



RMIT University  
RMIT Student Union  
Funding agreement 2011

## Third quarter report

### Reporting period

01/07/2011 - 30/09/2011

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**RUSU**  
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION





## Hard work and progress for RUSU

The third quarter has been one of hard work and progress for RUSU and as we head towards the end of the year, we've really ramped up our events and activities.

To welcome in the second semester we held four highly successful Mid-Year Orientation events. These were jointly coordinated by RUSU, SSG and University Events, in another example of the Student Union working productively in conjunction with the University service groups to achieve high quality student focused results. The overall attendance of the MYO events was very strong and the days were a lot of fun.

One focus for the quarter and indeed the year has been increased activity at Bundoora with regular Yoga and Tai Chi classes and weekly "starving students" events. We've also committed to a Student Rights Officer servicing the campus one day a week, which, anecdotally, has been a great help to the students and staff out there.

We haven't forgotten about the other campuses either; our 'Pop up pub' event at Tivoli, held on the last Wednesday of each month, has been a great way of including the business campus and giving them an event to call their own. And of course our regular weekly City campus events have continued to grow in attendance, including 'Chill & Grill' and 'Drinks with Friends', which are becoming weekly highlights for many students.

This quarter has also seen the launch of a new LEAD accredited RUSU volunteer program, kicked off by a training camp with 20 new recruits. This will mean for the last quarter and next year that RUSU has a fresh and enthusiastic team of student volunteers willing to lend a hand to improve student life on campus.

RUSU Realfoods is thriving - we're expanding our volunteer base and the refreshed menu is proving very popular. Lucy Stegley, the café's coordinator, has been running regular Realfoods cooking demonstrations including appearances from Masterchef winners and celebrity chefs. These events connect the interests of RMIT Health Services, City Fitness and RUSU's Environment and Welfare departments in a meaningful and delicious way!

The Compass Drop-In Centre has continued the ground work of Realfoods in offering students healthy food options by conducting a 4 week trial into the viability of a Library Food Cart. This cart provides healthy organic food and beverage options to students studying after hours in the Library, when the RMIT cafe is closed. While the leading choices for students are still chocolate bars, it's at least providing some healthy options and saving the students from interrupting their study to find unhealthy off-campus food or drink.

In sector-wide news RUSU has welcomed the introduction of the Student Services Amenities Fee, and I look forward to working constructively with the University to ensure the Fee, when implemented, can deliver and bring student services and amenities back to the 'good old days' of pre-VSU.

Discussion has also commenced regarding effective representation for TAFE students both on-campus and externally, and how that can best be achieved. RUSU has been in talks with its Swinburne and Victoria University counterparts and the National Union of Students, and hopefully something beneficial can come of it.

It's been a very successful year so far and we can't wait to see what the rest of the year has to offer.

**David Swan**

RMIT Student Union President

**\$355,912** Total spent in third quarter

**58.81%** of total spend

## Activities and events

### MYO (Mid-year orientation) success!

RUSU worked with other service providers, SSG and University events, to plan and deliver 4 highly successful MYO events to welcome new students and reconnect with returning students. We gave away piles of free RUSU branded goodies, sold RUSU memberships and registered volunteers for the new RUSU RMIT LEAD volunteer program.

**Tuesday 12 July – Brunswick Campus** - Free veggie burgers, 10 x clubs stalls, muffins and DJ entertainment from student performers

**Wednesday 13 July - Carlton Campus** - Free brekkie, 10 x clubs stalls, and acoustic performances from student band

**Wednesday 20 July - City Campus (Alumni Crt)** – Free veggie burgers, steamed corn, RUSU run bar area, 30 x clubs stalls, student DJ's, performances from RMIT Link Cheerleaders and Funkadelic

**Thursday 21 July - Bundoora Campus** – Free BBQ lunch, Poffertjes van, DJ set from student DJ Kenzo, 12 x club stalls.

### New Activities sound equipment on 3 campuses

- A professional sound engineer trained the activities staff members in the full use of P.A and sound gear set up, and offered advice on equipment upgrades to simplify the outdated set up. Two mini PA's were purchased for Bundoora and Brunswick campus events – these kits will be perfect for the weekly events and are available for hire by clubs for use on those campuses. The city campus PA gained a new pair of industry standard speakers and CDJ's to assist with our promotion of using student DJ's for our events.

### RUSU events are environmentally friendly

- RUSU events are now committed to using biodegradable crockery, cutlery and cups at events. This quarter, we also teamed up with the "Germinate" students from Music Industry to have a solar powered PA for our outdoor events.

### RMIT Open Day

- RUSU overran the "Student Life" marquee in Bowen Street on City Campus with 24 club stalls giving out thousands of RUSU branded pens, rulers, sharpeners, Catalyst magazines, O'Books and general info to prospective students (and their parents!)



### RMIT sends "The Rosencrants" to the National Campus Band Competition

- The Penny Black in Brunswick hosted this year's RMIT heat for the NCBC - we had 6 student bands from RMIT participate, with judges from InPress magazine and RMIT's Music Industry Management course. The winners, the Rosencrants, scored \$350 and entry into the VIC State final at the Espy Hotel.



### Huge voter turnout in RUSU's annual elections (19–23 Sept)

- RUSU has seen resurgence in student engagement with the Annual Elections – voter turnout was up by 50% on 2010 with a total number of 2721 voters across 5 campuses. Run by Above Quota Elections, the elections saw 4 tickets and a total of 49 individual students nominate to be a part of the 2012 council.

The elections were hotly contested by the candidates and the results could not be announced until October due to a thorough appeals process.

	Monday 19 September	Tuesday 20 September	Wednesday 21 September	Thursday 22 September	Friday 23 September
Swanston Street Foyer, Bld 8.3	10.30am - 3.00pm 4.30pm - 7.30pm	10.30am - 6.00pm	10.30am - 3.00pm 4.30pm - 7.30pm	10.30am - 6.30pm	9.30am - 1.00pm
Bundoora Bld 204				10.00am - 2.00pm	
Bundoora - Bld 202 (Outside Library)		12.00 - 3.00pm			
Bourke Street Bld 108.3 RUSU lounge	11.00am - 2.00pm 5.00 - 7.30pm	11.00am - 2.00pm		1.00 - 7.00pm	
Carlton - Bld 57.4 Cafeteria			11.00am - 2.00pm		
Carlton - Bld 94 Lobby Ground Floor			5.00 - 7.30pm	9.30am - 12.00 noon	
Brunswick Bld 514 Foyer	11.00am - 2.00pm	11.00am - 2.00pm			

### Education and Welfare feed students healthy breakfasts

The weekly free Breakfast hosted by RUSU's Welfare and Education depts are addressing the issues around student poverty by providing 200 students per week with fresh fruit, bagels, muffins and pastries.

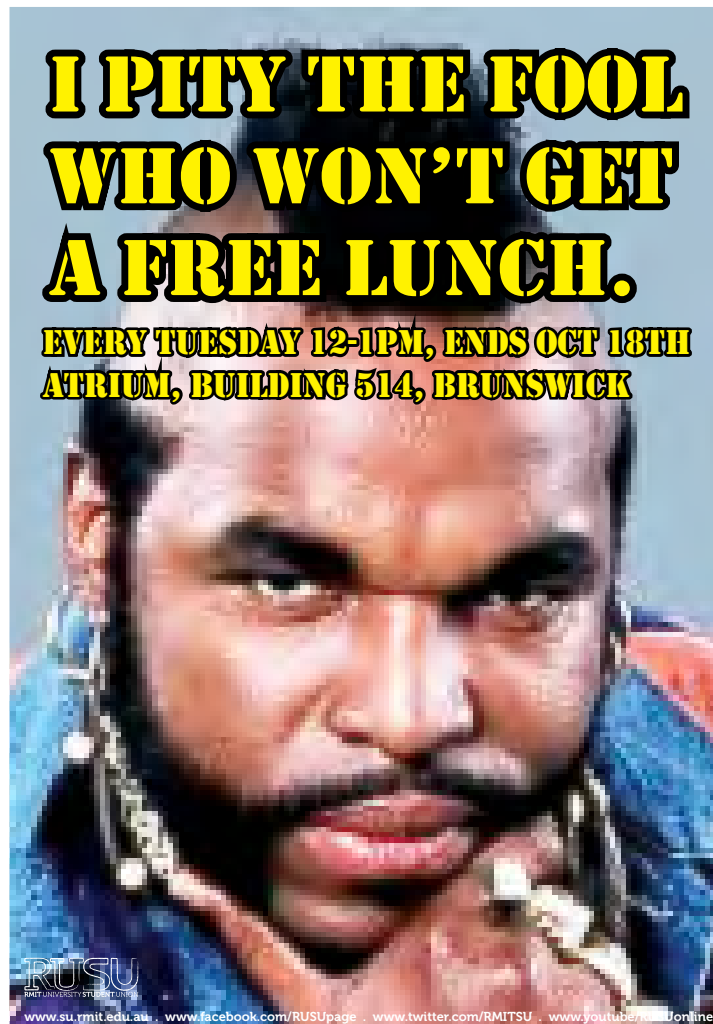


## Across the campuses

### Brunswick

RUSU is committed to ensuring students on outlying campuses remain connected.

- Winter Warmers – Serving free winter warming vegan/vegetarian soup and bread every Tuesday from July - September to 200 students per week.
- Pity the Fool lunches – Serving free spring appropriate veggie or vegan lunches including hearty salads, bread and dips to 200 students per week. These events were also run in conjunction with other community initiatives such as the RMIT African Students Association fundraising for the UNICEF East Africa Famine Fund Raising Day where they raised \$1000.00!



**I PITY THE FOOL  
WHO WON'T GET  
A FREE LUNCH.**

**EVERY TUESDAY 12-1PM, ENDS OCT 18TH  
ATRIUM, BUILDING 514, BRUNSWICK**

RUSU  
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION  
www.su.rmit.edu.au . www.facebook.com/RUSUpage . www.twitter.com/RMITSU . www.youtube.com/RUSUonline

### RUSU and the City of Moreland Youth initiatives in September

- Ghanaian Association's Cultural Dance Program – RUSU, in association with the City of Moreland, invited Ghanaian dancers to visit the Brunswick campus to promote free weekly dance classes off campus for young women. Students were taught traditional Ghanaian dance moves and music.

- Lady Fingers DJ course – With the assistance of the City of Moreland, RUSU engaged the Lady Fingers collective, Melbourne's first Multicultural Women's DJ Collective, to come on campus to play music and promote a weekly DJ and event management course taking place at Youth Services Oxygen Space in Brunswick.

### Carlton

- Tradie Chow Down – Once a month, trade students score "a free bacon and egg roll for all in blue overalls" and have a chance to connect with RUSU's student rights and election information. We serve 110 people per event.
- Bld 94 Brunch – Every Thursday the Bld 94 students gather around piles of muffins, pastries and fruit as RUSU delivers its highly popular free brunch to 60 students per week!
- Pizza Lunch – Who doesn't like pizza? 150 of Bld 57's hungriest students got to enjoy free pizza lunch during election week in an effort to promote student engagement with the RUSU elections.
- Knock-Off Drinks – Is there a better way to end a month but in the pub, enjoying an ice-cold beer with your classmates? RUSU connects with RMIT Carlton campus the last Thursday of each month, with around 100 students turning up per week.
- International Secondary Student Welcome – RUSU welcomed 25 students and faculty members with a free welcome lunch for new RMIT Secondary Students from overseas.

### Bourke Street


- Pop Up Pub – A brand new, HUGE event held on the Bld 108.4 courtyard on the last Wednesday of each month from 4-7pm. These evenings give Bourke Street a chance to network and connect with 300 other students and include DJ performances from Kenzo, Airwolf and Deacon Rose. With a chilled-out, roof top bar vibe, it's so Melbourne and a big hit with the students at Bourke Street.



## City Campus

- Weekly Drinks with Friends – 100 -150 Students per week enjoy RUSU's chilled out, sun filled, networking drinks at Pearson and Murphy's Café (Bld 1, City Campus) from 4- 6 pm. We've had performances from student acoustic artists, DJ's, and comedians.
- Weekly Chill 'n' Grill - We fired up the BBQ's on Bowen street and fed the masses (around 400 students!) every week with 50kg of Halal snags, 20kg of vegan falafel balls and salad. We have a team of trusty volunteers trained through the RMIT LEAD program who help to make this event happen. Once a month we have our massive Chill 'n' Grill at the alumni courtyard with awesome student bands such as "the paper street soap box company", "Lady Fingers" and "Zeon" performing.




 RMIT Student Union:  
GIRL DJS, BMX BIKES,  
FREE BEER + FOOD HAPPY  
WEDNESDAY YO

 Ash Hill:

"One  
Of  
The  
Best  
Ever"

## Bundoora Campus

 RMIT Student Union:  
Fundoor aint so quiet now!

 E. Cheung: "Last day of classes, sun, cider, food, tunes - perfect! And thanks to the northern irish girl with a possible American accent for pulling the drinks all semester"

- Student Wellbeing Program – There has been a concerted push from RUSU at Bundoora to counter increasing issues with mental health concerns experienced by students. The program has been developed with the intention of providing avenues through which students can reduce stress levels.
- Yoga Classes - Twice a week we have classes conducted by Body Centred Living, delivering 18 classes in total to around 172 students.
- Tai Chi Classes – Weekly classes conducted by Body Centred Living with a total of 6 classes delivered to around 75 students this quarter.
- Go For It – RUSU has actively promoted this 6 week program developed in conjunction with RMIT Student Services, aimed at promoting happiness and well being.
- Starving Students – Now that RUSU has a dedicated Activities officer for the outlying campuses, we are able to deliver weekly events such as Starving Students to ALL RMIT students! This quarter, we have aimed to re-introduce some colour to the Bundoora West campus (with intentions to develop activities at Bundoora East in 2012). The free food/beverage events have proven to be very well received by students, with large crowds of students attracted to Building 204 and the adjacent courtyard. This has enabled the student union to develop a presence at Bundoora, whilst also encouraging engagement with Building 204 to increase.

## More to come across the campuses in 2011...

The year isn't over yet and RUSU aims to keep student life rolling along with these events in the coming quarter!

- Ride to Work Day celebrations
- End of Year Mix Tape Party at Roxanne's Parlour
- TREV (Tertiary Recreation Entertainment Victoria) professional development conference 16-18th November for Activities and Events staff and student representatives.
- Continued regular events such as the Pop Up Pub, Drinks with Friends, Chill 'n' Grill, Volunteer Thank-you events and Starving Students!

## RUSU's Environment Dept.

As one of our most active departments, the enviro crew have been kept busy this quarter!

- Bundoora Tree Planting - In conjunction with Bundoora Ground Staff, this quarter we ran 1 session with 5 tree and grass planters in the rain to help replant areas around the Bundoora campus.
- Students of Sustainability (SOS) Conference - RUSU supported 7 RMIT students who were members of the permaculture and enviro collectives to attend the SOS 2011 Conference in Albury.
- Enviro Movie Nights – We've launched weekly, free environmentally themed documentary/movies screenings along with free popcorn and drinks for students on campus. This event is run in the RUSU meeting room (Bld 8.3.18) with the in-built AV equipment and sees 2 dozen interested students participate each week!
- The Permaculture Garden Project – This is ticking along in the background, with RUSU staff and student reps attending planning sessions with property services. Additional research with regards to project is currently occurring and follow up meetings in the 4th quarter of 2011 are required.

## RUSU Bike Grant update

The RUSU bike grant has seen a highly successful quarter with some great events and awareness raising in regards to cycling in Melbourne.

- Winter Bike Maintenance Session - As part of the RUSU Bike Grant initiative a series of Winter Bike maintenance sessions were run on all campuses throughout the month of July – each participant received a free puncture repair kits.



- Upcoming events - RUSU Bike Festival Day, Ride to Work Day, Commune Festival, CCEN Bike Polo tournament and RUSU Queer History Bike Ride.

## RUSU Realfoods Organic and Fair Trade Café

Our café is the ONLY on campus outlet to serve a menu that is not only delicious but is also socially and environmentally aware – we are open from 11am - 4pm Monday to Friday (during semester). We have a lot to brag about this quarter;

- Volunteers – Realfoods has 35-40 volunteers rostered on for three shifts of 1 ½ hours each per week. Our vollies include students from first year to mature-age, with a number from the Bachelor of Science (Food Technology and Nutrition) course. 24 Realfoods volunteers completed the 'Follow Workplace Hygiene Procedures' Certificate in September as part of their volunteer training.



- Catering from Realfoods – We've seen a steady increase in the number and size of our catering jobs this quarter. Satisfied clients include:
  - United Nations Association of Australia
  - RMIT Department of Maths and Geospatial Sciences
  - RMIT Property Services meetings
- Student casuals - 3 Realfoods Student Casual positions were created this quarter and are available for emergency relief as the Realfoods co-ordinator requires. They have proven to be a valuable and necessary addition to the running of Realfoods.
- Real Fit Food cooking class – Over 110 members of the RMIT community gained valuable food preparation and nutrition knowledge at the 'Real Fit Food' Nutrition and Cooking Class demonstration, held at the café on Thursday, 13 September. This class saw collaboration with RMIT City Fitness and featured recipes that incorporated 'fitness friendly' ingredients such as coconut water and rice protein powder. Presenters included nutritionist Angela Gioffre, naturopath Niki Angeloupoulos, professional power-lifter Noah Hannibal and the managers of RMIT City Fitness. Herbal teas, smoothies, salads, snacks, desserts and main meals were sold to participants through the night and \$180 in charity donations were collected.



## Realfoods feedback

‘Such a great night at realfoods - the demonstrations, information and food was all wicked...’

‘...the whole concept is really great...’

‘Congratulations... We thoroughly enjoyed it and found it very informative. Thank you!’

“I just had the most amazing tofu stir fry from you guys. One of the best I’ve ever had. Congrats to whoever made it.”



“Just wanted to congratulate you guys [again] on your food. Had a sensational lunch from Realfoods today (particularly the gRAWnla bar!)”

## RUSU Furniture Cage

The 3rd quarter saw the introduction of a new Furniture Cage Student Casual, who was hired to ensure consistently high quality service, data collection and reporting for this project. Activities for this popular service included:

- Mid-Year Orientation day stalls, to raise awareness of the service for new RMIT students.
- Undertaking a re-branding campaign. This included signage, a new logo and information blurb (for the RUSU website and posters/flyers).
- A social gathering for the furniture cage collective held at John Curtain Hotel.
- Engagement with property services to attain furniture from RMIT, including the old Bundoora medical clinic.
- Weekly operation of the furniture cage with an average attendance of 10 to 25 students.
- Distribution and diversion of approximately three (rubbish) truckloads of furniture from landfill to students and staff of RMIT.

## RUSU Womyn's Collective

The Womyn's Department quarterly Collective meeting was held on September 8th in the newly refurbished Carlton Womyn's room. The Collective enjoyed free afternoon tea and the opportunity to discuss current issues with the Womyn's Officer. This meeting was convened and chaired by the Womyn's Room Conveners; these new volunteer positions within the Womyn's Department have been very successful in maintaining the womyn's spaces and contributing to the collective this year and will be offered again in 2012.



**Womyn's rooms**

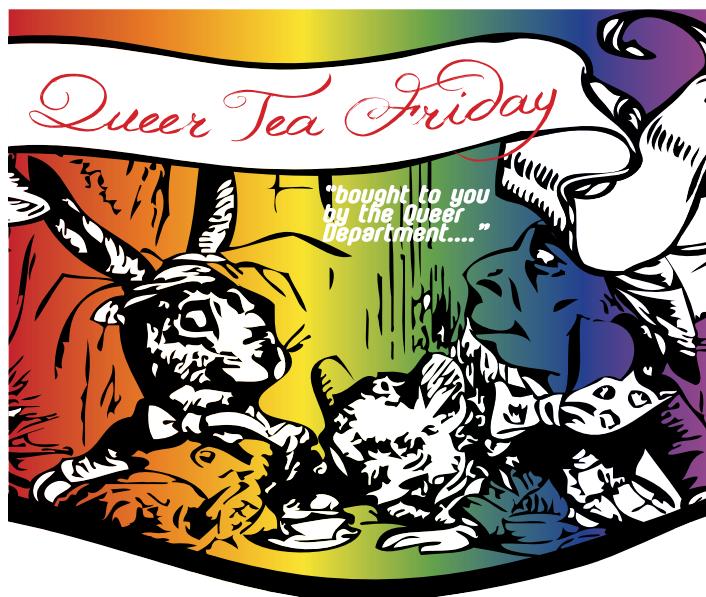
## RUSU Queer Collective

As one of our most active collectives, it's been a big quarter for the students and staff involved with supporting the queer collective at RMIT.

- Bundoora Campus Queer Room - A staff/student group (Queer Allies) of 10 members meet at this room (Bld 204) every Monday throughout semester. A set of promotional magnets has been printed to help publicise the use of this room and the Queer room on City Campus.
- Queer Collective meetings - These weekly meetings are regularly attended by over 20 students who share ideas, plan events, and include a fortnightly discussion about Queer Issues.
- Queer Collaborations Conference - 7 Queer collective members attended the annual Queer Collaborations Conference at Curtin University in Perth from 4th-10th of July. This was a hugely empowering and informative experience for all students involved. The theme of the conference was "Building a Queer-ious Community; Educate, Empower, Equip", and students attended a diverse range of workshops including; mental health, sexual health, queer refugees, education, community development, and many others. The knowledge and skills students developed throughout the week formed the basis of fortnightly 'Queer Issues' discussions throughout the semester, giving students who did not attend the conference an opportunity to learn from those who did. Various social events were held throughout the week giving students a chance to meet other queer students from around the country and share their experiences. The week was incredibly helpful to the elected Queer Officer who attended, giving him a chance to build networks with other Queer Officers from around the country, share experiences and learn from what other university Queer Collectives are doing.

### RMIT and community events and campaigns

- Over 50 people attended the fabulously fun "Mid Queer Commencement Party" on Friday 29th of July to welcome new and returning members of the Queer Collective and kick off Semester 2 in style!



- A low key Tea Party was held on the 19th of August with around 15 attending including several new members who had a great time meeting the Officers and the rest of the collective and have now become regulars.
- The RMIT Queer Department strongly supports the marriage equality movement and have held stalls at on campus RUSU events to publicise the cause and the Collective generally. Collective members have collected over 250 signatures of support for same-sex marriage.
- Queer Department contingent at the Equal Love rally for same-sex marriage rights on Saturday 13th of August. Around 30 RMIT students were empowered with a sense of pride and hope while marching together through the streets of Melbourne behind our "RMIT Queer Collective" banner.
- Several hundred Queer Department fridge magnets advertising the safe spaces at the City and Bundoora have been distributed across the university.
- The "Queer Narratives Projects" research being undertaken by the Queer Officers and two RMIT academics has been submitted to the Ethics Committee and is pending approval.

## RAIS International Student Department

- International Food Day – These weekly events allow students to network over free lunches, themed according to the traditional food of particular international student cohorts.



- World week @ RMIT (13 -16 September) – The 2011 World Week was a huge series of events this year, with a festival day on each campus celebrating the cultural diversity of RMIT and Melbourne. We offered over 3000 students a chance to try a variety of food types including: Harry Hoo's dim sims and spring rolls, Mama's Gozlemes, Hernan's Argentinian BBQ, Gelati, Dutch Poffertjes and Greek souvlaki. The cultural exchange continued with performances from Indian Bollywood dancers, Brazilian Samba Drummers, the RMIT Japan club, Argentinian DJ's, Henna Tattoo artists, Chinese Lion Dancers and Indigenous performers.
- The World Week Beer Festival, offered over 400 students a safe environment in which to sample international beers from countries such as Japan, Germany and Mexico.
- International Movie Night #4 - Building on the success of the semester 1 movie nights, 70 international students got together to socialise over dinner and a movie in late August.



## RMIT Postgraduate Department (RPA)

- Committee Meeting – 3 August, this meeting was attended by 12 postgraduate students from RMIT, in the bookable Postgrad Meeting Room (Bld 28). Attendees discussed plans for another Postgraduate Networking / Skills building event and a possibility of a Ball/Cocktail party.
- Networking and Skill Building Event - Guest speakers were the RMIT Toastmasters. This event aimed to build students' confidence with public speaking. Of the 50 attendees, many were international students and found the session particularly useful, with some signing up to the Toastmasters group.

## RUSU Volunteer Program Grant update

The new RUSU Volunteer program has seen a successful commencement in Semester 2, with student volunteers clocking up over 270 hours of volunteering at various RUSU events!

- Volunteer Training Camp – 20 new activities volunteers were taken to Glenfern Retreat as part of the RUSU RMIT LEAD volunteering partnership. These students received training in events, basic student rights, leadership, team work and problem solving.



## Clubs and Societies

New affiliations, events and more – it's been a very busy quarter for our student clubs!

**Grants and Financial Support** - In this quarter, approximately \$92,465.00 has been awarded to RUSU affiliated clubs through C&S Grants Program. This indicates that spending in this area is being very efficiently managed and is highly utilised by student clubs.

**New Affiliations** - The number of RUSU affiliated student clubs and societies is now at 95 – this is an increase of 41 clubs since the end of Semester 1. The full list and contacts for all RUSU affiliated clubs can be located at [su.rmit.edu.au/Departments/Clubs and Societies](http://su.rmit.edu.au/Departments/Clubs and Societies).

### New clubs for this quarter

- RMIT caliCo – established by students from the Bachelor of Fashion Design
- RMIT Electric Racing – established by Bundoora Campus based Mechanical Engineering students club
- RMIT EFSMA – a club established by economics, finance and marketing students focusing on Building 108
- RMIT French Club – a club for everyone interested in French language and culture
- RMIT Furniture Design and Furniture Technology - a club established by furniture design students
- RMIT Graphic Design and Graduate Exhibitions – established by TAFE diploma of Graphic Design students
- RMIT University Korean Association – a club for everyone interested in Korean language and culture
- Master of Fine Arts Graduating Club
- RMIT No Artificial Colours - a club to support, showcase and promote all young RMIT creatives!
- RMIT Physics and Maths Society – a social and professional development club established by physics and maths students
- RMIT City Psychology Club – established as a social and professional development club
- RMIT PR Society – a social and professional development club established by Public Relations students
- BA Textile Society – established to promote the BA Textile Design Program and develop networks amongst the different year level cohorts
- RMIT Fourth Year Fashion – established to promote the achievements and professional development of the graduating cohort of this Program

RUSU Clubs and Societies has welcomed back and reaffiliated the following previously inactive clubs back to RUSU:

- RMIT Tamil Mandram (“Mandram is Tamil for “Society”)
- RMIT Textures (Diploma of Textile Design Students)
- RMIT Chinese Medicine Student Association (Bundoora based)

- RMIT Fine Art Painting
- International Students for Social Equity
- RMIT Jewish Students Society
- RMIT Sri Lankan Students Association

## Club events

- Mid-Year Orientation (MYO) - Clubs and Societies was actively involved in the planning and delivery of the Mid-Year Orientation program with more than 40 clubs participating across the 4 different campus events. 20 clubs also gave up a Sunday to participate in the 2011 RMIT Open Day.



- Over 70 Club run events - RUSU affiliated clubs organised over 70 events with the support of RUSU Clubs and Societies funding, promotions and practical equipment. Bowen Street has been filled with the sounds and smells of club fundraiser BBQs, 4 major fundraising auction events were held, 6 Club Annual Balls were run, 6 clubs were able to send delegates to professional development conferences, more club boat cruises floated on the bay than the C&S Officer ever thought possible, over 40 small events were supported, 8 professional development events were held, an Amazing Race run, 6 websites funded and over 30 equipment grants awarded. Phew.
- Other Club Grants - 20+ clubs sought and gained financial assistance with printing, postage and publications. The C&S Officer assisted with over 3000 posters and event fliers being printed and 12 clubs sought assistance with the design of promotional material from the RUSU Publications Officer.



## Club highlights

Congratulations to the RMIT Islamic Society for organising free evening meals at the RMIT Spiritual Centre (Bld 11) each week night during Ramadan. This service is provided annually by the RMIT Islamic Society, feeding over 200 students a night ending with the big Eid celebration at the end of the Ramadan month. RUSU C&S would like to acknowledge the Chaplains and staff at the Spiritual Centre for their ongoing support to the RMIT Islamic Society and our other RUSU affiliated spiritual clubs.

Congratulations to other RUSU affiliated clubs RMIT Social Work Alliance Project (SWAP) on an excellently organized and attended Social Work Ball, The Economics, Finance And Marketing Students Association (EFMSA) for their series of small events at Building 108, the RMIT Indian Club for a fantastic Guerilla Bollywood Dance event at Alumni Court and the Gold and Silversmithing Society and the Ceramics Society for highly successful art auctions and exhibitions. Congratulations also to RMIT StopTraffick which has presented and assisted a number of on and off campus fundraising and informational events around the horrors of human trafficking and its very real presence in Australia.

Presented by EFMSA



**Tuesday 20 September 12.30-2.30pm**  
**Building 108 Level 4. Beer service will be provided**

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twitter.com/RMITSU [www.youtube.com/user/RUSUonline](https://www.youtube.com/user/RUSUonline)



## Club training, support and representation

- 45 Club members and Realfoods volunteers attended Level One Food Safety Training organised and funded through the RUSU C&S Training Program in August.
- Over 110 one-on-one meetings between the C&S Officer and student club office bearers. These meetings covered everything from reaffiliation, event planning, financial planning, constitutional development and club development in general.
- The Clubs Resources page on [www.su.rmit.edu.au](http://www.su.rmit.edu.au) has been developed over this quarter. The RMIT community can now access information about food safety, regulations around food stalls, responsible service of alcohol, BBQ gas bottle safety, the legalities of raffles and RUSU C&S processes.
- The C&S Officer attended the RMIT Chaplaincy and Spiritual Centre Review Forum. The Forum was organised in response to the release of RMIT's new Strategic Plan 2011-2015, "Transforming the Future – Where Bold Hopes Can be Realised". The purpose of the Forum, as outlined in the Forum papers, was to "define, align and position the role of Chaplaincy the context of RMIT's strategic goals as a global University which is constituted as a multireligious and multifailth academic community of the 21st Century". It was a very interesting day and RUSU looks forward to continuing its support of this valuable University project.
- The C&S Officer attended an RMIT development forum – "Exploring a Tertiary Environment at RMIT University". This one day forum was hosted by the School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning to present University perspectives on the future of tertiary education at RMIT, again, with the new RMIT Strategic Plan in mind. The focus of the Forum was the



presentation by Professor Peter Matthews for the University of Ballarat and Professor Dale Murphy from Swinburne University. The Professors co authored the Dual sector Cohesion – A Discussion Paper (2009) and the primary interest in this forum for the C&S Officer was discussion around the barriers encountered by students seeking to extend their studies from the TAFE sector into the Higher Education sector. RMIT Students reported they had experienced discrimination from both academics and other students as they tried to build upon their TAFE studies either through integrated TAFE to Higher Education pathways or through studying a higher level Program within their TAFE award.

- RUSU C&S will be working to extend its reach into the TAFE sector in 2012 partly by encouraging new clubs to be established by TAFE students but also to work with existing clubs, particularly the academic clubs, to extend their reach into the TAFE sector also.

## Special thanks from Clubs and Societies



RUSU C&S would like to thank the Consulate of Ethiopia, Australia for providing assistance with translations for RUSU promotional materials. Unable to find local assistance, the C&S Officer contacted the Consulate (based in Melbourne) and was met with very generous support by the Consulate, particularly from Graham Romanes, the Honorary Consul-General of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. We thank the Consulate for their support and hope that being able to provide basic signage and information in community languages will enable more RMIT students to access RUSU's services, particularly around student rights issues.

## Student media

### Catalyst magazine

- 2 editions published in third quarter; *Supped & Sipped* an homage to Melbourne's food scene and *Books & Ballots*, the annual student union election special timed for release with campaigning/polling week. *Books & Ballots* included collaboration with the 'Thousand Words Festival', a literary festival that invited student writers to do author profiles and book reviews, and resulted in promotion of Catalyst through their festival.



- Growing distribution and readership across all campuses, with a regular print run of 3000 copies per edition.
- Improved engagement with student community, more correspondence and greater feedback. Contributions from 35 students, from across all university courses, published over two issues this quarter.
- Continued positive response from advertisers, indicating an increase in the expected advertising revenue this year - it should double!
- Further development of online publishing, with updated website and e-reader, setting up valuable infrastructure for 2012 student editors.

### RMITV

- Productions - Channel 31's Season 71 wrapped up in July, with In Pit Lane running through til the middle of the month. Season 72 began in September and saw the return of our flagship program, Studio A alongside In Pit Lane and sitcom Undergrads. Fergus in Hell, RMITV's latest sitcom, will premiere on 22nd October at 9.30pm.
- Information Night for Students - RMITV held an information night for students and new members on 8 August and were overwhelmed with over 50 interested people attending. Former RMITV General Manager, Kristy Fuller, spoke to attendees about how volunteering on RMITV productions can assist students to break into the television industry. RMITV provided pizza and soft drinks to attendees and the night was so well attended that we will certainly be looking to run the event again in 2012.
- Games Night - On the 22nd of September, RMITV held a games night; this event was an opportunity for our volunteers to socialise and for RMITV to recognise their efforts in 2011. Approximately 20 people attended the night where drinks, pizza and lollies were provided.
- RMITV at RMIT Open Day - RMITV was present in the Clubs and Societies marquee at RMIT Open Day on the 14th of August. It was great for us to meet some future RMIT students and to talk to them about what RMITV does and how it contributes to professional development and student life at RMIT.



**\$96,048** Total spent in third quarter

**15.33%** of total spend

## Representation and advocacy

### Highlights

- Student Rights Officer contributed as a member of the National VET Equity Advisory Council to offer advice regarding VET providers for the federal government about the Voice of the Learner, Equity Outcomes Framework, Performance Measures, Equity Funding Models, VET Partnerships, Pathways and Transitions Support, the Annual Report on Disadvantaged Learners in VET and the National Foundation Skills Training Package, ensuring the voices and interests of students who experience disadvantage were included.
- Student Rights Service assisted with the delivery of a lengthy complaint letter which was signed and submitted by 63 RMIT Nursing students.
- Compass Drop In Centre delivered Jump Up for Men's Health events on City and Bundoora campuses, aimed at connecting male students with critical health information. This event included a jumping castle, music and free food, plus stalls from external agencies such as Beyond Blue, Victoria Aids Council and Gay and Lesbian Health Vic. RMIT Counseling and RMIT Link were also stallholders.



### Compass drop in centre update

- There have been a record 79 student drop-in's from July to September. This is especially impressive as Compass was closed for three weeks over this quarter due to staff being on leave.
- In collaboration with the RMIT counseling service the Youth Mental Health First Aid training was provided to 10 volunteers and 2 staff members. This fully accredited two day course gives a solid understanding of mental health and how to respond when people are in crisis.
- Compass volunteers started doing their shifts this quarter- after being all trained up and ready to go. Having the volunteers staff the drop-in space not only gives the Compass project officer a chance to do all the fun administrative tasks that seem to pile up, but is also a great direct practice learning opportunity for the volunteers, who are all from psychology, social work and youth work courses.
- The Smart Cart, providing healthy food options to studying students, was trialed this quarter at the Swanston St Library. Placement Student Eva Lay ran the trail and was co- supervised by RealFoods Lucy Stegley and Compass's Thea Lamaro. A full feasibility report will be provided next quarter so that RUSU can look into the possibility of extending the project next year.



- Participated in a consultation about the new Employability Skills Framework being implemented by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations – emphasising how the proposed framework is likely to affect students who experience disadvantage.

- The Student Well Being Yoga Program continues to grow with two full classes running every week on city campus and the possibility of a third class being run at Brunswick campus is being looked into.
- Compass project officer began professional external supervision which will be held every month to provide support and professional development.
- Numerous referrals were made to external agencies that were appropriate to student need.



## RUSU's Student Rights Service - student complaints and concerns statistics

### Cases created during the last quarter

Admission Issue	4
Agent gave incorrect or misleading advice	3
Appeal Against Assessment	39
At Risk/Academic Progress	16
Bullying	11
Complaint	39
Disability	37
Discipline	18
Enrolment	13
Exclusion	46
Fees Issue	16
Graduation Issue	13
Payment Plan needed	2
Plagiarism	24
Problem with course advice	12
Problem with exam	3
Refund/remission of debt	7
RPL Issue	4
Sexual Harassment	1
Special Consideration	54
Transcript error	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>366</b>

### Problem Outcomes during the last quarter

Academic Misconduct – Student penalised	3
Academic Misconduct - Case dismissed	6
Academic Misconduct - Student reprimand	4
Advice for letter given	63
At Risk advice given	19
At Risk Withdrawn (appeal against maximum time)	3
Complaint Resolved	2
Contacted Academic Administration - Issue Resolved	1
Contacted Head of School - Issue Resolved	7
Contacted Course Coordinator – Issue Resolved	16
Contacted Lecturer/Tutor - Issue Resolved	2
Debt Issue Resolved	6

Debt Remains	4
Discipline Committee - Student allowed to continue	2
Discipline Committee - student penalised/appeal dismissed	2
Email advice given to student	49
Exclusion withdrawn – by school	9
Informal Review of Assessment Resolution	7
Late Enrolment Achieved	2
Leave of Absence	3
Ombudsman Complaint	16
PAC Appeal Against Assessment - Appeal Dismissed	4
PAC Appeal Against Assessment – Appeal Upheld	7
Pass by compensation achieved	1
Payment Plan Approval	1
Plagiarism Meeting Case – Dismissed Against Student	6
Plagiarism Meeting Case – Upheld Against Student	9
Referral Given – Counselling Service	10
Referral Given – DLU	17
Referral Given – ISIS	3
Referral Given – Legal Service	4
Referral Given – SLC	3
School level complaint made – outcome successful	2
School level complaint made - outcome unsuccessful	5
Special Consideration Granted – Alternative Assessment	8
Special Consideration Granted – Deferred Exam Granted	8
Special Consideration Granted - Supplementary Exam	1
Special Consideration Granted – Equitable Assessment	3
Student withdrew from services	13
Subject Withdrawn	1
Supplementary Assessment Granted by Student Progress Committee	4
Supplementary Assessment Not Granted by Student Progress Committee	1
Support at a meeting or a review	4
UAC Appeal Against Assessment – Appeal Dismissed	1
UAC Appeal Against Exclusion – Dismissed	11
UAC Appeal Against Exclusion – Upheld	17
UAC Appeal Against Special consideration – Appeal Dismissed	1
UAC Appeal Against Special Consideration – Appeal Upheld	2
University Level Complaint Made – Outcome successful	8
University Level Complaint Made - Outcome unsuccessful	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>387</b>
Cases created during July - Sept quarter	366
Cases with outcome during July - Sept quarter	387

## Other SRO activities

- Staff attended 2 NTEU Training Days which included learning about the role of NTEU delegate and networking with other staff from universities and tafe's and discussing student issues including mental illness, the support services available to assist them and how these services can be strengthened.
- Staff networking with the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA) and involving RMIT research students in research they are undertaking for the federal government on issues Phd students face and examples of best practice.
- Staff liaising with stakeholders from the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering to try to ensure appropriate access to computer labs for students.
- Staff participation in RMIT's consultation regarding school reception points in Building 108.
- Development of the Student Rights youtube channel including filming a question and answer session about the student rights service and appeals against assessment with RMITV. This will allow students easier access to information about their rights and RMIT procedures.



- Staff participation in the audit for RMIT's proposed 2012 Materials Fees to ensure the fees comply with state and territory policies and regulations.
- Assistance provided to three SIM students with advice about applying to enrol after having been excluded, an appeal against exclusion and an appeal to the Victorian Ombudsman.
- Group meetings with SROs and Academic Registrar about University mishandling of discipline issue whereby the University asked 90 students to attend inquisition with outside contracted lawyers. This issue is ongoing.

## Spotlight on - student rights at Bundoora

- RUSU has committed to providing a reliable Student Rights service to Bundoora students and has allocated 1 full day per week for a student rights officer to be available on Bundoora campus.
- Average of 10 inquiries per week, with a weekly average of 2 students requiring appointments with the Bundoora based student rights officer. Through necessity, some Bundoora students are still referred to city based student rights officers, however this is not ideal.

- Due to allegations of academic misconduct, 93 fourth year Chiropractic students were interviewed by an external law firm. RUSU provided support and information services to these students, while many students were referred to student rights officers from Bundoora and Swanston Street.
- With the cancelling of the Disability program at Bundoora, students enrolled in this course became engaged in a campaign to have this decision overturned. RUSU provided administrative support to these students, including supporting two student actions which attracted significant media coverage, whilst fielding inquiries from newspaper outlets.
- The Bundoora based SRO has engaged in regular meetings with the counsellors at Bundoora to discuss referrals, issues that are facing students and strengthening cooperation between the two organisations.

## Connecting with students - testimonials and feedback

"I sincerely thank for your supporting me about the appeal against exclusion. Now I have finished my master degree with a good result. Therefore, again I would like to say thank you very much for your helping me."

"Thanks again for your help; I really appreciate it. I feel significantly less stressed now thanks to your help and advice!"

{Special consideration}

"Thanks again for your phone call and for all of your help and advice."



I can't stress how nice it is to know that in the bureaucracy that is RMIT, not only are there Student Rights Officers, there are Student Rights Officers that are as helpful and as passionate about their jobs as you!"

{Bullying complaint and enrolment issue}

"At this stage I felt that all we had prepared are not futile as the issues I raised were given attention even it took so long to be heard by authorities. Thanks again for your help and support."

{Research student with complaint about supervision after attending an At Risk Meeting}

"Thanks for your support and advice throughout the process of my appeal. It

has been of great help to myself, and I do appreciate the time and effort that you guys have put into assisting me. Today's successful result has made me very happy, and has lifted a huge burden that has been lingering around all semester."

{Appeal against exclusion}

"I won and they apologised. Your help was fantastic thanks a lot for all the help and advice that you gave."

{Special consideration}



**\$174,444** Total spent in third quarter

**27.8%** of total spend

## RUSU Governance and Administration and Services

### RUSU membership

- Income received from financial membership, until close of quarter \$43, 200. This is reinvested into student life activities and to administer and deliver member benefits such as International Student ID Cards (ISIC), e-newsletter and website updates.



- 1622 students signed up for membership as of end of 3rd quarter.
- Third quarter membership promotions include:
  - 35 x passes to Melbourne Cup
  - 10 x tickets to the Jezabels
  - Discounted entry to Welcome Back party
  - Priority access to RSA and Food Safety training.

### Planning ahead for membership in 2012

RUSU is aware that with the introduction of the SSAF, our parameters for financial membership will change. However, until the SSAF is introduced at RMIT, we aim to continue our high quality membership services, whilst still planning to introduce amended services upon receiving SSAF funding.

### RUSU governance and administration outcomes

- Resourcing students to plan and deliver a series of Annual General Meetings (AGMs) across all campuses from 22 - 25 August. The AGM was widely publicised on all campuses, on the website, through the RUSU membership e-newsletter in accordance with the SUC Constitution and Regulations.

- Logistical planning, consultation, communication coordination and assistant returning officer duties for the RUSU elections.
- Commencement of new Governance and Development officer in 12 month maternity leave role.
- Relevant staff received Fire Warden Training.
- Outcomes of 2nd quarter's OH&S Audit enacted for all RUSU offices
- RUSU student election regulations reviewed and accepted so as to improve election processes and use of website during 2011 elections.
- Liaising with RMIT Property Services on a range of projects including the possibility of moving the Carlton offices, participating on Casey Plaza redevelopment consultation, participating in SAB and Swanston Street redevelopment stakeholder working parties.
- Recruitment for a number of RUSU staff positions including; Activities and Events Officer, Bourke Street Student Liaison Officer, City Campus Student Liaison Officer.
- Recruitment and planning for the O'Book 2012 project including redeveloping position descriptions and commencing recruitment for the student editors.





## Finance overview

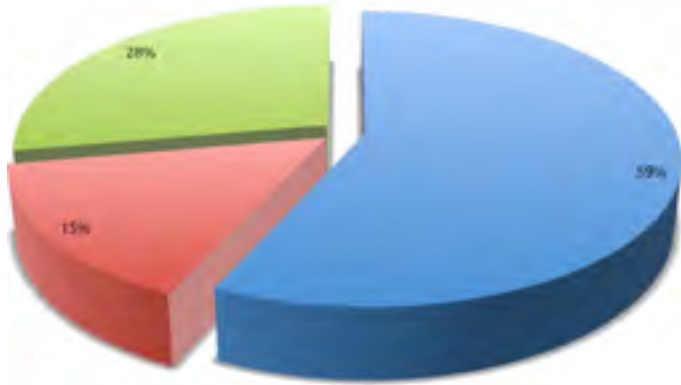
**\$468,199.50** Total University Grant for the quarter

**\$626,404** Total Spending for the Quarter

**\$158,205** Third Quarter Grant Overspend

The overspend is not an issue, as the first quarter's grant was underspent by \$82,421 and carried forward. Additionally, due to university closure/holiday period over Christmas, fourth quarter's grant will also be underspent.

### Division of grant spending



■ Student Life and Clubs and Societies / Student Communications  
58.81%

■ Services, Student Support and Representation – Sub section:  
Student Representation and Advocacy 15.33%

■ Services, Student Support and Representation – Sub section:  
Governance, Administration and Services 27.8%

### Student life and Clubs and Societies/student communications

Total spent in 3rd quarter \$ 355, 912

58.81% of total spend

Funding used for:

- Staff (Clubs and Societies Officer, Sponsorship and Events Officer, Activities and 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 societies
- Student activities and event expenses
- Student Union collective events and programs including; Environment, Realfoods, RAIS (International dept), Womyn's, Queer, Postgrad, Welfare and Education, Activities, City Campus collective, Carlton/Brunswick Campus collective, Bundoora Campus collective, Tivoli Campus collective.
- Student representative honorariums
- Student media (RMITV and Catalyst magazine) expenses including student honorariums
- Student training and capacity building initiatives

### Services, student support and representation – sub section: student representation and advocacy

Total spent in 3rd quarter \$96,048

15.33% of total spend

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 and representation – sub section: governance, administration and services

Total spent in 3rd quarter \$174,444

27.8 % of total spend

Funding used for:

- Staff (Publications and Communications Officer, Governance and Development Officer, Finance Staff Student Liaison Officers/ Front Counter staff) including salaries, superannuation, other entitlement provisions, maternity leave, work-cover costs and training
- 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 etc
- 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 fees etc