Tea and sympathy

Think you are too young to think about retirement? Think again. Our experts explain how the end of the Age of Entitlement will change our working lives and tarnish our golden years. Pages 4,5
Murders deflate local house prices

BY AMANDA WOODARD

When Ellen Lin and Derek Kwok discovered a vicious murder had been committed in the North Ryde house they were about to buy, they did not want to go through with the deal.

Horrified to learn that Sef Gonzales had brutally murdered his sister and parents in their family home several years earlier, in 2004 the couple decided not to sell them and then recovered their deposit from the real estate agent trying to sell the house. The house was eventually sold to someone else for a bargain price.

State laws have since been changed to force real estate agents to reveal information about a property that could have a substantial effect on its value. But new research shows it’s not only murder houses that get the cold shoulder from buyers.

Nearby properties also fall in value, says Adrian Lee and Anastasia Klimova, researchers at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS). They have been looking at the impact of murders on house prices in notoriously property-obsessed Sydney.

“We know that a murder will affect the house in which it occurs but no one had done any research on how it affects property prices within the local vicinity,” says Dr Lee, a postdoctoral research fellow in the UTS Business School.

Doctors Lee and Klimova spent months trawling through court reports about murders and revisiting media accounts of some of the more notorious killings in Sydney.

“The murder of the Gonzales family in 2001 stood out not only for its sensational nature but because the real estate agent revealed nothing to potential buyers about the house’s history. The changes to the law that followed that case did not require real estate agents to provide information about murders that had occurred near a property that is for sale.

But that kind of information could still upset buyers, says Dr Lee.

“There is some stigma attached to the area [where a murder has been committed]. It tends to be a psychological effect but it disappears over time. “We found that house prices fall by 3.9 per cent for houses within 330 metres of a murder, with less of a drop in the second year after a murder. But rents aren’t affected at all.”

Within 460 metres it doesn’t seem to matter how close a property is to a house where a murder has been committed: prices fall by the same amount.

“The changes are consistent with our long stated policy intent not to bring back commissions for financial advisers”, the minister said. But commissions are only half the problem, and incentive payments can be just as problematic, says Professor Wells.

Earlier this year, an ABC Four Corners program alleged that an “aggressive sales-driven culture” at Commonwealth Bank had led to the financial ruin of many of its customers who had been sold high-risk financial products.

The bank blamed “unacceptable” behaviour by rogue advisers, adding that they were no longer employed by the bank.

The previous federal government tried to address the issue of financial planners’ independence by limiting commissions, says Professor Wells. But the reforms failed because, having lost their ability to influence planners via commissions, banks started buying financial advice firms and employing planners.

“As a result, planners now get paid bonuses rather than commissions,” Professor Wells says.

Bonuses bad for consumers

BY LESLEY PARKER

The Federal Government has announced it will allow incentive payments on “general” financial advice but, after a financial planning scandal at a big Australian bank and as a new advisory giant emerges, one expert warns bonus schemes for bank-employed planners threaten the ability to obtain independent advice.

To avoid the sort of aggressive selling that landed the Commonwealth Bank of Australia and many of its customers in trouble, banks and other financial institutions should not be allowed to employ planners who recommend their products, says Professor Peter Wells, head of Accounting at the University of Technology, Sydney.

“There is a fundamental lack of independence [in the financial planning industry],” says Professor Wells.

“Financial planners need to be independent. They shouldn’t be allowed to be employees of financial institutions, selling that institution’s own products.

Announcing the changes, Finance Minister Mathias Cormann said a ban on commissions that distort financial advice would be retained but regulations would be changed to allow “incentive payments which do not conflict advice”.

The changes “are consistent with our long stated policy intent not to bring back commissions for financial advisers”, the minister said. But commissions are only half the problem, and incentive payments can be just as problematic, says Professor Wells.

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About 80 per cent of Australia’s financial planners came under AMP or a big bank. In August, another advisory giant will be formed by the $670 million acquisition by IOOF of Shadforth Financial Group, a large Australian independent planning group.

With $46 billion in funds under advice, the entity will be the third-largest financial planning group in Australia, behind Commonwealth Bank and AMP.

Professor Wells says the Coalition government’s plan to wind back the Future of Financial Advice reforms is really about reducing compliance costs for banks and planners.

“The changes just make a poor system cheaper,” he says. “Missing in all the reforms – which are focused on symptoms, not causes – is any consideration of the principles that underpin quality professional service: independence and expertise.”

In the absence of such major reform, what can consumers do?

Professor Wells says they should be asking one simple question: is my financial adviser putting me into a low-fee fund or a high-fee fund? “Costs are the one thing you can control in investment.”
Grit, social support the key ingredients in job success

People with a disability are doing it for themselves – breaking down the barriers to get into the workforce, writes Amanda Woodard.

“W e never thought that I wasn’t going to get better.” Dawson Ko, the Sydney-born son of Chinese immigrants, is talking about how he and his parents came to terms with his degenerative illness.

When he was 15, Ko was diagnosed with a rare auto-immune disorder, Behçet’s disease. By 20 he was completely blind. “I felt trapped in my body and so depressed that I had no control over my circumstances.” Unable to contemplate a future, Ko attempted suicide.

Despite these setbacks, he completed undergraduate and postgraduate studies at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) and secured a job in human resources. It piqued my interest. “There’s huge goodwill in some workplaces but a lack of understanding among managers,” says Green.

Eleven years on and I’m one of the highest-ranking blind black belts in the world.

Still, even daily routines such as his journey to Transport for NSW where he works in HR, are never easy. But, he says, “you keep pushing and don’t let things hold you back from living a full life.”

Ko’s experience underscores the importance of personal determination.

There’s huge goodwill in some workplaces but a lack of understanding among managers.

Significantly, they often had someone in their young lives who believed this was an achievable outcome and offered support. But the most interesting revelation for Green was that out of the 30, 27 worked either paid or unpaid for disability organisations. “The nitty-gritty of where change is happening is people with disabilities doing it for themselves from within,” she says.

For the estimated 15 per cent of working-age Australians who hold very responsible jobs, such as a human rights commissioner and another in a top job at the ABC. “Identifying 30 people using a snowball sampling technique – contacting people she knew or knew of through referrals or cold calling – Green selected people with a range of ages and derived support from others who understood the problems and attitudes that people with disabilities encounter at work.

Australia ranks only 21 out of 29 countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development for labour force participation of people with disabilities, says Green. “In Australia we are not making gains in this area statistically.

Ko’s experience underscores the importance of personal determination.

Dawson Ko’s experience underscores the importance of personal determination. Photo by Anna Zhu.
Working longer and loving it not for everyone

BY WENDY FREW

M aureen McMahon had been retired for a year when a former colleague who was planning an extended overseas trip asked her to fill in at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS).

Maureen had a long career in the public service and university sector, with a break of about five years for child rearing, and had an extensive resume that covered administrative and management roles.

She didn’t want a full-time job or a permanent part-time one but was concerned about her financial situation and so accepted the offer to return to her old workplace.

Five years later, at the age of 72, Maureen is still working on a casual basis at UTS.

“The money has certainly been handy but I just really love it,” she says. “I love the social interaction, the intellectual stimulation of the job, I love working with younger people. I feel better in myself for working.”

Maureen is one of the lucky ones. She won’t be affected by the Federal Government’s recent decision to increase eligibility for the age pension to 70, and she still qualifies for a part pension, although this fluctuates depending on how much she earns at UTS.

It will be tougher for the next generation.

Research shows older workers often face discrimination in the workplace, don’t always have the skills that employers are looking for and remain unemployed far longer than younger people.

Many older workers love their jobs and may be happy to continue until they are 70 but for those doing manual labour, working until they’re 70 could be very unfeasible.

Many Australians also don’t have enough superannuation to enjoy a comfortable life for 20 years after they retire. So, what happens if the government tightens the eligibility for that and end the so-called “age of entitlement”, including in the area of health care? But is Medicare really an entitlement? Not at all, argues Jane Hall, Professor of Health Economics in the UTS Business School. “It is national insurance,” she says.

“Modern health care is only affordable through some form of insurance,” says Professor Hall. “That can be left to the private market, or governments can take on the role of insurer. What we see is that those countries where governments take on the insurance role have done better at controlling rising health care expenditure and ensuring universal coverage.”

Professor Hall says our aging population is a direct result of a “remarkable drop in the death rate over the past 40 to 50 years”. “It is an incredible success for health care … We should not bemoan that. We should celebrate it.

“But the challenge is to understand more about what is happening in the aging population – about the variability across the population, about how older people are living healthier lives, not just longer lives – and about how best to provide the appropriate health services in this age of electronic communication. That will help us make an accurate projection of future health care costs.”

We can also be confident that older workers will cope better in the workforce if given half a chance, says Dr Spooner.

“There is a huge amount of research to show that some employers do want to hire older workers,” she says, adding that they are attracted to their experience, maturity and reliability.

Hardware chain Bunnings and one of Australia’s biggest banks, Westpac, are among the companies seeking older workers.

Maureen’s experience shows that a bit of flexibility on the part of managers and employers can lead to longer working lives for older people and the retention of valuable skills and experience by employers.

“My own experience is that we are mad and wonder why I keep working – but I love it,” she says.

Dr Keri Spooner and Professors Susan Thorp and Jane Hall will talk about health care, superannuation and the role of the older worker at the next UTSpeaks lecture on 15 July.

RSVP by 15 July to Robert Button, robert.button@uts.edu.au

An older Australia

We are living 25 years longer than we did a century ago

The number of Australians aged 85 and over will rise to 1.8 million by 2050

Most businesses negotiate mature-aged shoppers

One in 3 Australians over 55 is in paid employment

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Human Rights Commission

Depending on the nature of your job, working until you are 70 could be a boon or a burden. Photo by Wendy Frew.

If older people end up on the dole or on disability pensions, all we will have achieved is a loss of dignity for them.
BY WENDY FREW

When Barbara* took voluntary redundancy from a large telecommunications group in 2001 she was confident of finding work in her chosen field. At 51, she had an impressive CV that included stints as a team leader, project manager and business analyst.

But like many of her contemporaries who took redundancy at the same time, it’s been a long, hard road of temporary positions, contract work and months of unemployment in between short contracts. Barbara says she would happily work for at least another decade but now aged 63 – unemployed and living on her superannuation – she despairs that employers will change their attitudes about older workers.

“Having had good performance reviews all along, and some promotions, in my work life up to age 51, I have thought a lot about what has made the difference in my work life since then – whether my skills needed updating, the extent to which my skill set was mismatched with certain jobs I applied for, or whether I should have pushed in some areas,” says Barbara, who has spent about $8000 in recent years upgrading her skills.

She suspects her age could have been the reason she could not make it past the first interview for the many permanent jobs she applied for.

“I am not sure I can pinpoint it but there were things like people pulling out a chair for me and treating me as if I was their elderly mother … In the past, I always got the job I wanted, but that is not the case now.”

Barbara is not an isolated case. Age discrimination in the workplace starts at about 45, says human resources expert Keri Spooner.

“It is not hard to find people who have left employment, for whatever reason, at 45 and have never found another job,” says Dr Spooner, who works in the Management Discipline Group at the University of Technology, Sydney.

“Once they become unemployed, older workers stay that way for much longer than younger workers, she says.

“It’s one of the many issues that need to be considered in light of the Federal Government’s decision to lift eligibility for the age pension to 70. Discrimination against older workers, skill gaps and a lack of flexibility on the part of some older workers about the kind of work they are willing to do, among other things, complicate the picture, says Dr Spooner.

“As we get older, if any one of us seeks employment that is exactly the same kind of work we did when we were younger, we will fail,” she says, adding that older workers need to adapt, change their expectations, develop resilience and build their networks.

“Most jobs come through family or friends. “It is a hugely emotionally challenging and devastating experience to be laid off, or to feel you are the oldest person in the office. Being interviewed for a job by someone who is the age of your youngest child is hard … you need to be able to bounce back from these experiences.”

In Barbara’s case, she found that when she applied for junior positions, she was told she was over-qualified. When she applied for senior positions, she was often told she was not quite the “right fit”.

“The outplacement agency [from her former employer] advised us never to give anyone a hint of our age, which is a great pity because I have held some very senior roles.”

“We have made good progress blending people from different races and cultures into harmonious workplaces. Age is a bigger challenge but … people have to get used to the idea that a person who is wrinkled or has white hair still has every right to be working and is just as likely as the next person to do a good job.”

“Barbara’s real name has been withheld for privacy reasons.

BOOKS

Living with attitude

BY WENDY FREW

The quest for the elixir of life has led us down many paths. Everything from a diet of only fruit and nuts to indulging in a little bit of everything has been changed with the power to extend our lives.

A new book by clinician Dr Timothy Sharp suggests psychological health could be the key. Live happily and you will probably live longer, he says.

“Properly enjoyed, this phase of life need not be one of illness or decline but rather, for the vast majority of us, one of growth, wisdom, maturity and more,” says the introduction to Live Happier, Live Longer.

The founder of the Happiness Institute and an Adjunct Professor in positive psychology at the University of Technology, Sydney, Dr Sharp has for many years been studying what makes us happy. But it was only when he was invited to talk at a financial planning conference a couple of years ago that he turned his attention to what happiness means for older people.

“A lot of the financial planners came up to me to chat and it became clear their goals in looking after their clients were similar to mine as a psychologist and life coach: advising people how to best live their lives,” says Dr Sharp.

“Many of my hopes with this book is that it will bust the myths about older people and that we start valuing and cherishing them, bringing back some of the respect we had for them in the past.”

Live Happier, Live Longer is published by Allen & Unwin.

Workplace age discrimination starts as early as 45

BY WENDY FREW

“Having a purpose in life is one of the many issues that is just as likely as the next person to be at – mixing with younger people, feeling less angry. Others need to be worked at – mixing with younger people, having a strong purpose in life. “A lot of my hopes with this book is that it will bust the myths about older people and that we start valuing and cherishing them, bringing back some of the respect we had for them in the past.”

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“Their strategies were mostly making sure people had enough money to look after themselves but they realised more than money was at stake.”

Live Happier, Live Longer was not directly influenced by the debate about increasing the pension eligibility age to 70, but Dr Sharp says it is important to talk about the implications of working longer.

“There are many positives about working later in life such as greater financial security and social connections, “which all help to lead a healthy life”, says Dr Sharp.

“But I am not suggesting people should be forced to work longer because of financial necessity,” he says, adding that many jobs would be too physically demanding for someone in their late 60s.

The book examines scientific research that provides practical strategies to improve the quality and length of our lives.

Not surprisingly, exercise, diet and sleep are important, as are mental health and interpersonal relationships. The list is similar across the generations.

But Dr Sharp points out that some things come naturally to older people – such as worrying less about what others think, taking life at a more relaxed pace, feeling less angry. Others need to be worked at – mixing with younger people, having a strong purpose in life. “A lot of my hopes with this book is that it will bust the myths about older people and that we start valuing and cherishing them, bringing back some of the respect we had for them in the past.”

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Repair cafes give throwaway culture the heave-ho

A new wave of 21st-century DIY enthusiasm is emerging to teach people how to repair and reuse things, rather than replace them, writes Jade Herriman.

Y our smartphone screen smashes, your bike wheel buckles, your favourite boots develop a hole. You could buy a replacement or you could join a worldwide trend of taking your broken stuff to a “repair cafe”.

Repair is a natural extension of understanding objects and materials, and a creative process that gives immense satisfaction. Many of those who visit repair cafes become repairers.

The list of items successfully repaired at the cafes is huge: bikes, clothing, cameras, mobile phones, computers, lawnmowers, luggage, lamps, toasters, CD players, microwaves – just about anything you can physically carry to a repair cafe.

Our relationship with material objects has changed dramatically in the generations since wartime Britons were told to “make do and mend”. Simple repairs – mending a dress or gluing the leg of a chair – became less common as the number of disposable goods grew beyond small items such as razors and pens to include clothing, furniture and electronics.

Mending came to be seen as old-fashioned and unnecessary, and cheap mass production meant that anything less than perfect could be thrown away and replaced.

Last year, Australians sent more than half a million tonnes of leather and textiles to landfill, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. That’s more than 10 times the amount that was reused or recycled.

But research has shown that repairing old clothes is not only good for the environment, it can increase social equity. Repair cafes give people a chance to network and learn about resources and, to the surprise of many, can be fun and creative. As cafe organisers in Brighton in the UK noted, repairing “is not only a creative and political activity – creating a sense of empowerment and independence – it is also a way of creating community cohesion and reducing waste”.

This wave of 21st-century DIY enthusiasm is also evident in the emergence of networks such as the Maker Movement and Hackerspace, of hobbyists, students and enthusiasts who want to make rather than consume things.

There is also a host of online resources showing people how to fix things – from sewing basics to detailed repair guides for electrical and computer goods.

The bigger picture is the emerging concept of a circular economy that rejects the linear model of buy-use-dispose in favour of keeping resources moving around the economy. In a circular economy, we fix, reuse and recycle rather than dumping stuff in landfill.

It might be quicker and easier to throw stuff in the bin but it’s more expensive and much less fun.

Jade Herriman is a Research Principal at the Institute for Sustainable Futures, at the University of Technology, Sydney.

A longer version of this article first appeared on The Conversation on May 16, 2014.

UTS is running a range of repair workshops on campus. For more information about the workshops email sustainability@uts.edu.au

Book casts new light on Huckstepp’s murder

Disgraced NSW detective Roger Rogerson’s recent arrest is a reminder of one of Sydney’s most notorious unsolved murders, writes Wendy Frew.

Ask people about Sallie-Anne Huckstepp and they will invariably describe her as a prostitute and heroin addict. But for writer John Dale, Huckstepp should be remembered as one of the most important whistle blowers in NSW Police history.

Huckstepp came to the public’s attention in 1981 when she appeared on national TV accusing one of the state’s most decorated detectives, Roger Rogerson, of shooting her lover, Warren Lanfranchi, and then stealing $10,000 from the drug dealer who was carrying to bribe Rogerson.

Huckstepp had already spoken to senior NSW Police about what she knew of Lanfranchi’s death and corruption in the ranks of the drug and armed hold-up squads. It was sensational material and eventually led to the Wood Royal Commission into the NSW Police Service. Huckstepp’s death in 1986 – she was found floating in a pond in Centennial Park – fuelled further suspicions about Rogerson and his association with violent criminals such as Arthur “Neddy” Smith.

Smith was secretly recorded confessing to a cellmate at Long Bay jail that he had murdered Huckstepp and in 2005 he told Dale that Huckstepp was killed because she was causing problems for Rogerson.

Rogerson was also charged with conspiring with two others to murder undercover drug squad officer Michael Drury in 1989 but was acquitted. Another investigation found improper relationships between Rogerson and major organised crime figures in Sydney.

Dale, now a Professor of Writing at the University of Technology, Sydney, spent six years doing research for a biography on Huckstepp, which resulted in the publication in 2000 of Huckstepp: A Dangerous Life. A new edition of the book has just been issued by Xoum with an additional chapter detailing Dale’s interview with Smith at Long Bay.

It’s a timely release with Rogerson once again in the public eye because of his alleged involvement in the murder of young drug dealer, Jamie Gao. Rogerson’s role in Gao’s eventual downfall shouldn’t be underestimated, says Dale.

“At the time, Rogerson was probably the biggest drug dealer in NSW. He was one of our worst criminals,” says Dale.

“I think what Huckstepp did was extraordinarily brave and foolish. She took on the leading cop in NSW at a time when no one in the public knew anything about his corrupt activities.”

A fresh edition of John Dale’s biography of Sallie-Anne Huckstepp includes new information about her murder.
Good design not an optional extra

People with disabilities are a neglected group when it comes to products that are practical and attractive, reports Amanda Woodard.

Car parks can be frustrating places at the best of times. But for Sophie Marmont, whose hand strength and dexterity are affected by cerebral palsy, a badly designed car park can pose a real problem for daily living.

“I can manage things when they are close but when I have to reach out [for the ticket machine], I find that I lose dexterity. Surely car parking companies can devise other ways for people to enter and exit car parks?”

Marmont is constantly looking for innovative, beautiful products that she can use but she’s found that people with disabilities are a neglected group when it comes to good design.

Consumer goods such as furniture and kitchen appliances are designed, first and foremost, for the able-bodied. Retro-fitting them or designing something specifically for older people or those with a disability can be complicated and expensive.

But good design and technology should be available to everyone, says the project manager at the Cerebral Palsy Alliance (CPA), Robyn Cummins.

Traditionally, people with disabilities have relied on products specifically designed for them, such as shower chairs and wheelchairs. The problem, says Cummins, is that many of these products haven’t changed for more than 40 years.

“They look medical and people don’t want them in their homes. We are interested in form as well as function [but] we are fighting a battle of the bland.”

In a bid to encourage the mainstream design and technology community to embrace the concept of universal design – producing buildings, products and environments that are inherently accessible to older people and those with and without disabilities – the CPA has partnered with the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) to host Australia’s first Enabled by Design-athon.

Later this month, they will bring together product designers, engineers, entrepreneurs, UTS students, people with disabilities and disability professionals to swap ideas and experiment with prototypes.

Sophie Marmont wants products that are well designed and look good. Photo by Anna Zhu.

New roads for car technology

The Australian car industry may be dying but technology is giving rise to new design possibilities, writes Elizabeth Kuo.

Bumblebee, the yellow autobot from the Transformers movies is the car star of the film series. Everything about the Camaro – the sharp bumper lines, concept body kit and raw street-racer appeal – screams American muscle.

So it may come as a surprise that the wide-body Camaro of Transformers: Dark of the Moon is way down under designed. GM Holden in Australia not only led the final design, engineering and development of the Camaro but is representative of a burgeoning research and development automotive industry in Australia.

Australia is experiencing a big change in the industry, says Dr Paul Walker, a Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS).

“There is talk that the most dynamic period in the automotive sector is right now.

“The industry is trying new things, testing new technologies, and getting creative in its approaches. This is a reflection of the research,” he says.

Achieving optimum driving performance from existing hybrid and electric car technologies is the main focus of Dr Walker’s research. He is looking at the design and control of the powertrain, which includes any car part involved in delivering power to the wheels.

“The powertrain includes car components such as the engine, motor and transmission, right through to the wheels,” he says.

“My area of research takes existing knowledge in hybrid and electric vehicles and looks at ways in which we can improve vehicle noise, vibration and harshness without degrading driving economy and performance.

“Most electric vehicles you see on the road nowadays are built with single-speed transmissions. When these vehicles are driven at high speeds – 110 kilometres an hour or more – there’s increased high frequency motor noise. I’d describe it as a similar sound to when you are overdriving the engine, or driving it in high gear all the time. It’s an annoying and alarming sound, and generally makes such vehicles less desirable to drive.

“I’m working on dual and multiple-speed clutch alternatives to address this.”

The future of cars will be electric and he says the car industry needs to meet consumer demand with a product with fewer imperfections.

“The new question is how can we refine hybrid and electric vehicles to achieve driving comfort while maximising efficiency. To answer that, we need to balance the environmental and economic aspects of powertrain design and control.”
The UTS Executive MBA program redefined the MBA in Australia when it was launched over a decade ago. Discover how our Executive MBA has evolved to challenge you to meet the business opportunities of tomorrow, designed and delivered with the business leaders of today.

BIRDS
Once widespread throughout Australia, the beautiful Night Parrot hadn’t been seen for a century when naturalist John Young recently turned the bird world on its head with his sightings of this beautiful species. Young will share the story of his 15-year quest at this free event hosted by UTS and Birdlife Australia, Southern NSW. UTS Adjunct Professor and eminent bird ecologist Graham Pyke will explain the implications of this discovery for conservation management in Australia.

LIVE MUSIC
The UTS Winterfestival is back with a big line-up. Storming the new Underground bar will be Violent Soho, DMA’s, SAFIA and Golden Features, with local support from Coda Conduct and DJ’s ShiBBi and Rabz. The renovated UTS Loft bar will showcase headliner Cosmo’s Midnight, with supports Sea Legs and Bootleg Rascal.

PUBLIC LECTURE
Australia’s fastest growing demographic is 65 years and over and many of us will live well into our 80s. At this lecture, some of the best minds at UTS explain the economics of health care, the troubled waters of superannuation and the role of the older worker.

PUBLIC EVENTS CALENDAR
JULY/AUGUST

ARCHITECTURE
One of Sydney’s newest buildings, the UTS Faculty of Engineering and IT Building, could change the way we think about architectural design. A sophisticated sensor system embedded in the building’s walls will monitor everything from light levels and air quality to energy and water use while rooftop renewable energy technology will provide green electricity for the building. Pop in and have a look-see.

CLASSICAL
As part of a three-concert series at the Sydney Opera House, the Australia Piano Quartet will this month perform a selection of Mahler, Symonds and Schubert. APO’s passion for the piano quartet stems from their love of the unique qualities of the ensemble itself: a synthesis of the finely blended sonority of a string trio, the qualities of each string voice and the orchestral power of the piano.

UTSPEAKS:
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The UTS Executive MBA program redefined the MBA in Australia when it was launched over a decade ago. Discover how our Executive MBA has evolved to challenge you to meet the business opportunities of tomorrow, designed and delivered with the business leaders of today.

BIRDS
Once widespread throughout Australia, the beautiful Night Parrot hadn’t been seen for a century when naturalist John Young recently turned the bird world on its head with his sightings of this beautiful species. Young will share the story of his 15-year quest at this free event hosted by UTS and Birdlife Australia, Southern NSW. UTS Adjunct Professor and eminent bird ecologist Graham Pyke will explain the implications of this discovery for conservation management in Australia.

LIVE MUSIC
The UTS Winterfestival is back with a big line-up. Storming the new Underground bar will be Violent Soho, DMA’s, SAFIA and Golden Features, with local support from Coda Conduct and DJ’s ShiBBi and Rabz. The renovated UTS Loft bar will showcase headliner Cosmo’s Midnight, with supports Sea Legs and Bootleg Rascal.

PUBLIC LECTURE
Australia’s fastest growing demographic is 65 years and over and many of us will live well into our 80s. At this lecture, some of the best minds at UTS explain the economics of health care, the troubled waters of superannuation and the role of the older worker.

PUBLIC EVENTS CALENDAR
JULY/AUGUST

ARCHITECTURE
One of Sydney’s newest buildings, the UTS Faculty of Engineering and IT Building, could change the way we think about architectural design. A sophisticated sensor system embedded in the building’s walls will monitor everything from light levels and air quality to energy and water use while rooftop renewable energy technology will provide green electricity for the building. Pop in and have a look-see.

CLASSICAL
As part of a three-concert series at the Sydney Opera House, the Australia Piano Quartet will this month perform a selection of Mahler, Symonds and Schubert. APO’s passion for the piano quartet stems from their love of the unique qualities of the ensemble itself: a synthesis of the finely blended sonority of a string trio, the qualities of each string voice and the orchestral power of the piano.

UTSPEAKS:
FREE PUBLIC LECTURES

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THE (R)EVOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE MBA

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