the need to find a subject, stimulate the imagination and keep the flow going. I waffled on for ten minutes and told her my stream of inspiration had dried up. I looked to Aunt Maude, who had been quietly knitting during my recital. She put aside the knitting, picked up a needle and gently rapped me on the knuckles.

"Young John," she said. "You used to be good with words, now all I hear is a load of codswallop making you sound like a pompous old ass."

She ignored my protesting and continued. "Do you know what your problem is? You're going bald!"

"I know," I said indignantly. "But what has that to do with my writing?"

"Your brain's frozen up. Put on this beanie and you'll feel a big difference." She grabbed the just-finished beanie and jammed it on my head.

As I set off again chuckling to myself, it struck me how warm the beanie was. A few more paces and I got my big idea. I pulled out my notebook and wrote a title, *The Magic Beanie*.

You see it was working already!

*Edited by Cliff Broome*

# THE BODY

BREANNA  
ALEXANDER

She sat there in total silence, no sound but the ticking of the clock on the wall. She imagined that he was with her again. Standing beside her. His hand heavy on her shoulder. His breath loud and harsh.

It wasn't that she wanted him there. She had no time for thoughts like that. No. She only thought about what he would have done if he had found it.

Her. She should say her. But it wasn't really a her anymore. She knew that. It was simply the rotting flesh of a human corpse. A bloody mess for sure, but definitely not a her. No it stopped being a her long ago. That thing by the riverbank.

She wondered if he would have called the police. Let them know it was there. She laughed to herself. What a silly thought. How foolish. He wouldn't have called the police. It would have raised too much suspicion. They had to keep their heads low. Be inconspicuous. Too much at stake he would say. No. She did the right thing.

She knew there was nothing at stake anymore. He was already dead. It was already done. But old habits die hard.

She kept an ear out for any news of it. It had been weeks since she found it and still no news. One day, while out shopping, she saw the headline on the front of the paper:

**GIRL FOUND MURDERED ON GREEN VALLEY RIVERBANK.**

She could feel her heart pounding. She could hear his voice again. She went home and burned all of her clothes from that day. No evidence to find. She was never there. She knew what to do. Old habits die hard.

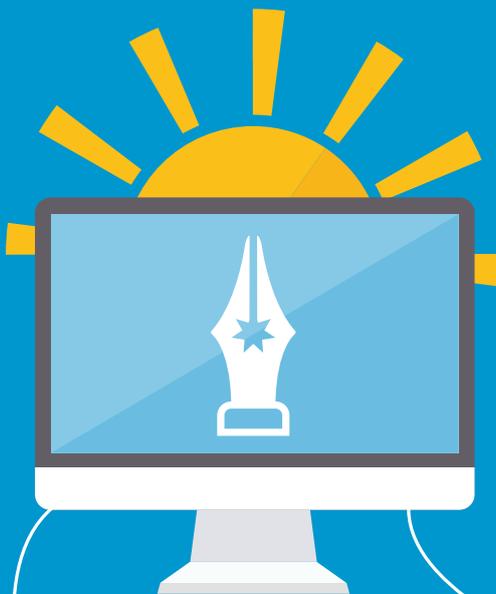
She knew it didn't make any sense. She didn't do anything wrong. She found it, that's all. She would still lay low. Keep it quiet. Hidden. Buried.

Old habits die hard.

## Worried about summer Fedpress withdrawals?

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# Stop “Shoulding” on Yourself

I *should* eat healthier. I *should* study harder. I *should* be making more money. I *should* manage my time better. How much time would you spend each day thinking these thoughts? Do you “should” all over yourself? Perhaps it’s time to stop.

The fact is, telling yourself that you should be doing (or being) more, doesn’t actually help you do more. Instead, it just leaves you feeling like where you are or who you are right now is not enough, and that’s a real motivation killer when it comes to taking action in any area of your life. So, are you ready to stop “should-ing” on yourself? Some really simple actions to shift this thought process:

## Step 1

### Become aware of how often you “should” yourself each day

Get present to how many times a day you tell yourself, either internally or verbally, that you “should” be doing or being something, whether it’s in relation to your work, your family, friendships study or health. Noticing your “shoulds” as they pop into your head is the first step to shifting them.

## Step 2

### Separate other people’s “shoulds” from your own

Each time you notice a “should,” stop and ask yourself: do you really, truly believe that you should be doing, or being, whatever it is that’s come up for you? Or is this something you think you should do, or be, in order to fulfil someone else’s expectations of who they think you should be?

If the “should” is from other people’s expectations, consider letting it go. You are here to live your life, not the life that someone else thinks that you should be living. But if the “should” is coming from a deep seated need to change something you’re unhappy about, then the next step is...

## Step 3

### Get realistic about what you are and aren’t willing to do

If you find that you keep telling yourself “I should be working harder”, but realistically, you know that you’re already 100% maxed out, all you’re doing is making yourself feel bad for doing your best right here and right now. If you take a good look at your timetable and you realise that there are times that you could dedicate to whatever it is that you think you really “should” be working on... consider blocking that time off to work on that task or project. When you do this, you turn “I should be working harder” into “I am working harder”... and you release yourself from the guilt that comes from not doing something that you feel you should be doing.

Try it. It’s better than beating yourself up for not being/doing what you think you “should”.

STONECUTTERS PRESENTS.....

THE INAUGURAL  
END OF YEAR UNI  
CRAFT  
BEER  
AND  
CIDER  
FAIR

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20

1PM - TILL LATE.

2 STAGES, 6 BANDS, 7 DJ'S  
25+ BEER AND CIDERS  
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FOR (SAFE) ENTERTAINMENT

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