

POSTSCRIPT

A STUDENT PUBLICATION COVERING THE 9TH BIENNIAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL
AT NEWINGTON COLLEGE



LitFest Day Two was another eye-opening experience for so many students. We have heard some brilliant stories from our guests today and learnt a lot.

A full report on all the day's happenings can be found right here at the Newington LitFest 2019 Post Script Issue Two.

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KOSTAKIS

...AND MUCH MORE

REPORT

ENTERING DR RICHARDSON'S FANTASY WORLD

Sebastian Hailwood

Dr Christopher Richardson is an Australian fantasy author and academic. In July 2015, he published his debut novel, *Voyage of the Moon Child*, after 10 years of writing. He finished the novel while taking his PhD, where he studied the Children's Culture of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He also has a Master in International Security and a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in English Literature, all at the University of Sydney. His desire for writing came from his passion for reading.

Dr Richardson's presentation was engaging, showing his kind, vibrant personality. He talked to the boys about writing fantasy, saying that a mistake many writers make is with character development and their interaction with the reader. He believes that fantasy is a form of engagement with reality and that it must be grounded by some laws that exist in that reality to form a sincere engagement with the reader. Despite this, he says that fantasy allows us to escape our reality and experience mythical storytelling, with a good fantasy novel having intense visual imagery that sparks the reader's imagination. Throughout his presentation, he frequently asked and answered questions in a perceptive manner, maintaining interest with all the students attending his talk.

Overall, Dr Richardson gave an engaging and informative presentation, exploring his creative process and how he creates his own worlds of fantasy to write in.

REPORT

PHILIP WILCOX: MEMORY TESTER

Noah Morgan, Thomas Foster

Philip Wilcox is a teacher, poet and playwright and he is currently the Australian Poetry Slam Champion. Philip is engaging, and his poetry is very relatable, with some of his poetry relying on audience interaction.

What we experienced today was how his poetry allowed boys to delve deeper into their thoughts and use their brain to recall information by using imagery. Wilcox started reciting the boys a poem and it was quite long. When it was finished, the boys were asked to recall parts from the poem, and what they saw in their minds. He asked this because he wanted to show how unique everyone's mind is and how different everyone can think. One boy thought of rainbow manta rays flying through the night sky eating stars, the other one thought of the manta rays to be an iridescent colour.

He taught the boys a unique way to remember words. Phillip has 10 words that relate to the numbers one to 10. One is Sun, two: eyes, three: triangle, four: floor and five: fingers, and so on. He asked the boys to remember these words.

Wilcox then allowed some of the boys to walk around the N block and try to correlate the objects with the words to remember the order of objects. After that, he asked boys to make noises with their hands and with the use of their tables to symbolise the weather, in this case, rain and thunder specifically. Reading the poem/story, the boys played a part in telling the story through symbolism and noises.

On behalf of the boys, I think we can say Philip Wilcox was very engaging and fun. I believe anyone who gets to meet him will enjoy his presence.

REPORT

ZOHAB ZEE KHAN: TERRORIST FOR LOVE

Rueben Agius

Slam poet, rap artist and motivational speaker, Zohab has always had a passion for words. He began his interest in poetry when he was a kid. He was very badly bullied as a kid, so poetry for him was a way of escaping the troubles of life.

A lot of his work deals with racial issues, as he has routinely abused for being of Middle-Eastern heritage. He seeks to create a better and more peaceful world through poetry. Zohab is a firm believer that anything, as long as it has "one or more words", is poetry in motion. His philosophy is that if you can speak, then you can make poetry.

Zohab also discussed the importance of using literary devices, as they make your poetry sound more interesting and make you sound "smarter than you really are". His favourite technique is alliteration as his favourite rap artist Tupac uses it heavily in his songs.

As well as being a slam poet, he also writes motivational speeches. One of the exercises he got the group to do was meant to help your happiness and self-esteem levels. It was called "The Universal Shout-out" and it involved standing up straight in the natural position of your spine, facing forwards, pushing your chest out and taking deep breaths. Then, you put your hands up in the air and yelled your name as loud as possible. The position is known as the 'superman position' and is scientifically proven to increase dopamine levels, the chemical released by the brain which increases happiness.

This game has a special place in Zohab's heart. When he was young, he was bullied to the point where he began to believe that his name meant "loser". His mum made him do the Superman Pose, and immediately after he began to view his name in a positive light. He asked his mum what "Zohab" meant, and she told him was named after his great grandfather, who was a warrior. From that moment on, Zohab no longer meant loser, but *warrior king* in his mind. The racism he experienced in his youth prompted him to write poems about terrorism, though not the terrorism we normally think of, terrorism in the name of love and peace. "I am on a jihad for peace" was one of the lines from his poems. His experiences of racism and bullying have to lead him to fight for a world free of hate, where everyone can be happy with who they are.



Dr Christopher Richardson

FEATURE

TRUTH TELLING WITH OLIVER PHOMMAVANH

James Davison, James Lucas

Oliver Phommavanh is a former primary school teacher, stand up comedian and children's author. He has returned to LitFest in 2019, making this his fourth visit. Each time, he's brought humour and a love of learning to every audience that he encounters. This year, Oliver shared his love of writing, plushies (stuffed animals) and burgers with numerous classes including Ms Scalone's Year 7 Science class, Ms Jagger's Year 7 History class and Ms Nosworthy's Year 8 English class today. A memorable and quirky presenter trait that Oliver shares are that he always starts his sessions by inflicting harm on his plush chicken in various ways. In this session, he was kicking it and attempting to remove its head. This was quite an attention-grabbing and the students even more focused on him after that.

Oliver is a gifted teacher, skilled at engaging students in a way that does not feel like learning. He led the students in several activities to get them thinking about how they can start, assisting them with what can be an initially daunting process of writing. He asked students to use humour and past experiences. He recalled one moment when he asked Santa for an AK-47 and Santa responded that an SMG would be better. Or the way his mum would always show naked baby photos of him to all his friends when they came over. Oliver encouraged the boys to write from their own lives. "If you don't have a life, make one up," he joked. You can always lie he told his students. To cement this idea the class played a quick

game of *true truths, one lie* in which Oliver revealed that he has eaten McDonald's in 26 different countries.

As a primary school teacher, Oliver was that one teacher all the kids dreamt of having. He was famous at his school for his World Record Day. An all-day event seven-year-olds would try and set new class records such as how many doughnuts can you eat in a minute. Oliver's ways of teaching kids to test the limits, and try new things that they may not have thought of until now.

By far everyone's favourite moment of Oliver's speech was when he spoke about his love of video games. He takes his Nintendo Switch everywhere he goes (including to Litfest). We got to hear about the time he bought tickets to an NBA game in LA and he took his Switch with him and played NBA 2K. In Oliver's own wise words, "If you want to be a great writer, you have to play at least 3-4 hours of video games every night."

Oliver talked about how he writes his books and his advice was "torture the main character in your stories". He gave this advice because it helps give the readers something to connect to when reading the stories, instead of the character being this invincible, God-like figure.

Oliver was a really engaging speaker and he told us some great stories, although, after his advice about how you can always lie, we couldn't be too sure whether we could trust some of his tales.



Oliver Phommavanh entertains a Year 7 class

Q&A

PLANE SPOTTING WITH WILL KOSTAKIS

Anthony Cammaroto and James Lucas

How can you best describe the process of writing a novel whilst being a student at Newington?

Look, there was a lot of writing in the back of Maths and Geography when I was supposed to be listening. I remember once, Mr Watson actually caught me and read what I was writing to the whole class thinking it was a punishment and I thought, "Nah I have an audience now this is great". I would do my homework and then write my novels into the night and really, I don't know where I found the energy to do it. Now I have to write 100 words in a day and I'm exhausted but back then I just had the energy to do it and it was really fun. Something funny would happen at school and I would think "oh I have to put this in" because I was writing about teen experiences and I was still a teenager. So I was writing it and also getting feedback, I had teachers like Mr Ren and Mrs Mackenzie who would read my work and say "this is great", "this is terrible", "this is how you fix it". I then had people like Mr Parker who helped me get a book deal so it was all these people and it's so great to see that they are around or just returned.

Who did you tell first, after you had won the SMH Young Writer of the Year Award?

The thing is that I didn't really get to tell anyone because it happened on a Friday, then it was in the newspaper on Saturday so everyone already knew. I got to tell everyone I could though, I tried to use it to get a date once where I said "Hi I'm Will Kostakis Sydney Morning Herald young writer of the year" (it may shock you to learn that it did not work).

**What made you start writing and did you get support from the school?**

I did! I remember I was always writing as a kid but I went to Wyvern right, and I remember in year one we had to read out a story that we wrote in assembly and it was like two lines but I called it a novel and so I read it out and everyone was like "oh my god" and either they were staring at the ceiling behind me or they were staring at me and I thought 'oh yes I have an audience' and it was just such a great feeling so I asked my teacher, "how do I do this for real." Every teacher that I had in Wyvern and in high school after that knew I liked writing and they were always really tough on my writing but it was always to help me improve.

Your work largely focuses on young adult issues of bullying, homophobia, and self-worth, among many other issues. What do you feel is the advantage of discussing these issues so publically?

The thing is that I never really start with the issue, I always start with [Kostakis notices an aeroplane]. Aeroplane. So, aeroplane. I... Alright come on we know your there, attention seeker [points to aeroplane]. I like to write characters who are on the edge of the rest of their lives, like experiencing something for the first time and all that sort of stuff. Then because I'm writing authentically about either my experiences or about things that I know teenagers still go through because I spend most of my time speaking at schools. I have to talk about those issues because those are life's experiences and it's also me learning from my own mistakes and hoping that they aren't repeated. With something such as homophobia I totally wasted my time here so I didn't come out during my time at Newington. Of my group of friends, there was six of us, four of us have now come out and it's like well that was stupid, why were we not honest with each other in high school. We were all hanging out with each other for some reason like we all had that hidden thing where you recognize there is something similar but we sort of didn't what that was and we were all sort of afraid to tell each other. My big thing is while I do deal with homophobia, the big thing I deal with is, to be honest with the people around you. Even if you're still discovering who you are but don't be afraid to let people into that journey of discovery. [aeroplane flies past again]. *Plane spotting with Will Kostakis*, Oh that's a Qantas flight, yes look at that it's the 10:55 to Denpasar, that is QF12, One of my favourite routes.

Who was your favourite teacher at Newington?

Oh no don't do this to me... I have a soft spot for Ms Mckenzie because she was the one that would always get me out of either Commerce or Maths, and I think my marks always reflected the fact that I was never there. She has had such a really huge impact on my life and I cannot say thank you enough. The funny thing is that every time I write a book, I sneak in a reference to her, similar to how Pixar movies always have the pizza truck, I always try and reference the name Mckenzie in some kind of way. There are lots of teachers here, even things that are tangentially related to my life now like Ms Hinves, I was never particularly good at Art but she always supported me.

What is your first thought when you heard that Mr Canning has left the school this year?

Look, everyone keeps mentioning this and I need you to know that Mr Canning is like the serial killer at the end of a movie, if you don't know that he is for sure dead, there is no guarantee there won't be a sequel. You know what, Mr. Canning left when I was in high school... and he came back! look we joke about it but look Mr. Canning was a really great guy but when you don't have a neat uniform you look crap and that's a big part. You have got to remember that it's teaching you skills for business life.

You came to Newington for 12 years, why on earth did you want to come back?

I have to earn back the school fees mum paid [laughs]. No, but seriously, whenever I write I think about my teen experiences here because well this shaped me. I have teachers that have given me a start in life and have put me on this path. The main reason why I come back here is that I owe Newington a lot because Newington helped me realize my dream at the age of 17 which is huge. It reminds me why I write whenever I come back because part of me goes back to being seven.

REPORT

KIRSTY EAGAR REVEALS THE SECRETS OF WRITING

Rueben Agius

Kirsty Eagar is an author specialising in gothic and thriller novels. She had written many novels in her time, most notably *Saltwater Vampires* and *Night Beach*. She came and spoke about her journey to becoming an author and the various techniques she uses in her writing.

Kirsty's first job was in finances, yet she found no joy on that path. After much thought, she decided to rethink her life and in turn became an author. Her first book was a financial thriller, though it never got published, as it went up for auction but no one bid on it. Her second book was set in Australia, though this did not get published either as her agent did not think it was appealing to different audiences. She kept on writing, and she wrote her first published book, called *Night Beach*. It is a gothic thriller book that was inspired by her experiences of living in an eerie Northern Beaches house with no hallways. She explained that the house had many strange things in it, such as a room that was locked and did not have a key. They had an experience one night where the chandeliers in each room began to slowly sway in a constant rhythm, despite the fact there was no wind.

As well as sharing her own experiences, she also discussed how she writes her books. Like many other authors, she stressed the importance of getting your initial ideas from real life and then developing them into interesting stories. She explained that a story is simply anything with characters, challenges and motivations. She got the class to do an exercise where she named something, such as "Summer", and then we would write down everything that came into our head. Ms Eagar then got us to write a little story that involved a bridge, rain and a girl. She said that literally anything can be developed into a good story.

REPORT

HOW SPORT OPENED DOORS: JAMES KNIGHT

Henry Armstrong-Bailey, James Lucas

James Knight spent period four today speaking to Mr Coull's Year 9 PDHPE class about his career in Sports Journalism, the places it has taken him and the lessons that it has taught him about life. James is an experienced sports journalist, producer and non-fiction writer whose work has taken him all over the world and connected him with thousands of people.

Knight spent a lot of his time today talking about how sport and in a broader sense life, is all about people. He shared his story of witnessing the moment when two South African rugby players carried around an Aussie player on their shoulders to congratulate him on their victory. James has met countless people over the course of his career and it seems as though he still remembers every single one of them. He has accumulated a lifetime of knowledge and wisdom in regard to how people interact with and communicate with each other.

Knight told us a story from when he was in India, reporting on an Australian cricket match when he came across a field of dirt and garbage, where there was a group of small boys, no younger than

those in the audience, playing cricket. Over the course of a few days, James developed a friendship with these kids through playing cricket and running with and one night, shared a piece of chocolate with them, something that was very precious to those boys.

Stories such as this may just seem like something that is told but to Knight, it meant something far more. To him, it was a way of understanding the world. Through a piece of chocolate and some sport, much happiness was formed. Knight believed that this was a testament to human kindness.

James Knight taught us many valuable lessons today and shared with his audience some of his experiences from around the world and how sport intertwined them.

REPORT

WILL KOSTAKIS ON FAILING

Rafferty Tablot & Zach Zoud

Will Kostakis is a writer and 'Old Boy' of Newington. He praised his time here and showcased many of his personal anecdotes. He reminisced over past times and talked about his motivations for being a writer. One of the key quotations that stuck from his presentation was "it doesn't matter when you fail, I've learnt most of my key life consequences from failures." He also discussed how to engage a reader. Specifically, his take away line was "remember that voice, and try to make it relatable." Will is a friendly and vibrant gentleman that is great at interacting with younger students in a unique and quirky manner. Will also is great at explaining the truth behind his own stories and where they originated from. His stories are mainly influenced by real-life events such as pranks he used to play on his mates as a teen and how the death of his close friend Ben had a pivotal part to play on making him the eager, happy and ecstatic man he is today.

FEATURE

SCOT GARDNER ~~EDUCATES~~ ENTERTAINS YEAR 7

Benjamin Wainman, Aiden Garey

Scot Gardener is an Australian fictional writer who is best known for his young adult novels and tongue in cheek humour illustrated in his works. Scot Gardener whose name, according to himself, directly translates to “wondering flower-lover”. His first fictional book titled, *One Dead Seagull* is about a young man named Wayne who deals with a life’s challenges. The novel was published in 2001. In addition, on the front cover of the book, there is a warning sign which outlines that the book contains some concepts that may distress people. He pushes this to the limit however including an obsessive amount of sex, nudity, love, rock music and cigarettes. This outlines the focus on humour that Gardner has in his storytelling.

This particular type of fiction that Gardner writes about is called realistic fiction. Realistic fiction is a genre of fiction about stories that may have happened to people or animals at some point, but are so unlikely in the turn of events, that it can be turned into a fictional story. This type of fiction is also known as plausible fiction. The characters within these stories react similarly to real people. An example of this would be Gardner’s most popular novel, *The Dead I Know*. This novel is about a Goth who works in a funeral parlour. The central element of this novel is humour. It is certainly possible for a situation like this to have occurred at some point, but Gardner makes it fictional due to the idea and the situation being so unlikely.

Gardner also gave us our very own tour of one of his workspaces: blissful bushland. At the front gates, you are greeted by ‘Steve the Owl’ who works in security. The main street is ‘Stick Street’. This is due to the amount of sticks around (who would’ve guessed?) On the right, there is also ‘Steve the Koala’, (apparently, he works in IT). On the ground, there

is a leaf. If you were to turn left at the leaf, Gardner says this is his ‘ergonomic writing log.’ After which, ‘Steve the Ant’ often hangs out and works in maintenance. They work in distribution. Gardner says that’s about everyone and everything in the complex.

Character development is key in any story and being a writer makes you ‘kinda God-like’ to the character. Whatever you want to happen to a character will happen. You have absolute control of everything that happens. If a character dies, that was you. If a character falls in love, that was also you. And when writing realistic fiction, you have to utilise the world around you. Make sure that what you write is unique enough that it isn’t boring but also not so outrageous that people start to think that the character is just an attention seeker. There is a very fine line between the two and in realist fiction, you need to make sure that you stay on the unique but plausible side of the line. To captivate the audience and make them wonder whether that character could exist in real life. His final tip for putting all of this together was ‘If you want to make a unique and individual character, create a unique and individual character.’

While being out in the bush he sits down and writes by hand. He prefers to write until he gets bored and after that, he keeps walking and writes down his thoughts based off what his senses are telling him and creates a story through that. Once he returns, he uses voice recognition to put the story together rather than type. He says that if he types, he will have more to edit. He does this in his highly informal clothing that he wears, which is his standard casual clothes. “It’s the national choice of clothing for authors,” he said. This is how he is able to create realist fictional stories suited to young adults.





REPORT

BARRY HEARD: CHANGED BY WAR

RUEBEN AGIUS, WILLIAM CORDWELL

Barry Heard is a Vietnam Veteran who shared with the Year 10's of Newington College his horrifying experiences of his involvement in the war.

He told us of the conditions and roughness of the camp training and he the effects of the attitude of the army on new recruits, especially from the country. These people are not used to the attitude of the army and they often break down under the physiological pressure exerted onto them by the army.

After 10 weeks in base camp, Heard said that he was to be immediately shipped off to Vietnam. He was told that he wouldn't be able to contact his family to tell him that he was going, as that would be a "breach of security" in the words of the Commanding Officer. Once he arrived in Vietnam, he found base camp almost deserted as all the other soldiers had gone out into the jungle for five days. When he arrived, he was treated with disdain by the other soldiers and wasn't allowed to sleep on the empty bed. He was later told that the reason he wasn't allowed to sleep on the bed was because the army didn't hold any funeral services (the way that the soldiers held a funeral service for their fallen friends was to make their beds).

As the war went on, Heard explained in detail the horrible things that he and his fellow soldiers encountered. Exploiting the Vietnamese people, killing civilians and perpetrating awful war crimes. He told us that on one day his company was ambushed by the Vietnamese and they lost almost half their soldiers. Half the company was replaced with new faces and the mood became sombre. Although, they all 'loved' killing and getting their company to the highest in the unit, it was always considered 'a great accomplishment'.

Eventually, they were all sent home and the aftermath of the Vietnam war was almost as bad as living in it. Veterans committed suicide on mass, and the public response to this was not all that encouraging. The public demonised these people, and the Veterans were intensely abused.

Barry Heard's story was an insight into how the world coped with war and peace. We are thankful for his time and are honoured to have had him with us at LitFest.

Q&A

GETTING INSIDE PHILIP WILCOX'S HEAD

Benjamin Wainman

Phillip Wilcox is a primary school teacher, poet, playwright and the current Australian Slam Poet champion and two-time NSW Slam Poet Champion. Phillip's slam poetry is raw, relatable and challenging. His poetry mixes humour, social commentary and wit, and each of his performances relies extensively on audience participation and feedback. Phillip Wilcox grew up in Nowra on the south coast of NSW, of which, he describes as 'a hole'. When he was in high school, he hated poetry, however, he wanted to like it because he thought he could "impress girls" with the skill. This led to him liking poetry and then being the best slam poet in the country.

What has been your favourite experience as a poet?

"This is a really tough one, but my favourite experience as a poet has been performing at the Opera House. The energy of the place was amazing along with the history that is associated with it."

Wilcox performed at the opera house during the Australian slam poet championships which were an amazing experience. In the National Slam Poet Competition, he managed to finish 1st. There were two from each state who were chosen to perform.

What got you into poetry?

"What got me into poetry was a girl that I liked, who liked poetry and I pretended to like poetry before getting into it for real after going to a poetry slam." *Before becoming a professional poet, Wilcox actually hated poetry, he couldn't stand it, however, in his lecture he said that he hated it, but he wanted to like it, so he could impress girls. Sure enough, he did meet a girl who liked poetry, so he pretended to like poetry to impress her. He pretended that he was interested in what the teacher was saying even though he had no idea what they were talking about.*

Q&A

SITTING DOWN WITH MARK SMITH

James Davison and Anthony Cammaroto

What inspired you to start writing novels?

I ran a residential campus for year 9's. It was full of 15-year-old boys, and when I was talking to them about what they read and few of them actually read books regularly. So, I asked, "If I were to write a book what would you be interested in?" They mentioned things which didn't actually make up the storyline but it inspired me to write something. I thought about writing a page turner but with issues in it as well.

How long does it take to finish a novel?

I'm normally pretty quick, it takes me about 12 months to finish the first draft, and about another 6 months to get it ready for submission. Then after its submitted, it takes about another 12 months for it to be published and started to be printed. So around 2, two and a half years to finish.

What do your family and friends think of your writing?

Yeah so, I come from a family of 10 brothers and sisters, and they all like the books and they all enjoy reading them. From my friends - they always want to have their names in the book or the name of their dogs in it, but everyone enjoys it, and everyone comes along to the launches. Yeah, you have to support others as well, like I'll always go along to other writers launches.

What was your favourite poem to write about? Where did the idea come from?

"I believe that most poets have one poem, and the rest are just variations of that poem and that's the poem that I can't shake, even though I want to write it differently. The poem that defines me is about my dad who passed away, called *The Day is Done*."

What was the first occupation you thought you would spend your life in?

"I actually wanted to be an archaeologist."

This was evident in some of the poems that he performed to the audience, where he put a lot of emphasis on the natural world. His previous job before he became a poet was as a zookeeper. During his poems, he relates to his knowledge of the animal kingdom and the natural world as a reference.

What is your thought process when writing a poem?

"When I'm writing a poem I'm thinking, is what I'm saying true because if it's not true then there's no point and it doesn't need to make sense, it just needs to be true. I'm also thinking, what is this poem going to look like in my head, what does it look like in the heads of other people, how can they visualise it?"

FEATURE

SEAN CHOOLBURRA: BORDERLINE GENIUS

Aiden Garey

Sean Choolburra is a widely renowned Aboriginal Australian actor and performer. He began his career acting in Indigenous cultural shows and has worked his way up into TV and film roles. Sean has become a popular face on the acting and comedy scene in Australia and we were privileged to have him speak to various year groups today.

The story starts back when Sean was in year 3 in Townsville, QLD. He went to a Christian school and this was a special day where everyone had to be assigned the name of a saint. 'Why choose a second-hand car when you can get one new?' he said. So, he explained that he went for the best: Jesus Christ. The teacher at the front of the room replied, clearly shocked, 'Jesus?' He replied, 'That's my name'. But he was told he couldn't have that name. So, Sean ended up choosing a random name from the list he was given. Then, when he was asked by classmates, he insisted his name was still Jesus. The solution to this was to get everyone to his house, about 15 kids, and have his mum call him Jesus. Later that afternoon, after school, he went home and asked his mum for cordial for 15 kids. 'Jesus!' she exclaimed. This just leads on to a whole new set of stories. During an exam, a Maths one to be specific, Sean was unaware of how to answer most of it. But then a poster on the wall, his saving grace, gave him the answers. It had four words that solved all the problems: 'the answer is Jesus.' So, he wrote down 'Jesus' for every answer in the quiz. When he handed it in, his teacher just sighed and said, 'Jesus.' Sean was quick to respond with 'That's my name!'

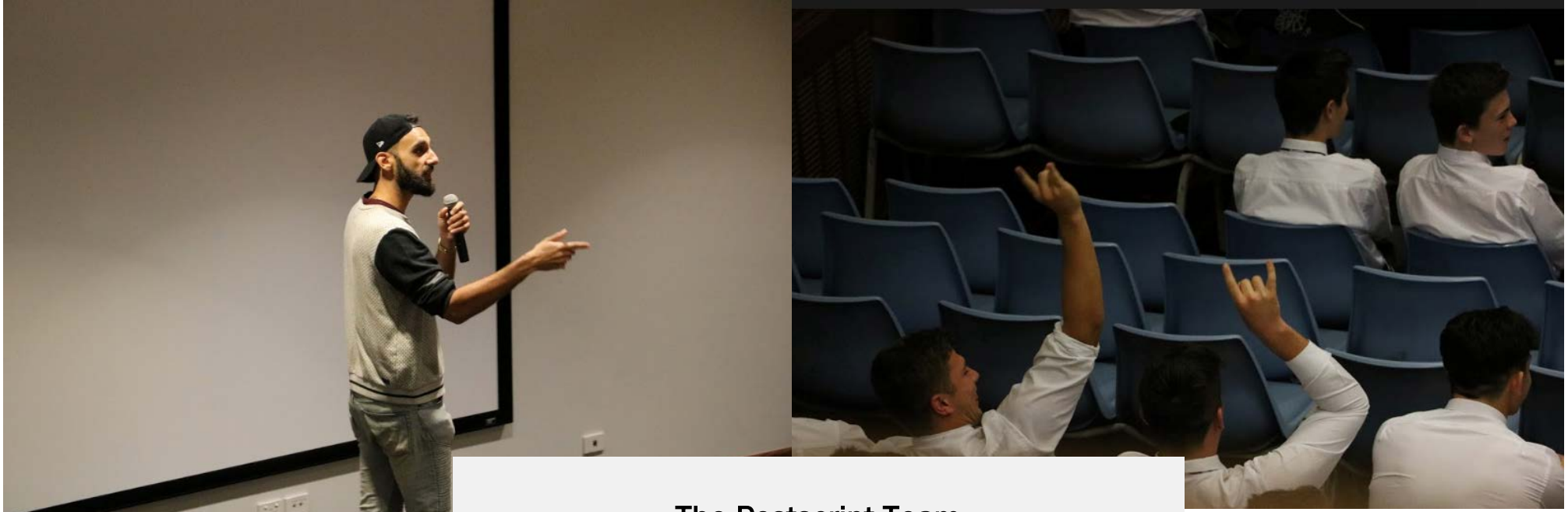
When Sean left school, his dream was to be a DJ. Back then however, there were only two jobs available in QLD: in the army or at the train station. But he didn't like either of those options. So, he moved down to Sydney. He went to a dance school in Glebe

because that was as close to being a DJ as he could get. Every day he would walk past a comedy store on Parramatta Road, and every day he would want to go in. Eventually, when he was 33, he finally went in, and this is where his career in stand-up comedy started. In that time, Sean thought that the best show that you could get onto was 'The Footy Show'. A recording was sent in as an application of sorts and a week later they called him to come on the show. The audience eventually started responding to his jokes (or repeating it in the case of skits). And then the punchline gained traction. Sean could be walking down the street and be known as the 'Kung-Fu Joke' guy. Five years ago, he got to perform at the Melbourne Comedy Festival. And this is where he started writing a book. He called it *50 Shades of Black*. It will be available to purchase soon (as soon as he finds a publisher).

He also left Centenary Hall with 'borderline genius' ideas, and he claims it all comes from a kitchen. One morning as he was making his daughter breakfast (Weet-bix were on the breakfast menu that morning), he made them and she was watching TV and she didn't end up coming for the food until an hour later. And her first question was 'Where's the milk?' When you leave cereal in a bowl, eventually they absorb the milk so why not transfer it to everywhere. Bit sweaty after a long footy session? Use a Weet-Bix. A surgeon performing surgery and some blood spills? Use a Weet-Bix. Preparing for a flood? Get rid of the sandbags and use boxes of Weet-Bix. Simply borderline genius.

The whole show was very entertaining. We laughed, a lot, and thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. The atmosphere that was created was wonderful and it will be a show to remember for 2019's LitFest.





The Postscript Team

Journalism students:

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