



President's Report



It's been a big quarter.

In a recent visit to the Ho Chi Minh campus of RMIT Vietnam I experienced first hand both what a 'global experience' could be, and what it's like to be an international student in a foreign country. The campus itself is fantastic and it's heartening to know it will soon be forming its own student association, a development we'll be watching with keen interest and excitement.

RMIT has also released its Strategic Plan to 2015, and one of the key aspects of this document is its prioritisation of the Student Experience. We look forward to playing a constructive role in helping the University achieve its objectives, and also the chance to point out where it can improve and progress. It's encouraging to see RMIT prioritize this is as an objective.

It's been a big quarter for us in terms of events and activities, we've piloted a new 'Drinks with Friends' event on Thursday afternoons at RMIT's new on campus café, Pearson and Murphy's, which has been a big success in bringing students together and giving them time to socialize and unwind. Our weekly BBQs have been growing bigger each week, and now engage many RMIT volunteers and students who want a quick feed or a drink. We've also held a very well attended Scavenger Hunt event, and a National DJ Competition which was won by an RMIT

The mid point of the year also marks a change in the Federal Senate, in which Greens senators will have the balance of power. There is finally a very real possibility that at least a partial repeal of Howard's VSU legislation can occur, and Universities can again join the benefits of a decent level of funding from students. RUSU's role as RMIT's representative student body will become increasingly relevant as students contribute more money towards student services, and we're ready for change if and when it

Space is still an ongoing issue for students, particularly on the Swanston st campus. We are excited about progress with the new Swanston Academic Building, and are glad to have been involved in the consultation process and hope that our feedback can lead to some good outcomes for the building and how the University uses its spaces more broadly.

This quarter has also seen the installation of new RMIT Chancellor Dr. Ziggy Switkowski, whom we welcome and hope will bring his strong expertise and professionalism into the role. We'd also like to thank the previous Pro Vice-Chancellor of Students Prof. Joyce Kirk for her dedicated work in the Student's Portfolio.

Thank you and I'm excited to see what the rest of 2011 brings.

David Swan RMIT Student Union President



Sum \$204,869 **46.5%** of spent grant money

Outcomes/ Evidence/Highlights/ Key Achievements

Student Union Collectives

RMIT STUDENT Adrien Guyot wins State and National DJ Competition Finals!

RUSU has contributed widely to student life through allocating funding to student groups including clubs, societies, collectives and events, and supporting these activities through staff and administration including salaries and employment costs for the Clubs & Societies Officer, Sponsorship & Events Officer and Activities & Events Officer.

Activities & Events

Weekly Drinks with Friends

70-100 students per week enjoying RUSU's networking drinks event at Pearson & Murphy's Café (Bld 1, City Campus), every Thursday, 4pm - 6pm . Student acoustic performers and DJ's each week, plus guest comedians such as Laurence Mooney



Weekly Chill & Grill

Thousands of sausages, salads and our famous red pots of beer have been distributed to the hungry hoards at our weekly signature event, held in Bowen Street every Wednesday with a once a month mega Chill and Grill in Alumni Court. Headliners have included The Blushing Pilgrims, Jackson Thornton and Tom Dickins from The Jane Austen Argument.

Scavenger Hunt 2011

- 8 teams competed in the 24 hour team scavenger hunt, running from midday 24 May - midday 25 May
- Won by RMIT Surf Club \$500 cash prize paid to club for use in future events



National Campus DJ Competition RMIT Final

- 7 RMIT student DJ's entered the DJ Comp held at the Eurotrash Bar, Wednesday 25 May
- 1st place -Kenzo (international student from Mauritius), 2nd place - Adrien Guyot (international student from
- 80 students as audience
- Sponsored by United DJ Mixing School, Steresonic Festival and Central Records

National Campus DJ Competition State Final

Eurotash Bar, Thursday 26 May 8pm - 11pm Competitors from Victorian TREV member institutes: RMIT, Monash Uni, Box Hill Tafe, NMIT, Victoria Uni State final won by RMIT STUDENT Adrien Guyot - Prize of a \$750 advanced mixing course from the United DJ Mixing

"Adrien on RUSU Facebook page Party was HUUUUGE! Thankx RMIT for tonight, I loved it!"





End of Exams Party and the National Campus DJ Comp **NATIONAL FINAL**

- Royal Melbourne Hotel, Thursday 23 June 8pm 3am
- DJ Comp National Final competitors from 3 Australian institutes: RMIT University, Southern Cross University and University of Western Australia
- National Final won by RMIT STUDENT Adrien Guyot - Prize of \$500 cash + a 45 minute DJ set at music festival Stereosonic in November 2011.
- Approximately 550 students in attendance
- Jointly organised with RUSU club the Major Events Team

Other Events/Outcomes

- Second Quarter member promo's and giveaways including film passes and Comedy Festival tickets (see membership section for more details)
- 4 x Market Day events with between 10 15 stalls including 5 student run stalls - April 13th & 27th and May 11th & 25th
- Equipment loans to Civil Engineering Students Association, Media Arts Club, Japan Club, Student Life, Rubik's Cube Club, Amnesty International, Fashion Design Society and Index Interior Design Club.
- Assisting the many RUSU departments and reps to organise the 2011 weekly student life initiatives and collective events
- RUSU student life staff attended 3 monthly Tertiary Recreation Entertainment Victoria (TREV) meetings



Student life hypes up on the outer campus with new **Activities staff position!**

Renee Thompson started in the newly created Activities & Events Officer cross campus position in May after working on a casual basis organising the Wednesday Chill & Grill events. Students especially at Bundie & Brunnie are already loving the increased action and campus culture. Renee works every Tuesday at Brunswick and every Thursday at Bundoora and has her main office based in the city.



From @remikins - "I won free tickets through @RMITSU and it was hilarious! free drinks too!

Looking to future RUSU events

- Currently delivering Mid-Year Orientation events (in collaboration with SSG/University Events/RMIT Link), National Campus Band Comp (mid-August), National Campus Art Prize and National Campus Film Fest (August - September), World Week (September) and RMIT Open Day (14 August)
- Activities Department planning and rolling out regular weekly events on ALL RMIT campuses including (but not limited to!) Free Soup at Brunswick, Chill 'n' Grill and Drinks with Friends at City Campus, Pop Up Pub at Bourke St, Starving Students lunch at Bundoora West, Thursday Brunch at Bld 94. All thanks to the creation of a NEW Activities staff position and reinvigorated volunteer program!





Education and welfare

RUSU helps students 'Stress Less' in the lead up to exams



Stress Less Week- May 23rd- 27th- In collaboration with the Compass Project our exam period Welfare campaign encouraged students to stay healthy, take breaks, seek support and stress less! Across 5 campuses RUSU gave away 4000 exam support calendars, 3000 stress balls, with fresh fruit, free yoga, mini massages and expert advice on support facilities and student rights.



- Free breakfasts feeding hundreds of students every Thursday on the City campus with healthy breakfast options including bagels and fruit served up by Welfare & Education student reps and volunteers
- Speak Up for Men's Health (planning for September). The Welfare and Education reps are busy planning a cross campus event to encourage young men to speak up and seek help around health issues, particularly mental health. It is well documented that men in particular are more likely to suffer from mental health issues and are also less likely to ask for help or seek support. We hope to see many of Melbourne's health organisations on campus for a festival of food and fun as well as education and awareness raising.

Environment

RUSU's environment initiatives highlighted at RMIT's Founders Dinner

- Environment Officer liaises with RMIT Property Services about RUSU environment initiatives and presents draft proposal for Brunswick Permaculture garden to RMIT Sustainability Committee.
- RUSU feels a sense of pride hearing Colin Fudge highlight our great RUSU initiatives including the Realfoods cafe and the Furniture Cage at the RMIT Founders Day dinner. We were also thrilled to hear him announce that the building of the Permaculture garden will soon commence at Brunswick campus!
- Preparations underway for RMIT students to attend the National Students of Sustainability conference in July.
- Amazing campus based environment events See Bundoora and Brunswick campus reports

Furniture Cage

- The furniture cage continues to be a hit with students. Over 250 students visited the furniture cage which is open to all RMIT students on Tuesdays from 4 -6pm providing free furniture and study related goods such as folders and recently DVD cases.
- More furniture was organised through schools and Property Services for the furniture cage after running
- A Furniture Cage Assistant Student Casual position was created and Omni Ioannou was recruited to this role which will start week 1 of semester 2 for 3-4 hours per week to manage and staff the furniture cage, ensure OH&S issues are addressed and enable us to track the use and environmental benefits of the service. (Note: This is funded through the special project grants not the regular grant)





Permaculture Project

- An internal report and project plan was developed for the RUSU Permaculture Garden Grant, which included an overall synopsis, potential events and awareness raising activities options and costings, overall project and events budgets, publicity plans, potential partners and contacts etc. This report is a tool to enable students to pick up and run with various activities as part of an overall strategy.
- Finalisation of proposal for a permaculture garden and submission of proposal to Sustainability Committee
- Development of resources for permaculture page of the website http://www.su.rmit.edu.au/departments/ environment/permaculture-garden-



Bike Project

- An internal report and project plan was developed for the RUSU Bike grant, which included an overall synopsis, potential events and awareness raising activities options and costings, overall project and events budgets, publicity plans, potential partners and contacts etc. This report is a tool to enable students to pick up and run with various activities as part of an overall strategy. RUSU is exploring the possibility of getting an RMIT Social Science placement student on board to assist with the projects delivery.
- Development of resources for Bikes page of the website (http://www.su.rmit.edu.au/departments/ environment/bikes)
- Event: Melbourne Bike Share Rebate Scheme 7 students took up the RUSU/Melbourne Bike Share special Student pass offer
- 2 part Cycling Information Sessions held on 23 May to talk about basic cycling information and hints as well as about defensive cycling around the city.



Realfoods Organic & Fair Trade Café

Jabir (customer) "I love the food and the staff are so friendly."

'Real Fair Food' for Fair Trade week and Mind Body Spirit **Festival**

The Student Union organic & fair-trade café, Realfoods changed regular opening hours to Monday to Friday from 10.30am - 3.30pm to 11am -4pm.

Key achievements for Realfoods during this period were:

- Social Work student Eva Lay commenced her final year placement with Realfoods and Compass working in the Café and on the RUSU Realfoods and Compass healthy Realfoods evening library food cart pilot.
- Realfoods provided great social and vocational volunteer opportunity for 30 -40 student volunteers.
- High level of enthusiasm, increased confidence in volunteers' level of customer service, product knowledge and recipe making engagement. 25 volunteers attended 2 training sessions on point of sales, cash handling and cash register usage. Great for
- Position descriptions developed and recruitment underway for 3 Realfoods Student Casuals who will cover emergency shifts (such as staff illness) and special events where needed - ensuring Realfoods is open for RMIT staff and students every day.



Parent of Realfoods Volunteer.... "I also wanted to thank you for providing [Volunteer A] with encouragement, support and care."



Real Fair Food Cooking Class

60+ people attend the 'Real Fair Food' Nutrition and Cooking Class demonstration on Thursday May 19. Promoted in conjunction with "Fairtrade Fortnight", RMIT University, RUSU's Fair Trade Collective and OXFAM Australia it featured recipes that incorporated fairtrade ingredients. Scott Fry from the fairly-traded health food company Loving Earth was our guest chef and 4 speakers (2 of whom were RMIT students) gave short presentations on different aspects of the fair-trade food system. Attendees received an e-book of the recipes. Herbal teas, smoothies, salads, snacks and main meals were sold to the audience during the interval and after the demo which provided income for the café.

"Thanks for another informative night of knowledge and food. A great combination!!" - Anna (attendee at Cooking demo)

Cooking demo at the Mind Body Spirit Festival (June 10 & 12)

The Realfoods Co-ordinator and 6 RUSU Realfoods student volunteers did demonstrations on central stage each day @ the Mind-Body-Spirit Festival at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre. An e-book of all 8 recipes that we presented at the festival were emailed to e-list subscribers.

Catering Included

- RMIT Fairtrade Fortnight even at Storey Hall in conjunction with Property Services and fair-trade industry representatives
- Student Services student training/induction session
- 'Commune' at RMIT Brunswick campus

Top menu items this period

- Chai Latte
- Mini Cupcakes
- Seaweed Salad



Women's Collective

- Volunteer positions and training developed and conducted for a specific student volunteer Womyn's room convener on each campus. They will assist with maintaining the womyn's rooms and campus specific womyn's collective events.
- Womyn's department assisted and subsidized around 20 RMIT womyn to students to attend the Feminist Futures Conference from 28-29th May 2011
- Womyn's Rooms maintained at Swanston Street. Carlton, Tivoli and Bundoora West.
- Planning for Womyn's self defense classes underway.



Queer Collective

"I wish everyday was IDAHO (International Day Against Homophobia)!" - Queer Collective member

The Queer Collective held massive celebrations in Bowen Street for International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO) on May 17th. The day which was planned and coordinated by collective members featured queer themed performances from former Queer Officer and RMIT student Laura Soding; RMIT student duo and RAW Comedy Finalists Joe and Issy; and Triple J presenter and nationally awarded songwriter Brendan Maclean. Collective members handed out free hot chocolate and cupcakes to the enthusiastic crowd, who showed their support for the day by signing a banner proclaiming "RMIT Students Against Homophobia".



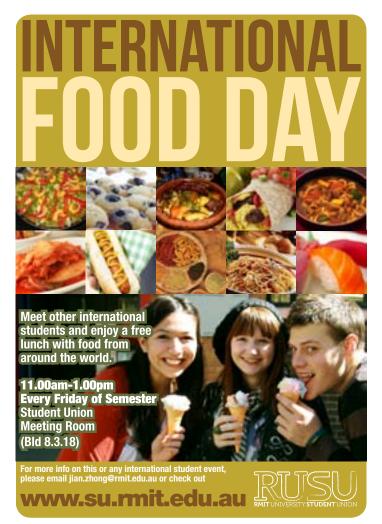
- IDAHO finishes with many collective members and supporters retiring to the Queer Lounge to watch the empowering film 'Milk' about American gay rights activist Harvey Milk.
- In preparation for International Day Against Homophobia, around 20 Collective members helped organise flyers and paint a "RMIT Students Against Homophobia" banner in the Queer Lounge.
- 20+ attendees at weekly Queer Collective meetings in the City Queer Lounge
- Queer Allies approx 10 students and staff meeting each Monday in the Bundoora queer room
- Three Queer Friday Film Nights held, with around a dozen collective members enjoying a night of popcorn and queer cinema in the Queer Lounge.
- Preparations for 7 collective members to attend the annual Queer Collaborations conference, to be held in Perth (4-10 July).
- The first meeting of the Cross Campus Queer Network was held in the City Queer Lounge on 20 May, with Queer Officers from Melbourne universities discussing collaboration, skill sharing and cross campus events for Semester 2, 2011.
- The Queer Officers, in conjunction with two RMIT academics, have begun work on research into the Experiences of Queer-Identifying RMIT Students. This research will be the first of its kind and will help both RUSU and the university understand the experiences of Queer Students and deliver services to them.



RAIS **International Students**

Jian's free weekly international lunches a real social and gastronomical hit

- 550+ students in total enjoy free food at the weekly international food event which highlights multiculturalism through food with a different international food theme each week.
- 120 students in total attend international student free movie night and social events (14 April & 19 May)
- 3 RAIS collective meetings held involving the representatives of the RMIT Nationality based clubs & societies
- Working on the campaign for travel concession for international students.
- Comprehensive International Officer Induction (Resource) Guide developed (see Representation section





Postgraduate Students

Postgraduate Networking Drinks

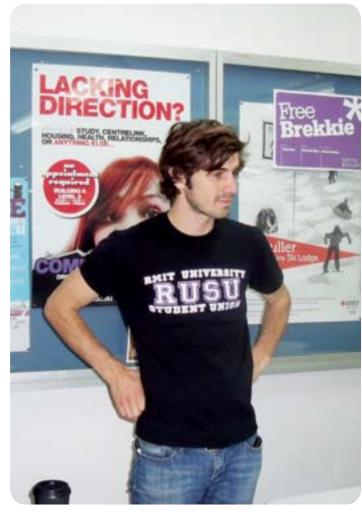
- Postgraduate Association meeting held on 14 April to finalise details for Post Grad Networking Event
- 40+ people attend the postgraduate Networking drinks in the Postgrad Lounge, including special guest speaker RMIT alumni Mark Allen B. Arch (Hons) B.TP (Hons) on
- The new furniture arrived for the RUSU Post Grad meeting room which will be available for bookings through RUSU from the start of semester 2.





RUSU's Wonderful Volunteers

Volunteers continue to be at the heart of RUSU activities, with opportunities for front counter, events, Realfoods, Compass Centre, Womyn's department and Appeals Representative volunteers. Work has continued on further professionalising our volunteer program with a holistic approach to volunteer training, induction, accreditation and coordination. We hope to have this program ready for implementation by second semester complete with LEAD accreditation.



Across the campuses

Singers, snakes, second hand goods, snags and stress balls - all part of this quarters RUSU campus life

Brunswick

- RUSU & RMIT Link Arts and Culture combined forces for a Brunswick Carnival Day on 11 April. 150+ students enjoyed free food (BBQ, popcorn, snow cones and soft drinks), live performances and for those who don't scare easily there were even live snakes to hold. student clubs and RMIT Link Arts and Culture had stalls to show off all they can offer to Brunswick students.
- The major Brunswick event for semester 1 was the enviro festival 'Commune at Brunswick' (or Brunswick sustainable festival day) on 18 May. This was a joint collaboration between RUSU, the schools of Fashion and Textiles, Fair Trade Australia and many others. The day consisted of workshops and lecture series as well as a market/stall area where reworked fashions, bake sales, clubs and societies and external groups, such as Moreland Zero Carbon provided goods or information to all. RUSU's free organic vegan lunch and the end of the day event of carbon neutral drinks to the tunes of student musicians amplified through Germinates solar powered PA system was a big hit.
- Hot Roast Beef rolls and fresh fruit were the yummy food on offer at the Brunswick Stress Less Week event on 24 May.



Carlton

- 10 RMIT Work Education students attend the Tertiary Recreation Events Victoria (TREV) Work Education Bowling cross campus social event/competition on 5 April
- Free Pizza Lunch for 120+ students in building 57 on 20 April.
- Stress Less Week at Carlton on 26 May was a great success with over 100 students enjoying gourmet hot dogs, shoulder massages, free fruit, stress balls and information



Swanston St

- 500+ people per week attended the weekly Chill & Grill event in Bowen street every Wednesday with a once a month mega Chill & Grill in Alumni Court.
- "Common Threads" student art exhibition held in the Free Student Art Space in the corridor to the Womyn's and Queer Rooms
- Renee Thompson has been working as a temporary part time Student Liaison Officer during April/May to assist with weekly Chill & Grill events, volunteer support and to enable the regular SLO, Sally Christiansen to be seconded 2 days per week for special projects for International students and volunteer accreditation projects.
- For the many other city events see activities, collectives and clubs & societies sections.





Tivoli

- This quarter has seen a huge change to Bld 108, Ivl 3, including the Student Services & Student Drop In Centre moving into the area next to RUSU. RUSU's info counter has assisted students navigate these changes at 108 and liaised closely with RMIT.
- New signage for the RUSU lounge has been installed at Student Central's Entrance
- 9 Weekly Tivoli Free Pizzas Tuesdays held (up to 100 students per week)
- 5 Tivoli Collective meetings were held this Quarter
- The Tivoli Stress-Less week event on 23 May was big on free fruit and mini massages.
- A student initiative for the CPA challenge was held on 23 May providing free coffee & hot chocolate
- Vera Laisanna started as official volunteer Tivoli's Womyn's Convener
- Around 20 "TiVollies" attend the Tivoli Volunteer Appreciation Drinks on 23 June



Bundoora

- 300 students per event attended the very popular Bundie Big BBQ Days held on 12 April and 17 May
- 300 students participated in the Bundoora Stress Less Day on 27 May where a hot dog stand was on offer to counter all the healthy fruit and free massages
- The RUSU free Yoga Classes started on April 18, with classes running every Monday and Wednesday as part of the Compass Health & Wellbeing (for academic success) program. Katie de Araujo, who also runs the staff yoga classes at Bundoora, has been co-ordinating these classes through Body Centred Living. 10 classes held this quarter.
- Range of student club activity at Bundoora including Planet Uni and Student Life info stalls, meetings and an African Students Association BBQ
- Bundoora Environment Collective is meeting monthly (10 students per meeting)
- Bundoora students plant 600 tress in Bundoora Tree Planting Collective events on 5 April & 11 May
- Queer Allies staff and student group meet each Monday in the queer room
- Bundoora specific zine publication produced, with 50 copies distributed to students
- Bundoora specific RUSU Facebook page created
- Increased usage of Building 204, including; the study spaces, womyn's and queer rooms. Bundoora RUSU staff member conducted building usage survey and provided data to Property Services.
- RUSU/ RMIT Link Information Counter open 5 days per week assisting with approx average of 30 inquiries daily (Student rights, referrals to internal and external departments and organisations, basic information provision, Student Union membership inquiries, other sales inquiries). Approx 1,300 students assisted this quarter.
- RUSU sells Metcards, Optus recharge cards, and movie vouchers and offers fax and binding services





Clubs and Societies

25 Clubs Re-affiliate & 3 new clubs formed!

Farewell Tom & Welcome Jacq!

This quarter has witnessed much change and development for RUSU Clubs & Societies. Tom Dickens, RUSU's Clubs & Societies Officer has left the building to pursue his performing arts career. Tom and his musical partner, Jennifer Kingwell (also a former RUSU Staff member), are taking their cabaret duo "The Jane Austin Argument" to the world, commencing with a month long stint at the Edinburgh Festival in August followed by performances in France, Germany and the USA. We wish Tom and Jen all the very best (break a leg!) and thank them for their hard work as part of the RUSU Staff Team.

Tom's replacement is Jacqueline Out (Jacq), who brings over 12 years of experience in the post secondary education sector to the role. For those of you who are long time RMITers, you may remember Jacq in her previous roles at RUSU including as RUSU Brunswick Campus Admin Coordinator. Jacq is very pleased to be back at the Student Union in a new role!

Jacq spends every second Thursday working from Bundoora focusing on building the presence of student clubs on that campus.



Mid Year Orientation

50 RUSU Club stalls across 4 Mid year Orientation Days



Affiliation

Clubs are required to re-affiliate with RUSU on an annual

- 17 clubs re-affiliated with RUSU during this quarter.
- Another 8 club re-affiliations are currently being processed taking the quarters' re-affiliations to 25 clubs.
- 3 new clubs formed. These are:
 - UAESC-RMIT -This clubs aims to support students from the UAE make the transition into Australian life and study and is being supported by the UAE Embassy.
 - RMIT Pharmacy Student Association. The RMIT Pharmacy Association serves to create a network for students and Alumni of the RMIT BHSC Pharmacy, focusing on both professional and social activities.
 - Optics Student Association RMIT Chapter. RMIT OSA is auspiced by the Optical Society of America and aims to provide an opportunity for all RMIT students to gain an insight into optics and its' applications.



RUSU welcomes these clubs to our community and looks forward to great things from them. We also thank all the hardworking RMIT Staff supporting our clubs, particularly our Academic clubs.

RUSU has also been approached by Oxfam seeking support to establish an Oxfam Club at RMIT. We look forward to working with Oxfam and the interested students in getting such a club affiliated to RUSU and active at RMIT.

Grants

To date \$45,000 has been awarded in 2011 grants to RMIT RUSU Clubs & Societies.

Our last report mentioned bringing the Grant process on line and this process is underway to be available early Semester 2. A review of all of these documents is underway with club input sought on how to make the affiliation and grant application process clearer and more transparent.



Clubs and Societies

Club Highlights

RUSU Club sets World Record

The main focus of many of the clubs & societies this quarter has been on providing "meet and greet" opportunities for club members, attracting new members, developing skills to benefit the members and fundraising. As end of semester came & went, clubs also organised end of exams events. We also have a new world record to boast about.

RMIT RUBIK'S CUBE CLUB Melbourne Winter Open -Club Member Feliks Zemdegs set a new World Record: 5.66 seconds for solving the Rubik's Cube. For video footage, check out the following link: http://www. youtube.com/watch?v=3v Km6cv6DU



- THE MEDIA ARTS CLUB hosted a hugely successful fundraiser BBQ in Bowen Street attracting over 200 student participants.
- THE FASHION DESIGN SOCIETY held a fundraiser on the Level 10 Balcony with 68 attendees.
- RMIT CERAMICS STUDENTS ASSOCIATION representatives attended a wood fire kiln workshop in Tasmania.
- ACESS (Applied Chemistry & Environmental Science Students) attracted over 50 members to their pub crawl fundraiser
- RMIT Major Events Team hosted three social events attracting over 600 participants.
- RMIT Aerospace students Association hosted a fundraiser BBQ at Building 57 attracting over 130 participants
- RMIT Asian Association meets the Latrobe Uni Asian Students Association in their own version of the Winter Olympics at their annual camp. Details as to the victors will be included in the next Quarterly report (go RAA!)
- RMIT African Students Association held their End of Exams Party at Mecca.

- AISEC (Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales) commenced work on their efforts to raise funds to support a cure for Battens Disease.
- Rubik's Cube Club are busily planning the national games final to be held at the start of second semester at Melbourne Central.

Website

RUSU Website clubs feature provides affiliated clubs & societies with; unique user profiles, content pages and media galleries.



Training

Planning is underway for Second Semester training sessions for RUSU Clubs and will include Food Safety Training, Responsible Service of Alcohol Training and First Aid Training. It is our aim to have at least two club members of every RUSU club trained in these areas to ensure RUSU clubs offer their members and the broader community safe and legislatively compliant events.

Departmental Achievements

Other departmental achievements include:

- 54 individual consultations with RUSU Clubs to assist with affiliation, grants, event planning and development
- Working with Property Services to provide permanent lockers for RUSU Clubs at Building 8.3
- 50 Bookings for RUSU Club stalls over the 4 Mid Year orientation events
- 21 bookings so far for RUSU Club Stalls for Open day 2011 (Sunday August 14)
- Successful employment of and handover to a new RUSU C&S Officer



Publications and Promotions

RMIT students actively participate in RMITV productions and Catalyst

Catalyst Student Newspaper

- The second ("Seen & Heard") and third ("Meet & Greet") editions of Catalyst produced with 3500 copies of each distributed across 5 campuses.
- The forth edition ("Supped & Sipped") currently in production to hit campus for start of semester 2. Includes well-written and researched feature stories on Melbourne's food culture and history.
- Improved engagement with student community, more correspondence and greater feedback. A high of 29 different students published in our latest 'Supped and Sipped' edition.
- Positive response from customers in cafés near the CBD and Brunswick campuses that have begun to stock the magazine.
- Number of insightful profiles and features in our 'Meet & Greet' edition including Claire Bowditch, Catherine Deveny, Steve Bracks, local footballer Simon Goosey and others.
- Interviews with bands including the Holidays and hip hop artist Maundz.
- Striking photographs from photography students Daniel Gregoric, Gabriella Surace and others.
- Arrangements made with RMIT Marketing for RMIT to advertise on the back cover of each edition.
- Further development of social networking, with updated website and facebook page. Work underway to enable Catalyst editions to be available online for semester 2.
- Catalyst 2011 continues to be printed on environmentally friendly paper.

RMITV Student Television

6 productions & 2 pilots for RMITV this quartergiving students hands on experience!

Productions

"Studio A" wrapped on the 25 April. The season was an absolute success and provided crew positions to over 40 RMITV members. 'Studio A' went out with a bang at the wrap party at Softbelly bar, where the cast and crew were able to celebrate their achievements for the season. A massive thank

you must go to talented producer Amanda Reedy, who is leaving the show after three successful seasons.

"Tough Times Never Last" is halfway through shooting its 13 episode season. Involving up to 30 RMITV crew members, "Tough Times" operates on a rotating crew position basis, so each volunteer can experience every role in TV production. Thanks must go to producer Nicole Brown for her dedication in arranging training in various areas of production, which RMITV members have benefited from greatly.

"Fergus in Hell" is a 6 episode sitcom that is shot totally on location (outside of the studio) and involves up to 20 RMITV crew members. "Fergus in Hell" is nearing the end of its shooting period and is likely to air in September.

"Undergrads" is a 6 episode drama series that is also shot totally on location and involves up to 15 RMITV crew members. "In Pit Lane" is a 13 episode live motor sports news program. "In Pit Lane" will run through to July 2011. It is in its 17th year of production and is an extremely well oiled production and one in which new members are encouraged to participate in, as their first experience of live broadcasting. "In Pit Lane" involves up to 30 RMITV crew members.

"My Photography TV" has progressed from pilot stage to making a series. "My Photography TV" will cover the basic elements of stills photography over its season, and is an entertaining and informative program.



"31 Questions" re-shot their pilot in June. "31 Questions" is a guiz show hosted by the charming David M. Green. Over 25 RMITV volunteers worked on "31 Questions" and we are hopeful they will proceed to a series.

"Bumper 2 Bumper" is a program for motor fanatics of all kinds and has recently submitted a pilot to us. The program was shot entirely on location and features an interesting range of vehicles.



Publications and Promotions

Management Handover

In May 2011, Eliza Beck finished up as General Manager of RMITV. In her short time here Eliza secured funding for our edit suite upgrade, directed "Newsline" and worked on "Studio A", amongst many other achievements.

Taking the reigns from Eliza is Ruth Sayers, who has stepped down from her role as secretary of the board to take on this task. Ruth has been a volunteer here at RMITV for the past 18 months, working on "Studio A", "The Inquiry" and "Destination 90's". Ruth can be contacted at manager@rmitv.org.

Board

On 15 June 2011, RMITV held its Annual General Meeting to appoint new members to the board of our incorporated association, Student Community Television. Over twenty people attended this meeting and appointments are as follows: CHAIRPERSON: Amanda Reedy

SECRETARY: Rhys Tate

TREASURER: James Gormley PUBLIC OFFICER: Ania Zamecznik

ORDINARY BOARD MEMBER: Brett Ramsey

We wish the new board the best and are confident they will do a fantastic job in overseeing governance of our incorporated

Training

We are currently working to get a range of training opportunities up and running for Semester 2, 2011, including workshops focusing on producing, directing and hosting for television. Training coordinator Nicole Brown has some great ideas for trainers to run these workshops and we are currently investigating the costs involved.

Coming Up This Month

In the coming month, RMITV will be looking to secure studio access for semester 2, 2011 and hire a new Studio A producer.



THE RUSU Newsfeed

- 4 RUSU NewsFeed e-Bulletins, which provides info on events, workshops, freebies and student service information, sent to approximately 1500 members/ subscribers
 - Mailchimp now delivering RUSU NewsFeed e-Bulletins
 - Mailchimp account now integrated with RUSU membership database. All RUSU e-Bulletins now sent via Mailchimp which delivers free html emails to our subscriber lists and allows users to unsubscribe easily.
 - Open rate for Mailchimp e-Bulletins between 35% -38% - room for improvement!

RUSU Website

www.su.rmit.edu.au

Ongoing Website Works

- Since transferring website to RMIT built server, issues with web forms not submitting (for example, to submit an event) have occurred. IT Fix deployed in June 2011.
- Aim to rework website branding to give a cleaner image with easier to navigate user interface. Also, looking to monetize site by using space for sponsorship.

Student Union Publications & Communication

Publications & Communications Officer, Reuben Armstrong finished work at RUSU in April after more than 4 ½ years in the role. RUSU took the opportunity to review and modernise the role and position description with a view towards increased use of social media, internet and new communications approaches. Francisco Fisher was recruited to the role and will officially start on 4 July. However Francisco has kindly worked one day a week during June to keep our publicity machine going. Welcome to the RUSU team Francisco!

Other achievements

- Increased RUSU presence in social media
- RUSU Facebook and Twitter accounts
 - @RMITSU Twitter followers up to 510 (from 385 in first quarter)
 - RUSU page on Facebook now with 1544 followers (up from 1285 last quarter)
- Produced high quality (large size or spot/full colour) posters for key events.
- Artwork and design support provided to Student Union collectives and Clubs and Societies to produce; posters, leaflets, web updates and promotional material (See page 22 for examples.

Publicity Materials & Resources

Description	Printed
Posters and flyers - all sizes	3,000
Calendars	0,000
Stickers	0,000
Name Cards	300



Sum \$73.199 17% of spent grant money

Student Representation & Advocacy

RUSU excited to see 'Student Experience' at the forefront of RMIT's strategic plan

Representation **Highlights**

- 8 Secretariat meetings
- 2 Student Union Council Meetings
- A range of Student Union collectives meet across the campuses- with students deciding on and running events and campaigns by students for students (see Student Life).
- RUSU President (David) and Environment Officer (Hovig) both members of 2011 University Council and its sub committees.
- David & Hovig attended RMIT Uni Council Retreat
- RUSU reps attended RMIT Founders Day dinner
- Monthly Catch up Meetings held with Joyce Kirk.
- RUSU provided student input into the Students portfolio restructure and new Dean of Students position including meeting Joyce Kirk and Margaret Gardner.
- Representation on various RMIT Committees
- Representing the needs of RMIT Students and RUSU in numerous meetings/discussions with RMIT including re: RUSU offices and services for students at Building 108, IVI 3, Student rights and Special Consideration Policy, the SAB building and environmental issues.
- RUSU President on the National Executive of the National Union of Students
- Plans underway for RUSU President to do campus visit to Vietnam.
- Preparations underway for RMIT student reps to attend the NUS Education Conference in Perth in July
- Student representatives supported to sit on 59 student appeal and discipline hearings
- Student representatives gain governance experience on internal Student Union Committees, including Staffing Committee and OH&S Committee.
- Elected Student councillors work as governors and managers
- Support for International students was a big focus this quarter. This included:
 - Sally Christiansen being seconded part time to research, develop and produce The International Officer Induction Guide. This project produced a detailed and specific manual for International Student Officers including background research and campaign strategy and events 'how to'. This manual will hopefully be the first of many and will assist in the smooth transitioning between incoming and outgoing student reps. This project also delivered research into the capability and effectiveness of International Student Hotlines.

- International Student Care Service- Working with ISCS to review the services offered by the initiative and how RUSU can better promote this service to students. RUSU looks forward to continuing to establish relationships with quality initiatives and attempting to bridge gaps in International Student support and care.
- Work is currently underway on an online resource for new International Students.

The Compass Drop In Centre



INFORMATION **REFERRALS SUPPORT**

The Compass Drop In Centre is a student initiative funded through the RMIT Union Reserve Project grants.

Drop-in's have remained high this quarter which is a good indication that Compass is becoming a well known part of student life here at the city campus. "Stress Less Week" was also a hit with students over all campuses accessing exam support and advice

Below is a quick breakdown of what Compass achieved in the second quarter for 2011:

- There have been 56 student drop-ins this guarter which is a little bit higher than last quarter. The most frequent issues continue to be housing, relationships and metal health, with work related issues (i.e.: resume's and interview skills) standing out as well.
- The Student Well Being Yoga Program continues with two classes running every week
- Men's Health Week is in the pipe line to be held in September. This week will involve numerous activities over two campuses' to promote men's health
- Compass is on the steering committee for "Stamping out Stigma" which is a student initiative designed to de- stigmatize mental health issues amongst the RMIT population. This program will run in October.



- Compass and RealFoods will be supervising a student placement next semester. The student will be responsible for the trial of a Healthy Food Cart in the Swanston St Library a couple of evenings per week
 "Stress Less Week" was held over all campuses' in the
- "Stress Less Week" was held over all campuses' in the lead up to SWOTVAC and exams. Thousands of students received fresh fruit, mini massages and most importantly study tips and tools on the back of a beautiful exam calendar. The feedback from students was really positive!!!
- An early intervention program to support students who are placed "at risk" by their schools is still underway
- Numerous referrals were made to external agencies that were appropriate to student need
- Compass Project officer's position was made permanent this quarter which shows a wonderful commitment to Compass playing an ongoing roll at RMIT
- Compass Project officer undertook First Aid training and is now qualified. Security measures for Compass Centre implemented.

The third quarter of 2011 will see Compass volunteers undergoing professional training and starting their shifts in the drop in space. Work will continue on the early intervention program for at risk student and also on Men's Mental Health Week. Above all however we hope to see Compass continue to cement itself as a central service for the RMIT student community.

Student Rights Activities

Student representatives supported to sit on 59 student appeal and discipline hearings



"I really want to thank you for your help. Before meeting you, I have no ideal about student union or misunderstand student union. I am from a country where there is less human right than in Australia. I thought student union here like the student union in my country can not do anything in front of university. But I was wrong. You delivered very professional help to me and showed me I can argue I have student right even though I am just tiny tiny student in front of giant university. When things happened, I felt helpless. But now I do not feel it any more. Lunderstand Lhave student union standing behind me and supporting me". email from student rights case June 2011.

The Student Union has achieved the following outcomes through allocating funds to Student Rights Officers and Administration Coordinator including all salaries and associated employment costs:

- Individual casework and representation as detailed in tables below
- 261 new student rights cases assisted with expert advice across specific cases and hearings.
- Provided high quality verbal and published student rights advice and referral across our campuses
- 1 Student Rights Officer now based at Bundoora campus every Wednesday

"having a person that can help me through the process of writing the complaint has helped me heaps and has supported me emotionally... Thank you!" email to SRO



- Maintaining the student rights advice email service with increasing number of students contacting RUSU with student rights enquiries via our new website
- 'Grow a Heart RMIT' Campaigns underway After numerous discussions with members of Policy Development, the ARG and the SPC, RUSU has continued to campaign for more reasonable and equitable policy and process surrounding special consideration, and disability standards and support. Our online campaign has received much support from RMIT students and generated interesting discussion. We look forward working with RMIT to improve standards for students who need support.
- Student representatives supported to sit on 59 student appeal and discipline hearing
- Coordination of student reps for university/college appeals and discipline board
- Maintained Student Rights Database and collected statistical information regarding student concerns
- Identified trends and issues emerging through case management

"It really meant a lot to have somebody in my corner during that really difficult period. It would have been really hard to go away and draft that letter myself. Three cheers for the student union! And to you!!" Email from student with enrolment issue

- Systemic, policy and procedures problems identified and addressed
- Student Rights Officer Caspar Cumming reappointed to National Vocational Education and Training Equity Advisory Council (NVEAC) for another two years.
- As part of NVEAV this quarter Caspar has contributed to advice for the federal government regarding contestability of VET funding, ways to better support disadvantaged students in VET, the way the performance of disadvantaged students in VET is measured and the benefits for the economy if disadvantaged students had outcomes through VET that were as successful as nondisadvantaged students.



Student Rights Communications

- Distributed Student Rights information provided through posters, leaflets and website information on key issues.
- Topical Student Rights Info Bulletins (e.g. Special Conpoints) sent out as part of RUSU members & friends E bulletin.
- New project focusing on increased use of website and YouTube clips on student rights issues underway in conjunction with RMITV volunteers who are filming the student rights clips.

Number and type of student complaints or concerns brought to SROs

Student Rights Quarterly report -1 April - 30 June 2011

Problems created during the last quarter	
Problem Type	Number
Admission Issue	3
Agent gave incorrect or misleading advice	10
Appeal Against Assessment	17
At Risk/Academic Progress	5
Bullying	14
Complaint	31
Disability	22
Discipline	11
Enrolment	15
Exclusion	25
Fees Issue	11
Graduation Issue	6
Groupwork Issue	6
Payment Plan needed	3
Plagiarism	10
Problem with course advice	15
Problem with exam	6
Refund/remission of debt	4
RPL Issue	2
Sexual Harassment	3
Special Consideration	38
Transcript error	2
Wants a release letter	2
Total New Cases this Quarter	261



Problem Outcomes

Cases Closed 1April -30 June 2011

Academic misconduct - Student penalised Academic misconduct reprimand Advice for letter given Appeal Against Special Consideration (SPC decision) Successful - Alternative Assessment Appeal Against Special Consideration (SPC Decision) Successful - Deferred Exam Granted At Risk Advice Given At Risk Withdrawn (appeal against maximum time) Complaint Resolved Contacted Academic Administration - Issue Resolved Contacted Head of School - Issue Resolved Contacted Course Coordinator - Issue Resolved Contacted lecturer/tutor - Issue Resolved Debt Issue Resolved Debt Remains Discipline Committee	3 5 52 1 2 9 1 9 1 2 15 2 5 5
Estimine to Committee (student penalised/appeal dismissed) Enrolment Cancellation Exam time table amended Exclusion withdrawn - by school Informal Review of Assessment Resolution Late Enrolment Achieved Leave of Absence Ombudsman Complaint PAC Appeal Against Assessment - Appeal Upheld Payment Plan Approval Plagiarism Meeting case - Dismissed Against Student Plagiarism Meeting Case - Upheld Against Student Plagiarism Meeting Case - Upheld Against Student Recognition of Prior Learning Achieved Referral Given - Counselling Service Referral Given - ISIS Referral Given - ISIS Referral Given - Isgal Service Referral Given - SLC Remission of Credit School level Complaint made - Outcome Successful Special Consideration Granted - Alternative Assessment Special Consideration Granted - Deferred Exam Granted Special Consideration Granted - Equitable Assessment Student Transferred to New program Student Withdrew from services Subject Withdrawn UAC Appeal Against Assessment - Appeal upheld UAC Appeal Against Assessment - Appeal upheld with conditions UAC Appeal Against Exclusion - Dismissed UAC Appeal Against Exclusion - Dismissed UAC Appeal Against Special consideration - Appeal dismissed UAC Appeal Against Special Consideration - Appeal Upheld University level Complaint Made - Outcome successful	3 1 1 2 2 3 4 6 2 4 4 3 1 2 2 1 7 5 10 9 2 1 1 2 1 3 1 3 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 3 1
Total problem Outcomes last quarter 284	



Sum \$162,046 **36.5%** of spent grant money

Governance, Administration & Services

60+ free tickets to Comedy Festival shows for RUSU members

RUSU Membership & Member Benefits

- Income received from voluntary Student Union membership for the year so far \$35,694.
- Membership fees used to administer and provide services and activities including bags, prizes, free event tickets, e-updates, software and printers.
- A total of 1415 students signed up as financial members this quarter however at 30 June, 1009 have had payments processed.
- We are aiming to offer a Semester 2 Special Price and increase membership to over 1600 for the year.
- Positive feedback on the new RUSU membership card with the personalised ISIC (International Student Identity Card - www.isic.com.au/ Student Edge discount card), with loads of international discounts, travel discounts and local discounts including many stores close to RMIT.
- RUSU members continued to receive members' discounts including 50% off all RUSU training, trips and events.
- Second quarter member promo's and giveaways included:
 - MAP Espresso Coffee machines x 2 plus MAP coffee t-shirts and coffee vouchers,
 - 2 x Beginners Courses from the United DJ Mixing School Melbourne,
 - 5 x double passes to Will Anderson's comedy festival show,
 - 10 x double passes to the Stevenson Experience comedy show,
 - 8 x double passes to Dave Thornton's comedy festival show,
 - 8 x double passes to Claudia O'Doherty's comedy festival show.
 - Free movie passes

"From @butlikeyeah - Gonna see @dave_thorno tonight yay for free tix from @RMITSU <(^_^)>"



Finance

Finance Overview

Grant Overview

Total University Grant for the quarter \$425,636

Total Spending for the Quarter \$440,114

Second Quarter Grant Overspent by \$14,478

In first Quarter we Underspent Grant by **\$96,899**. This means that we are carrying forward a 1st Quarter underspend of **\$82,421**.

Carrying forward an underspend into the 3rd quarter will not be a problem given the following factors:

- While the finances show \$34,401 in Clubs & Societies grants processed by 30 June, we know that \$45,000 in grants have been awarded and that \$10,500 in grants are awaiting processing for events held in this period (often pending student clubs submitting final receipts, attendance lists etc).
- Costs for students attending semester break conferences will appear in July/ August accounts.
- There is a huge program of student life campus events for semester 2, including World Week.
- Student elections costing around \$40,000 will be held in the third quarter, increasing the Representation & Advocacy spending.
- Student representatives who are traditionally cautious in spending their department budgets in the first semester, gain confidence in planning and organising and spending on events come semester 2.
- There were some staff positions vacant for short period during the first and second quarter (e.g. clubs & societies, publications and communications).
 The staff costs for these in the final 2 quarters will normalise

RMIT Union Reserve Project Grants

The RMIT Student Union also receives funding from RMIT Union Reserve Project Grants. While some of the activities funded through these grants (Compass Drop In Centre, Furniture Collective, O book, Bike Bank) are reported on in the narrative section of this quarterly report due to the overlap with other representative, advocacy, administrative, governance and publicity functions of the Student Union, direct expenditure on these projects is not included in the expenditure reported above. RMIT Union Reserve Projects Grants income and expenditure is reported on in a separate report as per the Deed Agreement.

Additionally we are committed to continuous



improvement of our financial systems to ensure we both work within our budget provisions as agreed through our funding agreement and to satisfactorily achieve our annual audit of statutory accounts by a registered company auditor under the Corporations Act. We have no major transactions to formally report during this quarter.

Distribution Of Grant Between Service Areas RMIT funding devoted to 3 areas of RMIT Funding agreement (Sum & %)



- Student Life and Clubs & Societies/Student Communications 46.5%
- Services, Student Support & Representation Sub section: Student Representation & Advocacy 17%
- Services, Student Support & Representation Sub section: Governance. Administration & Services 36.5%

Student Life and Clubs & Societies/Student Communications

Sum \$204,869

46.5% of spent grant money

Funding Used for:

- Staff (Clubs & Societies Officer, Sponsorship & Events Officer, new Activities & Events Officer) including salaries, superannuation, other entitlement provisions, work-cover costs and training
- Club grants, Student Initiatives Grants
- Materials, training and resources for student clubs and
- Student activities and events expenses
- Student Union collective's events and programs including; Environment, Realfoods, RAIS- International, Womyn's, Queer, Postgrad, Welfare & Education, Activities, Swanston Campus collective, Carlton/Brunswick Campus collective, Bundoora Campus collective, Tivoli Campus collective.
- Student representative honorariums
- Student media expenses including student honorariums
- Student training and capacity building initiatives

Services, Student Support & Representation - Sub section: Student Representation & Advocacy

Sum \$73,199

17% of spent grant money

Funding Used for:

- Staff (Student Rights Officers, SUC Admin Coordinator) including salaries, superannuation, other entitlement provisions, maternity leave, work-cover costs and training
- Workshops, trainings and resources supporting student rights advocacy work and student representation functions

Services, Student Support & Representation - Sub section: Governance, Administration & Services

Sum \$162,046

36.5% of spent grant money

Funding Used for:

- Staff (Publications & Communications Officer, Governance & Development Officer, Finance Staff Student Liaison Officers/Front Counter staff) including salaries, superannuation, other entitlement provisions, maternity leave, work-cover costs and
- Governance and Administration support for representation, advocacy, student life activities and functions
- Office administration such as finance and accounting, banking, leasing, stationery, postage, photocopying, utilities and equipment
- Managing room bookings for the Student Union Meetings room at City and Bundoora campuses.
- Maintaining key register, asset register and security access card records
- OH&S requirements and OH&S Committee meetings
- Providing services for students including met tickets, movie tickets, phone cards, fax, binding, locker hire
- Information Technology requirements
- Managing Student Union space and logistics
- Updating membership contacts for Student Union members and developing and maintaining various RUSU contact lists and email groups
- Monitoring and responding to student emails to the **RUSU** website
- Finance costs (Bank fees, audit fees etc)
- Governance related costs such as consultants, legal

Some Key Governance & Admin Outcomes this Quarter

- Relevant staff received First Aid training as a result of the first quarter review of First Aid and Fire Wardens. Fire Wardens due for training in July.
- OH&S Audit conducted for all RUSU offices
- Work began on a review of the RUSU student election regulations to improve election processes and use of website during 2011 elections.
- Postgraduate Meeting room set up including booking process - ready to go for semester 2.
- Liaising with Property Services on a range of projects including the installation of the AV set up for the RUSU student meeting room.
- Finance & Admin Standing Committee works with external financial consultant, Charlie Mellican to improve practices and increase efficiency. This included negotiations with the bank on streamlining accounts and banking and maximising interest on all accounts to increase revenue.
- Assisting students with logistics and planning for various student conferences in July.
- Recruitment for a range of RUSU staff and student casual positions including; Activities & Events Officer, Clubs& Societies Officer, Publications & Communications Officer, Furniture Cage student casual and Realfoods Student Casuals and induction of those staff commencing during this quarter.



Artwork for the last Quarter

