



FIRST QUARTER REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD
01/01/2014–31/03/2014

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RUTSU
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION



President's Report



James
Michelmore

It's been a great first quarter for RUSU, setting us up for a successful 2014. We launched the year with our biggest Orientation festival in years with thousands of new students engaging in our student clubs, societies, collectives and volunteer opportunities. We sent off orientation with a bang with over 1,000 new students packing in to the Alumni Courtyard for Welcome Bash.

Over 2,500 students became financial members of RUSU for 2014 to the end of March, putting figures on target for another record year. Students who become financial members of RUSU enjoy priority access to all the usual services and events, as well as discounted membership to our affiliated student clubs, a fortnightly newsletter with prizes and giveaways, free drinks at our weekly campus events, and the ability to stand for election to the Student Union Council. For just \$10, you cannot beat that value!

Highlights of this quarter include volunteering opportunities, student media, and collective activities. Over 500 hours of student volunteer time went into delivering the many on campus services and events that RUSU has to offer, including our Realfoods Café, weekly lunchtime events, our information counters, and the Compass Drop-In Centre. Our student media is also in full swing, with the release of the 2014 O'Book across orientation, as well as the first issue of Catalyst, and increased industry engagement opportunities for RMITV members. Catalyst also launched an online Podcast – Catalysm – which has already proven popular with RMIT students and staff alike. Our many departments are back again bigger than ever in 2014, with regular events hosted by the womyn's, queer and environment departments as well as new initiatives such as 'speed friending' for postgraduate students, 'pop-up pub' for TAFE students, and a move to consolidate the coordination of our education and welfare lobbying. Where ever you look, RUSU is going from strength to strength and building on the success of recent years.

This quarter also saw the implementation of our new Students Rights Database, which will help to improve the consistency and quality of service delivered by RUSU as well as provide valuable reporting statistics. RUSU supported over 250 student problems this quarter, and consulted with RMIT University with regard to the Special Consideration Post Implementation Review, Assessment Policy Review, and RMIT Ombuds Policy.

2014 is set to be another big year for RUSU, with many more exciting improvements to come. You can keep up to date with everything we do for RMIT students by becoming a financial member, and by following us on social media.

James Michelmore
President
RMIT University Student Union

Activities and Events

Activities

February marks the beginning of the academic year at RMIT, and for new members of our student body, the transition from big fish in the pond of high school, to small fish in the lake of tertiary education.

As with all major changes in life, there are stresses involved. We in the activities department have utilised all tools at our disposal to help make this transition as smooth as possible.

RMIT Welcome Events

- » VCE Welcome Day – City
- » TAFE Welcome Day – City
- » HE Welcome Day/Cubs Day – Brunswick
- » HE Welcome Day /Clubs Day – Bundoora
- » HE Welcome Day – City
- » Clubs Day – City

RUSU ran a stall at all the events to promote our services to the various cohorts of new students.

Welcome Bash – February 27

The Welcome Bash was held on the afternoon of Thursday February 28, between 4pm and 9pm in Alumni Courtyard.

The event attracted over 1200 attendees (all RMIT students) and featured free food and alcohol with music provided by a mix of RMIT students and prominent local DJs.

Welcome Splash – February 28

The Welcome Splash was held as an under 18 inclusive event and post O night party recovery.

The event was held at the Brunswick Baths, with free entry and free BBQ for students.

Re-Orientation Week

In 2014, RUSU was once again successful in securing a SSAF grant to run additional orientation activities in semester one, under the banner of Re-Orientation Week. This calendar of events provides both commencing and returning students the opportunity to create friendships, acquaint themselves with services, and familiarise themselves with the social spaces of the University at a time largely free of the hustle and bustle of the peak orientation period.

The week consists of four events. A roadshow at both the Brunswick and Bundoora campuses, a day-time 'street party' at the City campus followed by a social event in the evening.

Re-Orientation Week Roadshow

- » Tuesday March 25th @ Brunswick campus
- » Wednesday March 26th @ Bundoora campus

These events included RUSU affiliated clubs and various free food options and beverages. Entertainment was provided by student DJs, and innovative RUSU branded giveaways (sunglasses and drink containers) were distributed.

Re-Orientation Week Street Party (Swanston St Campus)

- » Thursday March 27th @ City Campus

This day was the largest of the three day-time activities, and saw around 30 RUSU affiliated clubs attend. Like the other days, a variety of food options, beer, cider and soft drinks were provided free of charge to students.

Re-Orientation Night Party

- » Thursday 27th of March @ Sorry Grandma

700 students attended the Re-Orientation Night party which served as a closing ceremony of sorts to the week's festivities.

Market Days

RUSU has continued with the practice of previous years of holding fortnightly market days on Bowen Street to coincide with the City Chill n' Grill. Four merchants attend each week and contribute to a vibrant sense of community amongst the student body.

RUSU YOUR STUDENT UNION PRESENTS

RE-ORIENTATION STREET PARTY

THURSDAY 27TH MARCH 11AM - 2PM

FREE FOOD (HALAL - VEGO AVAILABLE)

CLUBS FAIR **MUSIC** (FROM YOUR FAVORITE HEADLINES)

GREAT BOOZE (OPEN BAR SERVING BEER + CIDER)

*FREE BOOZE ONLY FOR RUSU MEMBERS: JOIN UP ON THE DAY FOR ONLY TEN BUCKS!

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RUSU YOUR STUDENT UNION PRESENTS

RE-ORIENTATION ROADSHOW

WEDNESDAY 26TH MARCH 11AM - 2PM

BUNDOORA

FREE! CLUBS SHOWCASE

FOOD MUSIC BOOZE (HALAL - VEGO AVAILABLE) (FROM YOUR FAVORITE HEADLINES) (OPEN BAR SERVING BEER + CIDER)

*FREE BOOZE ONLY FOR RUSU MEMBERS: JOIN UP ON THE DAY FOR ONLY TEN BUCKS!

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RUSU YOUR STUDENT UNION PRESENTS

RE-ORIENTATION NIGHT PARTY

THURSDAY 27TH MARCH FROM 9.00PM

SORRY GRANDMA

★ ★ 590 LITTLE BOURKE STREET ★ ★

\$10 RUSU MEMBERS **\$20 GENERAL PUBLIC**

HURRY! BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!
THIS EVENT WILL SELL OUT FAST! www.tiny.cc/o60bxc

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RUSU Membership

The 2014 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.

Being a RUSU member has certainly had its perks this quarter, with over 1200 new members attending our member's only Welcome Bash event.

A total of 2651 students signed up as financial members in the first quarter.

Volunteers

2014 got off to a flying start with over 150 RMIT students registering their interest in RUSU's LEAD-accredited Volunteer Program. Of those, 131 successfully completed their induction and began volunteering.

Six induction sessions took place across the City, Bundoora and Brunswick campuses and several Responsible Service of Alcohol and Food Safety Handler training sessions were offered in the City and Bundoora West campuses.

RUSU's "purple people" could be seen helping out at all of RUSU's major events such as RUSU's Welcome Bash and the TAFE Pop Up Pubs, at all weekly events across the RMIT campuses, in the Realfoods Café, on appeal hearing panels, every lunchtime at the RUSU city front counter, at RUSU's English Conversation classes and lending an attentive ear at Compass.

RUSU Volunteers Professional Development First Quarter 2014

Recruitment	Jan-Apr
Number of students registering their interest to volunteer during first quarter	153
Training	Completions
Volunteers inducted	131
Volunteers trained in Food Handling Level 1	63
Volunteers trained in RSA	49
Volunteers trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid	20
Realfoods Cafe Onsite Kitchen & Operations training	49

550 Volunteer Hours Worked this Quarter

At the end of the first quarter, RUSU volunteers had contributed nearly 550 working hours to RUSU services.

Orientation Camp Update

Planning is underway for RUSU's inaugural Orientation Camp, occurring in PGL Campaspe Downs in Kyneton from Friday April 11 to Sunday April 13. The camp will be led by 5 experienced RUSU volunteers (otherwise known as the "Purple People Leaders"), with RUSU providing accommodation, food, transport and various activities for approximately 50 first year RMIT students.

Hangs in your Hood

Orientation Bounce Trip

On Friday, March 21 RUSU took 30 RMIT students to Bounce Inc – an indoor trampoline mecca located in Glen Iris – followed by a pizza lunch at a nearby restaurant.

This outing formed part of the 2014 Volunteers Orientation Program, and served as a means of welcoming and orientating new students to RMIT. It was also a fun-filled introduction to the Hangs in Your Hood program, a SSAF funded project that launched in semester 2 of 2013, which is an initiative whereby volunteers are recruited and trained to source and connect with new RMIT University students from the same geographical/residential area.

Keep an eye out for more Hangs in Your Hood events throughout the year.

Volunteer Employment

So far this year, RUSU has employed 6 Realfoods Café Casuals, all of whom were RUSU volunteers. All of our 6 city-campus Information Counter Assistants are former/current volunteers, including the 2013 RUSU Volunteer of the Year, Appu Vinod.

We continue to get frequent requests from students for references and to be included on their CVs, indicating the importance of our programs in assisting students seeking employment, particularly in areas such as hospitality and administration.

In addition to employment opportunities at RUSU, we have received countless testimonials from RUSU Volunteers whose experience has helped them find paid employment.

"I am so happy, I just found a job. The experience I got at Realfoods Cafe under Lucy Stegley, (RUSU Realfoods Café co-ordinator's) supervision played a great role in this." – Email from a gainfully-employed Realfoods volunteer



Across the Campuses

City

The RUSU Information Counter was off to a very busy start in 2014, as it served as an important 'go-to' information point for all students and visitors to RMIT. Approximately 100 queries a day were answered at the front counter during this quarter, and over 200 queries a day were answered during the peak period of Orientation. Six RMIT student casuals were trained and employed to assist with the front counter service during these three peak weeks of Orientation. The RUSU Front Office Volunteer program has also been successful, as it provides students with experience in administration and student-focused customer service. Our Student Liaison officer has trained eleven volunteers this quarter who staff the office during the peak period of each day.

Wednesdays @ Chill 'N' Grill

Chill and Grill is held weekly during semester in Bowen Street, with a special Alumni Court event once a month. Chill and Grill continued to be RUSU's biggest regular event, feeding 1000 -1,200 students in the space of 2 hours with sausages, veggie burgers, fried onions, bread and salad. Five 'Chill & Grill' events were held this quarter, over those events we served approx 6000 students free lunch. Student DJ's and bands performed weekly to their fellow students. RUSU members are entitled to some free Brunswick bitter or apple head cider. We also have a very efficient team of volunteers who turn up weekly to carry out this huge event. They volunteer between the hours of 10am-3pm with infrastructure, cooking, serving, promotions, cleaning etc. They are trained in RSA, food handling and manual handling.

This Quarter the activities & events department have increased branding and awareness at Chill & Grill, by not only using biodegradable cups and napkins but also getting the bio cup and napkins we used branded in our colours and logo. RUSU collaborated with the RMIT music industry students to help them showcase their work. RUSU clubs have also started to book tables at Chill 'n' Grill so they can regularly promote their own activities.



CHILL 'N' GRILL VOLUNTEERS

Bundoora

Weekly Barbecues

Approximately 400 students attend the free weekly BBQ for students each Wednesday. This has developed into a very popular event, and provides a great avenue through which RUSU connects with the student population.

Building 204 Coffee break

The free tea and coffee service provided by RUSU in the kitchen of building 204 remains very popular. It is estimated that roughly 100-150 students use this service on a daily basis. This is a very simple, though very effective program - students are attracted to Building 204 by the free tea and coffee, and then tend to remain in the building to socialise over a hot drink. This has noticeably increased building use and facilitated really important social interaction amongst students.

Building 204 Information Counter

The information counter was not staffed during January. Towards the start of orientation the number of inquiries at the information counter increased to approximately 20 inquiries per day. Of these inquiries, RUSU membership and student rights concerns were the most common.

Free Breakfast program expands to 2 locations

Bundoora West students are particularly keen to start the day with healthy food, and RUSU puts on a spread for over 250 students each week on Monday morning in the library courtyard. Options in Bundy include muesli, toast, bagels, muffins and fresh fruit.

"Seriously, this is so good. This gives me a reason to come to Uni on a Monday morning!" Student feedback

"This is what I needed today. I was up all night studying last night." Student feedback

"I have a two hour chemistry lecture to go to now, this will help me to concentrate!" Student feedback

As part of RUSU's Bundoora East Rejuvenation project, at the new Student Lounge, students enjoy yoghurt and muesli, bagels, muffins and fresh fruit as well as tea and coffee before class on Tuesdays. The event is really popular and students are pleased to see such a great service from their SSAF contribution.

Bundoora East Rejuvenation

Since the Bundoora East Rejuvenation was approved in late November in Building 254, RUSU have established a lounge area with a pool table, air hockey table and foosball table, as well as new lounge furniture, new paintwork and television. The response from students has been overwhelming, with the lounge area utilised extensively throughout each day. Microwaves, as well as a free tea and coffee service have been implemented, and have become very popular.

In addition, office spaces in 254.1.06, 07 and 08 have been established, with these offices now fully equipped and staffed with student casuals for 15 hours per week, as well as the Bundoora student rights officer in attendance one day per week.

The impact of this program has been significant on the Bundoora East campus.

Brunswick

Free Lunch Tuesdays @ Brunswick

4000 students enjoyed free healthy lunches this quarter at Brunswick campus. The weekly free BBQ's see up to 400 students lined up each week to collect their Halal meat and vegetarian burgers on fresh bread with fried onion, salad and a selection of sauces of their choosing. Weekly students thank the staff and volunteers for coordinating such an efficient event and look forward to Tuesdays because they don't have to buy/bring lunch to Uni.

Brunswick Healthy Breakfast

The Brunswick Healthy Breakfast continued on campus this quarter on Wednesdays in the Building 514 atrium, providing muesli, Greek yoghurt with fresh fruit salad to around 150 grateful students per week. The event is coordinated by the elected student reps, staff & volunteers. Improvements were made this year to offer even MORE healthy options for students.

RUSU Fresh Fruit Program

The free fresh organic fruit provided by RUSU as part of the Healthy Eating program continued to be extremely popular at Brunswick.

Carlton

Pop up Pub

Wednesday February 19 saw the first Carlton Pop Up Pub of 2014, in the Building 57 cafeteria. This event was coordinated by the TAFE officer to encourage new students to network and get to know one another. What better way than with a little social lubricant. Student DJ Tim Collier played at the event. There were snacks and free beer or cider for students. Roughly 150 students were in attendance and many friends were made.

Pop up Pub mk2

March 27 saw Pop Up Pub MK2 as part of reorientation. This was a RUSU member's only event. This event took place in the space at the front of building 57. There we're marquees erected for shelter. Student DJ, Kon Lee performed and once again there were free beers, ciders & snacks. This was another great networking event for the TAFE students.

TAFE Brunch Hour @ Carlton

TAFE students enjoy a free brunch during their 11 o'clock break on Tuesday each week. In the building 57 courtyard, RUSU staff and volunteers distribute fresh fruit, currant scones and zucchini and orange muffins to over 150 students.



POP UP PUB



BRUNCH HOUR @ CARLTON

RUSU Departments

Environment

Enviro Department During 0 Week

The Environment Department hosted a stall at the TAFE and HE Welcome days during January and February to promote the Furniture Cage, and the Environment Collective's project - Greening RMIT to commencing students. We provided free fruit drinks, salad boxes, organic fruit and the latest edition of the Enviro Department Sustainable Recipe Booklet project Beyond Mi Goreng.

Greening RMIT

The Environment Department continues to support this student run project that aims at creating more green spaces and urban gardens at RMIT. In 2014, Greening RMIT are constructing an organic balcony garden on the RMIT city campus to promote the idea of urban agriculture, including an education program that teaches students how to construct and maintain their own gardens at home, from planting, growing, harvesting and even cooking. This is possible through collaboration with the School of Landscape Architecture which aims to increase the amount of urban biodiversity. Workshops planned include; Re-mediation Day, Worm Farm Construction and a Planting Day.

Re-mediation Day March 20

Ten core students from the Greening RMIT project got to work cleaning up the balcony garden area on level 10, where soil and dead plants (from previous class projects) were segregated and cleaned up. Orders for fresh soil and winter plants have been placed. Fortnightly meetings are held by the Greening RMIT Committee to discuss future workshops, live lectures and collaborations with lecturers or urban gardeners.

Bike Maintenance Workshops

The RUSU Engineers without Borders Club has partnered with the Environment Department again in 2014 to offer free bike maintenance to students at our weekly Chill n Grill event. Students do not need to book, and can bring their bike to the stall for a safety check and information about how to go about basic bike maintenance.

A'Beckett Square garden proposal

RUSU Enviro Department contributed a submission as part of the A'Beckett Square Project planning, for several garden beds to be utilised by the Collective. The plans for this space include 20 large garden planter boxes, a BBQ area and sports courts. Access to on campus garden space has been a goal of the Collective for many years and this opportunity would be fantastic for students.

Furniture Cage

The Furniture Collective is dedicated to collecting discarded RMIT University Furniture and redistributing it FREE to students and staff. The Furniture Cage is open during semester time- every Thursdays from 3.30pm to 6pm, located behind the gym (Building 8, level 3 car park in the City campus).

This quarter the service started operating from March 6. During the last week of February the Volunteers helped clean the Cage, categorize items such as chairs, tables, cabinets and printers, and organise promotion via the RUSU Facebook and sending out pamphlets to cafes and libraries around campus.

The Furniture Cage Co-ordinator, ensures the Cage's functioning every week. Currently the Co-ordinator is working on de-commissioning the computers and they will be given out free to RMIT students and staff.

RUSU Realfoods

"Your lunch and green smoothies were incredible. I may find myself being a student at your café quite regularly throughout the year." – James E

Realfoods utilised its non-trading period of January and February to plan and execute cooking, nutrition and healthy food education classes for RMIT students.

Realfoods reopened for 2014 on March 3 with regular operating hours of 11am–4pm, Monday to Friday.

Realfoods continued to provide hands-on hospitality and customer service experience to RMIT students and assist them in increasing their employment prospects, with most students requesting references from Realfoods for their resumes, and many reporting back that they have found employment.



"I [wanted] to ask you if I could put you down as a referee as that would really be a huge help." – RUSU Volunteer

Realfoods Highlights

- » Recipes and photos from the Realfoods café were included in the RUSU Healthy Eating Guide – Beyond Mi Goreng Issue 3.
- » Promotions and healthy food/drink giveaways and volunteer program information showcased by Realfoods during all of the Orientation events (VCE, TAFE and Higher Ed) on each campus and in the RMIT Swanston Library.
- » Promoting 'Meat Free Week' and accompanying positive health, ethical and environmental consumer messages to our volunteers and customers in March.

Realfoods Cooking Classes -AusAid International Aid Program collaboration

RUSU Realfoods ran two x four hour cooking and nutrition classes for their new intake of International Aid Program students as part of their orientation program in February. These classes were funded through RUSU's healthy eating grant.

Queen Victoria Market Shopping Tour and Cooking Class

Snapshot of curriculum:

- » How to shop to a budget, recipe and produce seasonality.
- » Working in a team (communication, delegation, space management etc).
- » Kitchen etiquette, hygiene, safety.
- » What fresh ingredients to use first to maximise freshness, and avoid wastage.
- » Vegetable storage best practice.
- » Cutting techniques.
- » Cooking a recipe and highlighting healthy ingredients.
- » Enjoying the meals and drinks made throughout the class as a group social meal.
- » Short presentation by various RUSU representatives and staff, and the president of the Australian Post Graduate Association to learn about other student support services.

Feedback on Cooking Class Program

"I had a fabulous time and have been spreading the word as to how successful it was." – Kathryn Marriott, Senior Coordinator Student Wellbeing Advisory Services, Student Services Group

When asked what healthy food and the cooking class meant to them, here are some of the student participants' responses:

"Vegetables keep my body balanced, and my mind awake."

"Healthy food allows us to stay healthy and focus on study."

"I ate things I've never eaten before and learnt how to cook it."



RUSU Queer

Midsummer Festival – Jan 12

The Queer Department kicked off the year with a very successful RUSU Queer Department stall at Midsummer Festival 2014. 15 students from the department promoted the Collective to the wider public, and made various connections with support networks. Through these connections, the Queer officers sourced many of the participating groups and speakers for the 'Workshop Wednesday' regular events that will run on campus through the semester.

0 Week and VCE Welcome Day – Jan 28

The Queer Department raised awareness of the Collective with commencing RMIT students and invited them to the welcome party on March 6- Beginning of the Queer. The VCE event was a good chance for the Queer Department to connect with an important part of RMIT's student population. The Department can be a very important support network for young students who might be coming out, or struggling with their identity.

Pride Victoria March February 2

Twenty students from the Collective took part in this important event, which celebrates, and fosters solidarity within, the LGBTIQ community.

Queer Department Film – Queer Screen Sydney

The Collective travelled to Sydney for the screening of their film project with Sasha Hadden Vicky- The Gay Gene Comes to Australia as part of the Sydney Mardi Gras Queer Screen event. The trip was a great success for the 8 students who participated. The film attracted a decent crowd including the honourable Michael Kirby! Following the showing, a forum for questions and answers provoked some interesting discussion. The Department was very proud of this achievement.



QUEER DEPARTMENT

Beginning of the Queer party March 6

Over 100 students attended the welcome party for the Queer Department, held in the Queer lounge with an after party at Melbourne venue Sircuit. The party was featured in Same Same Australia's most popular queer news and events network.

The Bundoora campus

The Queer reps have been investigating recruiting a Queer Lounge Volunteer Convener for Bundoora West, to ensure that the space is being used correctly, update resources and assist with organising and delivering regular events. The nature of the space makes this difficult at present. A Department volunteer in Bundoora is already doing excellent work and some of the obstacles are being overcome towards better engagement with this campus.

Weekly Events Started from the last week of February

Monday – Gay Gamers Night 20–30 students weekly

Tuesday – Movie and popcorn night 10–20 students weekly

Wednesday – Workshop Wednesday 20–30 students weekly. Workshops this quarter have included:

- » Headspace – youth mental health
- » Karl Katter
- » Art Therapy
- » Living Positive Victoria
- » Maximizing anal pleasure
- » Japanese Rope Play

Thursday – Wine and whine 30–40 students weekly

RUSU International

RUSU English Language Workshops

Our successful conversation and confidence building workshops commenced this year on March 17. The program runs for 6 weeks and included excursions around Melbourne, such as a walking tour of laneways and historic sites. Compass Volunteers are assisting in the classes this year, and better connecting the students with RUSU and RMIT welfare services.

Upcoming events

International Department planned a schedule of regular events for the year over the first quarter, including the ever popular free lunches and movie night events for all international students who are looking for a social network and trying to make new friends with other cultural backgrounds. The lack of bookable space on campus is impacting on the International Collective as well as the other Collectives at this time.

News for international students

The Victorian government has announced that international students can purchase annual public transport concession cards from 2015. This is a three year trial and international students can travel by public transport for half price- however this excludes other concession fare types such as weekly and monthly passes. This is a step forward after such a long campaign for concession travel and we hope that Victoria will continue to improve support over time.

RUSU Postgraduate

This quarter has been extremely active for the postgraduate department. SSAF funding was dedicated to the development and production of a Postgraduate Specific Orientation book the O Book for Grown Ups. 950 copies were printed for distribution around RMIT. The RUSU Postgraduate Department also ran its first social event of the year. Postgrad Speed Friending occurred in week four and was designed to encourage a frequently isolated group of students with diverse needs to meet and interact with their peers. The event was extremely successful in terms of attendance and feedback. Some of the comments received via social media highlight that postgraduate students respond really well to activities planned specifically for them and would welcome further opportunities to meet.

"Hi Guys, it was a great time to meet all you guys last night. Had a lot of fun and made some friends!"

"Well done guys on the PG speed friending... We had good time! Looking forward for more fun meet ups!"



RUSU Womyn's

Womyn's Room Revamp

Over the holidays the Womyn's Rooms were cleaned out, rearranged and new furniture was purchased to make the spaces more comfortable and accessible. There are now two new couches in the City room, new rocking chairs in the City and Carlton rooms and two new large screen televisions in the rooms which enables for the Collective to host regular film or documentary events such as during International Women's Day this semester.

Womyn's Department during O-Week

The Womyn's Department handed out new guides to the Womyn's Department along with sanitary items, flyers for the International Women's Day event and other safety resources in a branded Womyn's Department bag. Over O-week and Re-O-Week over 90 students signed up to the Collective.

International Women's Day event, March 14

The IWD event at the city campus was a huge success, with many commenting it was the busiest they'd ever seen the room. Food was provided, and films were screened on the new TV. The Collective received another 30 signups from this one event, and over 50 people attended.

Womyn's Collective meetings

The meetings occur once a month in the City Womyn's Room involving discussion and planning from the Collective, with ideas such as lunches, film nights, knitting classes, discussion groups, Blue Stockings week events and a campaign for Equal Pay Day. There are now 180 people signed up to the Collective, up quite a significant amount from the end of last year. A Mailchimp account has been created as a more effective way to contact the Collective. The Facebook page and group have new members joining daily and is a great way to contact students quickly.

Conference funding

Expressions were opened to students who wanted to attend the annual NOWSA conference which is in Perth this year. Funding will be allocated to cover flights and accommodation to students who meet the criteria.


RUSU Welfare and Education

Free Healthy Breakfasts

The City Healthy Breakfast continues to grow and improve, with a new group of dedicated volunteers who don't mind getting up early to feed hungry students. They provide over 400 students with fresh fruit, yoghurt, muesli and berry cups, organic zucchini and orange muffins and tea every week. See campus reports for breakfasts on other campuses.

Fruit boxes

A feature of the Healthy Eating campaign is the free fruit distributed on campus weekly. The fruit is local and spray free and students always have great feedback about the service. There is a strong interest in healthy eating among students although barriers to this include lack of money and time, making this campaign really important.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

THURSDAY 13TH MARCH 2014 BLDG 8, LEVEL 3, ROOM 9

Celebrate International Women's Day in the newly refurbished City campus Womyn's Room.

Clubs and Societies

Club Grants

RUSU Clubs & Societies accessed over \$15,000 of clubs' funds this quarter

RUSU Clubs Activity

Affiliation:

At the time of writing, RUSU has 68 fully affiliated clubs with another 12 clubs to finalise before the semester one deadline in mid-April.

Brand new clubs to affiliate to RUSU for the 2014 calendar year to date are:

- » RMIT Papua New Guinea (PNG) Club (Cultural club)
- » RMIT Beer Brewers & Connoisseurs Club (Special Interest Club)
- » RMIT League of Legends Club (Special Interest club)
- » RMIT CAINZ (Commerce Students Academic Club)
- » RMIT Supply Chain Student association (Academic Club)
- » RMIT Planning & Environment Student Society – PERMITSS (Academic Club)
- » RMIT Hong Kong Students Association (Cultural Club)
- » RMIT SWITCH – Society of Women in Information TeCHnology (Special Interest Club)
- » RMIT Chiropractic Students Association (Academic Club)
- » RMIT Universes (Spiritual Club)

RUSU welcomes all of our new clubs and looks forward to supporting their development and activities.

At this stage RUSU has fully affiliated 26 Academic, 17 Cultural, 5 Political, 13 Social and 7 Spiritual clubs.

The full list of affiliated RUSU Clubs can be found at www.su.rmit.edu.au/clubs/



Start Of Year Club Events & Activities Highlights

In addition to 80 clubs participating in the 2014 start of year RMIT Orientation Program, RUSU Clubs have been busy with their own welcome activities and launching their regular club programs:

- » RMIT Chess Club – Tuesday night weekly meetings at various locations on-campus
- » RMIT Association of Debaters weekly training sessions – Tuesdays in the Spiritual Centre
- » EFMSA – Orientation BBQ Building 80
- » RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA) Welcome BBQ – Flagstaff Gardens
- » RMIT ACCESS – Orientation BBQ – Fig Tree Courtyard
- » RMIT CU – Post Clubs Day gelati event – Fig Tree Courtyard
- » RMIT Geospatial Students Society (GSSA) – meet and greet with new students – City Campus
- » RMIT CU – regular Tuesday meetings – Spiritual Centre
- » RMIT Christian Union attended CU intermural CU Fish & Chips on The Beach event – Port Melbourne Beach
- » RMIT Singapore Student Association (SSA) Welcome Dinner – Laksa Bar, Prahran
- » RMIT Indian Club Welcome BBQ – Alumni Courtyard
- » RMIT Student Life University Group Regular Weekly Program commenced – various locations on and off campus
- » GSSA – Start of the semester event @ WORD, Melbourne
- » CESA Orientation Pub Crawl – various venues Melbourne
- » Electric Racing participation in SECE Orientation event – Alumni Courtyard
- » RMIT Socialist Alternative attended the International Women's Day Protest, State Library
- » RMIT Asian Association O Week Party Studio 3, Crown Casino
- » EESA Welcome Back BBQ – The Workshop, City
- » RMIT Engineers Without Borders Welcome BBQ – Fig Tree Courtyard
- » Sri Lankan Students Association (RUSLA) Welcome BBQ – Alumni Square
- » GMAS weekly film and game nights – Building 12
- » PRepresent RMIT & Advertising Society Orientation Pub Crawl – various locations, City
- » RMIT Student Life University Group "Gal Pals Brunch" at Mocha Jo's in Glen Waverley
- » RUKA (Korean Association) Freshers Welcome Dinner – Yeonga Restaurant North Melbourne
- » ELeetric Racing and RMIT Racing on display at F1, Albert Park
- » RMIT Islamic Society – start of weekly Halaqa at RMIT sessions – Tuesdays in the Spiritual centre
- » RMIT United Society of Hellenes (RUSH) participated in the National Union of Greek Students Association (NUGAS) Victorian Boat Cruise – Central Pier, Docklands
- » RMIT International Students Association Start of Year Welcome event – John Curtain Hotel Carlton
- » RMIT Accounting Students association Industry Night – CQ Bar, Queen Street, City

- » RMIT ALP Club – participation in Local Government Forum, Brunswick Town Hall
- » RMIT Oxfam “Close the Gap” Competition
- » RMIT Multicultural Student Fellowship participates in the MSF intermural “Running Man” activity – Melbourne City
- » RMIT Bangladeshi Association World Cup Cricket Flash Mob extravaganza State Library
- » RMIT International Students Association Scavenger Hunt – starting point B80: www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRCHjD-5VBQ#t=27
- » VISAR Welcome BBQ Albert Park Lake
- » RMIT Beer Brewers & Connoisseurs Tasting Night – E: Fifty Five, Melbourne
- » RUMA – launch of RUMA website - www.ruma-rmit.com
- » VISAR “FINALE” event – Vietnamese cultural competition Building 80
- » RMIT EWB Bicycle repair sessions – in conjunction with RUSU Environment Dept– Bowen St
- » VISAR New student Induction session B10
- » VISAR Rewards events (for 2013 executive and volunteers) B8
- » Launch of RMIT Oxfam news stand at RUSU Realfoods
- » RUMA – 1000 steps hiking Kokoda Memorial Trail
- » CSIT Society Seminar – Big City Data, Building 10
- » RMIT Indonesian Association (PIA) Makrab (club development activity) – Healesville
- » RMIT Chiropractic Students Association – Beer and Pizza welcome night – Bundoora



Club Achievement In The Spotlight

RMIT Association Of Debaters Attends University World Championship!

For the first time ever, with the support of a RUSU Clubs Special Funding Grant, the RMIT Association of Debaters (RAD) was able to send two competing representatives (Calum Tyler and Amy Jack) and an adjudicator (Philip Belesky) to participate in the 2014 University Debating World Championships (The Worlds), held in Chennai, India.

Although a small team and with no prior experience of the Worlds, RMIT performed admirably, placing 123rd of 340 Universities at the 2014 Worlds. Additionally, Philip was chosen to adjudicate the finals which was a great honour and reflected his high level skills.

For full results, please go to:

- » www.docs.google.com/a/rmit.edu.au/spreadsheet/pub?key=0Ah-WvuMQdoQZdHctNzZsUDRSVEoyWnBYQWktX2hueXc&gid=18

RUSU congratulates RAD on its' brilliant performance! We look forward to assisting the club to send representatives to the 2015 University World Debating Championships to be held in Malaysia. The 2015 Malaysian Worlds are being hosted by the University Teknologi Mara in Kuala Lumpur.

- » www.malaysiaworlds2015.com/

Information To RUSU Clubs

- » Updated RUSU C&S brochure for general access
- » Updated affiliation process news on RUSU C&S section on RUSU web page
- » Updated “Guide to space booking at RMIT”
- » Further updating of Clubs Resources section on RUSU web site
- » Process and event information emails to key club contacts about Orientation, Affiliation & Grant processes

New Developments & Support To RUSU Clubs

- » Introduction of a Club Presidents Facebook page (administered by the elected C&S Officer)
- » One Clubs “All In Session” – an info sharing and meet and great forum for club executives
- » The formation of an all-encompassing RUSU C&S Handbook is now in the final stages and will hopefully be available for clubs in the second quarter of 2014
- » 40 Club members attended RUSU certified training – Responsible Service of Alcohol, Food Safety Handler and Community First Aid

The department is hoping to provide more collective social functions for all our clubs including trivia nights, great debates and an annual C&S awards night. This is all part of a move to provide more on campus opportunities for our various clubs to interact learn and socialise together.

RUSU C&S department is working to develop a program of RMIT LEAD accreditation for Club executives; to recognise the leadership skill student's develop in running successful RUSU clubs or Societies.

Student Media

Catalyst

» www.rmitcatalyst.com

In late February, Catalyst released its first issue for 2014 with a print run of 5000 copies. The magazine was distributed across the city, Brunswick and Bundoora campuses by hand in conjunction with O-Week. Positive feedback was received from staff, contributors and more importantly students themselves. In particular, people commented on the redesign of the magazine and the quality of the paper stock. A particular focus of the magazine this year has been to make a publication that feels like it belongs to an internationally recognised university of technology and include students from more than just a journalism background.

On 30 and 31 January, the editors attended the NEWS Conference run by Express Media at the Wheeler Centre. This was a two-day student media conference involving student magazines and newspapers from all over the country. On 24 February we launched issue one in conjunction with the O-Book. The event was a great way to publicise the magazine and draw interest from students.

For the first time, Catalyst has an editorial committee of more than 20 students from a range of courses and backgrounds. This is to ensure as much student participation as possible. In particular, it has meant we have been able to launch a podcast (available from www.cataclysm.podbean.com and iTunes) and have reporters come into the office to file daily news stories.

Website traffic has improved considerably this year. Between January and March there were more than 8000 unique visitors to the website. Our social media presence has also expanded, reaching more than 1000 likes on Facebook and more than 1000 followers on Twitter.

The editors are keeping track of the number of magazines we distribute to each stand around campus to monitor how many magazines are being read. In addition, we have discussed distribution techniques with student representatives at Brunswick and Bundoora to ensure that magazines are being picked up by students and not being left in the stands.



CATALYST

O'Book 2014

The O-Book is a publication designed and conceived by students and is a popular orientation tool for commencing students – it provides them with an overview of life at RMIT and life as a university/TAFE student. This year RUSU published around 8000 copies and distributed these across all RMIT campuses.

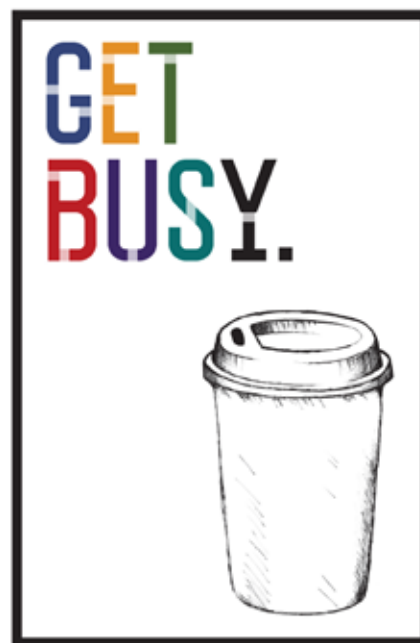
The 2014 O-Book “Get Busy” was conceived, designed and edited by an editorial team comprising of RMIT students Joshua Allen (an Associate Degree in Professional Writing and Editing), Kayzar Bhathawalla (Photography and Photoimaging) and Christopher di Pasquale – (an Associate Degree in Professional Writing and Editing and Diploma of Languages). The editors also engaged fellow RMIT students to write articles for the publication.

The O-Book was distributed to students at the various Welcome Days - Brunswick (25 February), Bundoora (26 February) and City (27 February) - by the editorial team. It was also promoted on the RUSU website and social media channels.

Print copies arrived at the three aforementioned campuses on Monday, February 17 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 speeches by all the editors.

Feedback has been positive from students and staff alike. It has provided the editorial team with invaluable experience.

‘The O-Book project provided me with invaluable experience in liaising with a team and trying to come up with a product that not only I and my team like, but one that appeals to the student body as a whole. Being able to make a contribution to student life at RMIT has been a terrific honour and I’m grateful to have been given this opportunity.’
– Chris di Pasquale



2014 RUSU ORIENTATION HANDBOOK

O'BOOK 2014

RMITV

Industry Engagement and Employment

RMIT Student Community replicates a professional media production experience which translates to member's success gaining employment in the industry. Some of last year's successful transitions include:

- » Jenny Bae - Hollywood's Avengers: Age of Ultron (2015)
- » Tim Parry - WIN
- » Jessica May - Channel 7 (Casual)
- » David Koutsouridis - Internship in America at Conan
- » Sarah O'Regan - WIN Tasmania

RMITV Alumni

Alumni of RMITV production house 1440 Productions who created a successful ABC show, Heart and Soul, inquired about recommendations for internships for Producers and Editors. RMITV members will have their work televised on the second season! Through communications with Unicorn Films a Production Assistant Internship was offered to one of our members for a feature film starring Prison Break's Dominic Purcell.

Some of our famous onscreen Alumni talent have projects underway. Tommy Little, from RMITV's Award Winning Studio A, currently hosts Nova 100 breakfast show, and hosted two Network Ten shows last year. Nazeem Hussain, from RMITV's Salam Cafe, is filming the second season of his SBS show Legally Brown. Studio A's Dave Thorton can be heard on Fox FM, and last year was host on a Channel Ten production. Peter Helliar created his own television show titled It's a Date last year, and is currently one of the core team on The Project.

New RMITV Volunteer Staff

After a highly successful year as RMITV's Programming Manager, Glenn Delaney (alumni from Bachelor of Business and Diploma of Screen & Media) has passed on the torch. He put in tireless hours with producers to create professional and successful shows airing right around Australia!

Jerilee Cardoz is the new Programming Manager at RMITV. As an alumnus of RMIT Master in Creative Media, she has worked in film and media production in India, UAE and Australia in various aspects of media production. The programming role is ideal for her to assist those new to the production process to get their film projects underway. She has always been passionate about filmmaking and has been part of various local and international projects.

Training

Through these industry collaborations, RMITV is able to provide hands on simulations in the RMIT Television Studio, which members use to enhance their employability, professional networks, and be inspired by television network tours.

RMITV was fortunate to collaborate with television personality John "Come on Down!" Deeks and visit the Broadcast Centre Melbourne (BCM). John provided RMITV members with a behind the scenes insight into broadcast production at Channel Seven. Members were lucky enough to go inside the newsroom and sit at the Today Tonight presenter's desk!

Music production filming is an integral part of the Australian media industry. Members were first inspired by the Australian Centre for Moving Images (ACMI) exhibition Spectacle focused on Music videos and recordings. This inspiration was taken to the iconic The Esplanade, home of the SBS rock'n'roll television show Rockwiz, where members filmed live music performances.

RMITV ensures members are trained in global media production equipment, thus a workshop covering the XT Nano, XT access and the EVS system was held. Lighting is essential to raise the aesthetic and overall quality on any film and television production, members learnt from an employee from ABC and live events Federation Square.

The organisation wide passion for industry standard training will ensure members are given expert hands on advice and experience to transition into the industry. With the support of SSAF and RUSU the training provided remains a high standard.

Archival Footage

RMITV has produced an incredible amount of content per year through contributions of thousands of students. Decades of archive footage documenting the attention bought to students was perishing, preserving this work was an ambitious goal. However, recently, RMITV established an ongoing relationship with the National Film and Sound Archives (NFSA)!

Technical Updates

RMITV understands that equipment close to industry standards keeps members ready for industry employment. A significant effort has been made to acquire industry standard cameras, along with a range of lenses, portable lighting, a wide variety of microphones, recording equipment, and industry standard postproduction software.

Productions

Flagship Production - Live on Bowen:

RMITV's flagship production Live on Bowen is currently in early pre-production for a fourth highly-anticipated season with support of SSAF funding.

In Pit Lane:

With respectable guests like the CEO of the Australian Grand Prix Corporation, In Pit Lane is Australia's longest running prime-time motorsport journalism series! This show provides the opportunity to gain live-to-air television experience, which is highly regarded in the industry. The production innovatively screened live to YouTube. Live television experience opens students employability in sports coverage, reality television, event production, and journalism.

Tough Times Never Last:

Tough Times Never Last is decidedly a strong training production for students learning from ABC employees. Over the eleven seasons, members involved have been fully versed in training for roles from camera, directing, lighting, audio, and producing. This production creates industry all-rounders ready to join the film and television world.

31 Questions:

Attracting industry attention, this quiz-tacular show gained industry professionals such as Joe Murry (The Late Show, D Generation, The Big Gig) and Hugh Johnson (The D Generation, DAAS Kapital, The Gillies Report, and The Big Gig) to mentor members. Following the wide national cult following of past seasons, the Third Season will be a huge hit with audiences with production well underway.

Promotional Video

RMITV invited industry practitioners to talk about what RMITV means to them, and filmed their views of the organisation. Employees of Network Ten, 360 Degree Films, and YouTube – all RMITV alumni – proudly talked about their RMITV experiences. An internationally recognised comedy media producer spoke about the employability of RMITV members. The Chairperson of the Australian Film Institute (AFI) spoke highly about the passion, and professionalism of RMITV members.



Social Media & Publications

- » Facebook – 8,885 Facebook likes
- » Twitter - 1,632 followers.

Our Facebook presence continues to grow stronger, and serves as our number one social media engagement tool. Facebook serves as a platform for event advertising for both RUSU events and for Clubs and Societies, and allows students to interact with RUSU via wall posts, photo tagging and to RSVP to events (giving RUSU an idea of numbers beforehand). Post-event photo galleries also continue to be a major drawcard for students on the Facebook platform.

Twitter

RUSU currently has around 1,600 followers on Twitter, and the platform remains a strong force for continued engagement with students. Twitter also allows us to provide real time responses to questions and concerns, as well as timely promotion of news, events and offers. Twitter acts as our most immediate tool for interacting with the Student population. Events such as Chill'n'Grill, Welcome Bash 2014 and Re-O Week were popular topics on the social media platform.

Website

RUSU's site continues to be a great platform for delivering news, updates and information about RUSU events and activities.

Newsletter

RUSU's newsletter continues to be popular, with over 1,600 subscribers to date. Subscribers are provided with the latest news and information on upcoming events and activities. So far there have been two issues in 2014.

Promotional Materials

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

Welcome Bash/Welcome Splash

This great double-event kicked off the year with a fantastic evening party in Alumni Courtyard, followed by a recovery pool party the following day at Brunswick Baths. The marketing materials for these events were designed to work harmoniously together, and had a high-summer, chilled and retro vibe.

Pop-Up Pub

The Carlton Pop-Up Pub event has taken place twice so far this year, and always provides an exciting time for Carlton students. Marketing materials were designed so that each event throughout the year will be represented by a different coloured version of the same poster.

Orientation Camp

The Orientation Camp was a huge hit with students and sold out rapidly. The event launch was simultaneous across all platforms.

Re-O Week

Again this year, Re-O Week was centred around three events – a street party, cross-campus roadshow and a night party. Each event had its own different marketing materials that contrasted and complemented each other in equal measure.

Representation and Advocacy

Compass

- » There were 71 student drop-ins at Compass between January and March. Themes of mental health finance and relationships remain strong.
- » Planning commenced for projects and programs to be run this year including Stress Less Weeks in both semesters and a personal safety campaign which will include free self-defence classes for students.
- » Compass Project Officer attended the orientation activities for first year Social Work, Youth Work and Psychology students to recruit new volunteers.
- » The first day of the two day Youth Mental Health First Aid course was provided to 20 new Compass volunteers. These volunteers will begin in semester two. This course is an internationally accredited certificate which is provided to Compass volunteers free of charge
- » Existing Compass volunteers came back with a bang and are staffing the Compass drop in space 18 hours per week.
- » Yoga started up again with 2 free classes being run every week to keep students calm, cool and collected throughout semester.
- » Together with the International department and the Campaigns and Collectives Officer, Compass is assisting to run the RUSU English Language Workshops. This semester Compass volunteers have the option to work in these classes not only to support the learning within the class but also to assist with any welfare issues that may arise and to encourage discussion around common concerns that International students can face. These volunteers received specific training around their new role.
- » Cross Cultural Communication training was provided by the Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) to 20 Compass volunteers. Participants in this training learned about working with international students using a cultural competency framework, strategies to engage young international students within a university context, knowledge of key aspects of the settlement experiences of young people from refugee and migrant (including international students) backgrounds and to apply culturally inclusive strategies to support engagement. The training received very positive feedback from the students who attended.

Representation

Student Voice

RUSU's 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
- » Vocational Education and Training Committee
- » Student Experience Advisory Committee
- » DSC College Board
- » SEH College Board
- » Bundoora Campus Advisory Committee
- » SSAF Steering Committee
- » RMIT Sustainability Committee
- » Orientation & Transition Steering Group
- » Student Staff Consultative Committees (SSCC's)

Appeal Committees Reps

RUSU has supported students on the following RMIT hearings;

- » 4 student representatives on 6 CAC hearings
- » 3 student representatives on 6 UAC hearings
- » 6 student representatives on 9 Discipline Board 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, and the Student Life Group and Student Rights Group Monthly Meetings
- » Elected Student councillors supported to act work as governors and managers.

Conferences

The National Union of Students hosted the annual President's Summit at Sydney University. President, James Michelmore, and General Secretary, Ariel Zohar, attended and met with their counterparts from around Australia to share knowledge and build ideas to improve student organisations.

O'Talks

RUSU Delivered Induction talks for over 15 cohort groups, providing information on RUSU, campus life and student rights. Some O'talks included the RUSU Rap.



Student Rights

Assessment policy review

RUSU Student Rights and Campaigns representatives met with the ARG on February 12 this quarter to discuss the upcoming review of the newly implemented Assessment policy suite. RUSU intends to raise several issues about the policies and where our concerns raised during consultation have since proved to be an issue over the first 12 months of the policies being implemented. The new policy around twice deferred assessments is particularly impacting negatively on students.

Special Consideration Post Implementation Review

The university's post-implementation review of its altered special consideration regime took place this quarter, the Student Rights Department used the opportunity to put forward the cases of students with extremely distressing personal circumstances who were denied opportunities to sit exams due to not meeting the stricter eligibility criteria. This included students with young children in hospital, close family members who passed away recently, and severe physical and psychological illness. Often students were experiencing a combination of these and other circumstances but were still deemed ineligible for special consideration.

New RUSU Student Rights Database & Case Management System

The new Student Rights Database went live on 3 January 2014 and Student Rights Officers received training on how to use the new system. This system will enable us to better manage RUSU digital case files and records. The change to a new system of case file management and adjusting to the inputs required on this system has also resulted in some changes to how the case statistical data is reported in the tables below. The transition to the new system and inputs required has resulted in problem type data being lower than in previous reports. This is not a reflection of reduced cases, problems or staff workloads. RUSU is currently looking at the capabilities of the system post implementation and determining how we can maximise the reporting functions for the future.

STUDENT RIGHTS CASES:

1 JANUARY–31 MARCH 2014

Problems created during the last quarter	Number
Discipline (University Level)	
Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism)	2
General Misconduct	2
Discipline (School Level)	
Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism)	3
General Misconduct	1
Complaint	
Ombudsman Victoria	2
RMIT Ombudsman	6
School Level	13
University Level	10
Uncategorised	
Admin Issue	15
Admission Issue	4
Appeal Against Assessment	15
Assessment Issues (other)	6
At Risk	8
Bullying	1
Disability	27
Enrolment Issue	8
Equitable Assessment Arrangements (EAA)	3
Exclusion	42
Fees Issue	15
Leave of Absence (LOA)	3
Mental Health Issue	22
Other issues	10
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	3
Remission of Debt	3
Show Cause	12
Special Consideration	16
Supplementary Exam Request (Pass by Compensation)	2
TOTAL	254

STUDENT RIGHTS CASES: 1 JANUARY–31 MARCH 2014

Problems outcomes during the last quarter	Number
Appeal Against Exclusion University Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	4
Appeal Upheld	5
Exclusion Withdrawn by School Before Hearing	11
Exclusion Withdrawn by Student	2
Fee Remission	
Fee Remission Approved	1
Fee Remission Not Approved	2
Supplementary Exam	
Supplementary Exam Granted	1
Supplementary Exam Not Granted	2
Special Consideration Granted	
Alternative Assessment	1
Deferred Exam	3
Extension of Time	4
Future Assessment Arrangement	1
Late Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty	2
Leave of Absence (LOA)	
LOA Granted	1
LOA Not Granted	1
Referral – External	3
Appeal Against Special Consideration University Appeal Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	1
Appeal Upheld	2
Special Consideration Granted Without a Hearing	2
Show Cause Outcome	
Show Cause Approved by SPC	6
Show Cause Rejected by SPC	4
Complaint Outcome	
Alternative Resolution Reached	1
RMIT Ombudsman Complaint Dismissed	1
School Level Complaint Dismissed	2
School Level Complaint Resolved	4
University Level Complaint Dismissed	1
University Level Complaint Resolved	1
Victoria Ombudsman Complaint Dismissed	1
Discipline Board Hearing Academic Misconduct	
Case Dismissed in Favour of Student	1
Fail Recorded in an Assessment Session	1
Other Penalty	2
Student Reprimanded	3
Student Asked to Repeat Assessment Session	4
Late Enrolment Outcome	
Late Enrolment Achieved	1
Late Enrolment Not Achieved	1

Problems outcomes during the last quarter	Number
Referral Internal	
Compass	6
Counselling Service	10
Disability Liaison Unit	6
Housing Services	1
International Student Services	3
Legal Service	2
Student Wellbeing	3
Study and Learning Centre	5
Appeal Against Assessment (AAA) College Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	2
Appeal Upheld	4
Informal Review of Assessment Resolution	3
Contacted School Issue Resolved	
Contacted Academic Administrator	2
Contacted Course Coordinator	2
Contacted Head of School	2
Contacted Lecturer/Tutor	1
Contacted Program Manager	1
Other	
Advice Given – Student Able to Proceed With Case Themselves	4
Other Outcomes	20
Student Doesn't Want to Pursue the Case	3
Discipline Board Hearing General Misconduct	
Case Dismissed in Favour of Student	1
Appeal Against Assessment CAC Decision University Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	2
Appeal Upheld	2
Fees Issue Outcome	
Issue Not Resolved	1
Issue Resolved	7
Payment Plan Provided	3
Discipline/Plagiarism Meeting Case School Level	
Fine Imposed on Student	1
Other Penalty	1
Student Asked to Resubmit the Assessment	2
Student Reprimanded	3
Student Given a Fail For All or Any Part of any Assessment	2
Email Advice Given	35
Phone Advice Given	42
TOTAL	265
Student Cases Opened During Last Quarter	139
Student Cases Closed During Last Quarter	120

RUSU Governance, Administration and Services

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

- » RUSU 2014 Funding Agreement negotiated and signed.
- » Meetings and site visits with RMIT regarding the numerous aspects of the NAS project including impact on students, RUSU offices, RMITV and Realfoods Café.
- » Discussions with RMIT in relation to the A'beckett Urban Square Urban Garden.
- » Round 2 of the RUSU IT upgrade was completed. All RUSU Staff and reps now have better IT resources at their disposal.
- » OH&S Committee meetings, training of student representatives and ongoing OH&S compliance requirements.
- » Audit of 2013 finances underway.

Finance Overview

RUSU SSAF Funding 2014

RUSU Funding from RMIT for 2014 is made up of the following:

- » \$2,085,007 (Base grant) and
- » \$424,000 (SSAF Committee Grants)
- » 2014 TOTAL GRANT - \$2,509,007
- » 2014 GRANT RECEIVED TO DATE - \$627,252

The formal RUSU/ RMIT Funding Grant Deed was signed this quarter.

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

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

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

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

TABLE 1: RUSU SSAF Grant expenditure on Allowable Items 1 January – 31 March 2014

Allowable Item	Item Description	YTD Expenditure (SSAF Funded)
Giving students information to help them in their orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation specific events • Re-Orientation Events 	\$24,602
Caring for children of students	Nil	\$0
Providing legal services to students	Nil	\$0
Promoting the health or welfare of students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All activities and events from advocacy and welfare collectives: Queer, Womyn's, Post-Graduate, Environment, Welfare, Education • Campaigns, events, honorariums, programs, marketing • All Compass Centre, programs and staff • Healthy Eating SSAF Grant 	\$44,861
Helping students secure accommodation	Nil	\$0
Helping students with their financial affairs	Nil	\$0
Helping meet the specific needs of overseas students relating to their welfare, accommodation and employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All activities and events from International student department and International Support SSAF Grant 	\$8,126
Helping students obtain employment or advice on careers	Nil	\$0
Helping students obtain insurance against personal accidents	Nil	\$0
Helping students develop skills for study, by means other than undertaking courses of study in which they are enrolled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction programs/Student Representative Professional Development • Volunteer Program + program staffing • Student Engagement Officer • Student Union Council Elections • Secretariat Honorariums • All of SUC campaigns 	\$63,175
Providing libraries and reading rooms (other than those provided for academic purposes) for students	Nil	\$0
Supporting the production and dissemination to students of media whose content is provided by students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMITV operations, honorariums, special projects, productions, training, website • RMIT Flagship Program • Catalyst magazine operations, student honorariums, publication (online and print) • Communications/Graphic Designer Staff 	\$29,772

TABLE 1: RUSU SSAF Grant expenditure on Allowable Items 1 January – 31 December 2013 (cont.)

Allowable Item	Item Description	YTD Expenditure (SSAF Funded)
Providing food or drink to students on a campus of the higher education provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campus specific events and marketing (all campuses) • RUSU Realfoods 	\$24,945
Supporting a sporting or other recreational activity by students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major events and intervarsity recreational activities and competitions • Activities and Events Collective including administration, student honorariums, marketing and staff support 	\$63,032
Supporting an artistic activity by students	–	\$0
Supporting debating by students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants paid to debating club are included with clubs reporting. 	\$0
Supporting the administration of a club most of whose members are students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration, grants, equipment and support to student run clubs and societies • Clubs and Societies Staff and other support 	\$41,881
Advising on matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration and Support staff members: Administration, Governance and Finance • 5 x Information counter staff and operations (including Bundoora East and SSAF Project) 	\$219,112
Advocating students' interests in matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Rights Officers • Student Advocacy materials, campaigns, research and training for staff and student representatives on committees 	\$120,498
	YTD SSAF Expenditure	\$640,004
	YTD SSAF Grants Received	\$627,252

TABLE 2: 2013 SSAF Committee Grant Reports 1 January – 31 March 2014

Program Title	Grant Amount	Expenditure Jan–March	Comments
RUSU Volunteer Program	\$149,000	\$24,669	Expenditure on target for project.
Compass – funding a welfare information and referral drop-in space	\$105,000	\$21,182	Expenditure on target for project.
RUSU Flagship Production (Live On Bowen) and RMITV training program	\$35,000	\$0	Expenditure on target for project. Current expenditure related to training sessions as production is yet to commence. Production period and further core trainings will utilise remaining expenditure.
RUSU International Student Support – conversation classes and city tours	\$25,000	\$6,212	Expenditure on target for project.
RUSU Bundoora East rejuvenation – phase 2	\$30,000	\$29,675	Expenditure on target for project. RMIT agreed to roll over the \$47,633 remaining from the 2013 grant due to delays in the building works occurring from RMIT's end.
RUSU Re-Orientation Week 2014	\$40,000	\$24,602	Expenditure on target for project.
RUSU Healthy Eating program, including sustainability awareness	\$40,000	\$3,800	Expenditure on target for project. Demand for program currently exceeds our budget for breakfasts.
TOTAL	\$424,000	\$110,140	