



**RMIT University Student Union**

# **Third quarter report**

**Reporting period**

01/07/2012 – 30/09/2012

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**RUSU**  
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

**A team member for the World Week festivities dishes out some Gaucho treats.**



### **A note on our quarterly reports:**

Like everything RUSU does, our reports are a team effort. If it seems like this was written by 50 different people, it's probably because it was! We are a unique organisation and our energy, teamwork and passion is communicated through these pages. We look forward to sharing our successes and near-successes with our student members and RMIT University throughout the year. For more information on anything contained within this report, please contact the RUSU Governance and Development Officer.

# RUSU quarterly report: July–Sept 2012

## What we've been up to

The third quarter has been hectic but awesome with lots of activities and events, RUSU AGM's on all campuses and keen RUSU volunteers and collective members active across RUSU departments. The annual Student Union elections were held in September creating a hive of activity and enabling all RMIT students the chance to have a say about who will represent them in 2013.

RUSU has been actively representing the student voice through campaigns and input into RMIT policy reviews and of course the SAB move. We were also busy rolling out the SSAF Quick Wins grants so that students can experience the benefit of our expanded advocacy service, more club grants and staffing and enhanced volunteer program. Looking forward to 2013 we have been busy preparing and advocating for RUSU proposals and assessing the benefit for students of proposals from other areas such as Link and Student Services.

## RUSU Major Activities and events

As always a big 'thank you' must be given to our amazing RUSU student reps and volunteers for their efforts in providing a range of on and off campus activities and events for students. Highlights from this quarter include:

### World Week, 10–13 September

#### **4,500+ students take part in World Week celebrations**

RUSU prides itself on reaching out to the huge number of international students at RMIT. To celebrate this diversity we run an annual event, World Week. The week long festivities foster a conversation amongst the student body about the many different cultures that makes up the RMIT community. This year we saw record numbers of attendees on all campuses.

#### **Brunswick**

Over 500 students munched on Cornutopia Tacos (an RMIT alumnus) and Harry Hoo's Dim Sims, while enjoying the Bolly Pop Students dance performance to the sound of DJ's spinning world beats.

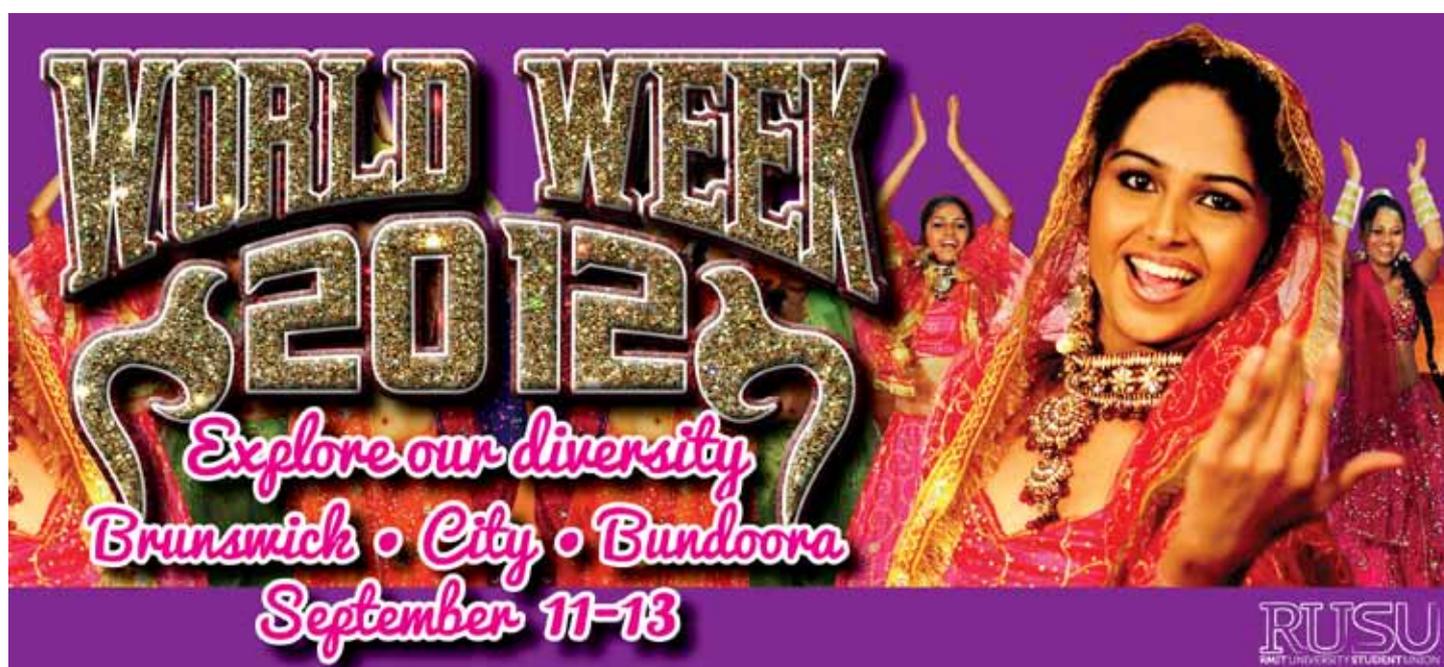
#### **City**

At the RMIT city campus, host to the biggest event of the week, Bowen Lane was alive and full of colour with swirling Spanish dancers, Russian musicians and the Bolly Pop and Bangladesh student performances entertaining the crowd, while a culinary banquet of South American, Asian and Greek foods made the day a great success.

Our regular Chill n Grill event the next week became the World Week International Beer Festival. Students taste tested beers from around the world in the beautiful spring sunshine.

#### **Bundoora**

The last day of celebrations held on the Bundoora campus unfortunately ended early due to rain, though we still feed over 500 students. While dancing to DJ spun World Beats in the rain was still quite fun for some the free henna tattoos (provided on all campuses) turned out to be a huge hit with the student body.





## World Week Excursion

40 international students travelled to Healesville Native Animal Sanctuary and De Bortoli Winery for a free World Week Day Trip on Sat 15 September. Students enjoyed a guided tour of the sanctuary, close encounters with native and endangered animals and a gourmet lunch in the Yarra Valley.

## AACA/TREV Band Comp

### RMIT student wins Regional Final

This year RMIT once again took part in the National Campus Band Competition which provides participants with a great opportunity to meet other musically inclined tertiary students.

Three bands from RMIT participated in the regional heats at the Penny Black Bar in the City. RMIT music industry students Velma Grove won the Regional Finals and performed at the Victorian final at The Espy. The Band Comp provides RUSU with a fantastic way to source talented student bands for 2013 events and we are looking forward to working with many of the competitors again.



## Mid Year orientation

RUSU did Mid Year orientation with a difference in 2012. We chose to take a step back from the traditional Mid Year Orientation (17-19 July) run by RMIT Student Services. We had small representation at the RMIT Mid Year events, mainly signing up any new members and handing out information about upcoming events and student rights services. We then focused our energy and funds towards holding a RUSU organisation specific event a week later (24-26 July). This optimised the amount of free events available to students and also helped to differentiate between the very different services each department provides students.

### Brunswick

At Brunswick RUSU began its Mid Year Orientation week with free vegetarian Turkish gozleme, free mulled wine to warm the winter blues, free healthy vegan soup and bread rolls. DJ Larrie was on the Redbull events vehicle, spinning up some dancehall beats. This was an opportunity to promote RUSU Clubs, departments and sign up new members. There were approx 400 students in attendance on the day, many of whom we have engaged with since at follow up events.

### City

We beefed up the order, food range and budget for the city campus event which coincided with the usual chill 'n' grill. Free mulled wine replaced the free beer/cider to warm the students on that chilly winter day. While signing up new financial members and making information available for potential volunteers was the main goal, the event provided the approx 2000 students in attendance with a great way to reconnect with classmates and friends at the start of a new semester. DJ Larrie was again in attendance with the Redbull events vehicle, spinning up some dancehall beats.

### Bundoora

In addition to the free mulled wine and gozleme that Brunswick Students enjoyed, Bundoora students could also chow down on Free American hotdogs. This time a current RMIT student DJ Jennifer loveless, had the opportunity to entertain the crowd (approx 400), from atop the Redbull events vehicle.

## RUSU Membership

RUSU financial members continued to receive benefits and discounts through the RUSU ISIC card/Edge promotions and in house deals such as 10% discount at RUSU Realfoods. RUSU members receive the E-newsletter which includes RUSU member giveaways and competitions.

New Financial members July – Sep 2012: **112**

Total 2012 Membership count to date: **1711**



# Across the Campuses

## Brunswick

### RUSU Trivia Night (25 Sept)

It seemed about time that RUSU hosted a trivia night and so the Carlton/Brunswick team decided that we would be the ones to throw the event. The night held at the John Curtin Hotel Band Room was a great way for students to test their wits against each other. The three general knowledge rounds, 1 music round and famous faces quiz sheet certainly excited the odd neuron. Over all the response on the night was great with a few of the participants asking why it wasn't a more regular feature on the RUSU calendar.

### Brunswick Soup Lunch (Tuesdays 12-2pm)

As the weather chilled we switched from weekly BBQ's to fresh, "home made", vegetarian, gluten free soups and a roll, serving around 200 grateful students each week.

### Compass Yoga at Brunswick (Wednesday 4.30 pm)

After discussions and surveys with the students at Brunswick, compass and the collective hope that the new yoga time will work better with student timetables and enable more students to attend.

The Brunswick campus counter is progressively seeing more activity, partially due to both the regular events on campus and services provided. The movie tickets continue to be well received. On top of this the front counter provides book binding, emergency sanitary supplies, student rights and clubs advice and distribution of Catalyst. Excitingly Brunswick and Carlton TAFE students were represented at the NTEU and AEU TAFE4ALL rally that marched from the state library to parliament.

## Carlton

### Free Brunch at Carlton (Thursday 11am-12pm)

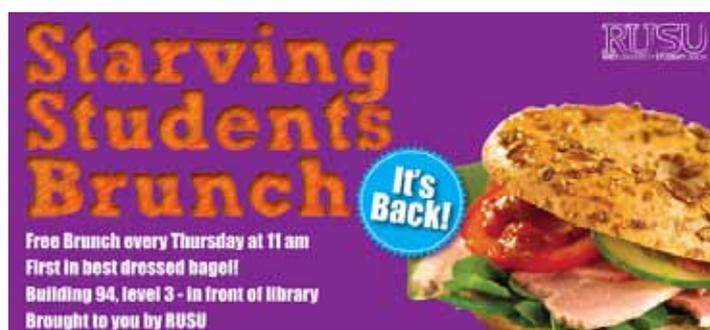
The free weekly brunch was started up again, this time with healthier options to fill the bagels and croissants we provide, such as lettuce, tomato, cucumber and cheese. We realised if we bring brown paper bags students can make up a meal to have later and this new option has been warmly received.

### Carlton Weekly Wind Down Drinks (Wednesdays 4.30 pm - till the tab runs out)

We started up a Carlton collective drinks night at the John Curtin Hotel again. This event has been getting successively more popular each week with an average of 50-80 students quenching their thirst, socialising and meeting their student representatives.

### Free Carlton Pizza Lunches in September (Fridays 12-1pm)

For the month of September we gave out free pizza and garlic bread on a Friday. We feed over 100 students each event, some of whom are very hungry! This type of event is always received well.



## Bundoora

This quarter was particularly busy out at Bundoora, with levels of student engagement growing, as new staff members, student representatives and volunteers joined the Bundoora RUSU team. The key challenge for improving student engagement, is working out how to promote more active involvement from students in RUSU activities, given the high number of contact hours for Bundoora students. As many programs run at Bundoora have placements which take students away from the campus, the ability to foster consistent, weekly engagement with students is not always possible. Nevertheless, a number of new initiatives have proven to be successful at Bundoora in 2012, demonstrating that students on this campus are open to new activities and events. Events this quarter included:

### I love free food (Thursdays from 12pm, Building 204 Courtyard)

This weekly free BBQ & cider event regularly attracts over 400 students. The event provides students with an opportunity to listen to music and relax between classes and is often run in conjunction with RUSU campaigns, outreach or activities. Currently four rostered RUSU branded volunteers working towards LEAD accreditation help out at the event.

### Yoga Classes

Yoga classes are run by Body Centred Living continued every Monday in Semester 2 of 2012.

### Free Breakfasts (Thursday mornings)

Free healthy breakfasts were a new initiative at Bundoora, which started in early August. Baked goods, jam and other condiments, fruit and juice, are served every Thursday morning. While the event provides free healthy food it is also an outreach activity that allows for informal conversations and information sharing between students, staff and SUC representatives. It has led to referrals to other services such as to the new RUSU student rights officer at Bundoora and fosters a sense of community at Bundoora.



### Can Ya for Kenya Fundraiser (15 August)

Can Ya For Kenya: The Bundoora SLO worked with a group of year 11 VCE students studying at Bundoora, to develop and promote the Can Ya For Kenya Fundraiser. This was a highly successful event featured a guest speaker expert in the Kenyan food crisis, attracted 300 students and raised \$700 to fight hunger in Kenya,

### Go For It

RUSU participated in the Go For It program, run in conjunction with two psychology students on placement at Student Services. The program focused on promoting well being amongst students. Unfortunately, and perhaps due to the choice of timeslot and location, the program was not well attended.

### Bundoora Info Counter

The Bundoora 204 information counter received slightly fewer inquiries in this quarter, with an average of 20 student inquiries being managed per day. Movie ticket sales were steady. The wider range of items (herbal teas, hot chocolate) provided at the Building 204 kitchenette was very popular with students.

### Student Discounts; Uni Hill

The Bundoora SLO worked to ensure that discounts were again offered to Bundoora students, from a range of retailers at Uni Hill. In particular, the \$2 coffees from Killer Coffee were a big hit.

### Bundoora West Student Survey

A survey of 104 students who use Building 204 was conducted by the Bundoora SLO. The results of this survey were very interesting, with 47 per cent of participants using the microwaves in Building 204 at least once a week. This survey found that the key barrier to student participation in events was not knowledge of events, but time available to participate in events. The key ways in which students found out about events were promotional material such as posters, and word of mouth.

### Brain Food Zine

This zine focused on promoting healthy eating for brain function, contained 10 healthy and easy recipes, basic cooking tips, as well as information on healthy eating. 200 copies produced and distributed at Bundoora West.

## Student Initiative Grants

The RUSU Student Initiative Grants have helped many non academic student projects to get off the ground. It's a fantastic way to facilitate students being able to run and manage a project themselves. To date this year we have given out eight student initiative grants. Recent grants included:

- \$1,000 to support the Communications Ball
- \$1,000 towards Bite Race, a student run team competition event held in and around the Melbourne CBD
- \$250 towards supporting a Blog aimed at International students that promoted cheap and healthy food options.
- \$1000 towards Log Off, an event to help students make new friends at RMIT
- \$1000 to support the advertisement of a student project, Hype Bike

## City – Regular City Campus Events

### Chill 'n' Grill Wednesdays from 12pm, Bowen Street

Around 1,500 students enjoy Chill and Grill each week. Chill & Grill:

- is a vegetarian friendly BBQ,
- provides students with the option of free beer and cider,
- supplies food and drinks in environmentally friendly disposable goods
- is run with the help of 30 RUSU volunteers all in RUSU branded T-shirts working towards LEAD accreditation
- is a unique social space contributing to RMIT campus culture
- includes student DJ's and Bands performing. E.g. "Jennifer Loveless"
- is often run in conjunction with other RUSU outreach activities or campaigns.

### Morning Glory Weekly Breakfasts

Welfare and Ed continued to provide hungry students on the City Campus with free, healthy breakfast. This event aims to begin to address issues with student poverty, and to highlight the importance of eating a good breakfast, particularly for students.

### Market Days

Regular market stall continued fortnightly during this quarter.

### Front Counter Activity and Administration

The RUSU Front Counter continues to be a busy front face for RUSU answering approximately 100 varying queries a day both face-to-face and over the phone.

**RUSU PRESENTS**

# STUDENT MARKET

**COME AND SELL YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS!**

**WITH CHILL 'N' GRILL**

**FREE FOOD + FREE DRINKS + DJ**

**BOWEN STREET, CITY CAMPUS**

**5TH SEPTEMBER 2012, 12-2PM**

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# Volunteers

## New Staff Support for RUSU Volunteers

RUSU is really excited about the possibilities that exist for us to take our volunteer program to the next level. The SSAF Quick Wins grants have enabled us to create and fund a dedicated Student Engagement Officer staff position, which will focus on student involvement in RUSU and campus life and enable us to further professionalise our volunteer program, which until now has sat across various departments and staff roles.

Welcome to Andrea Ogier who commenced in this position during this quarter.

## Leadership Training conference

The conference hosted by Victoria University in August was attended by the Activities, Sponsorship & Events and Student Engagement Officers. The conference provided insight into how other universities manage volunteering programs, fostered new networks between RUSU and other Unions and Universities. The staff in attendance reported back that the conference had provided affirmation that the RUSU volunteer program is on the path to success.

## Volunteer projects and activities

### The RUSU Rescue Team

To assist students to navigate and understand RMIT's new Swanston Academic Building, RUSU organised a team of volunteers on the ground during the first weeks of TAFE and Higher Ed occupation in the SAB. Volunteers offered directions, let students know about SAB facilities (and the lack of facilities), promoted the SAB Student Equity Laptop Scholarship and collected initial student reactions and feedback on the building.



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### RUSU Volunteer Info Day (August 3)

On 3 August this promotional day informed potential RUSU volunteers about the program and signed them up for induction training.

### Student Rights Volunteers Training

RUSU conducted 3 training sessions for student rights volunteers and student representatives, preparing these students to sit on university appeal panels. These volunteers will represent the student body as decision makers in exclusion, assessment, special consideration and discipline appeals. The value of this important work cannot be underestimated and these volunteers are greatly valued by RUSU.

## Realfoods Volunteers

A regular group of 65 volunteers continued their rostered weekly schedule alternating from Front of House to Back of House cafe duties, with some volunteers also participating as part of the Realfoods 'Events Team'. On the job inductions to café operations for new volunteers were carried out, and skills learned by the 32 volunteers who attended the William Angliss Kitchen Skills course in semester 1 were enhanced.

The Realfoods volunteer team is very diverse, with students from wide-ranging courses, cultures, ages and dietary persuasions attracted to our program. Many students reported on their sign-up forms that they were looking to gain "hospitality experience", "learn more about organics and vegan food", and "make new friends" as motivations to volunteer.

**"I got a job in restaurant (backend) :D I could not have done it without you, can't thank you enough! Everything I learned in Realfoods I can directly apply at my new job... Volunteering was fun and I also learned a lot and made new friends - and only after this - I started to experience what uni life feels like. Last but not least, keep up the good work!" (Siyam)**



# Campaigns and Collectives

## Events

### Rally to Save TAFE (2 & 16 August, 20 September)

RUSU attended the Save TAFE Rallies organised by TAFE for ALL. There was a fantastic turnout and great speeches by Union officials, TAFE staff and celebs alike. The fight is far from over, with the effects starting to be felt on RMIT courses and teaching staff. RUSU will continue to lend our voice to this campaign.

### Know Your Work Rights Week 17 -21 September

RUSU ran a week long awareness raising campaign targeting international students, casual workers, placement students, apprentices and trainees and students facing discrimination and who had complaints about work conditions. This campaign went out via our social media, while volunteers helped to spread the word at our weekly events.

## Campaigns

### Swanton Academic Building (SAB) – Student Experience Feedback

RUSU passed on student concerns regarding the SAB to the Project Control Group following the first weeks of the building occupation. This feedback was collected by the RUSU Rescue Team, and via social media. Concerns included the lack of power points in the building, no microwaves for student use, problems with disability access and usage, the wireless network and of course, the absence of open access computer labs. These issues reflect Student Union concerns communicated to RMIT prior to the completion of the building, and demonstrate the importance of meaningful student consultation.

### SAB Student Experience Feedback – 3 months in:

RUSU passed along more detailed student feedback to the Vice Chancellor after 3 months of occupation in the building. Frustratingly, the issues that students are facing are the issues RUSU brought up during initial consultation on the project proposal.

SAB students feel frustrated that, despite RMIT's claims that the SAB project is student focused, they do not have access to basic amenities and necessary facilities in the building, and are constantly being told to 'go across the road' to access services.

### Student Article on SAB Issues

A RUSU representative was interviewed by a RMIT Journalism student for a City Journal article regarding SAB emergency evacuation issues. This article brought to light the experience of a disabled student in a recent SAB evacuation and RUSU feedback has led to the improvement of emergency procedures for the SAB, including further training of fire wardens, and better communication regarding evacuation plans. <http://thecityjournal.net/news/student-with-disability-forgotten-in-fire-evacuation/>

### SSAF proposals

RUSU submitted 21 proposals for the allocation of Student Services and Amenities Fee funding for 2013 projects. All proposals will be reviewed by the Student Experience Advisory Committee and the SSAF Steering Committee, which includes RUSU representatives. We believe that it is important that students see real and immediate benefits from this fee, and support visible projects, targeting the areas of greatest need.

### Consultation regarding Exam Based Anxiety:

RUSU representatives attended a meeting organised by the RMIT Academic Registrar's Group regarding the needs of students with anxiety. It is clear that this will be an ongoing conversation, with the aim of providing better support, in light of statistics which show that anxiety and mental health issues are an issue shared by a large proportion of RMIT students. RUSU will continue to campaign for better disability support.

### Student Anxiety Paper: "The Cost of Failure"

This paper was submitted to Academic Registrar on 21 September, and assisted RUSU in providing clear evidence of the impact of anxiety upon the capacity of students to perform at their best, and the impact of discontinuing students upon the university.



**Know Your Work Rights**

International Students you have the right to:

- Work your whole shift time
- Fair rates of pay
- Meal and rest breaks
- Pay slips, and more

Find out more, get help, make a complaint:  
<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/employment/international-students/pages/default.aspx>



**Know Your Work Rights**

Placement Students you have the right to:

- genuine vocational placement (not free work)
- cover under OH&S, worker compensation, discrimination and other laws
- relatively short placement periods
- focus on learning not productivity for the business

Find out more, get help, make a complaint @ <http://www.fairwork.gov.au/pay/student-placement-and-unpaid-work/pages/default.aspx>

# RUSU Departments

## Environment

### Better Food Choices Campaign:

This quarter, the Enviro Department launched the first stage of an ongoing campaign to raise awareness about sustainable and healthy food choices, and to offer avenues for students to access these options more easily.

### The Melbourne Environmental Film Festival:

RUSU ran a competition via social media and gave away 10 single passes and 5 x 3 movie passes to the best respondents to environmental awareness questions.

### Bring Your Own Lunch Competition:

To encourage students to make sustainable and healthy food choices the Enviro Department ran a month long competition via social media, challenging students to bring their lunch box, rather than opt for take away. Prizes included 2 tickets to Summerdayze music festival, a free bike service, a relaxation massage from Melbourne Natural Wellness and free veggie boxes from our friends at Organic Empire.

### Veggie Boxes:

We have partnered with veggie box home delivery service Organic Empire, to offer RMIT students an awesome price on local, organic produce- only \$28 dollars a box! We hope that a home delivery service will make it easy for students to form lasting habits in choosing more sustainable and health conscious food options.

Next quarter the Enviro Department should be ready to launch the next stage of this campaign- Greening Chill n Grill. We are busy sourcing more sustainable food, beer and packaging options so that we can practice what we preach including:

- Sustainable beer from The Good Brew Co: locally produced, solar powered beer made with natural ingredients, no chemicals and rainwater.
- Veggie burgers from Larder Fresh: made from locally grown ingredients and shaped by hand.

- Organic bread from Thorough Bread: organic flour bread to wrap around your sausage or burger.
- Sustainable kangaroo meat from Macro Meats: kangaroo meat is sourced from wild kangaroos harvested as part of National Parks planned management. As the animals are not farmed, and are perfectly suited to Australian conditions, kangaroo meat has a very low environmental impact in comparison with beef, chicken, lamb or pork. Kangaroo meat is significantly safer than cattle and swine, in regards to disease and contamination rates. It is a healthy alternative, very lean and high in protein and iron.
- Biodegradable cups from BioPak: made from paper sourced from managed plantations, lined with a coating made from corn starch.

### Students of Sustainability (SOS) Conference (La Trobe, Bendigo 7-8 July)

The RUSU Environment Department had a great time at this conference at La Trobe Uni's Bendigo Campus. We ran a Realfoods booth at the Activist Fair and presented a healthy drinks and desserts demo to a packed room of 50+ attendees. The Environment Department provided financial assistance for 10 students to attend the conference and assist with volunteering. The conference was a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow eco-minded students and community organisations from around Australia and learn about interesting concepts such as permaculture, edible weeds and on-campus activism.

### RUSU Realfoods Café

RUSU Realfoods Café has continued to grow our customer base, and with each quarter of trading our customer numbers and sales across all product lines have increased.

Due to dietary, allergy, religious, ethical or financial concerns, many of our customers eat exclusively at Realfoods when on campus – and many customers come to us from nearby tertiary institutions (Eg. Endeavour College of Natural Health) and nearby workplaces. We therefore know it is very important to maintain our offerings of lactose-free, gluten-free, nut-free and kosher etc menu items to continue this customer loyalty.

Realfoods has kept up its regular 2 page 'Realfoods Recipes' section in **Catalyst** magazine We continue to offer the 10% discount for RUSU members and Realfoods and Enviro Collective Facebook groups' benefit from regular giveaways.

Feedback:

- "Just had the strawberry, orange and date smoothie, it's the best thing I've ever drunk my whole life!!" (Ivana, RMIT City Fitness)
- "Your pizzas at Realfoods blow my mind. Yum." (Marz L, RMIT student)
- "Realfoods has shown to be leaders in the *sustainability* space." (Nick Jenkins, City of Melbourne)

### Catering

Realfoods generated a new catering menu this quarter which enabled us to be exposed to more comprehensive catering opportunities within RUSU and wider RMIT community. Key Events Included:

**Fairly Educated Conference (RMIT Storey Hall & Green Brain, 27-29 July).**

- Realfoods was the chosen caterer for this high profile national conference on fair trade in the university sector. Eight RMIT student volunteers assisted in the provision of all meals for the 100+ attendees and presenters over the course of the three day event. Participating in the event was a promotional, experiential and financial success for Realfoods and allowed us to showcase our service to students and staff from universities around Australia.
- *“You truly did an amazing job, and the conference could not have been such a wonderful success without your help, advice, wonderful volunteers and most of all the excellent food. Thanks again.”* (Tamsien West, Conference Coordinator & President RMIT Fair Trade Collective).
- Fairly Educated Conference website profile: <http://www.fairlyeducatedconference.com/realfoods-lucy-stegley-fairly-educated-conference-profile/>

**RMIT Wellness Society – inaugural wellness lecture (Kaleide Theatre, 12 September).**

- *“Thank you for your help last night. The food was amazing and service impeccable!”* (Katie and The Well Exec Team)



**RMIT Japan Club – cooking class (Realfoods, 14 September)**

This was a collaborative event between a RUSU student Club and Realfoods. *“Thank you very much for organising such a wonderful event with us.”* Erika Ito (RMIT Japan Club President)

**More quotes from our Facebook page:**

*“Thank you for giving me a safe, affordable food option on campus. And such yummy food to boot!”* – (Ruth J)

*“Fantastic food! Vegetarian, Vegan and Raw options, lots to choose from, but needs to be open longer hours! Needs permanent funding from RMIT, very important for their students to access such healthy and amazing food!”* – (Nick C)

## RUSU Womyns

RUSU staff and the Womyn’s department participated in the joint NTEU and NUS revival of Blue Stocking Week from 13–17 August. The week is named for the first generation of womyn university students, who became colloquially known as ‘Blue Stockings’, and celebrates womyn’s participation in higher education. Bluestocking Week draws attention to what womyn have won, and what we are still fighting for, in higher education.

The womyn’s department are currently very busy planning for the upcoming Reclaim the Night rally in October, which highlights the rights of womyn to feel safe and secure when they go out at night and to be free from harassment or attack.

RUSU continued to maintain womyn’s rooms on the City, Carlton and Bundoora campuses.



## RUSU Welfare and Education

**Sust-cine-bility Film Festival**

The Welfare and Education department presents 6 weeks of thought provoking film in conjunction with the School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning. 30 students each week enjoyed delicious and sustainable catering from Miss Chu’s and watched and discussed films exploring the interconnected issues of gender, sexuality, race, economic and environmental issues and how these interact to produce personal, social and community wellbeing.

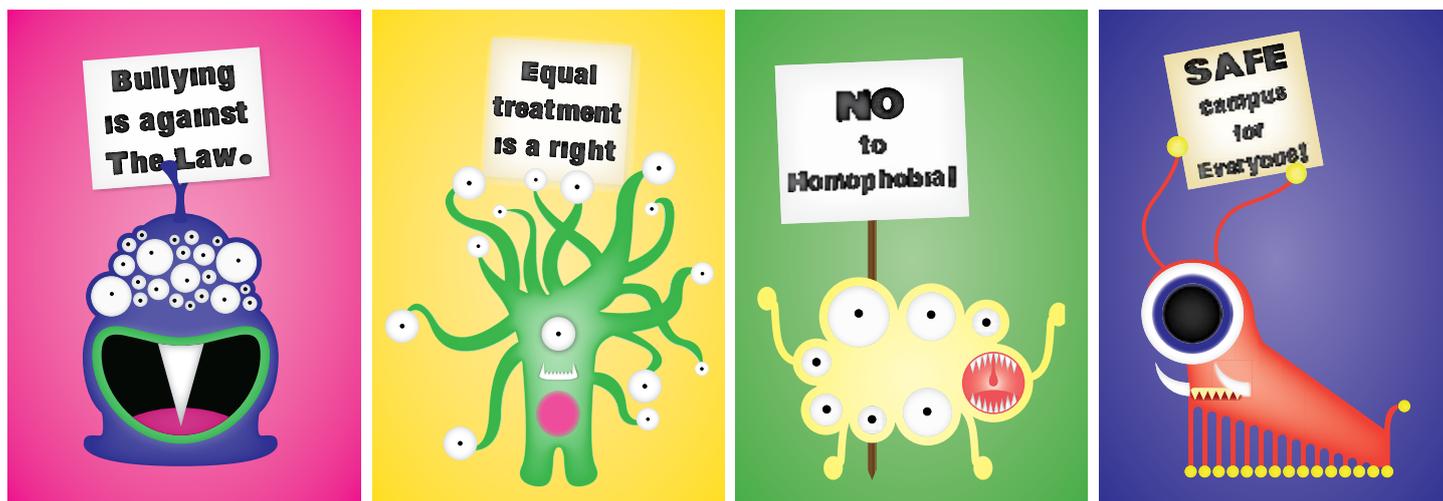
**Campaign for Fair Assessment**

The Welfare and Education department have launched a campaign in response to proposed changes to the RMIT Assessment Policies, and more general issues with flexibility in assessment, a lack of inclusive assessment practices and gaps in disability support at RMIT. RUSU submitted a complaint to the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, outlining issues with the draft policies, and making suggestions for ways in which RMIT can ensure fairness and equitable approach to assessment. The DVC Academic responded to RUSU’s submission on

Sep 3rd, promising to organise further consultation between RUSU and the Policy Working Party, with the assistance of the Dean of Students.

The NTEU showed support for the campaign in their Union Matters newsletter of 28 August. RUSU are concerned about the effects draft Assessment Policies will have on RMIT academic staff, particularly casuals.





## RUSU Queer

### Queer Collaborations National Conference 2-8 July

RUSU supported 10 RMIT students to attend Queer Collaborations at Flinders Uni. This years theme was Queermageddon: The End of Queerphobia.

### We Are Not Monsters

The Queer Collective has been working with Compass on an Anti-Homophobia day campaign called "We are not monsters" scheduled for October to be run across the City and Bundoora East and West campuses.

### Regular Events

Throughout semester the Queer collective has run the following weekly meetings and events:

- Monday's collective meetings,
- Tuesday's "Wine and Whine",
- Thursday's Crafternoon and Talky Thursday's,
- Friday "Fresh Meat and Great".

## RUSU International

### RUSU English Language Workshops

The International Department launched a new program to assist RMIT students struggling with English, in a fun, engaging and social way. Over a 6 week program, students play language games, and communication exercises, designed to improve confidence with spoken English, led by a professional facilitator. After the classes RUSU provides a free lunch, so that students can eat together and

get to know one another. On the last class the students are taken on a walking tour of Melbourne's laneway artworks and historic sites, to offer an experience of Melbourne's culture and to give them an opportunity to converse in English on unusual and interesting topics. Our first class commenced on 27 July, with 20 students. A second group began on 14 September. RUSU will continue to offer these classes in the future.

RUSU  
ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE  
WORKSHOPS





- ★ Fun, free spoken English practice
- ★ Fridays 12.30-2 pm, with a free lunch afterwards
- ★ 6 classes from July 27th – August 31st

- ★ Bld 8, Lev 3, Room 18 Student Union Meeting Room
- ★ Please register your interest by emailing [sally.christiansen@rmit.edu.au](mailto:sally.christiansen@rmit.edu.au)
- ★ Limited places available

# RUSU Postgraduate

## Higher Degrees by Research Policy Input

This quarter RUSU was pleased to see that the feedback we provided during consultations with RMIT had been included in the draft HDR policy suite. RUSU is continuing to monitor the progress of these policies through the RMIT committee process.

## New HRO Student Rights Officer

The Postgraduate department is this quarter excited about the new

SSAF 'Quick Wins' funded specialist staff position of Student Rights Officer - Higher Degree by Research. After filling this role 2 days a week for several months on a temporary basis, Helen Cook was successful in receiving the permanent role.

## RMIT Postgraduate Association Drinks

The RPA has started a regular drinks and pizza social event for postgrad students.

## Clubs and Societies

# \$82,500 paid in grants to clubs this quarter

## RUSU Grants & SSAF Quick Wins

\$82,500 was paid to clubs as grants this quarter, bringing the total club grants to date to \$130,283. Please note that \$11,260 of these grants were paid to clubs that fall into the broad category of 'political clubs'. In adopting a cautious approach to how the SSAF legislation may be interpreted RUSU has made the choice to record and fund these through a non -SSAF revenue source. To date \$119,077 of SSAF funds have been allocated in club grants that are allowable under the SSAF legislation.

RUSU was successful in obtaining an extra \$30,000 of SSAF 'Quick Wins' funding dedicated to club grants. As grant activity this quarter shows these extra funds were much needed.

RUSU also obtained SSAF 'Quick Wins' grants for the club digitisation process, extra training for Bundoora and Brunswick clubs and a 4 day a week Clubs and Societies Officer staff position for the Bundoora and Brunswick campuses. Recruitment for this role occurred during this quarter. The successful candidate, Henry Barlow is already working on outreach and preparations to build club activity on these campuses in 2013.



- RMIT Iranian Student Association
- RMIT Landscape Architecture Body (LAB)
- RMIT Melbourne City Overseas Christian Fellowship (MOCF)
- RMIT Pedal Pushers
- RMIT University Union of Jewish Students (RUUJS)
- RMIT University Hellenic Society (RUSH)
- RMIT University Korean Association (RUKA)

Brand new Clubs to affiliate to RUSU during this quarter are:

- RMIT Bangladeshi Association
- RMIT Business Students Association (BSA – social club)
- RMIT International Business Association (IBA)
- RMIT Mahjong Club
- RMIT Music Industry Club (MIC)

RUSU welcomes all of these clubs. The Department will be working with all of 2012 affiliated clubs to coordinate re affiliation for 2013 and the start of the new academic year. Contact has also been made to RUSU seeking support for the establishment new clubs for 2013 – this list stands at a dozen new club ideas. Not all of these ideas will translate into clubs but the enthusiasm shown by RMIT students for new clubs demonstrates the value of these clubs in the student experience.

## RUSU Clubs Affiliation & Reaffiliation

### 95 Active RUSU Student Clubs

In 2012, RUSU introduced semester affiliation deadlines for its clubs. This deadline (the end of HE semester week 5) provides a reasonable basic operating structure for the Department. The deadline enables new or lapsed club participation in start of semester promotional activities such as Orientation and the time to run initial club meetings to develop the foundation membership and statutory considerations required. It also recognises that successful clubs need to be well thought through and organised.

As of the end of September 2012, there were 95 RUSU clubs, an additional 12 clubs since mid year.

Re affiliated Clubs during this quarter are:

- RMIT Association of Pharmacy Students (RAPS – formerly RMIT PSA)
- RMIT City Psychology Club
- RMIT Electric Racing

## RUSU Club Events Supported By RUSU Club Grants

The majority of club administrative, governance, promotional and fundraising activity takes place on campus. However, many of the larger and/or key club activities and functions are not held on campus. This is due to the fact that there is no way the University could meet all Club activity/function needs. But it doesn't need to.

If RMIT seeks to be "in the city, of the city and through the city", our Clubs lead the way. Clubs actively seek to engage with places, spaces and services in or near their cities (Melbourne, Moreland and Whittlesea) as this is what suits most students. They also seek access to the new and the exciting – they are style leaders and trend setters. They also consistently return to the venues and service providers they trust which is the basis of many of our clubs "traditional" activities and why they continue to be so successful. RMIT has it all on the doorstep and clubs thrive on the variety and opportunity RMIT locations afford them.

It's for this reason it is disappointing to hear some University Staff comment that there is not enough Club activity. It is as if it can't be seen, it must not exist. To assist in dispelling this false perception (for whatever reasons it may be held) please see below for a list of RUSU Club Events, activities and resources which have attracted Clubs funding this quarter. Again, Clubs do not seek support for every activity so this list is also just the tip of the iceberg. RUSU recognises and commend the efforts of the students who put so much effort into organising these events and club activities – no easy task. RUSU Clubs are about more than just Bowen St BBQs. The list below does not include Mid Year Orientation activities which were reported on in the second quarterly report (55 participating RUSU Clubs).

## RUSU Funded Club Events – Third Quarter

- RMIT Assoc Pharmacy Students (RAPS) Delegates attended the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Annual Conference in Canberra
- RMIT PPIA (Indonesian Students Assoc.) Mid year Welcome Club BBQ (Zen Apartments City)
- RMIT Engineers Without Borders Mid Year Welcome Club BBQ (Fig Tree Courtyard)
- RMIT Enviro Eng. SA (EESA) Ball at San Remo Ballroom
- RMIT Melb. O'seas Christian F'Ship (MOCF) Mid Year Welcome Night (RUSU Meeting Room 8.3)
- RMIT MBA SA Mid Year Welcome Club (O Grady's Place)
- RMIT Basement (Sculpture) Club Mid Year Welcome BBQ/ Exhibition fundraiser (Bowen Street)
- RMIT Fashion Design Soc (FDS) Mid Year Welcome Club event (8.10 Balcony)

- RMIT Christian Union (RMIT CU) Delegates attended 2012 Summit Camp (Upper Plenty)
- RMIT EWB Delegates attended the EWB National Council in South Australia
- RMIT Accounting Students Association Welcome Club BBQ (Bowen St)
- RMIT Asian Assoc. Camp at Lake Nillahcootie
- RMIT BA Textile Society (BATS) Commune Event – equipment funding
- RMIT Dip Interior Design & Interior Decoration Club Mid Year Welcome Club event (B94)
- RUMA Mid year Welcome BBQ (Bowen St)
- VISAR (Vietnamese International Students) Mid Year Welcome Club event (China Town)
- RMIT Secular Society "Cupcakes for your Soul" (Bowen St)
- RMIT SWAP (Social Workers Alliance Project) 2012 Ball Fundraiser BBQ (Bowen St)
- RMIT AERO (Aerospace SA) Industry Night (Storey Hall)
- RMIT Buddhist Society Mid Year Welcome BBQ (Bowen St)
- RMIT MedRad 2012 Ball (San Remo Ballroom)
- RMIT ACCESS (Appl. Chem & Enviro) Ball (Royal Melbourne Hotel)
- RMIT ALP Club BBQ, Trades Hall tour and NUS Office visit (Bowen St ,Trades Hall, NUS)
- RMIT Japan Club Semester 2 Language Conversation Program (Pearson & Murphy's)
- RMIT OSA (Optics) Delegate to the 2012 International Conference on Science Communication (University of Lorraine, Nancy, France)
- RCSSA (Chinese Students & Scholars) Day Bus Trip to Phillip Island
- RCSSA Chinese Style Party (Assorted City venues)
- RMIT Dip Interior Design & Interior Decoration Club Annual exhibition - Venue Hire deposit for 1000 Bend
- RMIT Manufacturing & Mechatronics (M&ME) SA Sports Day at RMIT Bundoora
- RU Malaysian Assoc. Mid Semester Club Event (Chai Restaurant)
- RMIT Landscape Architecture Body (LAB) Mid Semester Club Event (Private House)
- RMIT CESA (Civil Engineers) Mid Semester Club Event (High Fidelity Bowling)
- RMIT Enviro Eng. SA Rock Climbing Event (Hardrock Climbing)
- RMIT Ceramics SA Exhibition Fundraiser BBQ (Bowen St)
- RMIT Greens BBQ (Bowen St)
- RMIT Graphic Design Grad. Exhib. (GDGE) Industry Meet & Greet Program (Cornish Arms Hotel Brunswick)
- RMIT OpenBite (Printmaking) SA Fundraising Auction (B49 Theatre)
- RMIT African Students Assoc. (RASA) Club Bowling Event (Strike Bowling)
- RMIT Chinese Methodist Christian F'ship Club Dinner and Games Event (Private house)
- RMIT SciFi & Games Association Games equipment
- RMIT Association of Debaters (RAD) BBQ (Bowen St)
- RMIT Communication Design (CDG) Website funding

**RMIT GREENS PRESENTS:**

# AYCC Youth Decide BBQ

**TUESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER**  
**12.00 - 3.00PM**  
**BOWEN STREET BBQ**

**Have your say on climate change, and grab a delicious veggie sausage while you're at it!**

THE RMIT GREENS | aycc | RUSU RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

- RMIT Japan Club Japanese Cooking Workshop ( RMIT Cafeteria/RealFoods)
- VISAR – World Week Event – Vietnamese food, art and traditions (Bowen St)
- RMIT BAPS (BA Photography) – funding for 2012 Exhibition poster
- RMIT BAPS – funding for 2012 Exhibition venue (QV – No Vacancy Gallery)
- RMIT Buddhist Society – Semester 2 Meditation Program (RUSU Meeting Room 8.3)
- RMIT Buddhist Society – purchase of books for Club library
- RMIT PPIA – Project REVIVE 2012 – assistance with venue hire, transport costs, promotions costs (RMIT Storey Hall)
- RMIT Accounting SA BBQ (Bowen St)
- RMIT Basement Annual Exhibition Fundraising Auction (B37)
- RMIT Wellness Society Wellness Seminar (Kaleide Theatre)
- RMIT M&ME Video editing costs for Club promo material
- RMIT CU Website funding
- RUMA Mid Autumn Festival (Bowen St)
- RMIT Greens Delegate attendance at Campus Greens Conference (Hobart)
- RMIT Postgrad Gold & Silversmithing Exhibition costs – venue hire & catering
- RMIT OCF Club BBQ (Bowen St)
- RMIT Information Security Collective (RISC) Inaugural Industry Night (Green Bain Storey Hall)
- RMIT Students For Palestine – Cultural and Information Event – Bowen Street
- RMIT Singapore Students Association (SSA) Club event (Storey Hall)
- RMIT Music Industry Club – Club Affiliation Party (Private house - Preston)
- Graduate Engineering Association at RMIT (GEAR) Careers Network Night (Bluestone Bar)
- 2012 Science Ball - Science Clubs combined event (Royal Melbourne Hotel)

Allocation of RUSU Club Grants is only part of the support RUSU provides to Clubs. In addition, we assist with event equipment, event planning, promotional material design and printing (25 posters designed and over 2000 sheets of printing this quarter). RUSU also works with RMIT service departments such as Property Services and ITS to ensure all RUSU Clubs access and use RMIT facilities appropriately and to develop these on campus facilities such as the recent upgrade of Fig Tree Courtyard.

## Student Media

### RMITV

#### Productions

- **“Live on Bowen”** successfully wrapped up their first ever season in September. The season was an absolute success and provided crew positions to over 40 new and current RMITV members. Live on Bowen has been well received by C31 audience and our community, popular for showcasing local talent, providing comedy sketches for comedians and writers and everyone involved has a real chance to learn about live

## RUSU C&S Development & Representation

During this period, the RUSU C&S Officer represented and advocated for RMIT Clubs in efforts involving RMIT Property Services, Pearson & Murphy's, the RMIT Digital Marketing Manager, the RMIT Orientation Steering Committee and the RMIT Religious Advisory Committee.

#### SAB Notice boards

The C&S Officer has attempted to gain access for Clubs use of what appeared to be purpose built pinboards/white boards at SAB, but now appear to be little more than art installations – a no hard copy promotional material policy having been introduced at SAB – a policy that is not applied to any other RMIT building despite SAB not being considered a distinct campus.

#### BBQ Upgrades

Sadly, the anticipated upgrade of BBQs in Bowen Street was put on hold by the University due to the uncertainty as to what will be involved in the “Knowledge Hub” redevelopment.

The additional BBQs for The Sunken Courtyard (East side of Spiritual Centre) and “Belvedere (walkway area from Alumni Courtyard going towards Pearson & Murphy's) were also put on hold.

However, an upgrade of Fig Tree Courtyard (west side of Spiritual Centre) was completed with a new, larger free electric BBQ and more powerful lighting so the space may be used in the evenings. RUSU Clubs absolutely love Fig Tree when they need a more private outdoor space on Campus. RUSU Clubs thanks those Property Services Staff who worked to get this project prioritised and completed in time for the rush of end of semester club events booked for Fig Tree.

#### Club Lockers

The initial approved site for the new club lockers in Building 8 was also withdrawn due to uncertainty about the Knowledge Hub upgrade requirements. An alternative site is available but RUSU management raised concerns over its suitability. So, the much anticipated new club locker plans have returned to the drawing board. Apologies to all involved.

#### Teaching & Learning Expo

RUSU's C&S Officer attended two sessions of RMIT's 2012 Teaching & Learning Expo held at Storey Hall in August. Both sessions focused on the “student experience”. The sessions attended were “Harnessing the curricular and co-curricular to promote meaningful student engagement”, and “Cohort Experience Program – The Student Success Program”.

TV. Successfully led by Lisa and Darcy – Executive Producers of Live on Bowen who are currently working in the television industry in Melbourne.

- **“Tough Times Never Last”** is halfway through shooting another season. Involving up to 30 RMITV crew members, “Tough Times” operates on a rotating crew position basis, so each volunteer can experience every role in TV production. A well seasoned show, this is a great opportunity for our members to be involved in a long running show that is well entrenched in its own format.

- **“Fergus in Hell”** is in its 2<sup>nd</sup> season of a 6 episode sitcom that is shot on location (outside of the studio) and in the studio, involving up to 40 RMITV crew members. Rhys Tate is the producer and received a government grant to produce the 2<sup>nd</sup> season of “Fergus in Hell” which helped deliver a very professional production and involve many more crew members. ‘Fergus in Hell’ is currently nearing the end of its 2<sup>nd</sup> series of airing on C31 Melbourne and Geelong.
- **“Adolesense”** is a new 6 episode teenager talk show that is also shot totally on location and involves up to 15 RMITV crew members. Adolesense completed their first season on C31 Melbourne and Geelong in October 2012.
- **“In Pit Lane”** is a 13 episode live motor sports news program. “In Pit Lane” is currently airing on C31 Melbourne and Geelong until early December 2012. It is in its 18th year of production and is an extremely well oiled production. One in which new members are encouraged to participate in, as their first experience of live broadcasting. “In Pit Lane” involves up to 30 RMITV crew members.
- **“Your Photography”** Is currently airing its 2<sup>nd</sup> season on C31 Melbourne and Geelong. ‘Your Photography’ covers the basic elements of stills photography over its season, and is an entertaining and informative program that involves on location shooting interviews and editing opportunities for RMITV members.
- **“31 Questions”** Successfully completed their 1<sup>st</sup> season airing on C31 Melbourne and Geelong in September 2012. “31 Questions” is a quiz show hosted by the very charming David M. Green. Over 25 RMITV volunteers worked on “31 Questions” and David is currently organizing season 2 to be shot in RMIT’s

TV studio early 2013.

- **“Bumper 2 Bumper”** Successfully completed its 1<sup>st</sup> season airing on C31 Melbourne and Geelong. The program was shot entirely on location and provided on location shooting and editing experience for RMITV members.

### Management Handover

In August 2012, Ruth Sayers finished up as General Manager of RMITV. Ruth was General Manager for over 12 months and successfully oversaw ‘Live on Bowen’s’ first season and implemented many successful systems. Ruth went abroad to the US in August, continuing her studies in film over there for 4 months. Regina Phillips is the new appointed General Manager of RMITV, Regina is a professional photographer and produces the ‘Your Photography’ TV series within RMITV. She also bringing with her many years of business skills and a bright vision for the future of RMITV.

### Training

We are currently holding many training sessions from beginner to advance in all areas of the television industry. We have professional trainers who currently work in the industry and are providing hugely successful sessions for all our RMITV members. We look forward to providing more training workshops to all current RMITV members in 2013.

### Catalyst

Edition 4 of Catalyst was produced and distributed this quarter. Catalyst is also available to students online at <http://www.su.rmit.edu.au/media/catalyst>.

## RUSU Social Media

### Social Media use increases by 50%

In the last 12 months the RUSU social media usage has increased by over 50%. At the end of the quarter there were close to 4000 users interacting with our Facebook page and close to a 1,000 Twitter followers. This is a marked growth from last year and a sign of positive recognition of social media as a critical communication platform with the student body. Our engagement levels most likely increased due to careful posting and monitoring of content to ensure that we reach a wide range of RMIT social and demographic groups, hence being approachable to many students. Three of the different approaches that were adopted in this last quarter were;

- **Meet the Staff Social Media Campaign.** The purpose of this was to introduce the hard working staff members of RUSU, many of whom interact with students through activities or clubs. Importantly it is a means to be more open about how RUSU works. These posts were extremely successful, we took pictures of staff doing activities that they would never normally do. For example our Finance staff member Colin posed as a superstar DJ. These posts were funny and we found it increased the engagement through our social media platforms.
- **Starting a RUSU Instagram Profile.** The mobile phone photo application Instagram is a new social media tool we have been trying out as a new way to engage with students. This platform allows us to link students, events and social media in a creative new approach for RUSU. We were able to run fantastic competitions that involved students posting pictures from our events to win prizes. This generated student created content on both our Twitter and Facebook accounts.



- **World Week 'Photo Booth' Campaign** As part of World Week we ran a 'photo booth' campaign where we had different members of the SUC and RUSU volunteers dress up and have their photo taken to promote their diverse backgrounds. This proved to be an extremely easy way to create more interactions on the Social Media between RUSU and RMIT Students, starting instant conversations between the willing model and friends and classmates. Using the Facebook, Twitter and Instagram platforms we were able to engage with more students and drive communication around diversity during World Week.



## Representation and advocacy

### Compass

The Compass office was in full swing this quarter with heaps of drop-in's keeping our volunteers busy. Below is a quick breakdown of what Compass achieved in the third quarter for 2012:

- There were 83 student drop-ins this quarter. Themes of mental health, finance and relationships remain strong.
- 10 Compass volunteers continued with their weekly shifts this quarter, providing a great direct practice learning opportunity for the volunteers, who are all from Psychology, Social Work and Youth Work courses.
- The Student Well Being Yoga Program continued over the City, Brunswick and Bundoora campuses.

- Numerous referrals were made on site and to external agencies.
- Anti homophobia campaign working group was convened including the 2012 and 2013 Queer reps, members of the Queer collective and the Compass project officer. Two events are to be held in October on Brunswick and Bundoora campus to address issues of homophobia and bullying.
- Final year Masters of Social Work student Noosha D'Cruze joined Compass on placement and will be conducting an in-depth survey to review students experience and knowledge of services on campus and see how Compass can best assist students with welfare needs.
- Compass project officer participated in the RUSU English Language Workshops in an effort to build up a relationship with this cohort of students who are under represented in the students accessing support services.
- Compass project officer participated in the working party for RUOK Day run by RMIT Student Services. The day was held in mid September and was much bigger and better than last year, with many more volunteers being involved.

Compass is looking forward to an event filled forth quarter with the Anti Homophobia campaigns and Stress Less Week to run again. Compass will also be wrapping up another fantastic year of student volunteer work with recognition events happening after exams have finished.

### Student Rights

**"Your job means a lot to me and many students, thank you all!" (Student feedback)**

#### New Student Rights Officers

This quarter has seen RUSU be able (at long last) to act to increase its rights service across the university by filling a position at the Bundoora campus and a higher degrees by research specialist position. We expect that these positions will both provide a valuable dedicated service and, by reducing pressure on the generalist Student Rights positions, allow us to work on providing more targeted information about rights and responsibilities to the student body.

Ade Adeniyi joined RUSU this quarter as the Bundoora Student Rights Officer. This quarter Ade has been actively promoting the Student Rights Service at Bundoora through meetings with RMIT staff and an awareness campaign encouraging students to seek help from RUSU early.

Helen Cook was successfully appointed to the role of Student Rights Officer – Higher Degrees by Research role (see postgrad section of report).



## Appeal Committees

### RUSU Resourced students for 40 hearings

The RUSU Administration Coordinator organised and resourced student reps for university/college appeals and discipline board as follows

- 5 Student reps sat on 9 UAC hearings
- 4 Student reps sat on 15 Discipline hearings
- 6 Student reps sat on 16 CAC hearings

## Student Rights Casework & Policy Input

RUSU provided high quality written and verbal student rights information through our front counters, phone advice and student rights email service. The Student Rights Officers also provided advice, representation and casework services throughout this period.

The third quarter of 2012 has been an exceptionally busy period for the Student Rights team. A particular focus has been on analysing the potential impact on students of the proposed revised suite of assessment policies and on attempting to provide feedback to the university on these policies. The practical experience of the Student Rights Officers suggests that many of the proposed drafting changes would either have unduly negative impacts on students or could be misinterpreted by students and staff in ways which would undermine the more general thrust of the assessment principles. We remain concerned that many of the proposed changes, such as passing on students' details to support services without their consent and making students supply detailed health management plans, can only be implemented by setting aside legally established rights, creating a situation that causes unnecessary conflict between students and their university and creates risk for RMIT. Trying to assist the institution to develop fair, reasonable and effective assessments policies will therefore be an ongoing focus of attention for the team.

### Case Study

Casework with individual students continues to reveal patterns of issues that suggest that some groups of students face disproportionate levels of difficulty navigating through the university's academic and support systems. For Example: at the beginning of September out 20 active exclusion appeals on the caseload of one Student Rights Officer 15 had diagnosed mood disorders which had been assessed as having had a serious impact on study, two of the other students were able to demonstrate that they had been affected by caring relationships with family members with significant mental health problems. What is noteworthy is that these students were, in theory, eligible for special consideration and other forms of support and so could have withdrawn from their studies without failure. Patterns like this reinforce the advice we receive verbally from students that they struggle to locate and understand information about what to do at RMIT to limit the effect of a personal crisis on their studies.



## Cases created 3rd quarter 2012:

1	Admin Issue	3
2	Admission Issue	2
3	Agent gave incorrect or misleading advice	1
4	Appeal Against Assessment	34
5	At Risk/Academic Progress	16
6	Bullying	9
7	Complaint	36
8	Course Issue	2
9	Disability	36
10	Discipline Issue	11
11	Enrolment Issue	13
12	Exclusion	54
13	Fees Issue	6
14	Graduation Issue	2
15	Group Work Issue	1
16	Leave of Absence	3
17	Ombudsman Complaint	6
18	Online Enrolment Issue	1
19	Ombudsman Complaint	3
20	Payment Plan Needed	1
21	Placement Issue	2
22	Plagiarism	31
23	Problem with course advice	17
24	Problem with Exam	1
25	Problem with Invoice	2
26	Refund/remission of debt	3
27	RPL Issue	4
28	Sexual Harassment Issue	1
29	Special Consideration	63
30	Transcript error	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>370</b>

## Case outcomes 2nd quarter 2012:

1	Academic Misconduct (Discipline Board) - Student Penalised	4
2	Academic Misconduct (Discipline Board) - Case Dismissed	1
3	Academic Misconduct (Discipline Board) - Student Reprimand	1
4	At Risk Withdrawn (appeal against maximum time)	1
5	Contacted Academic Administration - Issue Resolved	5

6	Contacted Head of School - Issue Resolved	7
7	Contacted Course Coordinator – Issue Resolved	13
8	Contacted lecturer/tutor - Issue Resolved	1
9	Debt Issue Resolved	7
10	Debt Remains	1
11	Discipline Committee- Student allowed to continue	3
12	Email advice given to student	15
13	Exclusion withdrawn – by school	7
14	Informal Review of Assessment Resolution	3
15	Late Enrolment Achieved	4
16	Leave of Absence	6
17	Ombudsman Complaint Not Successful	13
18	CAC Appeal Against Assessment - Appeal Dismissed	5
19	PAC Appeal Against Assessment – Appeal Upheld	8
20	Pass by compensation achieved	1
21	Placement Issue Resolved	1
22	Plagiarism Meeting case – Dismissed Against Student	2
23	Plagiarism Meeting Case – Upheld Against Student	15
24	Plagiarism Meeting Case - Student Reprimand	8
25	Recognition of Prior Learning Achieved	1
26	Recognition of Prior Learning Not Achieved	2
27	Referral Given – Counselling Service	18
28	Referral given – DLU	8
29	Referral Given – legal Service	7
30	Referral Given – SLC	10
31	Remission of Debt not approved	1
32	School level Complaint made – Outcome Successful	4
33	School level complaint made - outcome unsuccessful	1
34	Show Cause Letter approved by SPC	13
35	Show Cause letter rejected by SPC	9
36	Special Consideration Granted –	32
37	Student Appealed Assessment and changed Exclusion status	2
38	Student withdrew from services	2
39	Supplementary Assessment Granted by SPC	2
40	UAC Appeal Against Assessment - Appeal Dismissed	4

41	UAC Appeal Against Assessment - Appeal Upheld	4
42	UAC Appeal Against Exclusion – Dismissed	6
43	UAC Appeal Against Exclusion – Upheld	13
44	UAC Appeal Against Special Consideration - Appeal approved without committee hearing	5
45	UAC Appeal Against Special Consideration – Appeal Upheld	3
46	University level Complaint Made – Outcome successful	2
47	University level Complaint made - Outcome Unsuccessful	
<b>Total</b>		<b>281</b>

### Offshore Cases – Outcomes

#### Singapore Institute of Management

1	UAC Appeal Against Exclusion Successful	4
2	UAC Appeal Against Exclusion Unsuccessful	1
3	Special Consideration not granted	1
4	Assessment Review unsuccessful	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>7</b>

#### METRO College – Malaysia

1	Exclusion withdrawn by SPC	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>

**Cases created in 3rd Quarter 2012** **370**

**Case outcomes in 3rd Quarter 2012** **281**

### Some student feedback

**“It appears that my application for special consideration has been granted and I am currently in the process of contacting Dr. to arrange the completion of the assessment. Once again, I would like to thank you for your time and assistance. Without your help and advice, I would have not been able to get this second opportunity. Hopefully, there won’t be any illness or whatsoever that will affect my performance for this assessment.”**

**“Hi Caspar, I am so happy to let you know that I have been given pass by compensation. I want to thank you for your help.”**

## Other Student Rights Outcomes/ Activities

Other non-case work SRO activities during this quarter include:

- Input into the National Disability Insurance Scheme through the National VET Equity Advisory Council
- Auditing the 412 categories of non-tuition fees RMIT intends to

charge students in 2013 to try to remove any fees that do not comply with government guidelines

- Assisting a student with a complaint at the Human Rights Commission
- Assisting students from RMIT English Worldwide with fees and academic progress issues

## Representation

### Annual RUSU Elections

The Annual RUSU elections to elect the student representatives to the Student Union Council and elect the National Union of Students delegates were held from Monday 3 to Friday 7 September. 58 nominations were received and Polling was conducted across all campuses. The elections were conducted by independent Returning Officers from Election Desk, with RUSU Student Liaison Officers acting as Assistant Returning Officers. The "RUSU Annual Election 2012" publication was produced in print and online, outlining the candidates policies and statements. The 'Connect' ticket won the majority of positions for the 2013 SUC.

Constitution during the AGMs. Key changes included:

- Removing all references to the Tivoli Bourke Street campus and office bearer positions for this campus due to its closure.
- Creating a dedicated a TAFE student representative position.
- Changing the previous Brunswick/ Carlton elected representative roles to specific Brunswick roles (with Carlton now covered by the TAFE rep role and the many city based positions).
- Changing the term of office for elected office bearers from Jan 1- Dec 31 to Nov 1 to Oct 31, to enable the elected reps to receive training and induction and plan for the year ahead.

### RUSU Annual General Meetings

The RMIT Student Union held a series of Annual General Meetings (AGMs) across all campuses from 7 to 10 August 2012. The AGM was widely publicised on all campuses, on the website, and through the RUSU membership e-newsletter in accordance with the SUC Constitution and Regulations.

Quorum was reached with approx 585 students attending across the campuses. Free muffins, cupcakes, beer, cider, soft drinks, soup and snags kept tummies full, while music provided welcome entertainment.

A full colour 8 page booklet, "RMIT Student Union Snapshot – AGM 2012" was produced and distributed during the AGM and through RUSU Information Counters. This was also a great opportunity for the student representatives to be accountable to the student body through delivering speeches and answering questions.

After posting notice of proposed changes around campus and on the website RUSU also made much needed changes to the RUSU

### Visit from RMIT Vietnam student representatives/council

The student representatives from RMIT Vietnam came to visit for a week starting the 9 July. Each department within RUSU held an information session and discussion with the visiting students. Activities discussed events management and provided insights and tips that could be taken back to Vietnam to facilitate running small budgeted student focused events. The Compass project officer met with RMIT Vietnam Student Representatives and discussed welfare needs and issues from their campus. Compass hopes to continue to discuss these issues as time goes on and the Vietnam students are able to implement more welfare program. They also attended the National Union of Students Education Conference with the RMIT delegation where they presented on the opportunities and challenges of setting up their Student Council in Vietnam - for which they received a standing ovation!

## RUSU Governance, Administration and services

### Farewell Dani

Danielle Mengel had her final day with RUSU in late September, after 6 years working in the Sponsorship & Events role and a further year in the Governance position. Danielle left to pursue her dream job working in Cambodia and we thank her for her contribution to RUSU over many years and wish her all the best.

### Governance & Admin Update

This quarter has been extremely busy with Annual General Meetings, student elections and SSAF submissions and meetings. The role out of the SSAF Quick Wins grants has also kept the Governance and Admin roles busy. Other key activities this quarter:

- Administration of the RUSU Volunteer program and handover of this to the new Student Engagement Officer staff position
- Development of position descriptions and recruitment of new SSAF funded staff positions
- Admin staff Coordinated WorkSafe Health Checks for RUSU staff
- Training volunteers to provide information about services and amenities at the Swanston Academic Building to students
- The Brunswick and Bundoora Info Counters continue to provide students with:
  - » Free book binding
  - » Emergency sanitary supplies and sexual health supplies
  - » Discounted movie tickets.

# Finance overview

## RUSU SSAF Funding 2012

- \$ 2, 046, 931.00 Total to be provided in instalments as follows
- \$ 147,222.00 on the first day of the month from January – May 2012 inclusive
- \$ 187,260.00 on the first day of the month from June – December 2012 inclusive

The increased monthly grant amount incorporating the SSAF 'Quick Wins' projects has not been received yet as the Grant Deed is yet to be formally signed off by RUSU and the RMIT Dean of Students, Owen Hughes. Until this time, the 'old' grant amount of \$147,222 each month has been received.

• YTD SSAF Grants Received	\$1,324,998
• YTD SSAF Expenditure	\$1,458,952
• Overspend	\$133,954

Our SSAF Allowable expenses exceed our SSAF grant income this quarter because:

- During this quarter RUSU has incurred expenses for the SSAF 'Quick Wins' projects, however we have not received payment of this grant from RMIT,
- The second and third quarters are periods of peak activity and expenditure as this is when students are primarily on campus and as such when more events and services are delivered. Event related expenses however are not as significant during the final quarter.

Please note that the table below is based on SSAF Allowable items and expenditure of SSAF funds on these areas. This does not include non SSAF expenditure. For example: The \$11,260 in club grants allocated to political clubs is NOT included in the expenditure total for SSAF YTD Expenditure on the 'Clubs' Allowable item as it is explicitly funded through non-SSAF sources.

You will also note that there are now no expenses recorded against the Orientation and Membership Allowable item. This is because income from membership in 2012 has covered the cost of the membership expenses. As such in 2012 this is not a SSAF funded expense. In 2012 Orientation event expenses were not specifically coded as such and as such appear with other major events in the "Major Recreational Activities" Allowable item section. This will be rectified for 2013.

RUSU also receives some funding from other grants. While some of the activities funded through these grants (Compass Drop In Centre, Furniture Collective) are reported on in the narrative section of this quarterly report due to the overlap with other representative, advocacy, administrative, governance and publicity functions of the Student Union, expenditure on these projects is not included in the expenditure reported above as it is not SSAF funded.

In order to meet legislative requirements, RUSU has altered its previous financial reporting to reflect the need to match expenses with "allowable items". In 2012, the financial reports are best presented as YTD, rather than quarterly, as previously reported figures may have needed to be amended due to coding issues and the evolving understanding around the SSAF legislation.

Additionally we are committed to continuous improvement of our financial systems to ensure we both work within our budget provisions as agreed through our funding agreement and to satisfactorily achieve our annual audit of statutory accounts by a registered company auditor.

Allowable Item	Item Description	YTD Expenses (SSAF funded)
Giving students information to help them in their orientation;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• O'Book operations, honorariums, publication (online and print) and distribution</li> <li>• Membership incentive program</li> <li>• Membership engagement, communications and marketing</li> <li>• Upgrade and Maintenance of online communications including website, e-newsletters, social media integration</li> <li>• Orientation specific events</li> </ul>	0
Caring for children of students;		0
Providing legal services to students;		0
Promoting the health or welfare of students;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All activities and events from advocacy and welfare collectives: Queer, Womyn's, Post-Graduate, Environment, Welfare, Education</li> <li>• Campaigns, events, programs, marketing</li> </ul>	\$68,328
Helping students secure accommodation;		0
Helping students with their financial affairs;		0

Allowable Item	Item Description	YTD Expenses (SSAF funded)
Helping meet the specific needs of overseas students relating to their welfare, accommodation and employment;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All activities and events from International student department</li> </ul>	\$37,308
Helping students obtain employment or advice on careers;		0
Helping students obtain insurance against personal accidents;		0
Helping students develop skills for study, by means other than undertaking courses of study in which they are enrolled;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Induction programs/Student Representative Professional Development</li> <li>Volunteer Program + program staffing</li> <li>Student Union Council Elections</li> <li>Secretariat Honorariums</li> <li>All of SUC campaigns</li> <li>Campaigns staff support</li> </ul>	\$83,927
Providing libraries and reading rooms (other than those provided for academic purposes) for students;		0
Supporting the production and dissemination to students of media whose content is provided by students;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RMITV operations, honorariums, special projects, productions, training, website</li> <li>Catalyst magazine operations, student honorariums, publication (online and print)</li> <li>Communications/Graphic Designer Staff</li> </ul>	\$111,172
Providing food or drink to students on a campus of the higher education provider;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Campus specific events and marketing</li> <li>Activities and Events collective including administration, student honorariums, marketing and staff support</li> <li>RUSU Realfoods</li> </ul>	\$122,522
Supporting a sporting or other recreational activity by students;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major events and intervarsity recreational activities and competitions</li> </ul>	\$147,907
Supporting an artistic activity by students;		
Supporting debating by students;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grants paid to RMIT or Chinese Debating clubs (or any future debating club)</li> </ul>	0
Supporting the administration of a club most of whose members are students;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administration, grants, equipment and support to student run clubs and societies</li> <li>Clubs and Societies Staff and other support</li> <li>Student Initiative Grants</li> </ul>	\$183,278
Advising on matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administration and Support staff members: Administration, Governance and Finance</li> <li>5 x Information counter staff and operations</li> </ul>	\$417,915
Advocating students' interests in matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student Rights Officers</li> <li>Student Advocacy materials, campaigns, research and training for staff and student representatives on committees</li> </ul>	\$286,595
<b>YTD SSAF Expenditure</b>		<b>\$1,458,952</b>
<b>YTD SSAF Grants Received</b>		<b>\$1,324,998</b>
<b>Overspend</b>		<b>\$133,954</b>

**RUTSU**  
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION