



RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION: SECOND QUARTER REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD:
1 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2016

RUSU
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



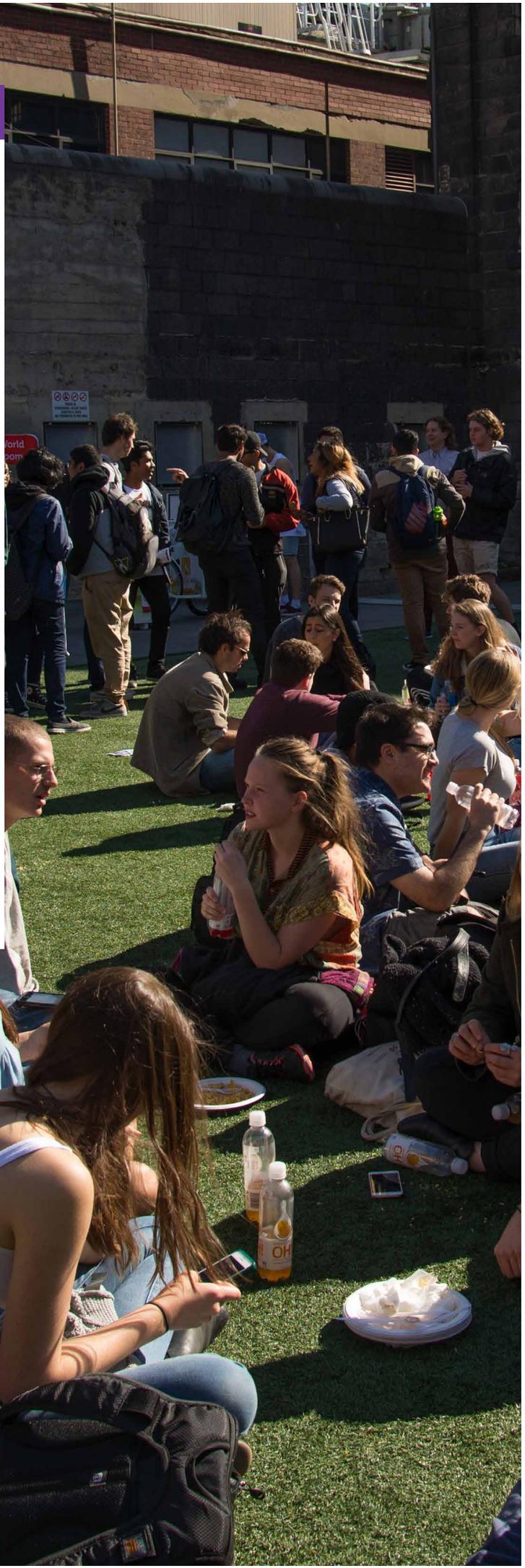
**Ariel
ZOHAR**

As Semester 1 really began to get going, the RMIT University Student Union continued to do what it does best - ensure that all students feel welcome, safe, and of course, entertained! April kicked off with Re-Orientation Week, with some multiple awesome events held over week five including a travelling roadshow, a street party, and a major nighttime event on April 7. Late June saw the traditional End of Exams party, and a great crowd of more than 650 students ensured an amazing night for everyone.

Out in Bundoora, the exciting opening of residential accommodation provides unique challenges and opportunities. It has been a major focus of the Bundoora-based student representatives and staff to make sure residents of Walert House are supported by the student union. And in Brunswick, the opening of the snooze lounge means students have a place to grab a nap between classes, something all RMIT students have been asking crying out for.

In the City, RUSU was proud to launch a new food bank through the Compass Drop-in centre. The Compass Cupboard provides students with basic pantry items free of judgement and free of charge. Too many students go hungry and this is way RUSU can help them in a direct and impactful way. The English Language Workshops were hugely popular again, as were the twice-weekly yoga classes. We look forward to continuing these programs through Semester 2.

Ariel Zohar
President
RMIT University Student Union



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



Left: EOX Party, Right: Super International Chill 'n' Grill

RE-ORIENTATION WEEK

In 2016, RUSU was once again successful in securing a SSAF grant to run additional orientation activities, including Re-Orientation Week. This calendar of events provides both commencing and returning students the opportunity to create friendships, join clubs and familiarise themselves with the social spaces of the University at a time largely free of the hustle and bustle of the peak orientation period.

The week consisted of four events during the week beginning April 4. A roadshow at both the Brunswick and Bundoora campuses, a daytime 'street party' at the City campus followed by a social event in the evening.

Re-Orientation Week Roadshow

These days saw an average of three RUSU affiliated clubs attend, with various food options and beverages (beer, cider and soft drinks) provided free of charge to students. Entertainment was provided by student DJs, plus innovative RUSU-branded giveaways.

Re-Orientation Week Street Party (Swanston St Campus)

This day was the largest of the three daytime activities, and saw around 30 RUSU affiliated clubs attend. Like the other days, a variety of food options were provided free of charge to students, not to mention beer, cider and soft drinks.

Re-Orientation Night Party

On April 7, the Re-Orientation Night party served as a closing ceremony of sorts to the week's festivities. Tickets cost \$10 for RUSU members and \$20 for non-members. This event was well attended and received warmly by students.

VE Pop Up Pub, 21 April

As part of our ongoing efforts to engage VE students, we held one of our famous pop-up pubs, providing a free bar and food to RUSU members, turning the cafeteria into a vibrant social space.

End of Exams Party, 24 June

Our bi-annual End of Exams parties are always warmly received by RMIT students, providing a great way to say goodbye to friends made during the semester. This event attracted around 650 students and a good time was had by all.

MEMBERSHIP

372 students became financial members of RUSU during the period April 1 to June 31. In total, 3038 students became financial members of RUSU during the first half of 2016.

VOLUNTEERS



International Super Chill 'n' Grill

The April to June quarter saw the introduction of RSA and SFH training being provided at the Bundoora campus. This training, together with meaningful hospitality experience, provides our volunteers and RUSU club executives with opportunities to gain skills within hospitality services. We have also had the pleasure in working with Victoria Bell from Walert House in offering the residents volunteering and social opportunities.

As usual, our volunteer recognition event was very well attended with highest ever participants this year.

Training			
	Q1	Q2	YTD
Program Induction	121	58	179
Responsible Service of Alcohol	60	32	92
Safe Food Handler	60	29	89

Volunteer hours worked City Campus			
	Q1	Q2	YTD
Activities & Events	506	499	1005
Realfoods	390	582	972
Administration	202	193	395
Compass	93	98	191
Healthy Breakfasts	43	44.5	87.5
English Language Workshops	35	9	43
Student Rights	25	69	94

Volunteer hours worked: Bundoora Campus			
	Q1	Q2	YTD
Activities & Events	61	12	73
Realfoods	55	44	99

International Super Chill 'n' Grill



ACROSS THE CAMPUSES



Tradies 'n' Chill, Carlton Campus



CITY

Both RUSU information counters at building 5 and 57 functioned as important information and contact points for RMIT students this quarter. The admin volunteer program in both locations has worked well throughout the semester, with some volunteers even doing a short morning shift when our regular staff are out of the office delivering the free breakfast program. Student casuals have also continued to work shifts at the information counters as required.

Chill 'n' Grill has grown even more in popularity over the second half of first semester. With over 1000 students now regularly attending for free BBQ and upwards of 300 RUSU financial members joining us in the bar for some afternoon refreshment and entertainment. This quarter also saw RUSU hold its first 'International Super Chill 'n' Grill', falling on the Mexican holiday of Cinco De Mayo. A large cohort of RUSU's international clubs were in attendance, providing cultural gifts for students and raising awareness of their societies among the wider student body. Entertainment from around the globe was present, with RUSU student DJs taking to the stage to play to play music from many different places and cultures, supporting Trio Barisa Latina, a Mexican Maricahi band.

In week 12 RUSU hosted Stress Less Week at Chill 'n' Grill with face painting, massage services, beautiful catered food from

some of Melbourne's best street vendors and a petting zoo! This was all provided by the RUSU Compass program in order to give students a relaxing week in the lead up to their exams.

RUSU has also taken delivery of its new beer and cider taps during this quarter. Purchase of these systems was a move to improve quality of service, with a focus on also making our events more sustainable by reducing waste and carbon footprints. All beer and cider served at Chill 'n' Grill is now served in Bio-Pack biodegradable plastic cups, removing the majority of aluminium cans from Chill 'n' Grill's waste footprint.

BUNDOORA (EAST & WEST)

Student Life and Student Engagement

The opening of the new Walert House student accommodation has changed the dynamic of the Bundoora West campus and RUSU has been engaging with these new student residents to ensure they get the best out of their time at RMIT. RUSU staff and representatives attended a successful opening event at the accommodation and were very impressed with the facilities. It is important that Walert House residents are supported by RUSU and this has been a major aim of our student life activities at Bundoora in this quarter. Shuttle buses were run from Walert House to RUSU's Re-Orientation party, allowing residents and



Above: IDAHOT Day, Below: Walert House Mexican Dinner



other Bundoora-based students to safely attend. RUSU also hosted a Mexican-themed dinner inside Walert House in collaboration with UniLodge, followed by shuttle bus transport to allow residents and other Bundoora-based students to attend RUSU’s End of Exams celebrations safely.

RUSU’s Compass centre ran a very successful Stress Less Day in Bundoora in week 12 of Semester 1. Many student got involved with the face painting, massages and petting zoo. The RUSU Queer Department was involved in IDAHOT Day celebrations at Bundoora.

The RUSU volunteer program at Bundoora continues to go from strength to strength. We are now recruiting for administration volunteers, an area which has traditionally been very sought-after by our volunteer cohort.

The Bundoora Student Rights Team has been proactive with outreach on the Bundoora campus, both through posting and approaching students at regular events to inform them of the advocacy and support service that we offer. This has seen an anecdotal increase of traffic through the Bundoora information counter and Bundoora students calling through to the RUSU student rights phone line.

Infrastructure and ongoing projects

RUSU has purchased some vital new activities infrastructure: fridges for storing event supplies at Bundoora West as well as a milk and lunch storage fridge for students, in the building 254 kitchenette at Bundoora East. This will allow Bundoora East students to enjoy fresh milk with their tea and coffee which is already provided by RUSU in the building 254 kitchenette.

The new basketball court and table tennis area at Bundoora East has been well received. RUSU, in conjunction with Property Services, has made table-tennis bats and balls available at the Bundoora East information counter for students to borrow.

The RUSU archive digitisation project has progressed significantly in this quarter. A number of archived materials from 1967–1969 were sourced and transported to the City Campus for display at the RUSU Golden Jubilee event. A number of archived images have also been published in *#throwbackThursday* posts on RUSU’s Facebook page, allowing current students and student representatives to engage with the history of the organisation. An account has been set up with Victorian Collections to allow for digitisation, storage, and online display of important archival materials.

BRUNSWICK

The Brunswick campus is cruising along exceptionally well. Charlotte Whittle and Katherine Villagaray have produced great ideas and events for improving campus life and are doing a wonderful job for the Brunswick population.

Free Healthy Breakfasts

The much-loved weekly events of the Free Healthy Breakfast continue to be as popular as ever. This year, the quantity of fresh fruit has doubled meaning we can serve even more hungry and appreciative students. Currently, we order 120 muffins, cut them in half to make 240 serves. There are also well over 200 serves of fruit which are placed into cups to become ‘fruit-cups’ The weekly breakfast now occurs on Monday mornings with many students commenting that ‘coming to Monday morning classes is now that much more easy to do.’

Winter Warmers - Free Soup Lunches (Chill ‘n’ Grill)

Tuesdays continue to host our Chill ‘n’ Grill event at Brunswick campus. Upwards of 400 students from the vocational and higher education programs flock to this exceptional event on a weekly basis. The event continues to grow in popularity with the aim to increase service again by up to 50 students. With winter in full swing, soups continue to be popular with Brunswick students. Offering vegan and gluten free soup is incredibly well received.

RUSU Presents - The RMIT Brunswick Ball

Grab your bow ties and fabulous frocks, Brunswick, your magical night is in full swing. The ball is scheduled to be held in September at the San Remo Ballroom.

Women’s & Queer Lounges at Brunswick

Both lounges are now well and truly up and running and students are getting involved in all the wonderful services the room offers. The Queer collective is in talks to have a Queer movie night that will be run out of the room.

CARLTON

The building 57 office continued to be the focal point of student rights inquiries through the second quarter while also serving the needs of student based on the Carlton side of the City campus. The multi-purpose room has been especially busy, with many clubs using the venue for social events, functions, and games. It has also been the regular room for both the free yoga classes and the English language workshops, both of which have proved enduringly popular. The weekly breakfasts on Tuesdays are also well attended, with many VE student enjoying the free muffins, yoghurt, and fruit RUSU provides.

ALL CAMPUSES

Snooze Lounges

RUSU were delighted to announce the grand opening of the new Snooze Lounges across all campuses. Students have been using the spaces to have a quick nap and recharge between classes in a safe space. Each lounge is fitted out with comfy beanbags and lockers to secure valuables.

Snooze Lounges are open 8am – 8pm at the following locations:

- » City – Building 80, Level 3, Room 13
- » Bundoora West – Building 202, Level 2, Room 19
- » Brunswick – Building 515, Level 1, Room 7

Left: Free Soup Lunches, Right: Grand Opening of The Snooze Lounge,



RUSU DEPARTMENTS

POSTGRADUATE DEPARTMENT

During the second quarter, the Postgraduate Department was involved in various events, activities and advocacy.

The RUSU Postgraduate Association (RPA) hosted its first of a series of re-designed masterclass workshops for postgraduate Students, entitled 'Unlocking Your Potential'. The booked-out workshop was a professionally facilitated, hands-on, practical workshop for students to learn how to identify their strengths and convey them, in order to achieve their professional, study and personal goals.

The RPA also hosted a formal Postgrad Cocktail Event, in partnership with Victoria Uni Postgraduate Association. The evening was incredibly popular and students from a range of schools enjoyed the drinks, socialising and projections at Loop Bar.

In terms of policy and advocacy, the Postgraduate Department continues to liaise with the University about the Higher Degree by Research policy suite and advocate for ways to improve the experience of HDR students at RMIT. The Student Rights Officer (HDR) worked with many postgraduate and HDR students, on a range of issues including supervisor-student relationships, fees, academic progress and extension to candidature, and attended numerous At-Risk meetings, Research Candidate Progress Committees, and University Appeals Committee hearings.

Postgrad Cocktail Party, hosted by RUSU and VUPA



REALFOODS

Realfoods continued to operate at the City and Bundoora campus this quarter with increases to both our sales and volunteer participation.

Realfoods Bundoora has continued to be an absolute success, the curries and grains have proven to be an absolute hit with students on campus and the feedback so far has been really overwhelming. The new cook, who specialises in vegan, healthy food, has assisted in delivering a really popular menu. Volunteer numbers were initially quite low at Bundoora due to the location, however there has been an increasing amount of students signing up.

The City campus is open from 8.00am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday during semester time with slightly reduced trading between semesters. Our Bundoora site is now currently open from 8.00am to 3.00pm and is operational only during semester time. Both Realfoods sites have been a huge success this semester and particularly at Bundoora we have well exceeded our sales targets.

The Barista/Café Assistants for both sites have proven to be an imperative asset to the team providing a great deal of support to the Administration & Volunteer Support Officer. Combined with six student casual front of house staff and two student casual baristas, the cafes are supported by a very solid team.

We've expanded our menu a little and our new turmeric lattes have been an absolute hit during the lead up to winter. A new smoothie menu for summer is also being developed.

All food at the City campus continued to be freshly prepared off site at Invita Living Food who share our ethos in providing organic, vegan, sustainable food.

Realfoods continued to provide hands-on hospitality and customer service experience to RMIT students and assisted them in increasing their employment prospects, with most students requesting references for their resumes, and many reporting back that they have found employment. By participating in this program, they not only gain experience, but solid employability skills through certification in Responsible Serving of Alcohol and Food Handling funded by RUSU. Both certificates can often prove too costly for students to afford. All volunteer time is LEAD accredited.

Some of our Realfoods volunteer feedback:

"I've finally found a job because of the experience and reference I got from Realfoods, but I'm still going to make time for my shift every week!"
- Royden

"I really love coming to Realfoods because I'm slowly learning to be more independent." - Vini



Realfoods new popular Turmeric Latte

CLUBS & SOCIETIES



ACYA Brighton Beach Trip

RUSU CLUB GRANTS

RUSU Clubs & Societies accessed \$25,000 in clubs' grants this quarter.

RUSU CLUBS ACTIVITY

Affiliation

As at the end of second quarter of 2016, RUSU has 96 fully affiliated student clubs and societies. The distribution of clubs across our different categories breakdown is as follows:

- » Spiritual Clubs: 10
- » Social Clubs: 19
- » Political Clubs: 4
- » Cultural Clubs: 21
- » Academic Clubs: 42

Brand New Clubs

We welcome the RMIT Taiwan Club to RUSU and welcome back the RMIT Chiropractic Students Association and the RMIT Chinese Medicine Students Association whose affiliation had lapsed. We are also working with a range of new club proposals for mid-year affiliation.

2nd Quarter Club Activities & Events

**CLUB ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT:
10,000+ RMIT STUDENTS ARE
MEMBERS OF RUSU CLUBS!**

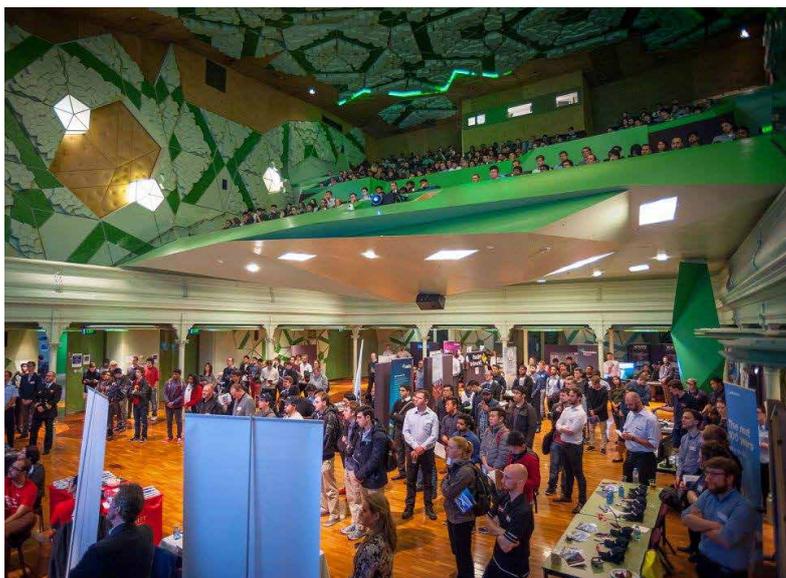
We would like to congratulate our clubs for reaching the 10,000 RMIT student membership mark in 2016. This represents a 51% increase from 2015 RMIT student memberships and we appreciate our clubs working with the RUSU Clubs Department to both increase their memberships and to provide us with more accurate membership data.

Fourteen of our clubs are now classed as 'super clubs' with more than 250 RMIT student members, and 32 clubs are 'large' with between 101 and 249 members. Special congratulations to the RMIT Accounting Students Association, our largest club with over 750 RMIT student members and to RMIT PPIA (Indonesian Students Association) signing up over 300 RMIT student members, making them our largest cultural club. Special mention also to RMIT Engineers Without Borders with over 470 RMIT student members, a doubling since last year, and one of 24 RUSU clubs to at least double their RMIT student memberships this year.

Club Activities this Quarter

RMIT Association of Chemical Engineers (ACES) Industry Night @ RMIT Storey Hall
RMIT Environmental Engineering Student Association (EESA) End of Semester Social @ Asian Beer Café, City
RMIT Environmental Engineering Student Association (EESA) 2016 Hoodies released
RMIT Environmental Engineering Student Association (EESA) BBQ Social @ RMIT O'Grady's Place
RMIT Aerospace Student Association (AESA) Week 6 BBQ – RMIT O'Grady's Place
RMIT Aerospace Student Association (AESA) combined Aerospace Industry Night with Monash Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering Club & the Australian Youth Aerospace Association @ RMIT Storey Hall
RMIT Accounting Student Association Professional (RMIT ASA) Week 5 Lunch with Ernst & Young @ RMIT A'Beckett Urban Square
RMIT Planning & Environment RMIT Student Society (PERMITSS) End of Semester Social @ Red Love, City
RMIT Association of Pharmacy Students (RAPS) Education Event with Nipro Australia @ RMIT Building 202
RMIT Business Student Association (BSA) End of Exams Party @ the Colonial Hotel, City
RMIT Planning & Environment RMIT Student Society (PERMITSS) in association with the Melbourne University Planning Student Society and the Melbourne Urban Debating League (MUDL) Inaugural MUDL Debate @ Sidney Myer Asia Centre
RMIT Association of Pharmacy Students (RAPS) Cocktail Evening @ Shaw Davey Slum, Carlton
RMIT Accounting Student Association Professional (RMIT ASA) Pre-Exams Lunch @ RMIT A'Beckett Urban Square
RMIT Business Information Systems Student Society (BISSA) Swotvac Study sessions @ RMIT Building 80
RMIT Planning & Environment RMIT Student Society (PERMITSS) film screening "The Human Scale" @ RMIT Building 80
RMIT Economics, Finance and Marketing Student (EFMSA) Industry Night @ RMIT B80
RMIT Economics, Finance and Marketing Student (EFMSA) Wall Street River Cruise @ Victoria Harbour, Docklands
RMIT International Students Association (ISA) End of Semester Party @ Euro Bier Café and Eer Rooftop Bar, City

RMIT International Students Association (ISA) Trivia Night at the Eureka Hotel, Richmond
RMIT Law Students' Society (LSS) Educational Event - Minter Ellison Advocacy Session @ Minter Ellison Chambers, City
RMIT Management & International Business Student Association (MIBSA) Industry Night @ RMIT Building 80
RMIT Law Students' Society (LSS) Nowicki Carbone Personal Injury Moot @ Old Magistrates Court, City
RMIT Law Students' Society (LSS) Careers Symposium 2016 @ The Moat, City
RMIT Mathematics, Analytics and Statistics Society (MASS) Study Session – Calculus @ B80
RMIT Mathematics, Analytics and Statistics Society (MASS) Trivia Night @ RMIT Building 80
RMIT Law Students' Society (LSS) @ Asian Beer Café, City
RMIT Medical Radiations Student Association (MRSA) Annual Ball @ San Remo Ballroom, North Carlton
RMIT Medical Radiations Student Association (MRSA) 2016 Hoodies release @ RMIT Bundoora West
RMIT Students Association for Sustainable Systems (SASSE) Post Exams Celebration @ 1000£ Bend, City
RMIT Students Association for Sustainable Systems (SASSE) Industry Night @ RMIT Green Brain
RMIT Urban Planning Society (RUPS) End of Semester Bowling & Laser Tag Social @ Strike, Melbourne Central
RMIT Urban Planning Society (RUPS) Social @ Red Love, City
RMIT Student Landscape Architecture Body (SLAB) Mid-Year Exhibition After Party @ John Curtin Hotel, Carlton
RMIT Australia-China Youth Association (RMIT ACYA) Job Searching & Resume Writing Educational session @ RMIT Building 13
RMIT Australia-China Youth Association (RMIT ACYA) Day at the Beach social @ Brighton Beach
RMIT PPIA (Indonesian Student Association) Annual Sports Day "Osama" @ Monash University Caulfield
RMIT PPIA (Indonesian Student Association) 'Pisang' Dinner Event @ Abode 381, City
RMIT PPIA (Indonesian Student Association) 'Red Carpet Ball' @ San Remo Ballroom, Carlton North
RMIT Filipino Club Karaoke Night @ RMIT Building 80 Rooftop



Left: RAA Glow Party. Right: AESA Industry Night

Club Activities this Quarter (Continued)

RMIT Hong Kong Student Association (HKSA) in association with Melbourne, Monash and Deakin Universities Hong Kong Associations 'The Masked Ball' @ Showtime Event Centre, South Wharf

RMIT Indian Club Photo Booth Event @ RMIT Alumni Courtyard

RMIT Japan Club Trivia Afternoon @ RMIT Building 80

RMIT Japan Club Japanese Survival Classes Tuesday Program @ RMIT Building 80

RMIT Japan Club Weekly Thursday program @ RMIT Bld 80

RMIT Singapore Students Association (SSA) Makan Night @ Bali Bagus, City

EESA Hoodies

RMIT Singapore Students Association (SSA) Durian Festival @ RMIT Alumni Courtyard

RMIT Spanish Club Spanish Film Festival Excursions @ various cinemas, Melbourne

RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA) go-karting event @ Fun Galore, Braybrook

RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA) 'RUMA On Ice'

RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA) "Food4U" Pre Exam Support event @ RMIT A'Beckett Urban Square

RMIT Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) Week 5 BBQs @ RMIT Bundoora Campus Library Courtyard and RMIT A'Beckett Urban Square

RMIT Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) Movie Night @ RMIT Building 94

RMIT Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) Sports Day @ Altona Badminton Stadium

AIESEC RMIT Graduate Skills Panel @ RMIT Building 80

AIESEC RMIT Team participation in the 'Live Below the Line' Challenge

AIESEC RMIT BBQ @ RMIT Alumni Courtyard

CAINZ RMIT Wealthy & Wise Speaker Session @ RMIT Bld 80

Greening RMIT's Weekly Skillshare Program @ RMIT Alumni Courtyard

RMIT Asian Association (RAA) Fundraiser for Fiji 'Hoops For Hope' @ RMIT Alumni Courtyard

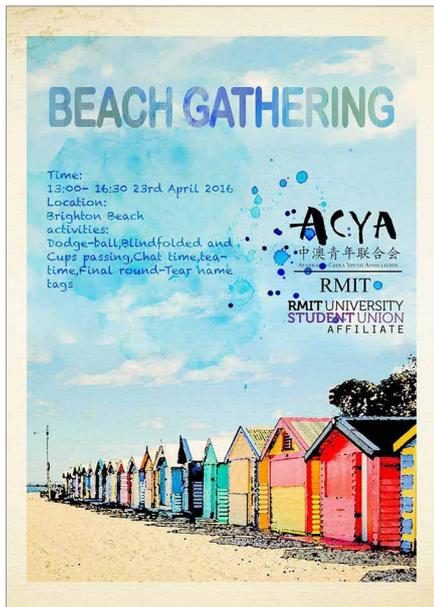
RMIT Asian Association (RAA) and Monash University Chinese-Australian Cultural Community (MCCC) "Glow Party" @ Royal Melbourne Hotel, City

RMIT Asian Association (RAA) and Monash University Chinese-Australian Cultural Community (MCCC) End of Exams (EOX) Party @ Precinct Nightclub, Docklands

RMIT Australia Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC) Enrol to Vote information booths @ RMIT Brunswick Campus & RMIT City Campus

RMIT Beer Brewers & Connoisseurs (BBC) Weekly Program including visits to breweries, Foresters Hall Tap Clean Outs & How to Brew sessions @ various locations around town

RMIT Chess Club Weekly Meetings @ RMIT Building 56



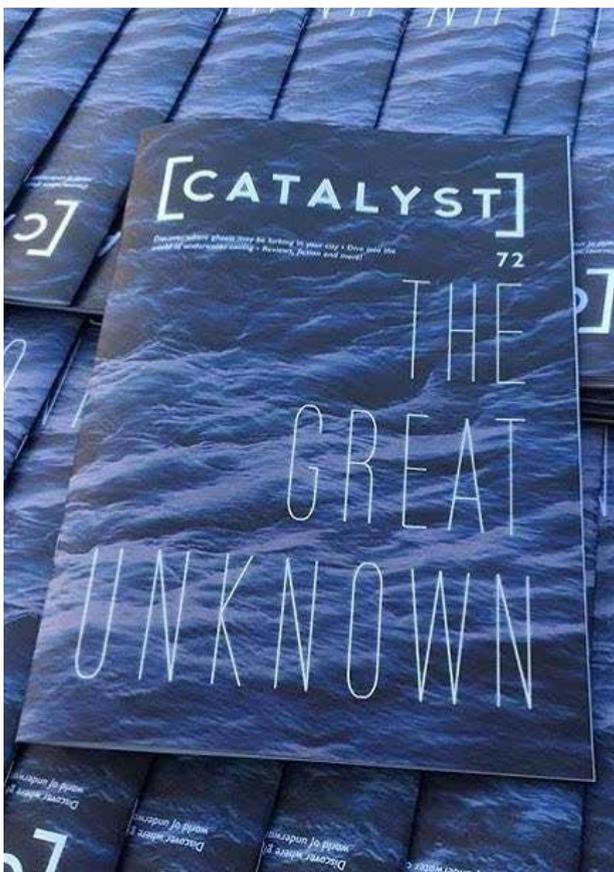
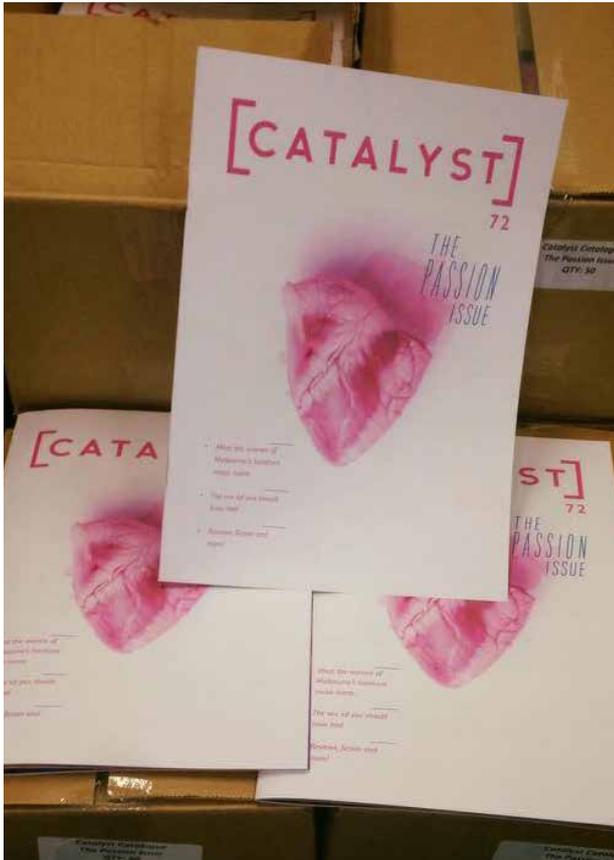
Club Activities this Quarter (Continued)
RMIT Engineers Without Borders (EWB) End of Exams Social @ John Curtin Hotel
RMIT Engineers Without Borders (EWB) & RUSU Queer Department Film Night – Gayby Baby @ RMIT Building 80
RMIT Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Weekly Bike Repairs and Commuting Advice Program @ RMIT Bike Hub Building 51
RMIT Games Manga and Anime Society (GMAS) Weekly Sessions @ RMIT Building 56
RMIT League of Gamers (LOG) Gaming Trivia Quiz @ RMIT Building 56
RMIT League of Gamers (LOG) Lan Events Program @ Cydus Internet & Lan Games, City
RMIT Oxfam Weekly Meetings including Recycled Craft Sessions @ RMIT Building 8
RMIT Science Fiction and Gaming Association (SFGA) Twice weekly Gaming Sessions @ RMIT Building 56
RMIT Greens Refugee & Migration Policy Guest Speaker Event @ RMIT Storey Hall Seminar Rooms
RMIT Greens Enrol to Vote information table @ RMIT University Way
RMIT Christian Union (CU) End of Semester Games & Dinner @ Lygon Street Christian Chapel
RMIT Christian Union (CU) Kick of Camp @ Upper Plenty Conference Centre, Upper Plenty

RMIT Christian Union (CU) Annual Summit @ Rawson Village, Rawson
BSA Eureka Corporate Cocktails
RMIT Christian Union (CU) Tuesday Night Program @ Lygon Street Christian Chapel
RMIT Islamic Society Sisters Game Night @ RMIT Building 46
RMIT Islamic Society Team in the Inter-Varsity Muslim association Trivia Night @ La Trobe University
RMIT Islamic Society Stall at the Halal Expo @ Melbourne Showgrounds, Ascot Vale
RMIT Islamic Society Arabic Classes @ RMIT Building 46
RMIT Islamic Society Lecture & Workshop Series @ RMIT Buildings 8 & 80
RMIT Islamic Society Iftar Dinners @ RMIT Building 47

Information to RUSU Clubs

Updated On-Campus Space Booking information sheet developed after consultation with RMIT Venues Manager to simplify booking processes. Boeing Student Club Grants Information distributed to relevant clubs. 2016/17 mid-year affiliation documents and templates sent to all mid-year affiliating clubs. Mid-year orientation booking information sent to all clubs. Invitation to participate in RMIT Open Day sent to all clubs. Club Executive Google Folder updated with a range of new leadership skills resources including conflict resolution and links to external not-for-profit support resources including Our Community and The Community Club Toolkit. Mid-year RUSU clubs and societies newsletter distributed.

STUDENT MEDIA



Catalyst Issues: Passion & The Great Unknown

CATALYST

Catalyst is thrilled to have expanded our contributor base again in the second quarter, with more than 30 new contributors joining our ranks. We published two print editions during the quarter, with the themes of Passion and The Great Unknown. Catalyst currently has 2313 followers on Facebook, and 2129 on Twitter. We continue to monitor and review our social media content plan to maximise reach.

RMITV

RMITV is increasing content production, with several new shows starting up this quarter. We have also seen an overall membership increase, with 38 more members compared to this time last year. Our recent attendance at RMIT Re-Orientation Day and the vocational education mid-year orientation day have had a positive impact on membership numbers and increasing membership involvement.

RMITV also welcomed aboard their new General Manager, Karen Dennerley, in May 2016. Karen is currently in her final year of a Degree in Digital Media at RMIT and has recently finished up her term on the RMITV SCT Inc. Board of Directors.

INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

- » **Nicholas Stevens:** RMIT Alumni (Television Studio Technician, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Full Time)
- » **Alex Zemtsov:** RMIT Alumni (Videographer, ITV Video Production Melbourne, Casual)
- » **Seonaid Drummond:** Current RMIT Student (Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Melbourne Youth Music, Part Time)
- » **Antonio Cafasso:** RMIT Alumni (Producer, Everyday Health, Network Ten, Full Time)
- » **Sarah Hagan:** Current RMIT Student (Production Assistant, The Project, Network Ten, Casual)

RMITV TRAINING

RMITV continues to grow its training program, providing members with advice and mentoring from industry professionals. RMITV's recent training workshops include:

ABC Southbank Studio Tour, May 16

Ron Frim, the Senior News Director of ABC News Victoria, guided a small group of RMITV members on a tour through ABC's Southbank Studios, where the production of all Victorian ABC news and current affairs takes place. Ron himself started out producing and directing shows on Channel 31 and has a decade of experience working with the ABC. His wealth of knowledge about the Australian television industry was invaluable to the keen attendees.

Floor Managing Workshop, June 6

Floor managing is one of the most stressful roles in a production - it takes people skills and a level head to manage the chaos of a set. Alan Jephcott, a freelance floor manager, shared his experience and helped aspiring floor managers step up to the task. Alan previously worked as a rigger part time, but his knowledge and fantastic people skills allowed him to be trained as a floor manager with Fox Sports, and other

production companies. Alan also works full time as a detective in the Australian Police Force, allowing him to share unique perspective on the industry that participants gained a lot from.

Drone Workshop, June 25

In recent years, drones have become increasingly significant in the media industry. RMITV’s own drone expert, Moses Muldoon, went into detail about the steps it takes to fly drones and the rules and regulations one will have to learn in order to get a drone in the sky! This workshop served as a brilliant launchpad for students interested in using drones for both personal or business use.

RMITV COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANT PROJECT

The CHG is going well - we have completed the second stage of the grant, which involved an on-site inspection by the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia, who then compiled a Preservation Needs Assessment report. This details the current condition of the collection, which is good considering the age of the tapes and the fact that they have been stored in an uncontrolled environment for what is likely around a decade or so.

Based on this report’s recommendations, we are in the process of writing proper policy documentation for activities surrounding the archive, including access and risk assessments. Going forward, it is vital that we obtain both a better physical storage area for the tapes, which are at risk being stored at the RMITV office, (they can be accessed and potentially tampered with by anybody in the office, they are located dangerously close to sprinklers, etc.) as well as a more robust digital storage solution for current and future digitized material from both the collection and more recent programming (our current NAS server is extremely unreliable, and would cost a lot of money to upgrade to a workable state).

For these purposes, we hope to gain access to RMIT off-site server storage, as the archive contains a large amount of

historically and culturally significant programming, such as early work from Rove McManus and Hamish & Andy, which is currently in an unstable state and must be preserved.

RMITV CONTENT: CURRENTLY PROGRAMMING

Offbeat

Offbeat is just starting to record and broadcast season 3! Building on the successes of season two, Offbeat has moved to doing three shows per week and is seeing a large amount of member engagement as they finishing up training and move into production.

The Leak

The Leak has been the focus of a lot of buzz from our members as the production finishes up their 10 week broadcast run for season two. Currently working through solving technical issues with doing the first broadcast of a live animated character!

Misguided

Improvised sketch comedy show produced by Phil McKechnie that just finished production. Currently about to air on Channel 31.

The Assenders

A show produced by long term RMITV members, The Assenders is made by students for students. The Assenders come together from a unique group of Melbourne-based wannabes. Now burdened with the glorious purpose of becoming a successful online sketch-comedy troupe, the team has to reconcile their performance styles and personal agendas in order to succeed. The Assenders is currently mid-way through completing their post production and will screen content online and on Channel 31.

What’s wrong with U?

What’s Wrong With U? Is a sketch comedy series produced in conjunction with Disability Media Australia and Arts Access

Screenshots from RMITV’s ‘The Leak’



Victoria, all about exploring living with a disability. Currently in the production stage, filming sketches.

GAMMA

GAMMA is a documentary series on young successful migrants who have moved to Australia and have made it their permanent home. GAMMA is currently moving through pre-production and is scheduled to begin filming their pilot episode throughout August! This is incredibly exciting due to the cultural significance of the project.

Sorry What?

A web-series of short snappy comedy sketches which are released online every fortnight. Sorry What? sketches are written by women about everyday experiences. Sorry What? Is now in the post production stage of its final episodes.

RMIV CONTENT: UPCOMING SHOWS

In Pit lane

IPL is in its 20th year broadcasting! IPL has been broadcasting internet exclusives through their offseason and plans for the new season including going live to YouTube before their pre recorded broadcast on Channel 31.

Melbourne Music Tonight

MMT aims to showcase independent and upcoming musicians, bands and artists based in Melbourne. Each episode will comprise of two different musical acts performed in-studio at RMIT University's city campus. The additional incorporation of an interview segment with each band throughout the show will also serve the intent on grasping an understanding on the band, their aspirations and their successes. MMT has produced their pilot episode and is currently gearing up to produce their full season in the coming weeks.

Up Late with Charlie Ranger

Up Late with Charlie Ranger brings you live the best late night entertainment that Melbourne has to offer with live music, comedy and guest interviews. The brainchild of Nicholas Stevens, Up Late attempts to capture the magic of live late night talk shows which have been sorely under represented on Australian television for a long time.

RMIV CONTENT: IN DEVELOPMENT

Learning with Difficulties

RMIV's first ever animated series. Learning with Difficulties tells the story of Willy who in seven days will suffer from the biggest mental breakdown ever recorded in medical history. He just doesn't know it yet. Utilising new motion capture technology we plan to streamline our production pipeline to ensure we can produce episodes very quickly. Currently going through pre-production and character design. Production is slated to begin in October.

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATION

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: 17,415 LIKES (UP 760 LIKES from Q1)

Facebook still serves as our number one social media engagement tool, and our presence on the platform continues to grow stronger. Facebook serves as a platform for event advertising for both RUSU events and for Clubs and Societies, and allows students to interact with RUSU via wall posts and photo tagging and to RSVP to events. Post-event photo galleries also continue to be a major drawcard for students on the Facebook platform. Popular events on Facebook this quarter included the RUSU Super International Chill 'n' Grill, Stress Less Week and the End of Exams party.

Website

RUSU's site continues to be a great platform for delivering news, updates and information about RUSU events and activities. Our ever-changing front page advertises all the latest events. We are in the midst of developing a completely new website, with a fresh look, vastly improved functionality which will increase engagement with students.

Email Newsletter

RUSU's newsletter has had an overhaul and given a fresh new look. With a simple, clean, clear and direct look, that focuses on the main events and news of RUSU to engage with more students. It continues to be popular, with more around 5000 subscribers to date, and a readership engagement rate of around 50%, which is far higher than the industry average. To date, there has been four major issues so far in 2016.

Other social media

RUSU's presence on other social media remains strong. Twitter has reached 1,858 followers and Instagram is starting to pick up speed with 353 followers, 200 more than last quarter. Our most recent addition to social media is Snapchat, giving students the ability to instantly engage with RUSU and keep up to date with what's going on in a quick, real-time visual and fun way.



Stress Less Week Facebook post

RUSU PRESENTS *the* **END of EXAMS PARTY**

FRIDAY 24 JUNE 2016 8.30PM
Bring ID, Studdy! Be!

La Di Da!
577 LITTLE BOURKE ST MELBOURNE

Tickets
\$10 RUSU MEMBERS / \$20 +BF GENERAL

Book Now bit.ly/1RLK1mQ

RUSU

SAVE YOUR GPA DAY IS HERE!

FRIDAY 29TH APRIL...
is the last day you can drop classes without academic penalty for Semester 1, 2016.

It is also the last day you can withdraw from a program by cancelling your enrolment or taking a leave of absence without academic penalty.

RUSU will be providing... **ALUMNI COURTYARD, FROM 10:30AM**

FREE BRUNCH
FREE STATIONARY

...for students who would like to know more information regarding Save Your GPA or anything else Education Week related.

RUSU EDUCATION WEEK

RUSU

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

The RUSU Media Department produces a wide variety of publicity materials for RUSU departments, events and clubs. To ensure their suitability over a broad range of printed and digital media, publicity materials are always made in a range of formats. Some of the highlights from this quarter include:

End of Exams Party

This year's first end of semester was hugely popular. A chance for students to relax and celebrate after the stress of exams. There was no specific theme, just marketing it as a fun, vibrant and inclusive event in the RUSU purple. We used daily Facebook images to create a countdown to build excitement, with over 1,000 people interested on the event, it turned out to be a great night.

INTERNATIONAL SUPER Chill 'n' Grill

THURSDAY 5TH MAY

INTERNATIONAL FOOD, MUSIC AND PERFORMERS!

CITY CAMPUS, ALUMNI COURTYARD FROM 12PM

RUSU

RUSU POSTGRADUATE DEPARTMENT AND VICTORIA UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE ASSOCIATION PRESENT

Postgrad COCKTAIL PARTY

FRIDAY 13TH MAY 2016 6:30PM TO 9:30PM

LOOP BAR 23 MEYERS PLACE, MELBOURNE

DRESS EVENING FORMAL

TICKETS EARLY BIRD \$17* GENERAL \$20*
*PLUS BOOKING FEE

Includes...

COCKTAILS, BEER, CIDER AND WINE
* FREE ENTRY TO NIGHTCLUB AFTER 10PM, FEATURING MELBOURNE'S BEST DJs

FOR BOOKINGS VISIT WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/RUSUPOSTGRAD

RPA

RUSU

International Chill 'n' Grill

Chill 'n' Grill goes Mexican! The theme was set for the Super International Chill 'n' Grill edition, with Mexican food and a mariachi band! The theme spoke for itself and was reflected will in all the marketing material, resulting in a great turn out. One of our most viewed photo albums on Facebook after the event.

Snooze Lounge Launch

With the successful delivery of the Snooze Lounges we have heavily promoted that they are now open! Continuing with the same imagery from the campaign to keep consistency and recognition. The launch was a success, with branded bean-bags and sleeping masks at the ready!

the Queer Lounge

A non-judgemental place for LGBTIQ students to connect

Find us
City Building 56, L4, Room 91
Brunswick Building 515, L1, Room 4
Bundoora Building 204, L1, Room 8

Get in touch
Email rusu.queer@rmit.edu.au
su.rmit.edu.au/student/wel/queer
Insta [rusu_queer](https://www.instagram.com/rusu_queer)

RMIT QUEER DEPARTMENT
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK /RUSUQ

RUSU

FEELING A LITTLE STRESSED?

FREE MESSAGES

DID YOU KNOW THAT MESSAGES NOT ONLY INCREASE RELAXATION, THEY CAN HELP LOWER BLOOD PRESSURE, DECREASE ANXIETY, INCREASE CIRCULATION, HELP YOU SLEEP BETTER AND INCREASE CONCENTRATION?

Compass and RUSU are coming together to take a moment to think, talk and explore different coping mechanisms just before one of the more stressful times during the semester.

Come by, chill and check out the range of resources that we have! There will be heavenly massages, an adorable petting zoo, important information and referral advice, student rights support, fantastic freebies AND MORE!

BRUNSWICK, 514 COURTYARD TUE MAY 24 FROM 12PM
BLUNDOORA, LIBRARY SQUARE WED MAY 25
CITY, ALUMNI COURTYARD THU MAY 26

Drop into Compass for more information

HAPPILY PRESENTED BY RUSU COMPASS

ssaf

RUSU

Stress Less Week

One of the most important weeks of the semester, Stress Less Week was branded with relaxing puppies, kittens and bunnies in a soothing pastel colour scheme, around the concept of "Feeling a little stressed?". A set of three posters was produced highlighting what was on offer and a fun fact based on each event. Fact sheets were also created with five tips to help students stay calm during exams.

REPRESENTATION & ADVOCACY



Stress Less Week



COMPASS

- » Compass volunteers continued to staff the drop in space four days per week and supported the English Language Workshops.
- » There were 58 student drop-ins at Compass throughout this second quarter with issues of mental health a strong theme.
- » The food bank initiative was opened, seeing Compass Cupboard begin to support students who require support around food security, opening up channels of support for these students.
- » The English Language Workshops finished up for Semester 1, seeing students express feeling more engaged, supported and a part of a community.
- » Over 20 Volunteers newly recruited volunteers were provided with the internationally accredited Youth Mental Health First Aid certificate and will be ready to start their shifts in Semester 2.
- » Stress Less Week was held over all metropolitan campuses. This event saw free massage, petting zoo, face painting and giveaways focused on time management and organisation provided to students alongside valuable information regarding how to manage stress and where to find support on campus.
- » Compass Co-ordinator was invited to present on a panel for the showing of The Hunting Ground alongside members of

the Victorian Police Force, RMIT Wellbeing, RMIT Counselling, CASA and both the former Women's and Queer Student Representatives.

- » Compass Coordinator is also working collaboratively across RMIT in the newly formed 'Mental Health Taskforce', actively seeking opportunities to explore expanding RUSU's contribution to the overall wellbeing support of students.
- » Compass Co-ordinator attended 'Skillful use of mindfulness in therapeutic work with clients & individual practice' training. This training will assist the Compass Co-ordinator with the introduction and the facilitation of relaxation exercises with students.
- » Yoga wrapped up for the semester with some wonderful feedback being provided by students.

REPRESENTATION

Appeal Committees Reps

RUSU has supported students on the following RMIT hearings:

- » 3 Student representatives sat on 8 University Appeals Committee hearings
- » 4 Student representatives sat on 15 Student Conduct hearings
- » 2 Student representatives sat on 2 College Appeals Committee hearings



National Day of Action

RUSU CAMPAIGNS

RUSU has been an active voice for change at RMIT leading campaigns on issues important to students. Key campaigns that took place throughout the second quarter included:

National Day of Action

RUSU proudly supported the National Day of Action convened by the National Union of Students (NUS) on April 13. RUSU joined hundreds of other students across Victoria in the rally to tell the Liberal government that students of Victoria say:

- » NO to fee deregulation (stop \$100,000 degrees)
- » NO to staff and course cuts
- » YES to fully-funded higher education

Education Week and Save Your GPA Day

RUSU hosted Education Week from April 25 to 29, providing students with outreach, free stationery (notepads and pens) and student rights information provision across the Brunswick, Bundoora and City campuses.

The main purpose Education Week was to campaign and raise student awareness of 'Save Your GPA Day' on April 29 as this was the last day that students could drop classes without academic penalty for Semester 1. It was also the last day that students could withdraw from a program by cancelling their enrolment or taking a leave of absence without academic penalty.

Enrol to Vote

RUSU's Education and Welfare Department ran an 'Enrol to Vote' campaign from May 9 to 13 in the lead up of the Federation Election. The purpose of this campaign was to raise awareness and to get more students involved in the democratic process of voting, particularly as in the last federal election 25% of people aged 18-24 failed to enrol to vote.

RUSU provided students with paper enrolment forms from the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), access to iPads to enrol online, information regarding how the Federal Budget affects students and an 'I enrolled to vote' sticker to assist with encouraging their peers to do the same.

Increased Computer Lab Access for Bundoora East Students

RUSU has consistently received feedback from the Bundoora East undergraduate student body that they require increased

access (outside of 8am to 6pm) to the computer labs for the successful completion of their degrees. These students have informed RUSU that they require access to these labs as the computers have programs specific to their course and access to these programs directly impacts their ability to successfully complete their coursework and assessment activities.

This issue was raised at the BCAC with members requesting that RUSU seek documented feedback from the student community at Bundoora East.

RUSU subsequently created a paper petition and an online survey. The petition and online survey were only available to students who study at Bundoora East (the paper petition and link to the online survey were posted on the noticeboard in building 254 from May 17 to June 3). In summary;

- » 21 participants took part in the online survey
- » 66 students signed the paper petition
- » 87 students participated in total.

Summary of Online Survey Results:

Do you think ALL Students should have 24 hour access to the computer labs at Bundoora East?

90.5% of participants said 'yes'.

Why?

- » A lot of the programs needed in engineering can only be found in the computer lab at Bundoora East. None of the computers at Bundoora West run programs such as Catia, Ansys, etc.
- » To provide the best we can with assignments undisturbed and without fear of being kicked out of campus. Also some programs are unavailable to us via MyDesktop and so we resort to pirating the software to our laptops.
- » Computers have expensive programs installed onto them that many students do not have at home. These programs are often a requirement for courses.
- » Really helpful for group study and access to necessary resources. The study environment (at Bundoora East) is really good.

As a result of the petition, Property Services and ITS confirmed that by the start of Semester 2, 2016, three significant programs would be accessible via MyDesktop (ANSYS - Fluent, Range and Workbench, CFD and CATIA).

Property Services also informed the student body that whilst it was not feasible to set up a 24-hour computer lab in Bundoora East for a number of significant reasons, it would be possible to allow Bundoora East students access to a computer lab at the Bundoora West campus with increased hours and the access to the programs that they require. RUSU is continuing to liaise with the relevant stakeholders to ensure that this is implemented in a timely manner.

Update on RUSU Priorities

RUSU has continued to collaborate with key RMIT stakeholders in achieving its 2016 Priorities (three meetings were held during this time) throughout the second quarter, with particular note to the following achievements:

- » Opening of Snooze Lounges - The Snooze Lounges were officially opened and made available to students on the May 30 across the City, Brunswick and Bundoora West campuses.



SSCC Student Leadership Summit

- » Public Transport Initiatives - Property Services collaborated with RUSU to secure significant improvements to public transport to the Bundoora campus. This was announced to the student body at the end of May with improved bus services commencing at the end of July. RUSU has also been working closely with other University stakeholders in relation to extending the free tram zone and equitable concessions for international and postgraduate students.
- » Mental Health Friendly Campus - RUSU student representatives and staff actively participated in the Mental Health Taskforce Workshop convened by Students Group on the May 25.

SSCC Student Leadership Summit

The first SSCC Student Leadership Summit was hosted on April 12 at Storey Hall. More than 130 students registered, with 82 attending on the day. The students received a Q&A from Vice-Chancellor Martin Bean as well as two professional development workshops focused on leadership and effective/critical feedback. Student feedback from this event revealed that participants had an extremely positive engagement with the program. Student feedback has been provided to RMIT including Academic Board and Education Committee. Drop-in-style workshops were provided in May across all campuses providing students with further opportunities to problem solve their course related issues.

Student Voice

RUSU elected student representatives provided a student voice on a range of RMIT Committees during this quarter. These included but were not limited to:

- » Academic Board
- » Action on student satisfaction project
- » Education Committee
- » Vocational Education Committee
- » Student Engagement Bundoora Campus Committee
- » Monthly catch-up meetings with the Dean of Students
- » Orientation and Transition Steering Group
- » RMIT Sustainability Committee
- » RMIT Fair Trade Steering Committee
- » Student Experience Advisory Committee

RUSU/ RMIT Meetings

The RUSU President and General Secretary have continued the regular meetings with both Vice-Chancellor Martin Bean and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education Belinda Tynan this quarter. A focus of these meetings has been on improving the student experience at RMIT. We have continued our monthly catch-up meetings with the Dean of Students and regular meetings with Executive Directors including Chris Hewison, Executive Director Property Services, and Paul Oppenheimer, Executive Director for ITS.

RUSU Internal Meetings

Elected student representatives have been supported and resourced to manage RUSU as a student controlled organisation, including:

- » 3 Student Union Council meetings
- » 10 Secretariat meetings
- » Student representatives gaining governance experience on internal RUSU committees, such as Staffing Committee, Finance Standing Committee and OH&S Committee.
- » Elected student councillors supported to act work as governors and managers.

STUDENT RIGHTS

It has been another busy quarter for the Student Rights Team with more than 360 students accessing the service during this time, particularly in respect of assessment issues, enrolment problems, special consideration, academic misconduct and fee issues. The service has seen a dramatic increase in the number of students seeking assistance with fee issues, which is likely reflective of the implementation of RMIT's new fee cancellation process.

Student Rights Officers continue to work closely with the Campaigns Officer and student representatives to advocate to the University on a range of policy issues including:

- » Cancellation of enrolment due to non-payment of fees
- » RMIT's proposed and revised special consideration policy
- » RMIT's proposed and revised enrolment policy

Keynote advocacy and casework undertaken by Student Rights Officers during this period included:

- » Advocating on behalf of students in regards to student safety issues at the Student Health Clinic on Bundoora Campus. Positive safety changes implemented by the University as a result.
- » Ongoing advocacy being provided to international students affected by incorrect offer letters and proposed course credits.
- » Advocacy to the RMIT Compliance Department on the implementation of the option of 'Gender X' across RMIT, including enrolment and administration systems.
- » Assisting international students to obtain release letters from RMIT.
- » Successfully negotiating fee waivers for a number of students due to compassionate and compelling circumstances, whereby RMIT responded equitably to particular students' unique situations.

- » Successful appeals against termination of candidature for two higher degree by research students
- » In collaboration with Manager of DLU, Rick Boffa, a presentation was given to College of Business staff in relation to what Student Rights Officers do.
- » Assistance provided to a number of students cancelled or facing cancellation of enrolment due to non-payment of fees

In May, Student Rights Officer Caspar Cumming represented RUSU and presented on the topic of special consideration at the Tertiary Advocacy and Welfare Conference, which brought together representatives from universities around Australia.

Other notable meetings attended by staff during the second quarter included:

- » Regular meetings with the Assessment Support Unit, University Governance and University Complaints, working with staff from these areas towards mutual improvement of our respective services,
- » Meeting with key RMIT staff responsible for implementing the cancellation of enrolment due to non-payment of fees process, to provide feedback on negative impacts of the process for students and how these could be mitigated.
- » Meeting with RMIT staff to discuss proposed changes to the new enrolment policy
- » An Academic Board discussion with Commissioner Lavarch from the Australian Skills Quality Authority regarding ensuring vocational education programs comply with government standards.

Students Rights and Student Liaison Officers also partnered to prepare a series of short student rights videos about academic progress and appeal against assessment, to promote accurate and easy to access information for students via the RUSU website.

Feedback from students who accessed the Student Rights service during the second quarter:

“Thank you very very much for all your help! I would not have been successful at appealing without you.”

“Just want to thank you again for your support during this process, you were very helpful!”

“I wanted to thank the whole Student Rights Team, you really helped me get through it all.”

“We were all really stressed out by this date change. Your advice provided us with some much-needed relief and your representation got us a restoration of the original date, all within a week!”

RUSU GOVERNANCE, ADMINISTRATION & SERVICES

RUSU's operations are supported by the Governance, Administration and Finance staff. Some key projects during this period include:

- » RUSU Annual General Meetings held (AGMs) across all campuses from May 17 to 19. The AGM was widely publicised on all campuses and on the website, in accordance with the SUC Constitution and Regulations.
- » Assisting and resourcing RUSU student representatives in meetings with RMIT University.
- » Development of briefs with Property Services for RUSU locations in NAS, building 5, Brunswick.
- » Working with Property Services on development of a brief for Realfoods in NAS.
- » Finance Standing Committee meetings held.
- » 2015 Annual financial audit successful completed.
- » Providing advice to the RUSU management on IT-related issues.
- » Co-ordinating leasing computers through RMIT ITS.
- » Participation in the UniOne RUSU website project.
- » Coordinating and attending Student Rights and Welfare team meetings.
- » Providing first point-of-contact student rights advice for RMIT students (both on-shore and off-shore).
- » Sourcing and resourcing student representatives to RMIT Appeals Committee.
- » Providing training for new student rights volunteers.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

RUSU Funding from RMIT for 2016 is made up of the following:	
Base Grant	\$2,586,714
SSAF Committee Grants	\$620,000
Non-Recurring Grant	\$110,300
2016 TOTAL GRANT	\$3,317,014
2016 Grant Received to Date	\$3,317,014

The 2016 RMIT/RUSU Deed Agreement has been signed. The 2016 grant was received as a lump sum payment in late January. Like in 2015 this upfront payment will enable RUSU to generate additional income to supplement the grant.

In order to meet legislative requirements, the RUSU financial reports match expenses with 'allowable items'. Please note that **Table 1** below is based on SSAF Allowable items and expenditure of SSAF funds on these areas. It categorises the SSAF expenditure from the Base grant and SSAF Committee projects into the allowable items. This table does not include activities and services funded by non-SSAF expenditure.

RUSU also receives some funding from other sources. While some of the activities funded through these sources 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 RUSU, expenditure on these projects is not included in the expenditure reported below as it is not SSAF funded.

Table 2 reports on the specific grants approved by the SSAF Committee.

RUSU is committed to continuous improvement of our financial systems to ensure we both work within our budget provisions as agreed through our funding agreement.

The financial audit for financial year January 1 to December 31, 2015 was conducted by independent auditors BDO and was presented at the Annual General Meetings on each campus in May.

**TABLE 1: RUSU SSAF GRANT EXPENDITURE ON ALLOWABLE ITEMS:
JANUARY 1 – JUNE 30 2016**

Allowable Item	Item Description	YTD Expenditure (SSAF Funded)
Giving students information to help them in their orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Orientation specific events » Re-Orientation Events 	\$94,747
Caring for children of students	Nil	\$0
Providing legal services to students	Nil	\$0
Promoting the health or welfare of students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » All activities and events from advocacy and welfare collectives: Queer, Women's, Post-Graduate, Environment, Welfare, Education » Campaigns, events, honorariums, programs, marketing » All Compass Centre, programs and staff » Healthy Eating SSAF Grant 	\$126,727
Helping students secure accommodation	Nil	\$0
Helping students with their financial affairs	Nil	\$0
Helping meet the specific needs of overseas students relating to their welfare, accommodation and employment;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » All activities and events from International student department and International Support SSAF Grant 	\$18,794
Helping students obtain employment or advice on careers	Nil	\$0
Helping students obtain insurance against personal accidents	Nil	\$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"> » Induction programs/Student Representative Professional Development » Volunteer Program & Program Staffing » Student Engagement Officer » Student Union Council Elections » Secretariat Honorariums » All of SUC campaigns 	\$166,165
Providing libraries and reading rooms (other than those provided for academic purposes) for students	Nil	\$0
Supporting the production and dissemination to students of media whose content is provided by students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » RMITV operations, honorariums, special projects, productions, training, website » RMIT Flagship Program » Catalyst magazine operations, student honorariums, publication (online and print) » Communications/Graphic Designer Staff 	\$102,812
Providing food or drink to students on a campus of the higher education provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Campus specific events and marketing (all campuses) » RUSU Realfoods 	\$97,481
Supporting a sporting or other recreational activity by students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Major events and intervarsity recreational activities and competitions » Activities and Events Collective including administration, student honorariums, marketing and staff support 	\$99,251

TABLE 1: RUSU SSAF GRANT EXPENDITURE ON ALLOWABLE ITEMS: JANUARY 1 – JUNE 30 2016 (CONTINUED)

Allowable Item	Item Description	YTD Expenditure (SSAF Funded)
Supporting an artistic activity by students	Nil	\$0
Supporting debating by students	» Grants paid to debating club are included with clubs reporting	\$0
Supporting the administration of a club most of whose members are students	» Administration, grants, equipment and support to student run clubs and societies » Clubs and Societies Staff and other support	\$157,731
Advising on matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described)	» Administration and Support staff members: Administration, Governance and Finance » 5 x Information counter staff and operations (including Bundoora East and SSAF Project)	\$396,998
Advocating students' interests in matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described)	» Student Rights Officers » Student Advocacy materials, campaigns, research and training for staff and student representatives on committees	\$305,778
YTD SSAF EXPENDITURE		\$1,566,484
YTD 2016 SSAF FUNDS RECEIVED		\$3,317,014

TABLE 2: 2015 SSAF COMMITTEE GRANT FINANCIAL REPORT: JANUARY 1 – JUNE 30 2016

Program Title	Grant Amount	Expenditure Jan –March
RUSU Volunteer Program	\$178,000	\$62,474
RUSU Flagship Production (Live on Bowen) and RMITV training program	\$40,000	\$16,512
RUSU International Student Support - conversation classes and city tours	\$33,000	\$12,545
Bundoora Common Lunch Hour (including SRO & BE)	\$76,000	\$33,155
RUSU Orientation Package	\$100,000	\$94,747
RUSU Free Healthy Breakfasts including nutrition & sustainability awareness	\$70,000	\$24,485
Post-grad Support Program (including SRO)	\$36,000	\$13,991
Brunswick Common Lunch Hour	\$27,000	\$6,391
RUSU VE Awareness & Support	\$32,000	\$7,728
SSCC Mentoring Program	\$28,000	\$8,551
TOTAL	\$620,000	\$280,579

RUSU

RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

 SU.RMIT.EDU.AU  [RUSUPAGE](#)  [RMITSU](#)  [RMIT_RUSU](#)  [RUSUONLINE](#)