



RMIT University Student Union

Second Quarter Report

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Reporting Period:
1 April – 30 June 2017

RUSU
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

President's Report



The last three months have been an exceptional time for the RMIT University Student Union. We've been able to kick off many new projects and programs, develop our knowledge and skills through collaborative efforts with other student bodies, and also continue to do the day-in, day-out activities that make us so important to the students of this university.

RUSU's annual general meetings were held on all campuses in May, and are a great way to demonstrate to the student body that we are a transparent and open organisation. This year's meetings were particularly important as students were asked to vote on a motion to change the Student Union's constitution to include an Indigenous Officer position on the SUC. Constitutional change does not happen very often, and we were ecstatic that the motion was supported and indigenous students will now have a voice on the Student Union Council. This was long overdue, and is an important step that is inline with RMIT University's own commitment to recognising the unique culture and contribution of Australia's Indigenous people.

A particular personal highlight for me was the opportunity to travel to Canada in May with Communications Officer Ella Caulfield and Campaigns Officer Sarah Firth for the International Summer Institute on conference. This was a wonderful chance to develop the partnership skills of both staff and student representatives and will pay dividends for years to come. You can read more about this exciting international conference in the Representation & Advocacy section of this report.

RUSU is incredibly proud of the work and achievements detailed in the pages of this report, and we're looking forward to continuing just as strongly through the second half of 2017.

Abena Dove
President,
RMIT University Student Union



Activities & Events



Above: End Of Exams, Apocalypse Party, Below: Chill N Grill feat. Kooyeh



Fairtrade Eggstravaganza!

April 12

An event to raise awareness of Fair Trade and celebrate the pending holiday of Easter, this event included a Fair Trade chocolate egg hunt, a variety of craft based activities and giveaways of hampers of Fair Trade products.

Pub Crawl

May 11

This event saw approximately 100 RMIT students taken on a walking tour of the RMIT precinct of the Melbourne CBD. It was particularly popular with the Global Experience student cohort.

End of Exams Party

June 23

As is the custom, RUSU marked the end of the academic semester with a party. This event took place at The Bottom End in the CBD and was themed 'post-apocalyptic', a bit of a joke given the exams had just concluded.

This event featured great decor and face painters, and was well received with around 400 students in attendance.

Volunteers

Training: Number of participants					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
Program Induction	188	12	-	-	200
Responsible Service of Alcohol	20	51	-	-	71
Safe Food Handler	43	23	-	-	66
Youth Mental Health First Aid	0	23	-	-	23
TOTAL	251	109			360

Volunteer hours worked: City Campus					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
Activities & Events	361	309	-	-	670
Realfoods	0	0	-	-	0
Administration	75	184	-	-	259
Compass	66	78	-	-	144
Healthy Breakfasts	74	31	-	-	105
English Language Workshops	171	0	-	-	171
Student Rights	22	32	-	-	54
TOTAL	769	634			1403

Volunteer hours worked: Bundoora Campus					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
Activities & Events	21	76	-	-	97
Breakfasts	7	14	-	-	21
Realfoods	66	112.5	-	-	178.5
TOTAL	94	202.5			296.5

The impact of Realfoods cafe not being open and Compass not operating to full capacity is reflected in the number of volunteer hours worked this quarter. At the end of the second quarter RUSU volunteers have contributed 1699 hours to RUSU. We have maintained good participation for external training and the delivery of Youth Mental Health First Aid by RUSU to Compass volunteers is pleasing.



Above: Realfoods Volunteer Promo
Below: EOX Party



Membership

At the end of the second quarter RUSU had **3719** financial members for 2017.

Across the Campuses



SUC with the Vice Chancellor, Martin Bean

Activation of NAS - RUSU Central

With initial delays caused by works going overtime in the NAS activation, RUSU maintained a presence on the centre of campus for much of the second quarter. Early in the quarter, when construction prevented us from opening RUSU Central and Compass, RUSU engaged with students through stalls, outreach and our events. As part of outreach the RUSU City Front Counter and Compass ran stalls with healthy fruit in Building 80 and Building 10 and Alumni Courtyard.

With new entrances and spaces open later in the quarter, we have been able to provide directions, advice, referrals and student rights support to students and staff from RUSU Central in Building 12. Appeals against assessment, show cause, exclusions, enrolment issues and special consideration continue to make up the bulk of student rights inquiries at the city front counter.

Construction has significantly impacted on the level of activity at RUSU Central during this quarter. RUSU looks forward to Semester 2, when there is more traffic (and less construction noise) in Building 12.

RUSU Admin Vollies

Despite the surrounding construction and teething issues we have had 29 admin volunteers at the City front counter during semester 1.

New Activity Space Launch

RUSU is delighted to be opening our much anticipated and highly sought after Activities Space in Building 10 soon. This quarter RUSU has worked on developing an online booking system for this and other RUSU spaces and preparing for the official launch of the RUSU Activity space with RMIT which will be held on July 11.

Healthy Breakfast Program

The Healthy Breakfast program continues to be one of the most popular programs we run on the City campus! We have many hungry domestic and international students who would otherwise go without breakfast. Our team of volunteers help deliver over 1000 serves of yoghurt cups, organic fruit and vegetables, muffins, bread and hummus weekly and we could easily expand this program based on current demand. The Building 80 breakfast is so popular we have lines prior to 9.30am on a Wednesday! The Building 5 and Building 57 breakfasts on Tuesdays are less crowded but they are so popular we run out of food in less than an hour. The Bourke Street campus (Building 108) is also enjoying 300+ serves of fresh organic fruit each week on Fridays.

Free Folders and Posters on campus

Departments all over RMIT are leaving hundreds of folders at RUSU Central for us to provide for students. Students love them and can't get enough! The City SLO and our team of admin volunteers continue to maintain posters and inform the student body of upcoming student activities and events. We are actively placing posters throughout NAS and in Buildings 5, 7, 9 and 13.

City Chill & Grill and events

The Weekly Chill & Grill in Alumni Courtyard continued to be RUSU's flagship event in the second quarter. Our free BBQ feeds 1,000 plus students each week, with RUSU members enjoying the free members bar in the Alumni covered area. Our resident DJ's continued to entertain students this quarter with the fantastic Kooyeh being welcomed back for the Super Chill & Grill event in late April. Fulfilling a 2016 SUC election promise, RUSU has had more live music and entertainment on campus, with an aim to provide diversity for students' tastes.



Bundoora East & West

Above: Bundoora Stress Less Week, Below: Gravity Yoga

Carlton

The second quarter was a busy one in the Carlton office. The administration volunteer program was in full swing, with around 16 students each working a two-hour shift per week. Volunteers were trained in how to answer phone calls, basic telephony including transferring calls, and how to receive students who are booked in to see a student rights officer. These skills help to make our student volunteers more confident and more employable. The Carlton office would not be the same without this team of volunteers, who also provide invaluable assistance with filing, printing, collecting mail, responding to queries, and covering our lunch breaks. We would like to take the opportunity to thank them for their efforts this quarter.

The students in the Carlton area of RMIT continued to enjoy the RUSU events that regularly appear throughout the semester. Our VE Chill free lunch events continued to be popular, with dozens of student enjoying a meal on us each second Monday in the courtyard outside Building 57. Meanwhile, the weekly Free Breakfast in the same location continued to attract many students with its smorgasbord of organically grown fresh fruit, creamy hummus and garlic bread, healthy carrots and cucumber sticks, fresh muffins, and delicious yoghurt cups.

The Student Rights Team, as always, was kept busy responding to the demand for assistance with a range of academic and welfare issues. With official results coming out on July 10, the next quarter is sure to be a very hectic one as many students deal with complex issues such as show cause requests and appeals against assessment. We look forward to helping RMIT's students through what is often a difficult time in the academic year.



RUSU Bundoora kicked off April with a free dinner for the residents at Walert House, in conjunction with Realfoods. The evening included a short quiz, with the theme 'RUSU & Realfoods'. Prizes, in the form of Realfoods vouchers and RUSU branded merchandise, were given out to the top three teams. The event was the first of its kind and was well received by the students. This positive response is encouraging, and RUSU is planning on organising an end-of-exams party at Walert House, and similar events in the future.

In April we welcomed our Compass Officer to the Bundoora offices. The RUSU office in Bundoora West was re-organised in order to create a balance between the office space and events preparation space. Compass services are now available in Bundoora West two days a week (Wednesday and Thursday). RUSU's presence in Bundoora is growing which is an exciting development for staff and students. Compass also organised free yoga in collaboration with Gravity Yoga on Thursdays. This quickly became popular among the students and was well attended throughout the semester.

The Healthy Breakfasts on both campuses continue to be popular amongst students, as is the Chill 'n' Grill. The kitchenette at both campuses have been well used since February, with almost 5,000 cups of coffee, hot chocolate, chai, and tea provided to students for free.

Bundoora West Chill & Grill continues to be as popular as ever, feeding 650 students each Wednesday at the west campus in the second quarter. A move to vegan friendly options and a more diverse Chill & Grill menu has been very well received from the students. The event has also enjoyed the addition of free donut days which has been a great success.

Chill 'n' Grill on the East campus included several food trucks and chances to get out some of the sports equipment. Student numbers attending the East Chill 'n' Grill have been growing steadily. Towards the end of May all regular events were wrapped up and the RUSU offices in the East campus closed for semester 1 on June 1.

The number of clubs has been growing on both Bundoora campuses with the affiliation of two new clubs, the RMIT Biosciences Society and the RMIT Mechanical and Automotive Engineering Society which has added to the number of academic based clubs on campus that are providing students with a social base among their cohort and chance to engage in professional and networking events.



Brunswick

The second quarter of 2017 has been a very exciting and vibrant time for RUSU at the Brunswick campus. Highlights included the grand opening of Compass, the first ever Student Maker's Market, free weekly yoga and meditation, and a successful Stress Less Week.

Compass, our welfare drop-in centre was launched at Brunswick in April of this year. Students are now able to drop in for information and advice about any issues they may be experiencing. The Compass Cupboard is also available for students in need, which provides food free of charge. The Compass centre is open Monday and Tuesdays, with the student rights office service available on Wednesdays.

In May, we held our very first Student Maker's Market, which showcased design stalls from our talented Brunswick students. The market was comprised of 25 stalls selling everything from earrings to soy candles. RUSU also provided free fruit and donuts to all students. A real highlight of the day included the Bike 'n' Blend station, which allowed students to make their own healthy pedal-powered smoothies. The day was a huge success and we received great feedback from students. It was also a great opportunity for RUSU to directly engage with students and spread awareness about our presence at the campus. We also had engagement from the RMIT Fashion Students Society who held a stall alongside the market and provided students a chance to learn more about the club and what it provides to fashion students on campus.

During April and May, RUSU offered free yoga and meditation for all students in collaboration with Gravity Yoga. Cold-pressed Juices were also provided after each class. Students left each session feeling very relaxed and zen! During Stress Less Week, the Compass team reached out to the Brunswick students, providing them with lots of freebies and giveaways. It was also a great chance to chat with students and to provide them advice on how to cope during stressful times of the semester.

And finally, the weekly free food events (Healthy Breakfast on Mondays and Chill 'n' Grill on Tuesdays) went down quite the treat this past quarter, with lots of hungry students feeling very satisfied and nourished after eating with RUSU! In addition, our Healthy Breakfast program is now 100% vegan and plant-based, which has been very popular with the student cohort here in Brunswick. Several lunches were also held in the Queer Room on Mondays.

Chill & Grill has been in full swing in the second quarter, feeding 450 students each week. The move to a vegan option and a more diverse menu has also been received well at Brunswick, with particular acclaim to our vegan burgers and hot chicken rolls.



Above: Brunswick Makers Market,
Below: Stress Less Week visits Point Cook



Point Cook



In 2017 RUSU received a grant to deliver student life events at Point Cook. Late in the second quarter we meet with staff and students from Point Cook to plan a program of breakfast, lunch, outreach and social events for Semester 2.

RUSU Departments



FREE EVENT

IDAHOT Spoken Word Night

Friday, May 19th
Hares and Hyenas - Johnston St, Fitzroy
Doors open at 6:45 for a 7pm start

In collaboration with Littlefoot and Company, RMIT will be hosting a Spoken Word Night for IDAHOT (International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia). This night will be held at the lovely Hares and Hyenas in Fitzroy and will be a night of bold performances, inclusivity and poetry.

RUSU QUEER COLLECTIVE
 facebook.com/groups/RMITqueercollective

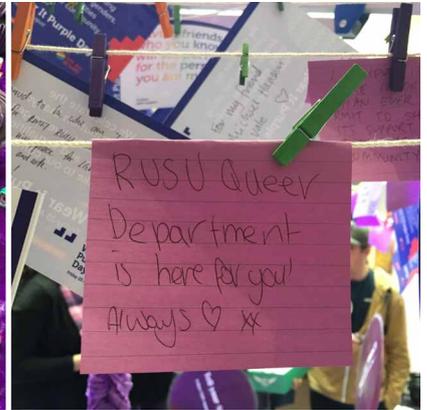
LITTLEFOOT AND COMPANY
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rusu.rmit.edu.au/queer

RUSU
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

THE QUEER
QUEER DEPARTMENT

queer



Above: IDAHOT, Below: VE Chill, Carlton



Activities & Events

The Queer Department has had an exciting and eventful second quarter. Active participation from members from the Collective has continued to grow with members getting outside of the Queer Lounge and engaging in departmental events both on and off campus. The fortnightly events have continued to run smoothly (movie night, workshops, crafternoon and games nights). Minus 18 also provided a drop-in session at the City campus lounge in early May to provide a safe space for students to chat about sexuality and gender.

The Queer Department hosted a number of IDAHOT (International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia) events across the campuses during May. The week began with a lunch at the Brunswick campus Queer Lounge with a turnout of 12 students. Midweek the Department hosted a spoken word workshop in the City Queer Lounge with all of the participants attending the Spoken Word Night, held at Hares & Hyenas on Friday, May 19. Approximately 40 members of the community attended this event with about 12 from RMIT. On stage there were nine performers with four from RMIT. A number of people who attended the night said they looked forward to running again next year.

Queer Lounge Relocation

Throughout the second quarter, the Queer Officers continued to collaborate with the President, Governance & Development Officer and Campaigns Officer in advocating for the University to provide a safer location for the City Queer Lounge. It was confirmed with Property Services during this quarter that the Lounge would be relocated to Building 5 in a much more suitable location by July 2017 and that a Women's Room would also be set up next to the new Queer Lounge space. The Queer Officers have been working closely with all stakeholders in choosing new furniture and fittings for the space and are incredibly excited to start a new chapter of the department in the new City lounge.

VE

The VE Department has kept busy throughout the second quarter with the VE Officer attending three Academic Board meetings, two Education Innovation and Quality Committee meetings as well as regular meetings with the Director of Vocational Education. During this time, the VE Officer has worked closely with University stakeholders to discuss bringing SLAMS to VE courses as well as collaborating with VCE SSCC student representatives in planning ways to engage and support VCE students through outreach and events.

Four VE Chills were also hosted during this time with over 800 serves of free lunches and free Student Rights outreach and advice provided during this quarter.

Education & Welfare

Education Week and Save Your GPA Day

Education Week (April 24 to 28) was a major focus of the Education Department. Most of the student representatives, the Campaigns Officer and a couple of Student Rights Officers assisted in raising awareness of student's rights in assessments and the last day to drop classes without academic penalty (Save Your GPA Day). The Education Week outreach roadshow partnered with the weekly Chill 'n' Grill across the campuses (Carlton, Brunswick, Bundoora and City) and resulted in a higher level of student engagement than in previous years. Students were provided with free notebooks and pens as well as information around census date and student rights.

To wrap up Education Week, RUSU hosted the Save Your GPA Day party on Friday, April 28 at Blue Moon bar with free drinks and food for students. This party had a nerd theme and had a huge turnout of students (most of whom were in costume) and was a reflection of how successful Education Week was.

Student Rights and Advocacy

Throughout the second quarter, the Education Officer met with RUSU's President, Campaigns Officer and staff members from the Student Rights and Compass team to discuss the draft Assessment Processes developed by the Academic Registrars Group (ARG) and the negative impact that this proposed procedure would have on student rights. Following RUSU's internal meetings, the Education Officer and President successfully advocated that this procedure needs to be re-drafted and reflective of RUSU's feedback regarding student rights. Subsequently, this process was withdrawn and is currently being redrafted.

The Education Officer also spoke at Academic Board on June 5, advocating that the University community needs to have a serious discussion about inherent requirements as they can potentially discriminate against students. As a result of this strategic conversation, the Education Officer was successful in making it an action item for the University to discuss further in collaboration with RUSU.



International

Semester 1 English Language Workshops finished up in May with six classes running across the City and Bundoora campuses. International Students benefited from six weeks of improving their confidence in spoken English and understanding of Australian slang, at the same time as enjoying excursions and events to build lasting friendships. Participants in this program have expressed their desire to continue with the classes in Semester 2 and RUSU will look into the possibility of providing new class material so that students can progress their learning next semester.

English Language Workshop, City Campus



Sustainability

The Sustainability Department has had a busy second quarter, with Sustainability Week being the key focus. Sustainability week boasted several great speakers, from places including but not limited to: Zoos Victoria, City of Melbourne, RMIT University, and Zero Emissions Victoria.

During this time, the Sustainability Officer has been supporting other RUSU departments to ensure that sustainability remains a key priority to RUSU. The Sustainability, Welfare Officer and Compass have been working closely to create a green room during the last week of the semester for Stress Less week. The plants were sourced from Kuranga Native Nursery in Mt. Evelyn, as having native plants reduces the potential impact of propagating non-native growth. The plants were then repurposed as office plants and the rest were donated to students through RUSU's affiliated Clubs, Greening RMIT or donated to students.

Top: RUSU Sustainability Facebook,
Below: Girls Night Out



Women's

Activities and Events

The Women's Officer has been working closely with the Activities Officer and other student representatives in attending RUSU events to engage with students and inform them about the department, Women's Rooms across campuses and get feedback on what types of events they would like to see. This included assisting with the delivery of the Eggstravaganza event on April 12, the Education Week Chill 'n' Grills across campuses, the Annual General Meeting in Bundoora and the City campuses and RUSU's volunteer appreciation event.

The Women's Department also hosted the Girls Night Out event on April 19. This meet-and-greet event provided attendees with snacks in the Women's Lounge at the Carlton campus followed by a special movie screening at Hoyts, Melbourne Central. The purpose of this event was to provide RMIT women an opportunity to meet new friends but to also assist the Women's Officer in planning events for women for the remainder of the semester.

Women's Lounge Relocation

It was confirmed with RMIT Property Services during this quarter that a Women's Room would be set up in Building 5 to provide a safe space for students identifying as women in the heart of Bowen Street. It was also confirmed that the Women's Room in Building 57 would remain to ensure that women studying in the Carlton campus still had a safe space to access. The Women's Officer has been working closely with the Governance and Development Officer and Campaigns Officer in choosing new furniture and fittings for the space.



Postgraduate

The second quarter has been busy for the Postgraduate department with students presenting with a range of issues to the HDR Student Rights Officer.

The Postgrad careers seminar (intensive four-hour workshop on how to identify your strengths, and how to best achieve your potential) in the City campus was very well received by the 15 students who attended. Fifteen students also attended a postgrad careers event (in conjunction with RMIT Careers) on how to apply for jobs and write a resume at Bundoora.

Around 150 postgrad students attended the end-of-semester postgrad party at Red Love. Everyone had a ball, with many students saying how great it was to be able to catch up with other postgrads. One student said, "We should do this every week". While our budget won't stretch that far, a few informal social events will be planned for semester 2.



Below: End of Semester Get-Together



Realfoods

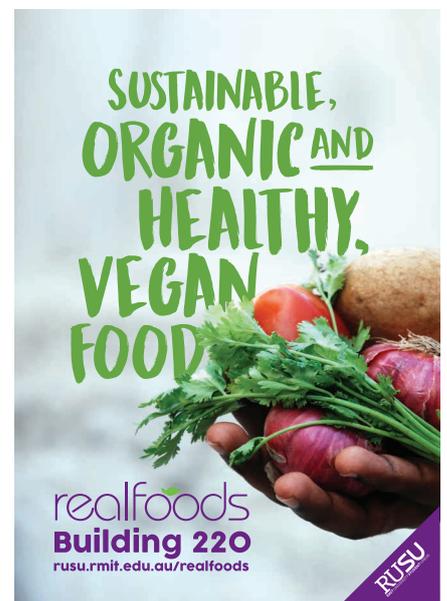
Bundoora

Realfoods Bundoora continued to operate this semester however the City was closed due to the NAS redevelopment and construction for the site continued over this period. Realfoods Bundoora again closed for the holiday period this semester to accommodate the reduced traffic on campus. The new, revamped menu and coffee offerings, have continued to be a success with students flocking to the cafe. The operational hours were adjusted slightly, the cafe is now open from 8am to 2.30pm Monday to Thursday and 8am to 2pm on Friday.

A number of departments within RUSU and greater RMIT approached the café for coffee cards, vouchers and catering of sorts and were thrilled with the service provided to them.

The Realfoods Coordinator was on extended leave during the City shut down period and the Barista/ Cafe Assistant stepped into the role over overseeing daily operations at Bundoora, supported by the Cook, five Student Casual Barista/Cafe Assistants and a team of over 10 trained volunteers.

Realfoods continued to provide hands-on hospitality and customer service experience to RMIT student volunteers and assisted them in increasing their employment prospects. All volunteer time is LEAD accredited.



Clubs & Societies

RUSU Club Grants

RUSU Clubs & Societies accessed \$46,735 of Clubs Grants funding during the second quarter of 2017. Almost \$14,000 of this was through special funding made available through SSAF Committee grants in 2017.

RUSU Club Activity

Returned Lapsed Clubs

RUSU welcomes back the following formally lapsed clubs:

- RMIT Italian Society
- RMIT Biomedical Engineering Student Society (BERSS)
- RMIT Entrepreneurs Association
- RMIT Mathematics, Analytics and Statistics Society (RMIT MASS)

New Clubs provisional affiliation applications received and approved for mid year affiliation

- Students for Christ RMIT
- RMIT Biotechnology and Life Sciences Association
- RMIT Food Sciences Club



RUSU Clubs Activity Affiliation

As at the time of writing, RUSU has 104 fully affiliated student clubs and societies. The distribution of clubs across our different categories breakdown is as follows:

Spiritual	8
Social	20
Political	4
Cultural	22
Academic	50

Below: ESSA Camp 2017, Right: Grant Iftar



Club Achievements in the Spotlight

RMIT Islamic Society Grand Iftar

With the support of a SSAF Special Grant, the RMIT Islamic Society hosted a Grand Iftar at RMIT Storey Hall. Over 150 RMIT students attended as well as representatives from RUSU, the University, Islamic Societies from other universities and several Islamic community groups.

The Society presented a moving introduction to what an Iftar is, its role in Ramadan and about Ramadan itself, followed by the call to prayer sung by one of the Society's members. After prayers, all attending enjoyed a lovely meal, music, conversation and community.

Over 40 members of the Society volunteered to deliver this event and acted professionally and with great friendliness. Everyone felt welcome because they were welcome. Special thanks to Storey Hall Venue Manager, Matthew Shea, RMIT Audio Visual Services' Darren Brown and RMIT Security for their support. Special congratulations to the Society Executive for their hard work in coordinating this event – Hamza Kobi, Sara Awamleh, Muhammad Hamza Qazi and Maryam Masoor. And of course, all the event volunteers!



Club Activities Quarter 2, 2017

Academic Clubs
RMIT International Student Association (ISA) Boat Cruise @ Victoria Star Cruises, docklands
RMIT International Student Association (ISA) Monthly Drinks @ Workshop and Asian Beer Café
RMIT Aerospace Engineering Students Association (AESA) & RMIT Aviation Society BBQ @ RMIT O'Grady's Place
RMIT Business Student Association (BSA) Professional Branding Workshop @ The Green Brain, RMIT Storey Hall
RMIT Human Resources Association Pancake Day @ RMIT A'Beckett Urban Square
RMIT Association of Pharmacy Students (RAPS) Mental Health Awareness Workshop @ RMIT Building 202
RMIT Business Student Association (BSA) & Accounting Students Association (SSA) BBQ @ RMIT A'Beckett Urban Square
RMIT Economics, Finance and Marketing Student (EFMSA) Marketing Industry Night @ RMIT Building 80
RMIT Aerospace Engineering Students Association (AESA) & RMIT Aviation Society BBQ @ RMIT O'Grady's Place

RMIT Association of Chemical Engineers (ACES) Industry Night @ RMIT Storey Hall
RMIT Association of Chemical Engineers (ACES) & RMIT Environmental Engineering Student Association (EESA) social @ RMIT Alumni Courtyard
RMIT Association of Chemical Engineers (ACES) Two Birds Brewery Tour @ Spotswood
RMIT Computer Science Information technology Club End of Exams social @ Bartronica, City
RMIT Civil Engineering Student Association (CESA) Industry Night @ RMIT Storey Hall
RMIT Electric Racing future drivers try out event @ Oakleigh Go Cart Racing Club, Oakleigh
RMIT Electric Racing visit to Melbourne High School @ South Yarra
RMIT Environmental Engineering Student Association (EESA) Annual Camp @ Peppin Point Caravan Park, Bonnie Doon
RMIT Environmental Engineering Student Association (EESA) Rooftop BBQ @ RMIT Building 80
RMIT Geospatial Science Students Association (GSSA) end of semester social @ Blue Moon, City

RMIT Law Students Society (LSS) Cocktails and Career Conversations event @ Collins Quarter, City
RMIT Law Students Society (LSS) Zapparas Law Personal Injury Moot Grand Final @ Russel Street, City
RMIT Law Students Society (LSS) CV and cover letter presentation - presented by MinterEllison @ The Rialto, City
Planning & Environment RMIT Students Society (PERMITSS) mid semester social @ The Lincoln, Carlton
Planning & Environment RMIT Students Society (PERMITSS) end of semester film and social @ RMIT Building 80 and Captain Melville, City
RMIT Association of Pharmacy Students (RAPS) Cocktail Night @ Emerson Roof Top Bar, South Yarra
RMIT Association of Pharmacy Students (RAPS) education event - Jobst Compression Therapy Training @ RMIT Building 202
PSYCHED! @ RMIT (Psychology Students Assoc.) Psychology Postgrad Forum @ RMIT Building 12
RMIT Student Association for Sustainable Systems Engineering (SASSE) Industry Night @ RMIT Green Brain Building 16
RMIT Student Association for Sustainable Systems Engineering (SASSE) Industry Night @ RMIT Green Brain Building 16



From left: SASSE Industry Night, Greening RMIT Community Garden Project, ISA Boat Cruise

Club Activities Quarter 2, 2017 (Continued)

RMIT Student Association for Sustainable Systems Engineering (SASSE) "Post-Exams Mourning ft. SASSE" @ Workshop Bar, City
Student Landscape Architecture Body (SLAB) "SlabLABS" x 2 - informal networking events @ 22-24 Bennetts Lane, City
Student Interior Design Association (s.IDA) hosted an Exhibition of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd-year students of Bachelor of Interior Design (Honours) @ RMIT Building 45
Student Interior Design Association (s.IDA) "Tuesday Trivia" @ Fitzroy Bowling Club, Fitzroy
RMIT Supply Chain Student Association (SCSA) end of semester lunchtime BBQ and evening social @ RMIT A'Beckett Urban Square
RMIT World Congress of Chiropractic Students (RMIT WCCS) "Vampire Cup" – inter faculty blood drive competition @ various blood donor locations
Cultural Clubs
RMIT Bangladeshi Association Social (RBA) @ RUSU Multipurpose Room, Building 57 Level 4
RMIT Chinese Students & Scholars Association (RCSSA) Ball – "It's Time to La La Land" @ Plaza Ballroom, City

RMIT Chinese Students & Scholars Association (RCSSA) Dragon Boat Festival @ RMIT Building 80
RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA) board game night @ Marche Board Game café, City
RMIT United Society of Hellenes (RUSH - Greek club) "Zorba 'til You Drop" competition @ RMIT Alumni Courtyard
RMIT United Society of Hellenes (RUSH - Greek club) "Bouzouki" traditional social event @ Kinisi Restaurant Venue, Richmond
RMIT Indonesian Students Association (RMIT PPIA) Pergi Makin Sayang ("Go Your Heart") social games and fun event @ Abode 316, City
RMIT Indonesian Students Association (RMIT PPIA) "Societal Event" - Indonesia Tempo Doeloe @ Victoria Star Cruises, Central Pier, Docklands
RMIT Indonesian Students Association (RMIT PPIA) Olahraga Bersama (Sports Together) RMIT Italian Society movie & pizza night @ RMIT Multipurpose Room, Building 57
RMIT Italian Society End of Semester Rooftop Party @ RMIT Building 80
RMIT Japan Club Fortnightly Activities (games, anime, trivia etc.) @ RMIT Building 51
RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA) iDarts night @ iDarts, City

RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA) pre-exams welfare give-aways – FOOD4U and Exam pack @ RMIT A'Beckett Urban Square
RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA) Mamak (Indian Malay food) Night @ OldTown White Coffee Restaurant, City
RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA) and Caulfield Monash Malaysian Student society End of Exams Party @ Alumbra Nightclub, Harbour Town, Docklands
RMIT Club of Pakistan 2 x international cricket viewing socials @ RUSU Multipurpose Room, Building 57 Level 4
RMIT Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) VSA Bun Bo Hue Night @ Pho Dzung City Noodle Shop, City
RMIT Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) x UoM Basketball Tournament @ MSACC, Albert Park
RMIT International Students at RMIT (VISAR) Induction Night for new students @ RUSU Multifunction Room B 57
RMIT University Sri Lankan Students Association (RUSLSA) v Melbourne University Sri Lankan Students Association (MUSLSA) Dodgeball competition @ Oakleigh Sports Stadium, Oakleigh
RMIT University Sri Lankan Students Association (RUSLSA) "Kothu" Night @ Brunswick Town Hall, Brunswick



From left: RUMA Board Games Night, VISAR Induction, RMIT CU Kick Off Camp

RMIT Singapore Student Association (SSA) bowling night @ Strike, Melbourne Central
RMIT Singapore Student Association (SSA), Singapore association Monash and Singapore Students Swinburne e sports tournament (online competition)
RMIT Taiwan Club Morning Tea @ RUSU Multipurpose Room, RMIT Building 57

Social/Special Interest Clubs
RMIT AIESEC Global Festival @ RMIT Alumni Courtyard
RMIT Asian Association (RAA) Orientation Camp in conjunction with Monash Chinese-Australian Cultural Community End of Exams Party @ Vault 7/8 Banana Alley, City South Melbourne
Beer Brewers and Connoisseurs Club (BBCC) Fortnightly Meet Up @ Beer Deluxe, Fed Square
RMIT CAINZ master class "Product Development 101" @ RMIT Building 80
RMIT Engineers without Borders (EWB) monthly meetings @ RMIT Building 80
RMIT Engineers without Borders (EWB) documentary screening of Landfill Harmonic @ RMIT Building 80
RMIT Engineers without Borders (EWB) end of semester social @ RMIT Building 80 Rooftop

RMIT Games Manga and Anime Society (GMAS) weekly games & anime sessions @ RMIT Building 12
Greening RMIT tour of permaculture and edible gardening guru Angelo Eliades' personal garden, Preston
Greening RMIT weekly skill share sessions (@ RMIT Alumni Courtyard)
Greening RMIT End of Semester Volunteer Celebration @ RMIT Building 80 Rooftop
League of (online) Gaming (LOG) Weekly Community Gaming Night @ RMIT Building 80
League of (online) Gaming (LOG) Weekly Community Gaming Night @ OP Gaming Internet Café, City
RMIT Oxfam Close the Gap event – film and discussion panel @ RMIT Building 13
RMIT Science Fiction & Gaming Association (SFGA) twice weekly gaming sessions @ RMIT Building 57 RUSU Multipurpose Room and the B57 Cafeteria
RMIT Science Fiction & Gaming Association (SFGA) Laser Tag social @ Strike, Melbourne Central

Political Clubs
RMIT Greens Fortnightly Meetings @ RMIT Pearson & Murphy's
RMIT Greens End of Semester social @ The Imperial Hotel, City

RMIT Socialist Alternative Club movie screening of Pride @ Trades Hall, Carlton
RMIT Socialist Alternative Club and La Trobe Uni Socialist Alternative co-hosting of lecture/presentation "The Reds who built the silver screen: From class war to cold war" @ Trades Hall, Carlton

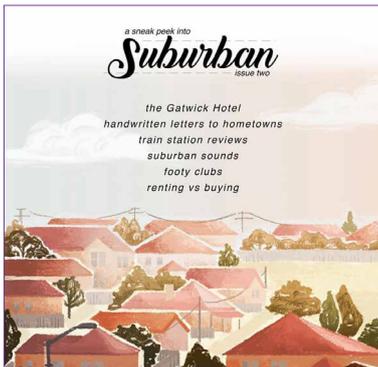
Spiritual Clubs
Catholics @ RMIT Fortnightly discussion group @ RMIT Chaplaincy
Catholics @ RMIT participation in annual Good Friday Walk @ City
RMIT Christian Union Kick Off Camp @ Upper Plenty Conference Centre, Upper Plenty
RMIT Christian Union Women's craft activity @ private residence, Mill Park
RMIT Christian Union DSC opp shop spree @ Ringwood
RMIT Christian Union Summit Camp @ Belgrave Heights Convention Centre
RMIT Islamic Society Lecture "The Journey of Forgiveness and Mercy" @ RMIT Bld 12
RMIT Islamic Society daily Iftar during Ramadan @ RUSU Activity Space, Building 10

Student Media



Above and below: Promotion for Catalyst Issue 2

In April we celebrated the release of our second edition for the year, themed 'suburban'. The issue featured many splendid articles from our talented group of student contributors, as we encouraged them to think about what the suburbs mean to them, and to all Australians. The way they shared their stories was inspirational, and so we organised a party on May 4 to acknowledge their efforts. We also published the third episode of our regular podcast, Cataclysm, reported on the large student budget protests on May 17, and spoke to Emerging Writers Festival co-CEO—and former RMIT student—Izzy Roberts-Orr. We are looking forward to releasing our next issue, themed 'sustainable', in July.



RMITV

RMITV continues to engage RMIT students and alumni through providing training, production experience, social events and an industry network.

Industry Employment

Dave Latham (RMIT Alumnus), Copywriter for Harris MC

Samantha Beniac-Brooks (RMIT Student), Radio Journalist at SBS Australia

Edward Hirst (RMIT Student), SportsCom Operator at Gearhouse Broadcast

Jonathan Pertile (RMIT Student), Writer at Fox Sports

great success! Members are responding positively towards the process of pitching their own ideas to produce creative content.

Good Morning Melbourne: RMITV's first morning show is in full swing, producing online content and building their audience. We are excited to start utilising RMIT's new Media Precinct and Television Studios.

Upcoming shows

In Pit Lane: IPL is gearing up to produce their first season of 2017! With a format change and a new focus on more international events, IPL looks to set itself apart from the competition and break new ground before anyone else!

Formula SAE: Following the success of last year's Formula SAE Student Engineering Competition, which garnered over 8000 viewers, RMITV are set to broadcast the event again in 2017. Plans are already underway with the Universities support to go bigger and better than last year!

7 Deadly Struggles: A new documentary series showcasing people who have

Content

Currently programming

The Leak: RMITV's flagship production returns for 2017! This year's focus is on growing the online audience for the show and utilising new technology to deliver content in new ways.

RMITV Presents: RMITV's latest flagship production has completed one season to

struggled through adversity to find success. Production is slated for 2017 with release looking like early 2018.

Tough Times: Tough Times is gearing up for their second season of the year. They have expanded their budget in an attempt to put it all into cultivating their audience and social media presence.

Superate: RMITV's film review program is in pre-production for their second season. The new season will be taking a new approach to the movies reviewed with a focus on recent, modern movies.

In Development

Learning with Difficulties: RMITV'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 RMITV plans to streamline the production pipeline to ensure that episodes are produced as fast as possible.

Training

RMITV's Training Department has been very active over the past quarter introducing new training workshops, starting a training podcast and expanding the training department. On top of that, newsletters continue to be published which provide a larger reach to members. The levels-based Training Program has been rolled out and new levels are slowly

being added. We have continued to take on members' feedback as that is essential to ensure we are providing the training that is in demand.

In response to a large demand we are bringing back one of our original training shows called Offbeat. Offbeat will air live Monday to Friday at 4:30pm from October to November. It provides a training ground for those who have never stepped foot in a television studio or those who are just wanting to refine a pre-existing skill. It's great fun for everyone.

RMITV's recent workshops include:

Monthly Panel Chats

The monthly chat features three industry professionals speaking about their careers and experience in the industry. The format involves a series of moderated questions followed by questions from the attendees. The most recent panel chats have covered the topics of: production design, directing and screenwriting.

The Project Excursion

A group of members embarked on an excursion to watch The Project (Network Ten). This was a great activity for members to get to know each other and bond over their love for television. It was a great night and for some it was their first time seeing a live television production.

Band Shoot Workshop

The band shoot workshop took place over three weeks and involved a crew of new

members learning from RMITV Alumni on how to work in a television studio across the various roles. Each night they filmed a music video for an upcoming band. At the end of the workshop the talent and the crew got to take home the footage to use in their show reels. The workshop covered studio camera, floor managing, directing, assistant directing, technical directing, audio, lighting and producing.

Training Information Session

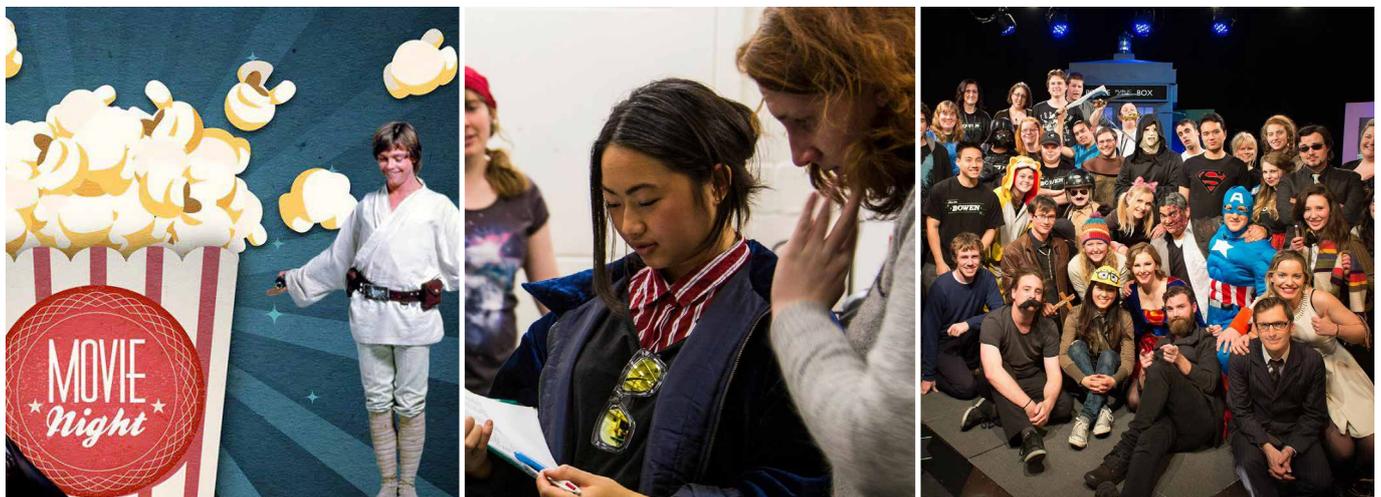
Training Information Sessions are essential as we have a lot of new members who find themselves asking: what's next? In the session, we looked at what we set out to achieve in 2017, what we had already achieved, what we hadn't, and what our goals were for the rest of the year.

Technical Update

Equipment Utilization

In Q2 2017, RMITV saw an average of five to six equipment hires per week, with popular items, as usual, being basic camera and audio equipment. There was very little overbooking, with only a few particularly busy weekends with productions sending out multiple field crews stretching the inventory a little thin. This indicates that RMITV's current equipment supply is meeting the demand of our current programming.

From left: RMITV Monthly Movie Night, RMITV Monthly Chat: Producing, Cast and crew of 'Live On Bowen'



Social Media & Publications

New Purchases

Q2 2017 saw two major steps forward for RMITV's equipment provision capabilities. The first was the sale of our Sony RX10 mk2 cameras which, despite having excellent imaging characteristics, were not ergonomic and poorly labelled, resulting in members not making proper use of all their capabilities.

Replacing these are two Sony X70s, which feature very similar image quality in a more professional package, with more buttons for more efficient operation, in a more robust package. The Sony X70s also feature SDI video outputs, enabling them to be used for livestreaming applications outside the RMIT studio.

RMITV has also expanded their stock of lapel mics, and now have six Sennheiser G3 units available. These are very commonly hired and were a frequently overbooked item in the past. Having more enables RMITV to supply lapel mics to two or even three productions simultaneously, or support a larger production with extensive wireless audio requirements.

Future Purchases

In light of the fact that RMITV is currently consistently meeting its equipment hire demands, the only way to go is, indeed, up. This has been a common theme over the past year, and presents an exciting opportunity to allow RMITV members to use higher end equipment commonly seen within the film and TV industry.

Options are currently being brainstormed, and include high end lighting, some more versatile camera options and a comprehensive mobile live streaming package.

Events

RMITV has also been holding monthly social movie nights on the first Thursday of every month. Once the theme is chosen, five movies that fit within that theme are put to another member vote, thereby increasing engagement with our volunteer-base

Marketing

RMITV's social media statistics have improved – at the end of April RMITV had 1992 likes on Facebook with a reach of 750 and post engagements sitting at around 200. We are now at 2138 likes with a reach of 1136 and engagements sitting at over 400.

Our Twitter followers have grown to 2242 likes (an increase of around 20) and our tweet impressions have increased from 3300 to 4990 per month.

Social Media

Facebook

19,411 Likes (Up 1788 from previous quarter. Up 1996 from this time last year).

Facebook still serves as our number one social media engagement tool, and our presence on the platform continues to grow stronger than ever with our likes, engagement and reach continuing to increase. Facebook serves as a platform for event advertising for both RUSU events and for Clubs & Societies. Our reach, reactions, comments and shares have also increased in the last quarter.

The average number of people who were served any activity from our page, including our posts, posts to our page by other people, page like adverts, mentions and check-in this period is: 2,383 (organic).

Website

The website is now in full swing and has been a great resource to consolidate all that that RUSU offers into once place. We have made it as simple as possible for students to locate up to date information on our upcoming events, student support and student rights.

One of the biggest aspects to the website that has been our clubs functionality. The Clubs Officers have done an amazing job assisting clubs transition across to the new system; providing each club with their own personalised page where they can post specific events, keep track of members and easily link them to social media.

Newsletter

Our monthly newsletter continues to be a great source of quick bites of information delivered directly to students inboxes. With simple and direct messaging to help students know all that is on offer at RUSU.

Snapchat

Snapchat has quickly become one of our most popular social media experiences with students, capturing RUSU moments in real-time. There has been a large promotional push to get students to use the RUSU snap code to follow us. We have continued to use event specific filters to help enhance the branding of RUSU to share on Facebook.

for students. by students.



rusu_snaps



Promotional Material

Above: Selection of poster, Below: Compass brochure

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. Starting this year has included:

SSCC Student Leadership Summit

The Summit has continued to grow and we have developed it's own recognisable look of the triangles that has been used consistently across all the collateral including programs and slideshows.

Super Chill 'n; Grill featuring Kooyeh

Our super-sized Chill 'n' Grill went soul-infused reggae and the artwork was shaken up from the usual Chill N Grill look to showcase Kooyeh.

The Brunswick Makers Market

The very talented and creative students at Brunswick held a makers market, the promo went for a handpainted bespoke look - very Brunswick.

Pub Crawl

Pub Crawl means beer - we designed our own RUSU-inspired pub crawl beer label that was used for not only promotion but also on the attendees tshirts.

Post-Apocalyptic End-Of-Exams Party

The end (of exams) is coming! We had a whole lot of fun with this promo, releasing a teaser apocalypse poster followed by the full dark and gritty look - for the survivors of exams.



Representation & Advocacy

RUSU Annual General Meetings

RUSU held a series of Annual General Meetings (AGMs) across all campuses from May 16 to 18, 2017. The meetings were held alongside the usual Chill 'n' Grill events at Brunswick and Bundoora and City campus, with a special night time AGM held on May 18 at the City campus.

At each AGM the RUSU President, General Secretary and a campus student representative gave an update on the activities of RUSU, with a particular focus on events and issues affecting the campus that the AGM was being held on.

The RUSU 2016 Snapshot containing a Message from the President, Financial Summary and 2016 Highlights was produced and distributed at each AGM and on-campus.

The audited financial report for 2016 was presented to and approved by each meeting.

Appeal Committees Reprs

RUSU has supported students on the following RMIT hearings;

- 2 student representatives sat on 3 University Appeals Committee hearings.
- 5 student representatives sat on 6 Student Conduct Board hearings.
- 1 student representative sat on 1 College Appeals Committee hearing.
- 0 student representatives sat on 0 GUSS show cause hearing panels.

Student Voice

RUSU elected student representatives provided a student voice on a range of RMIT committees during this quarter.

RUSU/RMIT Meetings

RUSU leaders including the President have held numerous meetings with RMIT University this quarter including with Vice Chancellor, Martin Bean, and Deputy Vice Chancellor of Education, Belinda Tynan. On May 17, the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education, Director of Planning and Resources and Director of Connect, attended the RUSU SUC Meeting to talk to SUC members about the RUSU priorities and the Federal government's proposed changes to higher education funding.

RUSU Top Priorities Meetings with University Stakeholders

During the second quarter, the RUSU President and Campaigns Officer met with Sue Bolt (Director, Planning & Resources, Office of the DVCE) and Dene Cicci (Director of RMIT Connect) four times to discuss RUSU's Strategic Priorities. There has been significant progress on the priorities during this time, including:

More Mental Health Friendly Campus

\$250,000 SSAF committed to the Supporting Student Mental Health project in 2017 including:

- additional counselling appointments (same day and generally)
- capability uplift for teaching staff (2017 project to scope sustainable professional development program for teachers. Also delivering YMHFA and Understanding Mental Health to targeted Schools with high numbers of students with mental illness)
- feasibility exploration of virtual clinic or similar.

Compulsory lecture/tutor presentation in each program at orientation and midyear-orientation regarding RMIT mental health services sent to program staff for 2018 use.

Safe and accessible Women's and Queer Lounges

Queer and Women's lounge set to relocate to Building 5 in the City Campus in early July (please also refer to Queer Department section of this quarterly report for more information).

Variety of International Vending Machines on Campus

More international vending machines are being rolled out across NAS and other student spaces with the next 10 machines to be installed by July 2017.

DLU (now ELS) and Accessibility Improvements

Substantial work underway that will improve the student experience for ELS clients, in particular significant process simplification including:

- More clearly framed reasonable adjustments (RAs)
- A library of examples of RAs to assist teachers to understand and implement
- Brief videos of students talking about how their condition impacts on them and what help they have found to be most valuable

- Creation of collaborative Enrolment Support Plans to deliver joined up support for students with complex needs (Schools, Support services and student and their advocate).
- Data dashboard in development to increase insight into patterns of use by students of support mechanisms (eg, RAs, EAAs, special consideration) and a range of support services (eg, ELS, counselling, study support) to inform service improvements.

Scoping for sustainability and viability of mentorship program for DLU/ELS students underway.

Increased transparency for students in regards to complaints handling

Complaints functionality has been built into the student service management platform with the implementation of the new Complaints Policy in June which should enable improvement in ease of student lodgement, updates, KPI monitoring, record keeping, workflow, reporting, data and insight.

Review of university policy and process relating to sexual harassment and assault

New CASA House presence on campus in 2017 provides opportunities for specialised support for victims of sexual misconduct as well as professional development for key RMIT staff on sexual assault, harassment. Support service commenced March 2017 with first professional development training sessions for students rolled out in April 2017.

RUSU provided feedback regarding an online training module focused on consent for students to the Safer Communities team in regards to working with Epigeum to produce a sustainable comprehensive online program within the Australian context. Academic Board has endorsed completion of 'Responding to Disclosure' for all senior officers, and course, program and research coordinators. Plan to roll out from Semester 2, 2017. Workshops delivered at City campus on April 6 and the Bundoora campus on April 19.

Stakeholder meetings in regards to other RUSU priorities including the development of a RUSU games room and a RUSU bar were also held during the second quarter with indications that these were on track to continue being progressed and supported by Property Services, Sue Bolt and Dene Cicci.

International Summer Institute on Students as Partners

Abena Dove (President), Ella Caulfield (Communications Officer) and Sarah Firth (Campaigns Officer) were invited to join Andrea McLagan (Educational Developer, College of DSC) to attend the International Summer Institute on Students as Partners at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada from May 8 to 11, 2017.

The overall aim of the International Summer Institute was to build the capacity and understanding of faculty, staff and students to develop, design and implement initiatives to promote the practice of students as partners in learning and teaching in higher education.

The stream that RUSU and College of DSC collaborated in was the 'Change Institute', which involved four staff and students (two of each) participating in a three-and-a-half-day forum. During the forum, the RUSU/DSC team were supported to plan the implementation of a 'students as partners' initiative. Approximately half the time during the Institute was spent with the RUSU/DSC team members developing their initiative with the support of a mentor and the remainder of the time was spent with the other teams from all over the world (including Norway, Sweden, Canada, the US, the UK and New Zealand) in developing ideas, networking and sharing experiences. More information regarding the program can be found at <https://macblog.mcmaster.ca/summer-institute/>.

RUSU's participation in the International Summer Institute on Students as Partners was strongly supported by the Education Portfolio who assisted significantly in funding RUSU's participation.

The insights, skills and knowledge developed from the student and staff participation in the Change Institute was completely invaluable. Not only did this experience further develop RUSU's understanding of student partnership projects but also the student representatives and staff members ability to support others in the RMIT community in implementing their own students as partners project successfully. This includes the overarching principles of student partnership initiatives, relevant case studies outlining successful co-learning, co-designing and co-developing initiatives as well as project tools (including risk management, responsibility charts, evaluation measures, timelines, etc).

In the lead up to partaking in the Change Institute, the students and staff were required to collaborate and develop a theory of change document as well as a draft outline of RUSU's/ DSC's students as partners initiative.

Upon returning to Melbourne from the Change Institute, the students and staff engaged in this project have met several times to continue working on developing a framework of student partnerships for RMIT that other staff and students can use. This is an ongoing project that will continue throughout the year.

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 gain governance experience on internal Student Union Committees, such as Staffing Committee, Finance Standing Committee and OH&S Committee

Elected student councillors were supported to work as governors and managers.

SSCC Program

Below: SSCC Student Leadership Summit, April

Throughout the second quarter, the Campaigns Officer collaborated with the President and Education Officer in delivering a professionally facilitated Leadership Workshop on April 4 and the SSCC Student Leadership Summit on the April 11.

The Leadership workshop was held in the Green Brain and was open to both SSCC Student Leaders and RUSU club executives (26 students attended the workshop). This workshop was facilitated by Alignments Australia and focused on effective leadership skills, key qualities of successful leaders, overcoming power imbalances, problem solving, rapport building and presenting a persuasive argument. This event was free for students and included a free dinner.

The SSCC Summit was held at Storey Hall and included a presentation and Q&A with Vice Chancellor Martin Bean, a keynote presentation from the inspiring Jason Ball (Young Victorian of the Year, 2017) and a professional development workshop focused on leadership skill development. This event was completely free for students and included a free morning tea and lunch as well as post-summit networking drinks at Father's Office. Fifty-eight students attended this event and overwhelmingly provided positive feedback regarding the event.





Compass

Above: Education Week VE Chill, Carlton

This quarter has seen a huge disruption to the everyday operation of Compass Drop-in centres. The beginning of the semester was impacted greatly by the delay in opening at City and Bundoora.

During these delays and disruptions, the Compass program has focused on setting strong foundations in the new spaces. With so much change around the University, Compass Coordinators have spent time meeting up with key stakeholders such as Counselling, Equitable Learning Service, Wellbeing and Connect to confirm referral procedures and get up-to-date with these services.

Compass has also attended the opening of the New Ngarara Willim centre in Bundoora, an event which also celebrated reconciliation day and RMIT's reconciliation action plan.

Both Compass Coordinators attended a Mindfulness Teacher Training course. This means they are both able to conduct mindfulness individually with students or in group sessions which is very exciting.

City Compass Drop-In Centre

The City Compass office opened its doors in the New Academic Street space in the second week of May and we are well and truly settling in. Due to the delay in opening the new space Volunteers and Compass Coordinator conducted popup outreach stalls across several locations at the city campus. These stalls provided an opportunity for students to raise basic welfare and student rights issues and to promote the new Compass location.

Compass joined forces with RMIT's Safer Communities team for University Mental Health and Wellbeing Day on May 2. This event was very well attended.

Stress Less Week in the City saw a new initiative which was the creation of a 'Green Chill-Out Space' for students. This space was filled with plants and beanbags and had relaxing music and a mindfulness exercise that played every half hour. This space was very well utilized with many students expressing that they wished there were a permanent space like this on campus.

Brunswick Compass Drop-In Centre

Officially opening its doors after mid-semester break, the Brunswick Compass office has set a steady pace in terms of promotion and outreach. This Quarter has seen the Compass Cupboard opening, providing immediate food support to students experiencing financial distress in Brunswick, as well as providing the Gravity Yoga and meditation program.

Compass has worked alongside Chill 'n' Grill events to promote Compass and create a level of trust and comfort with the Compass brand. We look forward to expanding our outreach to include activities and events focused on wellbeing that will continue to strengthen relationships with the student body.

Bundoora Compass Project

The Bundoora West Compass Project has seen the Compass Cupboard initiative make its way to support Bundoora Students. The Bundoora space has not been built (now coming 2018 in building 202), therefore limiting the ability to provide students with a drop-in specific space. The current space in which RUSU resides is not suitable for personal and confidential conversations as the office spaces do not have privacy.

Compass has facilitated the Gravity Yoga project to come to Bundoora West, which was highly popular among students with most classes quickly filling up. From discussions had with students after the yoga and meditation, Compass has begun planning Semester 2 outreach events in hope to build student connection and trust to the Compass brand and get Compass's messages out to the student body. Compass has also spent time promoting alongside Chill 'n' Grill events.

Student Rights

It's been a busy second quarter for the Student Rights service. Members of the team have continued to get out and about at the various RMIT and RUSU events held during the first Semester letting students know about the Student Rights Service and key student rights issues. Many students report being surprised (and relieved if they have an issue) that such a comprehensive service exists to help students with the rules and processes that affect them at RMIT and advocate on their behalf to the university.

The new RUSU website was launched this year with the Student Rights resources and information becoming available to students online in the second quarter. We hope that this will be an increasing point of reference for students seeking information relating to their student rights complementing the direct individual case support they receive from Student Rights Officers (SRO's).

The team has been helping many students with exclusion appeals hearings in the second quarter with the majority of the students being successful in their appeals. Overturning an exclusion decision on the appeal has a big effect on the individual student moving forward in their chosen area of study. Exclusion means a student's

enrolment is cancelled, and they cannot study in their program for 12 months and they must reapply the following year to get back in (there is no guarantee that the school will accept them back into the program).

Other issues SROs have been helping with are assisting students with grants, remissions of debt, late course withdrawals and assessment/course disputes. SRO's have been encouraged to see some students who have received student rights support go on to volunteer in the RUSU student representation program for the various student hearings held as a result of their positive experience in student rights.

Student Rights Officers were also able to catch up with other essential services in the University including RMIT Counselling and the Equitable Learning Service. The teams were able to share their resources, identify shared visions for an inclusive and supportive student environment, and detail some of the progress made in advocating on behalf of students about policies. They were further able to cement the collaborative working relationship with the counselling team to provide the best support to students.

Issues	
HDR Issues	
HDR Appeal final mark	1
HDR At Risk Issue	2
Supervisor Issue	1
Discipline (University Level)	
Academic (Plagiarism) Misconduct	4
General Misconduct	2
Complaint	
RMIT Ombuds	1
School Level	20
University Level	4
Victoria Ombudsman	1
Discipline (School Level)	
Academic (Plagiarism) Misconduct	31
General Misconduct	2
Uncategorised	
Admin Issue	12
Admission Issue	2
Appeal Against Assessment	49
Assessment Issues (Other)	29
At Risk	7
Attended Group Sessions	4
Bullying	8
Disability	22
Enrolment Issue	20
Equitable Assessment Arrangements (EAA)	3
Exclusion	11
Fees Issue	20

What are student's saying?

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

"Just wanted to send you an email expressing my gratitude for your support at my hearing in regards to allegations of misconduct. Having you there really helped deal with the immense pressure I was under due to these circumstances and I am extremely grateful! You did an absolutely amazing job. Without your support and the very valid arguments you raised during the proceedings, things could have gone very differently for me. Thank you!"

"I just received this email in the morning and I couldn't be happier with the outcome. You've been the reassurance I've needed over this semester and I appreciate you going above and beyond to help secure this result for me. All the best."

"Just wanted to shoot you an email saying I have received the email granting me credit! Thank you very very much for all your help! I would not have been successful at appealing without you. Again, thank you."

Leave of Absence (LOA)	3
Mental Health Issues	14
Other Issues	18
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	1
Remission of Debt	6
Show Cause	49
Special Consideration	59
Supplementary Exam Request (Pass By Compensation)	4

Outcomes	
Appeal Against Exclusion University Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	3
Appeal Upheld	5
Exclusion Withdrawn by School before the hearing	11
Fee Remission	
Fee Remission Approved	8
Special Consideration Granted	
Alternative Assessment	5
Deferred Exam	3
Extension of time	5
Late withdrawal without Academic Penalty	7
Special Consideration Not Granted	4
Supplementary Exam	1
Referral - External	
External	2
Appeal Against Special Consideration University Appeal Committee	
Special Consideration Granted without a hearing	2
Complaint Outcome	
Alternative Resolution Reached	5
School level Complaint Dismissed	4

School Level complaint Resolved	2
University Level Complaint Dismissed	1
University Level Complaint Resolved	5
Referral - Internal	
Compass	1
Counselling Service	21
Disability Liaison Unit	9
International Student Services	1
Student Well Being	5
Study and Learning Centre	2
Contacted School Issue Resolved	
Contacted Academic Administrator	3
Contacted Course Coordinator	9
Contacted Head of School	2
Contacted Lecturer / Tutor	2
Contact Program Manager	13
Other	
Advice given - Student able to proceed with the case themselves	123
Attended group session	27
Other Outcomes	42
Student doesn't want to pursue with the case	15
Discipline/Plagiarism Meeting Case School Level	
Student asked to resubmit the assessment	9
Student Reprimanded	7
Student was given a fail for all or any part of any assessment	4
Leave of Absence (LOA)	
LOA Granted	2

Discipline Board Hearing Academic Misconduct	
Case Dismissed in favour of Student	2
Student Reprimanded	1
Appeal Against Assessment CAC Decision University Appeals Committee	
Appeal Upheld	2
Fee Issue Outcome	
Issue Not resolved	3
Issue Resolved	5
Appeal Against Assessment (AAA) College Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	3
Appeal Upheld	4
Informal Review of Assessment Resolution	2
Discipline/Plagiarism Meeting Case School Level	
Student found not guilty	9
Discipline Board Hearing General Misconduct	
Student suspended	1
Show Cause Outcome	
Show Cause approved by SPC	6
Show Cause Rejected by SPC	14
Referral Internal	
Student Well Being	1

Cases	
Opened Cases during the last quarter	295
Closed Cases during the last quarter	302
Total issues created during the last quarter	410
Total outcomes achieved during the last quarter	412
Total number of SIM (Offshore Cases) handled	4

RUSU Governance, Administration & Services

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

- Assisting and resourcing RUSU student representatives in meetings with RMIT University
- Regular Meetings with RMIT University and Property Services especially regarding NAS, Student Experience Projects and RUSU Top 20 projects
- Ongoing support for establishing RUSU Central and Compass in NAS including the development of Operating Procedures for those locations
- Setting up the RUSU Activity Space in NAS and preparation for a launch of the Activity Space
- Supporting the RUSU Queer and Women's Officers to work with Property Services to design and establish the Women's and Queer rooms in Building 5. Creating Operating Procedures for these spaces
- Development and implementation of RUSU website facility and back end procedures to enable students to book RUSU bookable spaces in NAS and Building 57 via the RUSU website
- 2016 Annual financial audit finalised
- RUSU Annual General Meetings held across all campuses including the preparation and distribution of the RUSU 2016 Snapshot report
- RUSU Constitution and regulations changed to create the position of Indigenous Officer on the Student Union Council
- Reporting on SSAF-Funded projects
- RUSU Investment Strategy monitored and implemented
- Coordinating and implementing RUSU actions to ensure compliance with the Child Safe Standards, including organising Working with Children Checks for relevant RUSU staff
- Providing advice to the RUSU management on IT-related issues
- Coordinating the RUSU Administration & Student Liaison Officer Team Meetings
- Providing first point of contact Student Rights advice for RMIT students (onshore and offshore)
- Sourcing and resourcing student representatives to RMIT Appeals Committees.

Financial Overview

RUSU SSAF Funding 2017

RUSU funding from RMIT for 2017 is made up of the following:

Base grant	\$2,705,350
SSAF Committee Grants	\$881,500
2017 TOTAL GRANT	\$3,586,850
2017 GRANT RECEIVED TO DATE	\$3,586,850

The 2017 RMIT/RUSU Deed Agreement has been signed. The 2017 grant was received as a lump sum payment in late January. This upfront payment enables 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 and to satisfactorily achieve our annual audit of statutory accounts by a registered company auditor.

The 2016 Financial year audit (January 1 to December 31) was conducted by independent auditors, BDO and presented to Annual General Meetings of RUSU on all campuses this quarter.

**Table 1: RUSU SSAF Grant Expenditure on Allowable Items
1 January – 31 March 2017**

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 	\$61,116
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 	\$169,618
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 	\$18,990
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 	\$169,421
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 	\$129,421
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 	\$94,330
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 	\$133,348

**Table 1: RUSU SSAF Grant Expenditure on Allowable Items
1 January – 31 March 2017 (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	\$183,179
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)	\$391,059
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	\$363,459
YTD SSAF EXPENDITURE		\$1,719,941
YTD 2017 SSAF FUNDS RECEIVED		\$3,586,850

**Table 2: 2017 SSAF Committee Grant Financial Report
1 January – 31 March 2017**

Program Title	Grant Amount	Expenditure YTD
RUSU Volunteer Program	\$183,000	\$69,394
RUSU Flagship Production (Live on Bowen) and RMITV training program	\$42,316	\$8,447
RUSU International Student Support - conversation classes and city tours	\$45,500	\$15,571
Bundoora Common Lunch Hour (including SRO & BE)	\$72,552	\$32,131
RUSU Orientation Package	\$123,727	\$67,116
RUSU Free Healthy Breakfasts including nutrition & sustainability awareness	\$56,373	\$28,486
Post-grad Support Program (including SRO)	\$43,000	\$13,040
Brunswick Common Lunch Hour	\$38,824	\$10,966
RUSU VE Awareness & Support	\$33,842	\$15,890
SSCC Mentoring Program	\$30,000	\$11,182
Compass Bundoora & Brunswick	\$110,000	\$35,583
City Campus Events Boost	\$49,784	\$6,107
Point Cook Student Life Boost	\$22,988	\$186
RUSU Clubs Grants	\$30,000	\$6,500
TOTAL	\$881,500	\$320,599

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