

CATALYST

an free student publication

RMIT Student



FIRST QUARTER REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD
01/01/2013-31/03/2013

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RUSU
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION



President's Report



James
Micheltmore

Our proud student union celebrates its 69th year in 2013 and with it so does our flagship student publication, Catalyst. The magazine this year draws inspiration from its history, returning to a more traditional and readable format, while also expanding to the 21st century with a new website and online blog. Be sure to pick up a copy on campus or visit www.rmitcatalyst.com.

This mammoth first quarter has seen RUSU plan and produce a series of new and exciting programs. Our new student union council has hit the ground running, delivering on many of their election promises and ideas already. Our Womyn's Department has been revitalised with regular events and improvements to room facilities. The Queer Department continues its successes of 2012 with record numbers attending a variety of weekly events. The Welfare Department has transformed the morning breakfast menu to be more healthy and nutritious. Regular conversation classes and networking events are continuing to be delivered by the International Department with some great campaigns being planned for later in the year. It's all systems go.

This quarter we also proudly report significant increases to participation in our already hugely successful campus events and volunteering program. Thousands of students have attended our orientation events, signed up to our student clubs, and partied at our orientation 'Welcome Bash'. Already over 150 students have joined our accredited volunteer program and will receive training in various areas from hands-on events skills to mental health first aid.

A busy time with exclusion appeals, our student rights department has helped over 350 students facing difficulties this quarter alone. Additionally, your student representatives have successfully fought for and secured important amendments to the new assessment policy suite. These amendments are a significant step to improving the assessment policies of RMIT and a testament to the power of the student voice at Academic Board. Our own General Secretary, Gabriel Brady, moved the amendments with support from fellow students and staff. Our sights will now be set firmly upon the proposed student discipline and conduct policy changes as we continue to fight for the rights of students.

Membership numbers and engagement both on campus and online continue to exceed expectations, with over 2,000 new members signed up in the first few weeks. In addition, many of our student collectives have been re-established with dozens of students coming together to share and develop ideas. 2013 looks set to be a bumper year for the RMIT University Student Union.

If you're interested in becoming a member, volunteering, joining a collective or club, or just want to know more about the student union, visit www.su.rmit.edu.au today!

Activities and Events

Just as the end of February marks the change from balmy summer afternoons to crisp Autumn mornings, so too does it mark the change from self-assured high school graduate to impressionable first year university student. February is the time for welcoming new members to our RMIT family, and this has been the focus of the Activities Department over the first quarter.

What we've been up to

Orientation Talks

RUSU representatives presented information about RUSU and student life at 30 O'talks for new students, reaching around 3,000+ students. The talks aim to give students a brief but comprehensive overview of the services the student union offers.

RMIT Welcome Events

- » VCE Welcome Day BBQ 29th January
- » TAFE Welcome Day; Brunswick 12th and City 14th February
- » Higher Ed Welcome Day; Brunswick 26th, Bundoora 27th and City 28th of February

RUSU ran at least one stall at all of the Orientation and Transition Program events, promoting our services, departments and introducing the various cohorts of new students to the various avenues of student life at RMIT.

RUSU Welcome Bash 2013

The Welcome Bash was held on the afternoon of Thursday the 28th of February, between 4pm and 9pm in Alumni Courtyard. The event attracted over 1200 attendees (all RMIT students) with free food and drinks and entertainment provided by a mix of RMIT students and prominent local DJs. This was the first marquee night held on campus for a few years, and was commended by Security, the University, as well as many attendees for being an enjoyable and well run evening.

Tertiary Recreation and Entertainment Victoria (TREV)

TREV is an organisation that consists of members from across Victoria's higher learning institutions, co-ordinating inter-varsity sports, recreation trips and entertainment events. RUSU Activities & Events Officer, Renee Thompson was elected TREV Vice President for 2013. RUSU staff and reps are working with other TREV members to organise this year's International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO) Ball in May.

Regular Events

Market Days

Continuing on from previous years, RUSU is holding fortnightly market days on Bowen Street that coincide with the Wednesday Chill n'Grills. Four merchants attend each week and contribute to a vibrant sense of community amongst the student body. Any student is welcome to apply to hold a stall at the event.

Membership

The 2013 RUSU Membership package costs \$10, and entitles members to free beer/cider at the weekly Chill n'Grill, access to exclusive members-only giveaways and cheaper or priority access to RUSU events. Given that students now pay the SSAF fee, RUSU decided that a small \$10 membership fee would be more appropriate.

RUSU membership has been extremely popular with 2245 members joining by the end of March. Membership at Brunswick and Bundoora is up on previous years, a great sign given the push by RUSU to increase our presence and activities on these campuses.



Social Media & Publications

Twitter: over 1000 followers and growing

RUSU has broken the 1K record, with 1268 followers. Twitter is a great tool for promoting events, announcing competitions and providing last minute details to our followers. We've also been utilising the platform to cross-promote our website and Facebook page, providing links to new event galleries and specific club Facebook pages.

Facebook: now with 5,780 likes

RUSU's Facebook presence keeps going from strength to strength, seeing an increase in over 2000 'likes' since our last report. Thanks to a new holistic approach to developing artwork during the design stage, we are able to produce consistent communications across our print media and Facebook imagery. This has hopefully had the effect of strengthening both our brand presence and event awareness across campuses and online.

Alongside promoting events and competitions, Facebook is a great way to circulate photos from events organised by RUSU and provide critical information to members (such as event locations via mapping tools and event admission costs).

Promotional Materials

RUSU's Publications department has been extremely busy designing and producing materials for a range of events and services, including:



Beyond Mi Goreng | Produced by The Environment Department

A cookbook designed to offer simple yet nutritious recipes to time and cash strapped students, this A5 zine-style publication features nine recipes, tips on reducing waste in the kitchen and recommendations on where to find great food in Melbourne.



International Department Free Lunches and Films

This quarter we've helped promote an International Free Lunch and Movie Nights for the RUSU International Department. We've attempted to develop a consistent look for these promotional items, keeping the Department distinctive whilst leveraging RUSU's identity via colour usage.



Student Welfare, Womyn's Department & Environment Department

Also produced this quarter were a range of posters and flyers to promote activities and welfare opportunities for students. Free breakfasts organised by the Welfare Department (Morning Glory) and Womyn's Department (Ladies Breakfast and Morning Tea events) were cross promoted with posters on campus and web assets. A clothes swap organised by the Environment Department was likewise publicised in this manner.



Volunteers

This year sees a re-launch of the RUSU Volunteer Program. The main focus for the first quarter has been the formation of RUSU policies around *The National Standards for Involving Volunteers in Not for Profit Organisations (2001)* that promote a model of best practice in volunteer involvement. The National Standards focus on:

1. Policies and procedures
2. Management responsibilities
3. Recruitment
4. Work and the workplace
5. Training and development
6. Service delivery
7. Documentation
8. Continuous improvement

All of these areas have been established within the RUSU programs and development within our policies and procedures has been a continuing focus. Once put in place they will work to support the successful implementation of the volunteer program. The writing of the programs policies and procedures has also enabled the Student Engagement Officer to communicate the structure of the program with students, staff and other program stakeholders. Our volunteers in 2013 continue to benefit from free accredited training, a structured recognition program and professional and personal development opportunities that come with volunteering at RUSU.



Recruitment

The *Volunteer Information Booklet* was developed as an introductory tool for students who have an interest in volunteering with RUSU. The booklet aims to answer questions students may have and talk about the programs structure, along with the benefits that being involved brings. The distribution of 800 copies of the booklet resulted in a very strong response with over 220 students registering their interest.

An online expression of interest system has been designed to enable students to express interest in volunteering and begin the process of induction and training. The online form allows students to nominate the volunteering areas that catch their attention and tell us about any volunteering they have participated in in the past.

Training

All newly registered volunteers are required to attend an organisational induction training session. These sessions run for about 1.5 hours and are usually delivered in groups of up to 40 students, however when required, small group and individual sessions have also been offered. 150 students had attended RUSU volunteer induction by the end of the quarter.

From induction and dependent on which department they wish to be involved in students are offered various training. Realfoods and Activities & Event volunteers have been offered Food Handler Level One training. Responsible Service of Alcohol training has also been offered to volunteers working in the Activities and Events department and Youth Mental Health First Aid is offered to all Compass Welfare Drop in Centre volunteers. More Food Handling and RSA training is scheduled for May.



REAL FOODS CAFE VOLUNTEERS

RECRUITMENT	# OF STUDENTS
Number of Students registering their interest to volunteer during first quarter	220
TRAINING	COMPLETIONS
Volunteers inducted	150
Volunteers trained in Food Handling Level 1	33
Volunteers training in RSA	20
Volunteers registered for Youth Mental Health First Aid	10

By the end of first quarter, RUSU volunteers had contributed approximately 400 working hours to RUSU services.

"I want in! Read the position description, totally wanna do it. What else do I do to get involved and when should I do it?"
Furniture Cage Volunteer applicant



FURNITURE CAGE VOLUNTEERS

Across the Campuses

City

It has been a busy start to 2013 with RUSU answering approximately 100 varying queries a day at the Swanston Street RUSU front counter and around 200+ queries per day during the peak period of Orientation. Two RMIT student casuals were trained and employed to assist with the front counter service during the three peak weeks of the Orientation period. The RUSU Front Office Volunteer program has been developed to provide students with experience in administration and student focused customer service. Ten students have signed up, received induction and training and commenced their shifts as Front Office volunteers this quarter.

City Regular Events

Chill n'Grill

In 2013 Chill n'Grill aims to reach its highest, professional standard while still providing a great weekly event for students. This is going to be achieved by working with a highly efficient team of well trained volunteers, who turn up every Wednesday and make the event professional, well branded and just awesome! We currently have 10-15 volunteers working from 10am-3pm every Wednesday, all of whom are trained in either food safety, RSA or both. Our volunteers are trained to set up all infrastructures including marquees, BBQs, tables, bar and PA and DJ equipment.

Chill n'Grill feeds over 1000 students in 2 hours with sausages, veggie burgers, fried onions, bread, salad and four choices of sauce. We have been hiring student DJ's and bands on a weekly basis to perform at Chill N Grill and in the beer tent we now serve locally brewed "Brunswick Bitter" and Apple Head cider. On top of this a RUSU branded beer pong table keeps student entertained. Chill n'Grill only uses biodegradable cups and napkins.



CHILL N'GRILL

Bundoora

Our Bundoora offices reopened on January 23rd just before the commencement of the first semester. Since this date, the Bundoora Student Liaison Officer (SLO) has been busy assisting students with inquiries and booking appointments for the Bundoora Student Rights Officer. The number of inquiries to the front counter ranges between 15 and 30 per day. Movie ticket sales from the counter have been steady.

Bundoora Office and Services

The popularity of the Building 204 kitchenette continues to increase, with an estimated 200 students utilising this kitchenette every day. Two microwaves have been added to building 204, ensuring students have a smaller wait to heat up their food. The rejuvenation of the Womyns Room (204.2.02) has been a popular improvement to the building.

Landscaping work that is occurring around Building 204 (since mid-February) has reduced building use, and subsequently, interaction with RUSU inside the building. It is a shame that these works couldn't have occurred during the semester break rather than during the peak Orientation period.

Building 204 continues to present OH&S issues and problems with usability. The heat experienced through February and March has reduced the comfort levels experienced within the building, and reduced building use, which may explain the relatively quiet start to the year at the front counter. RUSU has continued to lobby for an assessment of building 204 to improve the building for student users and staff who work in the building.

Bundoora East Rejuvenation Working Group

A Bundoora East Rejuvenation Working Party comprised of RUSU student representatives and relevant staff members was established by the Student Union Council to develop ideas as to how students at Bundoora East campus can be supported and to oversee the implementation and review of the Bundoora East Rejuvenation Project. This group developed a proposal, with RUSU engaging in a range of meetings to champion this project during this quarter.

Bundoora Regular Events

Starving Students Lunch (Thurs 12-12pm)

As a new initiative, RUSU starting cooking barbecues at Bundoora, rather than employing external providers so that we can provide lunch to a greater number of students, better promote RUSU and our services and develop greater connections with students. The barbecues are cooked by RUSU staff and student volunteers serving sausages, veggie burgers and drinks to around 400 students each week.

"There's a party in my tummy."
6000+ students feed at weekly events

Brunswick

New year, new semester and some big changes for Brunswick. The office is now staffed three days a week, with both a Student Rights Officer and Clubs and Societies staff member each out here for two dedicated Brunswick Days. This change has brought new life and more services to the students on campus. Our weekly events have returned from last year and plans are afoot to be able to offer even more exciting services in 2013. Already Brunswick membership is up four times what it was this time last year – a positive sign that our activities last year are massively increasing our presence and brand recognition.

New office set-up

Due to the increase in regular staff at Brunswick a new office setup was required. The fit out occurred before the start of semester and two regular staff as well as a staff 'hot desk' are now catered for in the RUSU side of the Brunswick Office. A new computer and printer was installed to enable RUSU to produce and print promotion material for Clubs on site and to scan documents for student rights purposes.

Brunswick Standout Events

Clothing Swap (Wednesday March 20th)

The RUSU environment department came out to Brunswick and held a charity fundraising swap. The event was to promote the collective, recycling/reuse and raise some money for a local environmental charity. While the event was fairly small, about 20 students swapping clothes, we spoke to many more about the environment collective. Twenty-five dollars was donated to the Merri Creek Management Committee Inc. to support restoration work on this local water system. Merri Creek is a much loved, living artery of Melbourne's northern suburbs. But for many years it was neglected, a drain and worse. Starting 30 years ago, local community has worked hard to reverse this degradation and so the donation will support project work to create a habitat corridor for local native plants and animals as well as improve stream health. More information about the project can be found at - <http://www.mcmc.org.au/>

Collective Drinks (Wednesday 20th March, 4-7 pm)

Hosted by the Brunswick Jewell Hotel just down the road from the campus, the drinks were a huge success and students are looking forward to future collective nights. About 20-30 students over the evening enjoyed the local drop, Brunswick Bitter as well as food from the bars kitchen.

Brunswick Regular Events

Brunswick BBQ, Tuesdays from 12 pm

Our weekly BBQ's kicked off again this year, serving between 200-250 people per week. For the first few weeks we also supplied beer and cider on top of the normal snags and veggie burgers to really welcome students back to Brunswick. The event is always a great opportunity to speak face to face with students about upcoming events, campaigns and life at Brunswick RMIT. This year the event is running a lot smoother with the additional BBQ. Other new events equipment such as 5 new trestle tables and a campus specific pop up marquee have added to the event, making the regular BBQ a little more special. BBQs will continue until the end of semester, before our Winter Warmers Soup program starts up again.

TAFE (aka Carlton)

We have big plans cooking for the Carlton campus in the coming months. The TAFE Officer Lathika Galagoda is in the midst of planning a trade union fair for semester 2 and a load of other exciting events and initiatives in the coming months.

TAFE Regular Events

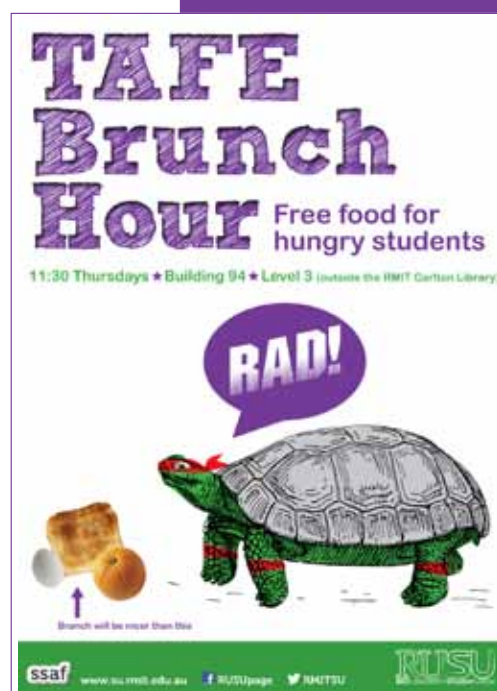
TAFE Brunch Hour (11:30am every Thursday)

This free brunch outside the Carlton library continues to grow in size and popularity, with approximately 200 students enjoying a wide selection of baked goods, condiments, salad ingredients and fruit each week.

Mobile Phone Kiosks

The Mobile Phone Kiosks that were purchased and installed on City, Bundoora and Brunswick campuses at the end of 2012 were branded as RUSU and promoted as a free service during this quarter. Feedback from students on these kiosks has been really positive.

TAFE BRUNCHES POSTER



MOBILE PHONE KIOSK CAT



RUSU DEPARTMENTS

Environment

Healthy Food Guide and Kitchen Cheat Sheet

Over the summer period staff from outlying campuses came back to the main City office and worked collectively on a variety of projects. One of these was a student focused healthy eating and cooking guide. The guide included a selection of recipes, what to have in your cupboard, new foods to try, how to safely stored produce, better snack choices and many more pieces. The guides were finished and publication was organised so they could be launched at Re-Orientation in Semester 1. A PDF version is available on the RUSU website.

Bike Project

RUSU staff members have been in talks with Engineers Without Borders and the Good Cycle Social enterprise about running bicycle repair training sessions later on in the year, pending funding approval.

RUSU Community Garden

While the revised community garden plan is ready and awaiting funding approval, the environment department has tried to start the ball rolling through talking with other university garden groups and hiring a planter box at the Federation Square Pop Up Patch, run by the Little Veggie Patch Co. This will tie in with the garden proposal, RUSU Environment department and the RUSU Realfoods Café.

Furniture Collective

The RMIT Furniture Collective was started in 2008 as an extension of the environment collective. It is dedicated to collecting discarded RMIT University furniture and redistributing it FREE to students and staff. The Furniture Cage (located in the Building 8, level 3 car park) is open during semester time—every Wednesdays from 3.30pm to 6pm. Recycling furniture helps in two ways:

- » Students can acquire useful items of furniture that they otherwise would not be able to afford;
- » And, secondly, this service stops perfectly good furniture from rotting away in the landfill.

This service started operating this year on March 20th. An RMIT student was recruited to the 3 hour per week casual position of Furniture Cage Co-ordinator. Additionally there are two student volunteers who assist with the Cage's functioning every week and promoting the service around RMIT.

Students visiting the Cage were asked for their feedback. Responses indicated that so far the Cage has proven to be a very useful resource for students. This is especially so for students new to Melbourne as it can be difficult furnishing their homes and offices in the first few months of their stay and feedback shows that support from initiatives like the Furniture Cage is appreciated.



"The menu is even better than last year" Realfoods customer

RUSU Realfoods

Realfoods reopened on March 4th 2013 with familiar favourites from last year and some new menu items. Our new 'Build Your Own Salad' bar has been launched with opening week specials and our 2013 menu has been well received. Realfoods is proud that it still works to encourage customers to try a healthy, tasty, affordable alternative at RMIT and that we provide an opportunity for RMIT students to volunteer and learn more about healthy and sustainable food choices.

Awareness Raising

Daily advocacy of organic, fair trade and vegetarian principals is active via the ethical suppliers we chose to work with, the healthy food the cafe serves, the conversations we have with our customers and knowledge and life skills imparted to volunteers on their shifts.

The Realfoods Facebook page is another avenue we use for sharing info on local and international campaigns on healthy eating and sustainable agriculture. We posted in March on such topics as Bhutan's move to become the first country to be 100% organic, and 'Meat Free Week'.

Volunteers

The Volunteer program has been building since the start of the year from a few returning 2012 volunteers at the start of March to around 10 volunteers each day at the end of the quarter. To recognise their time and promote healthy eating, each volunteer receives a complimentary main meal, such as a curry and brown rice, a veggie pie, or a salad at the end of their shift.

Realfoods at Orientation Events

Realfoods attended almost all the events on the Orientation schedule including TAFE Orientation days and Welcome Days on all campuses. Over a 1000 pieces of organic fruit, 500 organic juice icy poles and 400 vegan cupcakes were handed out over the period. These events were also an opportunity to recruit students who express an interest in the Environment Department's programs, volunteering and healthy food.

"I really enjoyed my green smoothie today! So glad you guys are on campus I don't need to stress about forgetting my lunch!"
Jane D, RMIT PhD student (via Facebook)



RUSU Queer

Standout Events

Orientation Events

The Queer Department was proud to participate in RMIT Orientation Events including the Big O days. Our collective members were instrumental in helping new students to become aware of the Queer lounges, dressing up as animals and providing free cupcakes. People also loved our bubble-blowing machine! We signed up over 25 new collective members, bringing our 2013 membership to 330.s

Queer Beach themed party (Friday, 1 February)

50 Queer Collective members were invited to kick off the New Year beach style, meet their new Queer officers for the year and enjoy some food and drinks on RUSU.

Beginning of Queer Party (Friday, 8 March)

Over 90 students attended the City Queer Lounge to enjoy free drinks and pizza. It was a great way for new students to familiarize themselves with the Queer Collective at RUSU.

Regular Events

Monday Meetings

The Queer Collective meets in the City campus queer lounge

Wednesday Workshops

RUSU provides professionally run workshops for the Queer Collective members, from Melbourne queer night life, to sexuality and spirituality, to sexual and mental health. Visitors so far have included VicAIDS.

Friday Whine & Wine

This event is fairly self-explanatory, basically an opportunity for students to un-whine-d

RUSU International

Regular Events

English Language Workshops

RUSU International Department has been providing free English Language Workshops, 3 times a week, to help students improve their confidence with spoken English, make friends and socialise. After the workshops the students enjoy a free meal with their teacher. The final class will be an excursion- a walking tour of Melbourne street art, cultural and historical sites. Students are already expressing their enjoyment of the classes:

"It helped me so much to build my confidence to speak English. Thank you very much for holding this!"

From the feedback RUSU is receiving from these students, it is clear that assistance with spoken English is a vital service for them. However RUSU is concerned that many students are expressing that they do not have time to attend classes to receive assistance, due to the amount of other commitments they have.

Free International Student Lunches

Over thirty international students get together weekly for a free lunch provided by RUSU. The event also includes games and activities and is held in the RUSU Meeting Room.

International Students Movie Night

The International Collective went to see "Warm Bodies" together at Hoyts in Melbourne Central. RUSU will continue to provide free movie events this semester, as a fun, simple social event for International students.

RUSU Postgraduate

RUSU is busy working with Higher Degrees by Research students to promote, organise and host a HDR forum in April.

RUSU has commenced providing a RUSU breakfast basket with fruit and muffins once a week in the postgraduate lounge.

RUSU staff attended "Excellence - Candidature & Supervision Management forum" to learn about the new HDR policies and issues facing HDR students at RMIT.

RUSU Womyns

The department has been doing a great job promoting itself to students with steadily improved turn outs at events and more activity on our Facebook pages. We are reaching more and more students and receiving great feedback on both the progress and the events. Students have loved the Moxie tampons and pads that we've supplied for desperate students, feedback has been extraordinarily positive and we are so lucky that Moxie agreed to sponsor us for the entire year.

Promotions

Posters advertising the department and Womyn's Rooms were produced and distributed across all campuses, along with a massive Orientation period promotion. A Facebook page, open also to male supporters of the Womyn's department was developed at the end of last year and promoted further this semester to improve our outreach. It currently has 100 likes, while the pre-existing Womyn's only Facebook group has gone from approximately 30 members to 89 in the past two months. We also have a section in the Catalyst Magazine each edition keeping students up to date on the department.

Womyn's Rooms

RUSU has continued to resource Womyn's rooms at City, Carlton and Bundoora West. Feedback forms have been placed in the Womyn's Rooms and are being well used. Many students are praising the increase in advertisement, cleanliness, and supplies, as well as suggesting useful items or events. Improved promotion of the Bundoora West Womyn's Room and the provision of regularly replenished coffee and tea supplies has seen an increase in the use of the room. We prepared a proposal and have been actively lobbying for the expansion of the Bundoora West Womyn's Room and to reopen the Womyn's Room at Bundoora East.

Womyn's Room Convenors –Volunteer Roles

The RUSU Womyn's Department has volunteer roles for a Womyn's Room Convenor on each campus. These female volunteers assist with the running of the Womyn's Rooms and attending and supporting Womyn's department events. The convenors are:

- » City Campus: Thakshila Tilakaratne
- » Carlton: Gangotri Roy
- » Bundoora West: interviewing this week

Standout Events

We've been targeting the City and Bundoora campuses to try to reach as many students as possible and so far events include;

Orientation week 26th-28th February

We ran a stall to promote the Womyn's Department and handed out bags containing welfare and informational products, such as a department flyer, pads, tampons and condoms, and a key torch for women to carry around at night.

International Womyns Day 8th March

The RUSU Womyn's Department Launch Party (City campus), promoted International Women's Day with colourful hand painting, snacks and discussions on what students would like to see from their Womyn's Department this year.

RUSU Womyn's Department Launch Party Bundoora 13th March

As above in the Bundoora West Womyn's room.

RUSU Womyn's Department Ladies Breakfast (City 19th March and Bundoora 26th March)

The fruits, cereals and gluten free waffles were very popular. Many students were very grateful for the food and a few commented that they would not normally eat breakfast. The Bundoora event was particularly successful as there is not as much going on at the outer campus and students are very keen to get involved.

Looking Forward

RUSU Womyn's Department Afternoon Teas are planned for late April in the city and Bundoora West.

RUSU Welfare and Education

The RUSU Welfare Officer has been working alongside a group of early rising volunteers to provide the Welfare Breakfasts every Tuesday morning opposite the RUSU offices in building 8. For more achievements of this department see the Compass and Student Rights reports.



Clubs and Societies

69 CLUBS ALREADY AFFILIATED FOR 2013

RUSU Clubs Affiliation - first quarter 2013

69 RUSU Clubs have completed the 2013 full annual affiliation process to date. These clubs are as follows (by club category):

ACADEMIC CLUBS

1. RMIT Association of Pharmacy Students
2. RMIT Accounting Students Association
3. RMIT Aerospace Engineering Students Association
4. RMIT Applied Chemistry and Environmental Science Society
5. RMIT Association of Chemical Engineering Students
6. RMIT BA Textile Society
7. RMIT Chinese Medicine Students Association
8. RMIT Civil Engineering Students Association
9. RMIT Computer Science Information Technology
10. RMIT Electric Racing
11. RMIT Environmental Engineering Student Association
12. RMIT Geospatial Science Students Association
13. RMIT Gold & Silversmithing (Undergrad)
14. RMIT IEEE Student Branch
15. RMIT Information Security Collective
16. RMIT International Business Association
17. RMIT International Studies Association
18. RMIT Journalism Students Association
19. RMIT Landscape Architecture Body
20. RMIT Manufacturing & Mechatronics Engineering Club
21. RMIT MBA Student Association
22. RMIT Medical Radiation Students Association
23. RMIT Music Industry Club
24. RMIT Open Bite Print Making SA
25. RMIT OSA Student Chapter
26. RMIT Postgraduate Gold and Silversmithing Society
27. RMIT PR Society
28. RMIT Racing Association
29. RMIT Social Work Project
30. RMIT Sports Chiropractic Association
31. RMIT University Singapore Student Association

CULTURAL CLUBS

32. RMIT Bangladeshi Association
33. RMIT Chinese Students & Scholars Association
34. RMIT Indian Club
35. RMIT Iranian Society
36. RMIT Italian Club
37. RMIT Japan Club
38. RMIT Libyan Students Club
39. RMIT Pakistani Students Association
40. RMIT PPIA (Indonesian Students Association)

41. RMIT University Korean Association
42. RMIT University Malaysian Students Association
43. RMIT University Society of Hellenes
44. RMIT University Sri Lankan Students Association

POLITICAL CLUBS

45. RMIT ALP Club
46. RMIT Greens
47. RMIT Resistance Club
48. RMIT Socialist Alternative
49. RMIT Socialist Party

SOCIAL/SPECIAL INTEREST CLUBS

50. AISESEC RMIT
 51. RMIT Asian Association
 52. RMIT Association of Debaters
 53. RMIT Chinese Debating Group
 54. RMIT Engineers Without Borders
 55. RMIT Games, Manga and Anime Society
 56. RMIT Oxfam Club
 57. RMIT Science Fiction & Gaming Association
 58. RMIT Secular Society
 59. RMIT Students For Palestine
- #### SPIRITUAL CLUBS
60. RMIT Overseas Christian Fellowship (Melbourne)
 61. RMIT Buddhist Society
 62. RMIT Chinese Methodist Christian Fellowship
 63. RMIT Christian Union
 64. RMIT Islamic Society
 65. RMIT Korean Campus Ministry (GFR)
 66. RMIT Multicultural Student Fellowship
 67. RMIT Overseas Christian Fellowship (Carlton)
 68. RMIT Planet Uni
 69. RMIT Student Life University Group

Another 20 contacts have been made with RUSU by students wishing to re-affiliate existing (2012 or 2011 clubs) at midyear. Another 3 Clubs are regular mid-year affiliating clubs. RUSU is also working with students around another 6 brand new club proposals.

RUSU would like to offer a special welcome to our brand new clubs and those that have been inactive and have returned to affiliation. RUSU is particularly pleased to welcome RUSH (our Greek Club) back to affiliation. The Club was unable to operate in 2012 due to pressures on its' members to support family and friends during the Greek financial crisis.

BRAND NEW RUSU CLUBS

1. RMIT Sports Chiropractic Association
2. RMIT Journalism Students Association
3. RMIT Italian Club

REACTIVATED CLUBS

1. RMIT Pakistani Students Association
2. RMIT University Society of Hellenes
3. RMIT Libyan Students Club



RUSU CLUBS ACTIVITY

Start of year Orientation

62 RUSU Clubs bookings were made for stalls at start of year Orientation 2013 across the three Clubs Days events. In addition, another 10 clubs participated in the Welcome Day events to add some life to the lunch focused events.

Club events supported by RUSU first quarter included:

- » RMIT Christian Union Welcome Event
- » Civil Engineering SA Boat Cruise
- » Games Manga and Anime Society Welcome Event
- » RMIT Singapore Students Association new student welcome dinner
- » RMIT Sci Fi & Gamers Association new student welcome event
- » RMIT Music Industry Club Trivia Night fundraiser
- » BA Textile fundraiser
- » RMIT Buddhist Society meditation sessions and Buddhism introduction talks

RMIT Christian Union new student welcome dinner

RUSU Club Events and Activities Supported by RUSU Club Grants

\$12,500 has been allocated to RUSU Clubs to subsidise first quarter Club events and activities. These funds will be released to clubs early in the second quarter.

Information to Student Clubs

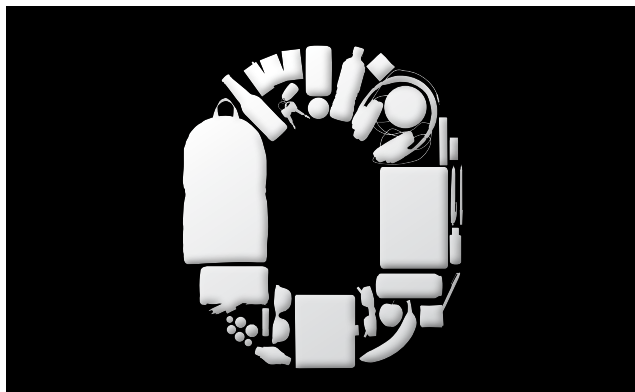
RUSU Clubs have been promoted and supported this quarter through the production of a new Clubs & Societies brochure and website updates. The RUSU Club Resources webpage has been updated including; an updated "Guide to space booking at RMIT", annual budget templates and updated statutory information on RSA, food safety and raffles.

RUSU Clubs & Societies Program Grants 2013

The RUSU Clubs & Societies Grants Program is to be reviewed by the Student Union Council. Proposed changes to the Grant Program are sought to ensure greater certainty for clubs' as to total annual funds each club can access through the Program, to reconsider the categories of grants available and to achieve ways to minimise administrative load on clubs around grant submission.

CLUBS DAY 2013

Student Media



○ Book

This project was funded through a SSAF grant and is a vital tool for new RMIT students, assisting with a successful transition, as well as offering graduating students with a one of a kind opportunity for professional development.

The publication of the O-Book is produced by students and is a popular orientation tool for commencing students. It aims to provide an overview of life at RMIT and life in general as a university/TAFE student.

The 2013 O-Book was conceived, designed and edited by an editorial team comprising of RMIT students Broede Carmody (2nd year Bachelor of Journalism), Alia Madkhul (final year Bachelor of Advertising) and Brittany Stewart (2nd year Bachelor of Journalism). The editors also engaged fellow RMIT students to write articles and contribute artwork to the publication.

The O-Book was distributed to students at the various Welcome Days - Brunswick (26 February), Bundoora (27 February) and City (28 February) - by the editorial team clad in specially produced O-Book T shirts for easy identification by students. It was also promoted on the RUSU website and social media channels, with an online PDF version going live on Monday, February 18 to coincide with TAFE commencement date.

Print copies arrived at the three aforementioned campuses on Monday, February 25 and were available across the RMIT Student Union areas and other key areas of RMIT. Promotion was further bolstered by an official launch party held at the Bella Union in Carlton, which included two readings and speeches by all the editors and a staff member of the O-Book Editorial Board. Overall this year RUSU distributed around 9000 copies.

Feedback has been positive from students and staff alike, with one Instagram user saying the book was ‘Possibly one of the best student guides ever—hilarious to read’.

The O-Book is available online at <http://www.su.rmit.edu.au/news-and-media/obook/>

 Catalyst

New Website launched

In late February Catalyst released its first issue for 2013, with a print run of 5000 copies. The magazine was distributed across every campus with copies running out within three weeks. We have received excellent feedback from students, contributors and staff. People appreciate that Catalyst “feels like a magazine again” and something “you can read on the train home.” With over 40 contributors to the first issue, Catalyst is once again a substantial publication.

As well a brand new, custom built Catalyst website was launched in February www.rmitcatalyst.com. This is an important step for the magazine, enabling students' work to reach a bigger audience than ever before. It also allows Catalyst to better report breaking news, and there has been a strong response to on-the-day articles. We have five volunteer bloggers who post weekly on topics such as the local arts scene, social media and technology, publishing and media, and the environment. Nearly 2000 people visited the website in the last month, and the website is averaging around 1000 page views a week. On top of this Facebook likes are up to 660 and Twitter followers now number 571, a significant increase on last year's figures.

Events

The editorial team attended O-Week activities in Bundoora, Brunswick and the City, handing out magazines as well as our own merchandise. We had canvas bags, pens and notebooks made with the Catalyst logo, handing out over 150 of each during the three days. We also made custom t-shirts to better identify ourselves and the volunteers who helped distribute the magazine. We spoke to hundreds of students about contributing material, and this was reflected in the abundance of submissions we had for the second issue.

In January the editorial team attended a two-day conference at the Wheeler Centre run by Express Media. We had the opportunity to meet editors of student publications from all around Australia, including On Dit, Farrago, Grapeshot, and Lot's Wife. Speakers at the conference included former Farrago editors, an Age journalist, and the editor of The Big Issue.



RMITV

New Management Team

In early January, RMITV's new management team were selected and began working in their respective departments. They are all current students or alumni of RMIT University and are RMITV volunteers who receive an annual honorarium in recognition of their contribution and to cover their expenses.

The Management Team currently consists of;

- » RMITV General Manager, Pamela Meagher (Masters of Marketing, Alumni in the Advanced Diploma of Screenwriting)
- » Office Manager, Ronja Moss (Bachelor of Communications [Media])
- » Technical Manager, Nick Stevens (Bachelor of Engineering [Electrical and Electronic])
- » Programming Manager, Glenn Delaney (alumni from Bachelor of Business and Diploma of Screen & Media)

Productions

31 Questions: Season One successfully aired around Australia, and is currently airing in New Zealand. Throughout March, April and May, Season Two of this studio-based quiz show will be filmed.

Random Aussies: Three guys traveling round Australia, following around random fellow Aussies for a day. On-location production is still underway, with post-production editing of first episodes underway.

Tough Times Never Last: This studio-based talk show is in the eighth season. The show centres on interviews with people with stories of personal struggle, professional failure and criminal mistakes- inspiring viewers to improve their lives.

In Pit Lane: This is Australia's longest running prime-time motorsport journalism series and RMITV's longest running production. This show provides a rare chance to gain live-to-air television experience. This live studio-based news show will be filming till May.

Flagship Production - Live on Bowen: RMITV is really pleased that we received a special SSAF grant to enable us to continue our Flagship show. After a strong first season, the live-to-air studio-based variety show is currently in pre-production. Field

shoots and production meetings are being conducted regularly. The Second Season of the show is set to broadcast live every Friday from June 7 till late August. A third season is also planned for October to November, with invaluable experience expected to be gained from an Outside Broadcast planned for December.

RMITv Events and Business

Orientation

RMITV was determined to be present at all Orientation and Club Days. This was the perfect opportunity to encourage RMIT University students of Bundoora, Brunswick and the City campuses to join RMITV to gain real televised and other production footage for future media and communication employees. The hard work of many dedicated volunteers and the Management Team raised awareness of the RMITV benefits of practical training, media production experience and the opportunity to network with industry practitioners.

Training

The regular training ground for all new RMITV members is working with several unsigned Melbourne based bands. Students who have never been in the studio before are offered the chance to set up lighting, mix audio, control cameras, mic up instruments, direct bands and many other production roles. This provides members with confidence to apply other production roles, whilst providing them with footage to include in their portfolios.

Archival Footage

RMITV produces about 100 hours of student created content per year. There are years of archive footage dating back to the 80s on formats ranging from VHS, U-Matic and Beta-max. This footage includes recordings of previous O'Week festivities, Hamish & Andy's first venture into sketch television and Roves' first television work our past flagship program 'The Loft Live'. Without careful archival procedures this footage may be lost. The monumental task of digitization of the archive tapes has begun. This process is expected to take many years and investment in data tape-reading devices. Work from many respected industry practitioners can be found in the archive footage dating back to their student days at RMIT University.

Representation and advocacy

Compass

Existing Compass volunteers came back with a bang and are staffing the Compass Drop in Centre 20 hours per week. They assisted with 71 student drop-ins at Compass between January and March. Themes of mental health, finance and relationships remain strong. Planning has commenced for projects and programs to be run this year. The Compass Project Officer finished up providing external supervision to a third year social work student.

The Compass Project Officer assisted RMIT counselling service with the recruitment of three new staff members. A catch up was also organised with the RMIT Legal service so that new Student Union staff members could have an opportunity to get to know the RMIT legal team.

English Language Classes

In conjunction with the RUSU International department, Compass has been running another successful round of English Conversation Classes, this time in conjunction with the New English Language Hub in building 80. The classes were increased to three times per week and have not only assisted with English proficiency but also fostered wonderful friendships and social networks between the participants.

Free Yoga

Due to its popularity and positive feedback from students Compass chose to continue to run two weekly free Yoga classes at the city campus.

Student Retention Research

Throughout this period, Bundoora SLO Patrick O'Keeffe has worked in collaboration with Compass on research. He has prepared papers on mental health of tertiary students and the relationship between student connectedness to their tertiary institution and student retention. These papers have been accepted by the Journal of the Australian and New Zealand Student Services Association and College Student Journal respectively.

Representation

RUSU Induction

Induction sessions were held on 7 February 2013 for all RUSU Representatives and staff members, the workshops included a reiteration of the Unions goals and vision for 2013. Other topics covered were;

- » RUSU Volunteer program and working with volunteers
- » Finance procedures
- » Equipment booking
- » Formal meeting procedures
- » Using the new RUSU Website

Student Voice

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

- » Academic Board
- » Policy and Programs Committee
- » Student Experience Advisory Committee
- » SSAF Steering Committee
- » Ralph McIntosh Medal Selection Panel
- » Bundoora Campus Advisory Committee
- » RMIT Sustainability Committee
- » First Year Experience Committee
- » Monthly Catch Up Meetings with the Dean of Students.

Appeal Committees Reps

RUSU has supported students on the following RMIT hearings;

- » Student representatives on 6 UAC hearings
- » Student representatives on 8 Discipline hearings
- » Student representatives on 7 CAC hearings

RUSU Internal Meetings

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

- » 3 Student Union Council Meetings
- » 8 Secretariat meetings
- » Student representatives gaining governance experience on internal Student Union Committees, such as Staffing Committee
- » Elected Student councillors supported to act work as governors and managers.

Student Rights

Orientation Outreach and the SRT

The RUSU Student Rights Team had a high profile during Orientation, with a 'Know Your Rights' poster campaign and information stall at each Orientation Clubs day. The elected student Education Officer and a Student Rights Officer staffed a stall on each campus, providing students with information and advice about policy and procedure at RMIT, especially special consideration and appeals against assessment. Other popular areas were plagiarism, international students and bullying.

They talked to 101 students in total; 25 in Brunswick, 36 in Bundoora and 40 in the city. Many of the students said they had no idea where to go if they were in trouble and needed advice.

Case Work & Advocacy

Significant time and energy went into exclusion and discipline cases during the first quarter. The SR team decided concerns about handling of discipline processes warranted the drafting of a complaint to the College of Business. It had become apparent that students were being unfairly punished for alleged plagiarism without being given a hearing or a chance to defend themselves against the allegations.

Fair Assessment Campaign

The Academic Board met on March 4th and considered final amendments to the Assessment Policy suite proposed by the Student Union. This RUSU campaign to ensure fairness in the Assessment Policy suite has been ongoing since 2011.

RUSU is proud to have been successful in arguing for positive changes, including:

- » Removal of strict eligibility criteria for Special Consideration, for example, where the old policy listed specific instances where a student would be eligible, the new policy is more flexible in that a student is eligible if they have experienced 'unexpected circumstances which have had a severe impact on their performance'.
- » Addition of a more flexible appeal ground for denials of special consideration, equitable assessment arrangement and future assessment arrangement applications.
- » Preventing the introduction of an inequitable requirement for appeals against the exclusion (12 month ban) of a student
- » Upholding the rights of students with an Equitable Assessment Arrangement to apply for special consideration on the same basis as other students
- » Preventing the introduction of policy which would allow RMIT to send a student's personal information to Student Services without permission
- » Preventing RMIT from claiming ownership of all student ideas, under policy which would have conflicted with the Intellectual property statute

The student rights team was pleased to see the finalisation of RMIT's suite of revised assessment policies last quarter and notes the significant effort put into considering RUSU's perspectives on these important policies. We believe that the decision to incorporate the many assessment related policies into a more coherent set of procedures will have a beneficial impact. This is particularly the case with regard to the revised assessment principles, which now clearly provide a governing framework for all assessment related activities.

On a less positive note, while the Board agreed to remove some of the more restrictive aspects of the adjustments to assessment procedure, we remain very concerned about how this may affect vulnerable students in actual practice. While it may make sense administratively to strive for a clear separation between special consideration, equitable assessment arrangements and the new category of future assessment arrangements our experience as caseworkers is that the situation on the ground is often a lot more complicated. The simple truth is that many of the students we see whose studies are affected by some form of ongoing disability do not want to have anything to do with the Disability Liaison Unit. Whilst the social and economic marginalisation of people with disabilities

has diminished in the last three decades; particularly since the end of almost unquestioned institutional incarceration for those with significant disabilities; progress is relative rather than absolute and there are many who continue to question whether those who could be assumed to be too sick to work should have a place in an educational institution. In short the stigma of disability continues to be a major contributing factor to disabled students' decisions not to identify themselves and which sometimes prompts discrimination in our schools.

The student rights team is concerned that the newly introduced system for adjustment to assessment which so rigidly separates and classifies EAAs, special consideration and FAAs will highlight and reinforce the distinctions between able and disabled students, potentially stigmatising disabled students by specifically differentiating them in this process. Our team will be mindful of the experience of students with disabilities in how we look at the new regime and are committed to working to ensure that the system of disability support at RMIT is respectful, rights based and does not develop service gaps.

National VET Equity Advisory Council Research

One of the RUSU student rights team was involved in research by the National VET Equity Advisory Council into the role of student representation and advocacy services, and learner voice, for VET students.

"Thanks. As I indicated to you already I do not want students incurring HECs debts when their lives get off track. I will refer others as they come in and hopefully we can keep them in the program and they can be productive." **Email from a lecturer**

"I just checked my email again and i just got a reply from special consideration. I'm granted an alternative assessment. Without your help and assistance this will not happen. I promise i will study really hard to pass this exam and my other subjects this semester." **Student email**

"Thank you for your help in the hearing, you really did a very good job! The success is based on your work. I really appreciate your help."

Problems created during the last quarter	Number
Admin Issue	7
Admission Issue	2
Agent Gave Incorrect or Misleading Advice	2
Appeal Against Assessment	16
At Risk/Academic Progress	17
Bullying	1
Complaint	22
Course Issue	20
Disability	24

Continued over

Discipline Issue	10
Enrolment Issue	20
Exclusion	79
Fees Issue	17
Graduation Issue	6
Group Work Issue	4
Leave of Absence	11
Mental Health Issue	10
Ombusman Complaint	2
Online Enrolment Issue	3
Payment Plan	1
Placement Issue	6
Plagiarism	8
Problem with Course Advice	12
Problem with Exam	5
Refund/Remission of Debt	8
Special Consideration	35
Supervision Issue	2
Transcript Issue	2
TOTAL	353

Problems outcomes during the last quater	Number
Academic Misconduct (Discipline Board): Student Penalised	2
Academic Misconduct (Discipline Board): Case Dismissed	5
Academic Misconduct Reprimand	3
Advice for Letter Given	51
Appeal Against RPL: Appeal Dismissed	1
Appeal Against RPL: Appeal Upheld	1
Appeal Against Special Consideration: Successful	4
Appeal Against Special Consideration: Unsuccessful	1
At Risk Advice Given	15
Attended Group Session	1
CAC Appeal Against Assessment: Appeal Dismissed	3
CAC Appeal Against Assessment: Appeal Upheld	7
Contacted Academic Administration: Issue Resolved	8
Contacted Course Coordinator: Issue Resolved	7
Contacted Head of School: Issue Resolved	3
Contacted Lecturer/Tutorer: Issue Resolved	3
Debt Issue Resolved	3
Debt Remains	5

Discipline Committee: Student Allowed to Continue	7
Discipline Committee: Student Penalised	1
Exam Timetable amended	1
Exclusion Withdrawn by Student	1
Exclusion Withdrawn by School	24
Informal Review of Assessment Resolution	1
Late Enrolment Achieved	4
Leave of Absence	6
Ombusman Complaint	1
Other Referrals (CASA, Housing, Legal, Compass)	6
Pass by Compensation Achieved	1
Plagiarism Meeting Case: Dismissed Against Student	4
Plagiarism Meeting Case: Reprimand (student asked to resubmit)	2
Program Structure Issue Resolved	8
Recognition of Prior Learning Achieved	1
Referral Given: Counselling Service	20
Referral Given: DLU	13
Referral to ISIS	2
Referral Given: Legal Service	4
Referral Given: SLC	14
Remission of Debt	2
School level Complaint Made: Outcome Successful	3
School level Complaint Made: Outcome Unsuccessful	1
Show Cause Letter Approved by SPC	3
Show Cause Letter Rejected by SPC	4
Special Consideration Granted	31
Student Appealed Assessment and Changed Exclusion status	1
Student Withdrew from a Subject	1
Supplementary Assessment Granted by SPC	2
UAC Appeal Against Assessment: Appeal Upheld	1
UAC Appeal Against Assessment: Dismissed	1
UAC Appeal Against Exclusion: Dismissed	1
UAC Appeal Against Exclusion: Upheld	2
UAC Appeal Against Special Consideration: Appeal Dismissed	1
University Level Complaint Made: Outcome Successful	2
University Level Complaint Made: Outcome Unsuccessful	1
Visa Issue Advice/Referral Provided	6
TOTAL	306

RUSU Governance, Administration and Services

Governance & Admin Update

Despite the summer quiet period at RMIT, RUSU governance, admin and finance departments were busy preparing for the year ahead and working with new student representatives to induct and support them in running their department activities and budgets.

ITS

RUSU has been liaising with ITS regarding the Windows 7 Roll Out, setting up new RUSU computers and the RUSU website hosting arrangements.

Funding and SSAF

Reporting on the 2012 SSAF funding and negotiations around 2013 funding levels and the content of the 2013 Funding Agreement Deed were high priority items this quarter involving proposals, discussions and negotiations. RUSU has requested that the \$40,404 underspend from the 2012 SSAF grants be rolled over to RUSU's operating budget for 2013.

For 2013 RUSU has restructured our finance system so we can capture each individual SSAF committee approved grant, to make tracking, and reporting easier and more efficient.

RUSU reported to RMIT on the expenditure on Union Reserves Project Grants from 2008 to 2012. Our proposal for the reallocation of the remaining \$256,114 of the original grants on projects to be rolled out during 2013 was approved by the Vice Chancellor. Previous RUSU projects funded under these grants have had really positive outcomes for students and we are excited about what these new grants will enable us to achieve. RUSU also gained approval from the Vice Chancellor to transfer the \$63,236 in interest on the reserves grant funds into RUSU's 2013 operating budget.

RUSU and RMIT Link have in principle agreement about the 2013 Memorandum of Understanding, regarding the shared funding of the Bundoora Student Liaison Officer staff position and are awaiting formally signing of the MoU.

Finance overview

RUSU SSAF Funding 2013

RUSU Funding from RMIT for 2013 is made up of the following:

- » **\$1,766,664 (Base grant) and**
- » **\$673,000 (SSAF Committee Grants)**
- » **2013 TOTAL GRANT \$2,439,664**
- » **2013 GRANT RECEIVED TO DATE \$0**

On 12 December 2012 RUSU received confirmation that the Vice Chancellor had approved \$673,000 in SSAF Committee Grants for RUSU in 2013. RMIT has also offered RUSU a base grant of \$1,766,664 during negotiations, however RUSU has been continuing to push for an additional \$100,000 to cover CPI and increases in salaries and entitlements under the EBA.

RUSU has invoiced RMIT for \$609,916 (plus GST) for the grant from January to March. As this report shows at the end of March we have received no funds. RUSU is awaiting payment of the grant deed as delays at RMIT's end have prevented the releasing of funds. RUSU is hopeful the invoices will be paid soon.

Despite not receiving any of our 2013 grant from RMIT, RUSU has continued to provide services and events for students. This has occurred as RUSU is confident that we will receive both the base grant and SSAF funding. To continue to operate RUSU has had to access the Project Grants funds which will be repaid into the Project Grants account as soon as RMIT pays the outstanding invoices. We have also had to put some projects on hold until funds are received to enable the projects to be implemented. Fortunately January and February is a quieter period in terms of expenditure with students off campus.

In order to meet legislative requirements the RUSU financial reports match expenses with "allowable items". Please note that **TABLE 1** is based on SSAF Allowable items and expenditure of SSAF funds on these areas. It categorises the SSAF expenditure from the Base grant and SSAF Committee projects into the allowable items.

This table does not include activities and services funded by non SSAF expenditure.

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

TABLE 2 (overleaf) reports on the specific grants approved by the SSAF Committee.

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

TABLE 1: RUSU SSAF Grant expenditure on Allowable Items 1 Jan -31 March

Allowable Item	Item Description	YTD Expense (SSAF Funded)
Giving students information to help them in their orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O'Book operations, honorariums, publication (online & print) and distribution • Membership incentive program • Membership engagement, communications and marketing • Upgrade and Maintenance of online communications including website, e-newsletters, social media integration • Orientation specific events 	\$0*
Caring for children of students	—	\$0
Providing legal services to students	—	\$0
Promoting the health or welfare of students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All activities and events from advocacy and welfare collectives: Queer, Womyn's, Post-Graduate, Environment, Welfare, Education • Campaigns, events, honorariums, programs, marketing • All Compass Centre, programs and staff 	\$43,458
Helping students secure accommodation	—	\$0
Helping students with their financial affairs	—	\$0
Helping meet the specific needs of overseas students relating to their welfare, accommodation and employment	All activities and events from International student department	\$2,812
Helping students obtain employment or advice on careers	—	\$0
Helping students obtain insurance against personal accidents	—	\$0
Helping students develop skills for study, by means other than undertaking courses of study in which they are enrolled	Induction programs/Student Representative Professional Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Program + program staffing • Student Engagement Officer • Student Union Council Elections • Secretariat Honorariums • All of SUC campaigns 	\$ 34,008
Providing libraries and reading rooms (other than those provided for academic purposes) for students	—	\$0
Supporting the production and dissemination to students of media whose content is provided by students	RMITV operations, honorariums, special projects, productions, training, website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMIT Flagship Program • Catalyst magazine operations, student honorariums, publication (online and print) • Communications/Graphic Designer Staff 	\$40,491
Providing food or drink to students on a campus of the higher education provider	Campus specific events and marketing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities and Events collective including administration, student honorariums, marketing and staff support • RUSU Realfoods 	\$27,742

Continued over

TABLE 1: RUSU SSAF Grant expenditure on Allowable Items 1 Jan -31 March (cont.)

Allowable Item	Item Description	YTD Expense (SSAF Funded)
Supporting a sporting or other recreational activity by students	Major events and intervarsity recreational activities and competitions	\$41,273
Supporting an artistic activity by students	—	\$0
Supporting debating by students	• Grants paid to debating club are included with clubs reporting.	\$0
Supporting the administration of a club most of whose members are students	• Administration, grants, equipment and support to student run clubs and societies • Clubs and Societies Staff and other support	\$33,836
Advising on matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described)	Administration and Support staff members: Administration, Governance and Finance • 4 x Information counter staff and operations	\$107,744
Advocating students' interests in matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described)	Student Rights Officers • Student Advocacy materials, campaigns, research and training for staff and student representatives on committees	\$ 120,059
	YTD SSAF Expenditure	\$451,423
	YTD SSAF Grants Received	\$0
	OVERSPEND	\$451,423

* Note: no expenses are recorded on Orientation as they are recorded in the expenses of the many different departments who carried out Orientation activities. The Orientation Handbook grant is for the 2014 O'book project which will commence in September 2013.

TABLE 2: 2013 SSAF Committee Grant Reports 1 Jan–31 March

Project Title	Grant Amount	YTD Expense
SSAF Compass Drop-in Centre	\$100,000	\$16,546
SSAF Orientation Book	\$50,000	\$0
2013 Staffing continuations (includes 1.8 Student Rights Officers, Student Engagement Officer, Clubs Staff Bund/Brunswick)	\$330,000	\$57,036
SSAF Bundoora East Rejuvenation	\$50,000	\$0
SSAF Reorientation Events	\$40,000	\$0
SSAF Neighbourhood Volunteer Program	\$14,000	\$0
SSAF RMITV Flagship Show	\$39,000	\$6,084
SSAF RUSU Volunteer Training & Orientation Camps	\$50,000	\$2,972
TOTAL	\$673,000	\$82,638
AMOUNT RECEIVED		\$0
OVERSPEND		\$82,638