



SECOND QUARTER REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD
01/04/2014-30/06/2014

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RUTSU
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION



President's Report



**James
Michelmore**

RUSU continues to thrive, with all our departments and services running efficiently and to plan. With the academic year in full swing, this busy second quarter was characterised by engaging activities and events.

Across April, May and June the Student Union ran a variety of large-scale on-campus events including DJ competitions, cooking demonstrations, language workshops, and self-defence

classes just to name a few. RUSU has been making an active effort this year to hold more events on campus by making use of our facilities such as the cafeteria spaces, the Queer and Womyn's Lounges, and the Student Meeting Room in building 8. All these are in addition to our regular events such as free weekly lunches, breakfasts and collective meetings.

All our weekly and major events were made possible by over a thousand hours of assistance provided by over one hundred of our trained, dedicated student volunteers. Five of our more experienced volunteers also took on leadership roles in helping organise and deliver our successful new Orientation Camp, attended by fifty first-year RMIT students.

Over eighty affiliated student clubs also delivered dozens of regular and special events both on and off campus. Our student clubs continue to be one of the most popular extra-curricular involvements at RMIT, with many enjoying membership numbers in the hundreds. RUSU supports its student clubs through specialised training, resources and funding, and this quarter saw affiliated student clubs receive almost \$30,000 in grants to assist their operation and activities.

Our education and welfare departments also took on an engaging and active approach to advocacy this quarter. While RUSU assisted hundreds of students with student rights cases and counselling referrals, we also hosted events including free breakfasts and film screenings to engage and discuss current issues and campaigns with students. This approach has proven rewarding, with many students getting involved in collective activities and planning for second semester.

With semester two done and dusted, this year is looking to be one of great success and growth for RUSU. To keep in the loop with all our activities and offers, become a member and follow us on social media.

James Michelmore
President
RMIT University Student Union



Activities and Events

Standout Events

'Revenge of the Nerds: Save Your GPA Day' Party

May 2nd @ Geddes Lounge, King St Melbourne.

In order to mark the end of Education/Welfare Week, the Activities Department was asked by the aforementioned departments to assist with putting on a party. Attendance was around 400.

National Campus DJ Competition – RMIT Heats

May 8th, RMIT City Campus

In May, RUSU participated in the AACA National Campus DJ Competition. The regional campus heat of the DJ competition was held on RMIT City campus, alongside the regular lunchtime event. DJ KonRean won the heat, and progressed through to the state final.

Brunswick/TAFE End of Semester Drinks

May 22nd, Retreat Hotel, Sydney Road Brunswick.

One of the priorities for the Activities Department this year is expanding our event offerings for our suburban campuses. This event was a combined Brunswick Campus/TAFE student event, and was a great success, with around 70 students in attendance.

RMIT End of Exams Party - Cops and Robbers

June 26th, Platform One, Flinders St Melbourne

The bi-annual End of Exam party was held on the Thursday of the final week of exams for Semester One. Attendance was around 600.

Regular Events

Chill n' Grill – Market Days

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



RUSU Membership

- » 245 students became RUSU financial members this quarter, bringing the total paid membership to 2896.
- » 20 double passes to watch the new hit movie '22 Jump St' were given away in a special RUSU members promotion this quarter.

Volunteers

The second quarter of 2014 has been a busy one, with RUSU volunteers racking up nearly 1400 hours of volunteer work!

RUSU's "purple people" continued helping out at all of RUSU's major events, 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, lending an attentive ear at Compass and even leading RUSU's inaugural Orientation Camp!

Additional Responsible Service of Alcohol, Food Handler Level 1 and Community First Aid training were also held during this quarter, adding to the number of volunteers trained in these areas.

As a thank-you to our volunteers for their hard work throughout semester, RUSU treated volunteers from across all RUSU departments to bowling, pizza, pool and karaoke at RUSU's End of Semester Volunteer Party on May 29 at Strike Bowling QV.

RUSU Volunteers Professional Development

Second Quarter 2014

Recruitment	Apr-Jun	Year to date
Number of students registering their interest to volunteer during second quarter	78	231
Training	Completions	
Volunteers inducted	-	131
Volunteers trained in Food Handling Level 1	8	71
Volunteers trained in RSA	22	71
Volunteers trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid	-	20
Realfoods Cafe onsite kitchen & operations training	-	49
Volunteers trained in Community First Aid	20	20

1400 Volunteer Hours Worked this Quarter

At the end of the second quarter, RUSU volunteers had contributed nearly 2000 working hours to RUSU services thus far this year.

Orientation Camp

RUSU's inaugural Orientation Camp took place in PGL Campaspe Downs in Kyneton from Friday April 11 to Sunday April 13. The camp was 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. Everyone had a ball!

Across the Campuses

City

The RUSU information Counter in Building 8 remains an important 'go to' information and contact point for all RMIT students and visitors. June and July were peak times for student rights queries and drop-ins. Our 6 Front Counter casuals and 11 student volunteers continued to staff the office, alongside the Student Liaison Officer, during peak times of the semester.

Thursdays @ Chill 'N' Grill

Chill and Grill is RUSU's biggest weekly event during semester. Eight 'Chill N Grill' events were held this quarter, with us feeding over 10,000 students free lunch. Student DJ's and bands performed weekly to their fellow students, including 2 weeks of entertainment from the RMIT music industry students. This was part of an assessment to book, coordinate, sound engineer a music event. These both went very well. RUSU members were entitled to some free Brunswick bitter beer or apple head cider to help wash the snags and veggie burgers down as well as free bottles of water.

RUSU purchased 3 new, white branded marquees for shelter at Chill 'n' Grill. RUSU clubs started to book tables and clubs marquee at Chill 'n' Grill in semester 1 so they can regularly promote their own activities. This was very successful and will continue in semester 2.



Bundoora

Starving Students Day: Every Wednesday

Weekly Barbecues

Every Wednesday, RUSU staff, student representatives and volunteers cook a free BBQ for students. This has developed into a very popular event, and provides a great avenue through which RUSU connects with the student population.

Approximately 400 students attend this event each week, with RUSU cooking 20kg of sausages, 100 veggie burgers, onions, bread, salad and sauce.

Free Soup!

Towards the end of semester, we switched to providing free soup with bread. On a cold Autumn day, this is hugely popular with the students, as this quote from one satisfied customer indicates:

"That soup was the best I have ever had in my life! I was texting all my friends saying, 'Where are you? You have to try this soup!'"

Building 204 Coffee break

It is estimated that roughly 100-150 students use the RUSU free coffee break service on a daily basis.

'Free Breakfast'

RUSU provides a free breakfast at Bundoora West, and Bundoora East, with whole fruit, fruit salad, toast, toasted sandwiches, muesli, tea and coffee, bagels, muffins and banana bread provided each week. At Bundoora West, 100 students are catered for per event, with many returning each week. Bundoora East is smaller, due to the smaller population of students, however is very well received.

This event is particularly popular - students actually rely on this event for a proper breakfast on Monday mornings. The range of food on offer is certainly appreciated, as is the opportunity to catch up with their classmates over a cup of coffee and some healthy food. At peak times (between 9:15-9:30am), 45 people have been counted around the breakfast table, which indicates the popularity of the event, and the importance of the event as a facilitator of social activity on campus.

Art Exhibitions - School of Education

Two art exhibitions were held in Building 204, facilitated by the Bundoora Student Liaison Officer. Each event attracted 60 students, and artwork was displayed in Building 204 for two weeks after the events.

Bundoora Queer Collective

A Bundoora Queer Collective has been established, with 10 students meeting each week for lunch (6 weeks in total). A convenor of the Queer Lounge in Building 204 has been appointed, and the Bundoora Student Liaison Officer works collaboratively with them to help organise events and resources.

BBQ Fundraisers

The Bundoora Student Liaison Officer helped two student groups (including one RUSU club) organise and run BBQs on campus, which catered for 400 students in total. These BBQs helped the students to raise funds for donations and also to fund student participation in conferences.

Collaboration with Masters of Psychology Students

For two weeks, a group of students from the Masters of Psychology program at RMIT ran a body image awareness raising activity in conjunction with RUSU events. These students spoke to approximately 240 RMIT students, who each filled in a card listing three things they liked about their bodies. This collaboration was facilitated by the Bundoora Student Liaison Officer.

Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) Collaboration

Twice in this quarter, approximately 70 students, staff and high schools students from the AIME program came to Building 204 for a lunch time activity. The high school students loved the space and came away with a great impression of RMIT. This collaboration was facilitated by the Bundoora Student Liaison Officer.

Nursing Student Seminar

The Bundoora Student Liaison Officer helped organise a seminar for 30 Nursing students, which was focused on career pathways.

Education Graduate Students Get-Together in 2014

100 recently graduated education students met in Building 204 for an afternoon tea, to discuss their progress since completing the Bachelor of Education program in 2013.

Brunswick

Free Lunch Event

The weekly free lunch event on Tuesday still goes down a treat at Brunswick, serving around 400 students each week. The weekly BBQ was replaced with delicious soup as the weather became cooler. Some students have been making their way into the campus on Tuesdays purely for the soup lunches.

Brunswick Breakfasts

The healthy breakfast options available for Brunswick students have been extremely well received this quarter. Students have taken to the cups of fruit salad, muesli and juice extremely well.

Carlton

The free breakfast line at Carlton is getting longer and longer each week as students have begun to anticipate when the brunches will be held. The breakfast items, which consist of muffins and fruit, have been snapped up generally within 10–15 minutes of being set up.



FREE HEALTHY BREAKFAST
START THE DAY THE RIGHT WAY
EVERY WEEK OF SEMESTER
 ❤️ **RUSU**

CITY CAMPUS	WEDNESDAY 9AM, BLDG 8, LVL 3
BRUNSWICK	WEDNESDAY 9.30AM, BLDG 514
CARLTON	TUESDAY 11AM, BLDG 57 COURTYARD
BUNDOORA WEST	MONDAY 8AM, BLDG 204
BUNDOORA EAST	TUESDAY 9.30AM, BLDG 254 (STUDENT LOUNGE)

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 RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION



RUSU Departments

Environment

Greening RMIT fortnightly committee meetings

The RUSU Environment department's partnership with Greening RMIT continues to flourish. This quarter the committee has continued with the City campus balcony garden project including a Planting Day, a competition to involve new students and a project with the RMIT Store.

Worm Farm Set up

Hungry Bins, a local company, installed a worm farm on wheels in the Level 10 Balcony Garden Space and gave a presentation to the Collective. This will enable campus food waste to be efficiently transformed into compost and 'worm tea' for the fertility of the balcony garden.

Planting Day

Following from the very successful 'Remediation Day' event to prepare the City campus balcony garden space in March, over 40 students attended the Planting Day, where the winner of the Garden Competition was announced. Students worked hard to sow seeds and seedlings in the prepared raised beds, which will be suitable to the location and should thrive over winter with little water or maintenance.

RMIT Store Collaboration

The Department has been liaising with the RMIT Store to install a temporary garden space to help with their look and promotion of the space, and will explore running a terrarium making in-store event in conjunction with Greening RMIT early in Semester 2

Greening RMIT Garden Competition April

In order to promote the Collective and inspire budding RMIT growers, students were given the opportunity to win \$250 to create their dream garden. Entrants submitted plans, pictures, video or other media regarding their garden idea for the chance to win. Congratulations to winner Amanda Thompson!

"My partner, our cat and I live in a tiny third floor one bedroom apartment, which unfortunately didn't come with the added luxury of any kind of outdoor area, such as a balcony or common courtyard. However, it did come with a giant concrete car park. So, due to our lack of interest in motoring, we were able to start turning our vacant car space into a small-scale crate vegetable garden." Amanda Thompson

Fair Trade Fortnight

The Environment Department was excited to be a part of this event. On May 14 our Realfoods Café catered for a soccer game and presentation about child labour in the sports equipment industry at the Alumni Courtyard.



RUSU Realfoods

"It's so good to see this sort of thing for uni students." Patty Mark, Founder of Animal Liberation Victoria

Realfoods was open 11am - 4pm, Monday to Friday during semester. Daily retail operations continued, overseen by our Realfoods Café Co-ordinator and supported by a team of over 50 trained volunteers. Realfoods is also pleased to be providing some student casual employment opportunities for some RMIT students in a convenient on-campus location.

An external chef contractor, who is an RMIT student, also assisted with the provision of supplementary food preparation for the café's menu.

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 am writing to ask if you could provide a reference for me. I used to work as a volunteer at Realfoods for the past 3 semesters. Volunteering in Realfoods basically taught me how to manage a small business. [Your] reference will be used to enhance my application." RMIT Student

"Hi Lucy, I am so happy, I just found a job at Nandos. Just to let you know the experience I got at realfoods cafe under your supervision played a great role in finding a job, as it looks really good on my resume, I also added you as my referee! Thanks a lot." RMIT Student

The café has continued to grow our customer base. The consistent quality and diversity of our food offerings, aided by the selection of high-standard suppliers and the involvement of our on-site expert cook has ensured our customers return regularly. Our busiest trading days are still Burger Tuesday and Falafel Friday.

Real Fit Food Demo

The 'Real Fit Food' cooking and nutrition event was held on the evening of Tuesday April 8 at Realfoods. This was the third time Realfoods has run an event with a fitness and food theme as it's proven to be a very popular topic! Our eight presenter chefs and athletes showcased healthy, energising recipes, alongside training and motivation tips, tales of inspirational transformations and accomplishments. Despite being a rainy cold night, it was one of our most well-attended events yet, with over 150 people cramming into the foodcourt. There were plenty of door prizes, delicious organic catering, and a recipe book available to attendees. Featured on: empowerwellnessblog.wordpress.com/vegan-eateries/

This was a really collaborative event, with support also provided from the RUSU Activities Department, RMITV, RMIT City Fitness, and numerous Realfoods suppliers and charities. About twenty RUSU RMIT student volunteers and five RMITV student volunteers helped make the event a success.

"What a great evening presenting with such inspired individuals with a strong message. A receptive crowd to match!"

RUSU Queer

Weekly Events in the Queer Lounge

- » Monday- Gaymers Night, cards and consoles
- » Tuesday- Movie Night, snacks provided
- » Wednesday- Workshops
- » Thursday- Whine and Wine,
- » Friday- Freestyle, the room is bookable by Collective members who would like to run an event, workshop or discussion

Weekly Event Highlights

There have been some wonderful Workshops this quarter including an Art Therapy workshop run by Sarah Brett, Maximising Anal Pleasure, an informative and thought-provoking workshop for all students (not just gay men) run by Queer Officer Brenton Spink, Making Safe Sex Sexy workshop run by Louise Bouchier, an excursion to a queer and trans friendly sex shop which has become an annual tradition, and a visit from Carl Katter about the power of student politics.

Positive Speakers Event

Speakers from Living Positive Victoria gave a powerful and personal insight into living with HIV in the Green Brain conference venue on campus. Collective members were also invited to take part in a discussion which focused on the reality of HIV in 2014, demystifying sex and consent with positive partners, treatment strategies, experiences of stigma and discrimination. Thanks to the speakers for sharing their stories so candidly. This event was part of the Department's IDAHOT week events and campaigns.

Mid Semester Party

Following the afternoon Positive Speakers event, the Collective organised a party in the Queer Lounge which the speakers were invited to attend.

Same Sex Parenting Seminar

The Queer Officer attended an information session on legal aspects of same sex parenting, including trans* parenting, and has compiled resources for the collective, as well as contacts for community legal services.

Bundoora Conveners

The Department is investigating the procedure for recruiting a volunteer queer convener at Bundoora for Semester 2 and liaising with LEAD through the Student Engagement Officer.

End of Exams Party 27 June

The Collective celebrated the end of exams with 'Queer-aoke' at Charlton's. Attendance was much higher than planned with 100 + guests singing everything from Brittany to Bananarama!

International AIDS Conference

Queer Department Collective members have been signing up as volunteers for the conference to be held this year in Melbourne

Queer Collaborations

Collective members are required to submit 50 words to gain a subsidised place as interest in this conference exceeds the number of places available this year!



REAL FIT FOODS DEMO



ART THERAPY



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

RUSU Queer Department presents...

POSITIVE SPEAKERS

Personal narratives on the human face of HIV

RUSU International

RUSU Free English Workshops

The 6 week program finished on 30 April. The classes were as popular as ever. Following the end of the program RUSU held a feedback session with the program facilitator and the program volunteers. This was very helpful in making necessary adjustments for the Semester 2 offering, especially in regards to involving the Compass volunteers, which was trialled this round.

RUSU English Workshops end of program party 30 April

The International Department held an end of program party for all the class groups at Strike Melbourne Central. Everyone had a great time bowling and sharing dinner, including the program facilitator and volunteers. It was wonderful for students in the different class groups to meet each other, and there was talk of organising a trip to the movies as a group, so that new friends would not lose contact.

International Collective Event- 14 May

The International Officer organised a free lunch event in the SAB for the Collective. Over lunch, the Collective watched trailers for upcoming movies and made plans to see the films in smaller groups, using the free tickets RUSU provided. We have found that this is a more effective way of offering these after-hours social events, now that students are becoming increasingly time poor, rather than aiming for a whole group outing.

Visit from SIM Student Representatives

Student reps from RMIT Singapore Institute of Management visited RMIT Student Union at the end of April. The International Officer met with the International Secretary and President and showed them around the RMIT city campus. This was a great opportunity for skills sharing and the International Secretary provided a lot of fresh ideas about how to manage the international department and how to bring international students together.




RUSU Postgraduate

The postgraduate department has focused mainly on outreach, advocacy and representation this quarter. The HDR student rights officer has been assisting a number of new HDR cases as well as continuing to support research students with complex, ongoing issues. The elected Postgraduate Officer has also worked individually with students and provided immediate advice and referrals to postgraduate students at RMIT.

The elected Postgraduate Officer also arranged a visit from the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA) President, Meghan Hooper, to meet students participating in a cooking class. Work also continues on arranging a large, cross-institutional, social event for postgraduate students in semester two.



FREE SELF-DEFENCE CLASSES



Come on down and learn how to protect yourself with a FREE self-defence class brought to you by Compass at RUSU.

Wednesday 14th May, 4pm–7pm – WOMYN ONLY
Monday 12th May, 4pm–7pm – MEN ONLY

City Campus, Building 8, level 3, room 18 (opposite the Gym).
E-mail sally.christiansen@rmit.edu.au to register your attendance. Limited spaces available.

RUSU EDUCATION WEEK

28 APRIL – 2 MAY

RUSU Womyn's

Womyn's Self Defence 14 May

The Womyn's Department, in conjunction with Compass, offered a free workshop on campus facilitated by professional trainers. As part of the awareness-raising around this event, RUSU distributed free key ring flash-lights (used in the defence techniques) and information on the new RMIT Safezone app. Over 15 womyn attended and gained vital skills to help them in threatening situations. Based on the response to this event, RUSU will aim to hold more on campus workshops, as they have proved more popular than previous off campus sessions.

Meeting with NUS Womyns Officer

The RUSU Womyn's Officer is planning a campaign- 'My Body My Choice' with the national Womyn's Officer. This pro-choice campaign will be similar to those run by Amnesty International recently with a focus on Australian and Victorian legislation and rights.

Regular Collective Meetings

The April collective meeting was great and informative, with Collective members who used to study at Brunswick speaking at length about the issues faced by women in classes dominated by men, and how to encourage women to apply, and then stay, in these courses.

The Bundoora East Womyn's Lounge

After a long negotiation process with the University the BE lounge has been approved for use. This is fantastic news for the Department and a really positive step, winning back autonomous space after such a long period of losing space on campus. We are looking forward to setting up the space ready for students and we hope to recruit a volunteer convener for Bundoora in Semester 2.

Upcoming NOWSA conference

The Womyn's Officer has called for expressions of interest from Collective members to attend the Network of Womyn Students Australia annual conference, which is in Perth for 2014. The high cost of flights to Perth means that RUSU will be able to subsidise less places to the conference than in other years which is unfortunate and therefore selection for subsidised places will be more competitive.



RUSU Welfare and Education

Rally against Cuts and Deregulation – 21 May

The RUSU Welfare and Education Department was represented at the NUS rally, starting at the State Library and marching to Parliament. There were some fantastic speakers at this rally and it was great to see the student body out in force to protest the federal Government budget announcement and the dire implications for Higher Education.

Bust the Budget Breakfast – 12 June

Prior to the Bust the Budget rally at 10 30 am, the Welfare and Education Department provided a free breakfast BBQ to students to fortify them before the march from Trades Hall. The turnout at these protests has been impressive and clearly demonstrates the general public outrage at the budget. This event was funded by non-SSAF revenue.

Education Week 28 April – 2 May

Across all campuses the Department was out in force at the RUSU BBQ's, promoting student rights information, and rally support for the Recorded Lectures Campaign which aims to have RMIT commit to a policy of making all lectures available online to combat issues of students becoming increasingly time poor, the need for additional support to students struggling with English and recognising that students learn in different ways.

Movie Screening – 2 May

Education Week finished off with a fun screening of two college-themed movies in the Kaliede Theatre, *Accepted* and *Old School*. That evening, to promote the important Academic Calendar date to drop subjects for HE, the Department hosted a Revenge of the Nerds party with the Activities Department.

RUSU Free Weekly Healthy Breakfasts

This SSAF funded program finished up for Semester 1 with the start of Swot Vac on 2 June. The breakfasts continue to be really popular with students across all campuses, including Carlton/ VE and Bundoora East. The RUSU Welfare Officer and Campus Coordinators get up early every week, and with the help of RUSU volunteers feed hundreds of students who might otherwise not eat breakfast. Fruit, muesli, yoghurt, zucchini muffins and toast are just some of the offerings. This program will recommence in Semester 2, earlier for the VE campuses Carlton and Brunswick, and then on July 21 for HE.

Subsidised Veg Box Program

RUSU are excited to offer the SSAF funded Veg Box subsidy starting Semester 2, for home delivered, local spray free fruit and veg through Organic Empire. RMIT Students can enter their student number to receive a significant discount. This program aims to tackle the main barriers to healthy eating: time and money!



Clubs and Societies

RUSU Club Grants

RUSU Clubs & Societies accessed \$28,500.00 of clubs' grants this quarter.

RUSU Clubs Activity

Affiliation

34 calendar year clubs completed their formal 2014 annual affiliation requirements over the start of the second quarter. This increases the total number of 2014 fully affiliated RUSU clubs to 81. Re-affiliation requires clubs to hold Annual General Meetings, elect their executive, and adopt an Annual Activity Plan. The elected executive of each club then meets with the relevant Clubs & Societies Officer to sign off on the required paperwork, set up or changeover annual signatories to an individual clubs' bank account and receive basic training in RUSU Clubs & Societies processes.

Brand New Clubs

RUSU would like to welcome the following new clubs who completed affiliation during the second quarter:

- » RMIT Amateur Photography Club (Special Interest club)
- » RMIT Jewish Students Club (Spiritual club)
- » RMIT Australia China Youth Association (Cultural Club)

These three clubs join the ten new clubs affiliated since the start of 2014. RUSU is excited by the range of areas that the new 2014 clubs encompass and we look forward to welcoming more new clubs during the second half of the year.

As of the end of the calendar year affiliation period, RUSU has affiliated 31 Academic clubs, 19 Cultural clubs, 5 Political clubs, 17 Special Interest Clubs and 9 Spiritual clubs.

2nd Quarter Club Activities & Events

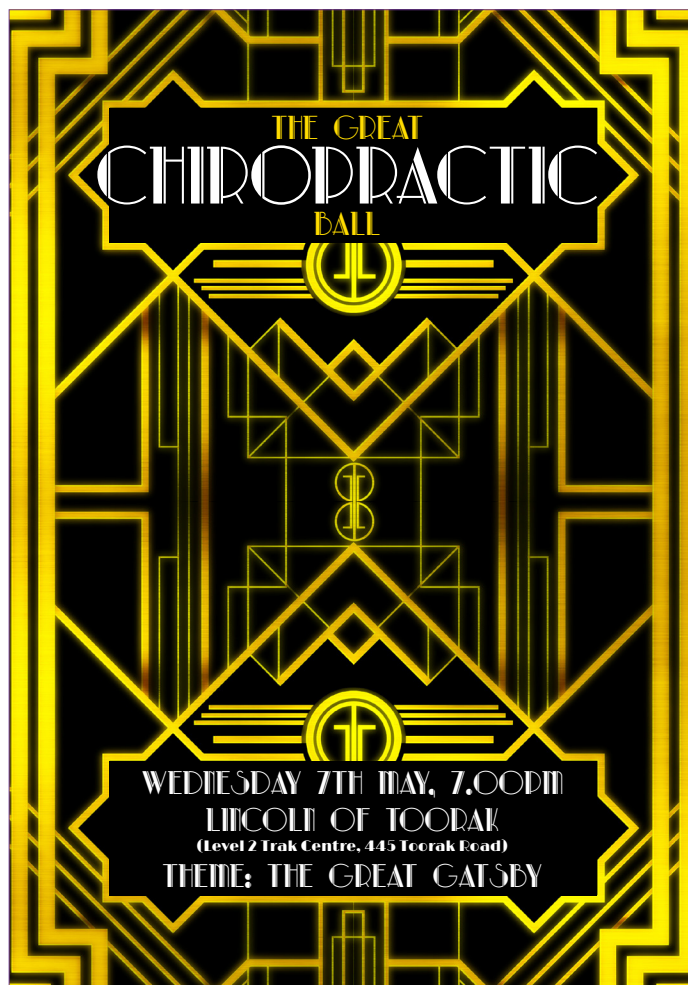
With the help of Special Funding Grants our Clubs are able to provide their members and the wider student body with something a little special. In the second quarter of 2014 SFGs were awarded for the following activities:

- » International Studies Association – End of Semester Member Celebration at the John Curtin Hotel. Providing an opportunity to celebrate the semester's achievements, further foster the sense of community within the club and a chance to say goodbye before the mid semester holidays.
- » RMIT Christian Union – Distributed free hot cross buns to students, on Monday 14 April and Tuesday 15 April.
- » RMIT Chinese Medicine Student Association – Hosted an annual farewell dinner as a parting gift to the Chinese Medicine final year students before they depart on their journey to becoming Chinese Medicine Practitioners. It was an event for all club members, across both under and post graduate course, to come together.
- » RMIT Chiropractic Students Association – Held their annual Chiropractic ball at the end of May. One of the biggest events on the Clubs fixture the Great Gatsby/1920's-1930's themed event was a great success.

In addition to these Special Events, RUSU Clubs were very busy. Below is a sample of the types of activities organised and delivered by RUSU Clubs this quarter:

RUSU RE- Orientation Week – 30 Clubs participated

- » RMIT Australia China Youth Association – co-hosted send-off event for Nanjing Youth Olympics @ Federation Square
- » RMIT University Malaysian Students Association (RUMA) – Casual Dinner @ Chillipad Restaurant, Melbourne
- » RMIT University Korean Association – club FIFA watching get-togethers @ various locations on campus and Melbourne City
- » Interior Design & Decoration TAFE – 1st & 2nd Year End of Semester Social @ John Curtain Hotel Carlton
- » RMIT Chinese Students & Scholars Association – CSSA Dragon Boat events @ The Drill Hall, Therry St Melbourne
- » RMIT EWB – Trivia Night @ John Curtain Hotel
- » RMIT Christian Union (RMIT CU) – End of Semester Party @ private house, Sunshine
- » RMIT PPIA (Indonesian Students Association) – Project O Indonesian Street Food Festival, Queen Victoria Market www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=vZMPLsR2s4M
- » Aeronautical Engineering Students Association – Visit and lunch @ RAAF Museum Point Cook
- » RMIT ALP Club – BBQ @ Fig Tree courtyard, RMIT
- » RMIT Jewish Students club – Shavout Treats & Trivia @ Building 80, RMIT
- » Environmental Engineering Students Association (EESA) – Industry Night @ Storey Hall



- » RMIT Islamic Society – Intervarsity Islamic Campus Clubs’ Trivia Night @ Latrobe University
- » RMIT CU – Chocolate & Chill evening @ St James Old Cathedral, Melbourne
- » RMIT Greens Social Event @ Charlie Chan’s, Melbourne
- » RMIT University Sri Lankan Students Association (RUSLA) – Dodgeball Competition @ Oakleigh Indoor Sports Stadium
- » RMIT OXFAM – documentary screening “Flow: For the Love of Water” @ RMIT B80
- » Geospatial Science Students Association – End of Semester Celebration @ Asian Beer Café, Melbourne
- » RUSLA – KOTHU Formal Dinner @ Oakleigh Hall, Oakleigh
- » EESA – graduate information sessions @ Building 10, RMIT
- » Student Landscape Architecture Body – Design Portfolio Exhibition @ Building 8, RMIT
- » RMIT Economics, Finance and Marketing Student Association – Presentation by Matthew Goodman’ Prospects for Economic Reform in China and Japan @ B80, RMIT
- » RMIT Singapore Students Association (SSA) – Durian Festival @ Bowen Street, RMIT
- » RMIT CU – Day in the Country @ Warragul, Victoria
- » RMIT ALP Club – Attended Anzac Day ceremony @ The Shrine, Melbourne
- » RMIT PPIA – Saman Dance Workshop @ Zen Apartments Melbourne
- » RMIT Student Life University Group – Picnic @ Carlton Gardens
- » RISA – Zen Meditation @ Spiritual Centre, Building 11
- » EESA Camp – @ Peppin Point, Bonnie Doon
- » RMIT PPIA – participation “Alun Alun” event @ Indonesian Consulate, Melbourne
- » RMIT Electric Racing – ANCAC Day Drive @ Oakleigh Go Kart Club
- » PRepresent web page launched – www.thermitprclub.com/
- » RMIT Supply Chain Student Association launched @ Building 8, RMIT
- » RMIT PPIA – Makrab: a traditional overnight activity amongst Indonesian students which is organised by older students to bring old and new students together, to share knowledge and skills, to make plans for the group and to make friends. Held @ Healesville Victoria
- » RMIT Islamic Society Sisters Lunch #1 @ Spiritual Centre, RMIT
- » RUMA – Easter Party @ Motel Nightclub, South Melbourne
- » Japan Club – Mid Semester Karaoke @ KBOX, Melbourne
- » RMIT CU Kick-Off Camp @ Upper Plenty Conference Centre
- » RMIT SSA – Intervarsity Singaporean Student Games @ Melbourne Baths, Carlton

During the first half of 2014, VISAR has organised and delivered many activities including:

- » Creation of club web page www.visarrmit.org/
- » Pre semester information sessions for newly arrived Vietnamese RMIT Exchange Program students
- » A Vietnam Culture Quiz event “Think of me Vietnam”
- » “The Black Party” – a social and volunteer recognition event for members
- » Started the “Tune it in” Program - Friday afternoon’s casual music performance/sharing
- » Attended RMIT Orientation Clubs Day
- » Post O Week Induction Day for all newly-arrived Vietnamese International students at RMIT Melbourne
- » The VISAR Welcome BBQ for new students
- » Participation in the RMIT Exchange Fair
- » An information session for members about to Graduate
- » A free movie night
- » A fishing trip to Buxton Trout & Salmon Farm (and associated cooking and eating of the catch)
- » Organised for a 3 day trip to the Grampians (July 2-5)
- » Commenced “VISAR 360” – a video project to share information about student life, experiencing and adapting to Australian culture and expectations, best places to eat, drink, shop have fun in Melbourne. Posted on both the VISAR Facebook page and website
- » Information sessions to potential exchange students at the RMIT Vietnam SG Campus

Most of VISARs activities are held on campus. To get a sense of just how much VISAR has achieved, and how much they contribute to the student experience at RMIT, please view their start of year promotional video on Youtube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxhQUJaYndc

Information To RUSU Clubs

The RUSU C&S Department newsletter was sent to clubs over the quarter to keep them updated on department developments, funding opportunities and upcoming events. The C&S section of the RUSU Website was updated, including changes to space booking on campus information.

New Developments & Support To RUSU Clubs

- » A RUSU C&S Handbook was created, ready for distribution at the begging of second semester. This guide will act as a one stop shop for clubs and has been developed as an online electronic resource rather than a printed guide to reduce the department’s environmental footprint. The RUSU Clubs “Code of Conduct” was approved by the Student Union Council.
- » A Clubs “All-In Session” was held – where clubs executive members had an opportunity to view and provide feedback on upcoming training sessions as well as a general update from the department.
- » There was a RUSU Clubs department run social function at the General Store & Co

Club Achievement In The Spotlight: VISAR

One of RUSU’s newest clubs, the Vietnamese International Students at RMIT (VISAR) is also one of our most active clubs. VISAR not only delivers an engaging and busy programme for RMIT Melbourne members but also actively engages with potential members in Vietnam, providing orientation and information sessions to Vietnamese students about to or considering studying at RMIT Melbourne.

Student Media

Catalyst

During the second half of semester one, Catalyst published issue two and three with a print run of 3000 units each. We continued to publish student news, investigative journalism, creative writing, opinion pieces and visual art by RMIT students.

Feedback has been positive, with our contributors going on to be published by Fairfax, News Ltd, *The Guardian* and other news outlets.

Online, the digital version of the printed magazine has been viewed 9925 times on Issuu. We have also launched a podcast, Cataclysm, which has been listened to more than 2000 times online - it is also available on iTunes.

We are currently planning a redesign of the website and ensuring that magazine stands are available in Carlton and Building 80.

RMITV

Industry Engagement

RMIT Student Community replicates a professional media production experience that translates to member's success in the industry. Recent successful transitions into the industry include:

- » PeiLing Ngan - Sony Pictures Singapore
- » Matt Dunham - ABC (casual)
- » Dean Watson - The Age
- » Ronja Moss - ABC (casual)
- » David M. Green - Shaun Micallef's ABC Show

1440 Productions, a media production house established by past RMITV Members, is currently working on their ABC show 'Heart and Soul' for their second season. After several successful Editing Internships earlier this year, RMITV is working to provide Production Assistants internships to our hardworking volunteers. RMITV members will have their work televised on the Second Season airing on ABC!

Some of our other alumni have also been very busy. Hamish & Andy won yet another Logie, whilst one of our oldest alumnus also wrote for television's night of nights award ceremony. Hamish & Andy have also been busy creating the next series 'Gap Year: South America'. Nazeem Hussain has been busy creating the second season of his 'Legally Brown' series, and is currently helping SBS overseas with World Cup reporting.



THE CATALYST TEAM

New RMITV Management Team Members

After a highly successful run as RMITV's Flagship Production Producers last year, Jenny Bae and Riyana Kasmawan have opened the opportunity to produce the show to other RMITV members. Taking their places are Elena Szymanski and Antonio Cafasso, Riyana is traveling the world gaining cultural insights and Jenny is currently working on Hollywood's 'Avengers: Age of Ultron'!

Elena Szymanski is a recent alumnus of RMIT's 2013 class of Bachelor of Professional Communication. Elena is an RMITV exemplar member having participated on multiple RMITV shows on the production side. Most recently, she is assisting on 'Million Dollar Minute' created by Network Seven.

Antonio Cafasso is an alumni of the Bachelor of Design (Multimedia Systems) RMIT University class of 2011. Antonio is a veteran RMITV member having worked on RMITV productions for countless years in technical and creative capacities. Currently he works in the industry with H2 Post Production Supervisor for television productions airing on Lifestyle Channel, Fox Sports, and Network Ten.

Training and Industry Engagement

RMITV thrives on giving students those practical learning opportunities from professional industry practitioners. As the organisation has nearly thirty years of alumni, this provides RMITV with a great network of professionals to utilise as trainers. With the support of RUSU, members are provided free training, workshops, and production tours which members use to develop their skills and knowledge.

"RMITV's training workshops have taught me how to use the latest TV studio technologies such as EVS; they've allowed me to be mentored by RMITV alumni and senior news director at ABC, Ron Frim; and during their Channel Seven production tour, I was able to see an actual commercial network television studio in action."
- Karen Dennerley, Diploma of Screen and Media

Recently RMITV has provided further hands-on experience in lighting by an ABC employee; a network television tour for inspiration on industry standards; and training for the EVS, one of the latest equipment in live broadcast technologies. These industry experts all assist RMITV in providing a comprehensive outlook on launching careers in the media industry.



LIVE ON BOWEN

A highlight was visiting the on-location set of 'It's a Date' Season Two, currently in production for ABC. The show has featured RMITV alumni including Luke McGregor, Nazeem Hussain, and Ryan Shelton. Production tours provide great insight into professional workplace environments for inspiration into media careers. In addition to talking to crew about their roles and seeking advice on how to break into the industry, RMITV members gained experience being extras on set. RMITV members also met with one of our first on-screen stars and 'It's a Date' creator, Peter Helliar!

Future plans include broadcast editing training, the latest in television cameras, inspiring stories from past alumni, production visits, and motivating media exhibitions. With continued support from RMIT, RUSU and SSAF, RMITV Training will ensure members are given expert hands on advice and experience! For more information see: www.rmitv.org/ssaf

RMITV Production In Focus

A World from Below

With leadership of a Human rights lawyer, from a national law firm, and Chairperson of human rights media organisation Right Now, this production will produce an informative news and analysis show. 'A World from Below' goes beyond the usual power and personalities dominating headlines in the mainstream media, with particular interest in stories from the Asia Pacific region.

External Projects

RUSU's Realfoods Cafe

RMITV volunteers filmed the RUSU's Realfoods Cafe event 'Real Fit Food', recording eight presenters presentations, and several cooking demonstrations. Gaining healthy inspiration from the event were over 150 attendees.

Tim Ferguson Project

From working with RMITV for his Channel 31 production, Tim Ferguson appreciates the value of RMITV. Collaboratively members filmed three online episodes for the media professional. Working alongside such a seasoned professional, who willingly provides advice on gaining employment in the industry, was just part of the fun of working on this inspiring project.



RMITV Flagship Production – 'Live on Bowen'

RMITV's Flagship Production 'Live on Bowen' has gained viewership of up to 80,000+ around Victoria. Each week provides the opportunity for industry professionals and general members of the public to join the RMIT University studio audience and see countless RMIT students practicing at what they love.

"My name is Matt last year my family and I attended the live production of 'Live on Bowen' regularly. We really enjoyed the show and thought that the cast & crew were absolutely fantastic. Congratulations on a great production."
- Matt & Family, Fans of 'Live on Bowen'

"Live on Bowen gave me the chance to work alongside students from all sorts of courses (everything from engineering to IT to business to journalism to media) and a variety of study levels (TAFE to Undergraduate to Postgraduate) whilst making great Australian variety television history."
- Tony Avard, Bachelor of Arts (Creative Writing)

This studio-based variety show is currently in pre-production for a successful next season, with support of SSAF Funding. For more information see: www.rmitv.org/ssaf



Social Media & Publications

- » Facebook – 9,219 likes
- » Twitter – 1,667 followers.

Facebook

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 and photo tagging and to RSVP to events (giving RUSU an idea of numbers beforehand).

Twitter

RUSU currently has almost 1,700 followers on Twitter, and the platform remains a strong force for continued engagement with students. Providing 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, Revenge of The Nerds Party and the National Campus DJ Competition 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. Our ever-changing front page advertises all the latest events.

Newsletter

RUSU's newsletter continues to be popular, with over 1,600 subscribers to date. To date, there have been six issues so far in 2014, providing students with the latest news and information on upcoming events and activities.

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:

End of Exams Party

This fun event had a "Cops & Robbers" theme, and marketing materials were designed to reflect that, with red & blue mood lighting, and a tough-looking police line-up. Other materials designed for the event included a police mug-shot backdrop wall and handheld board – both of which were a big hit in the event photo booth.

TAFE End of Semester Drinks

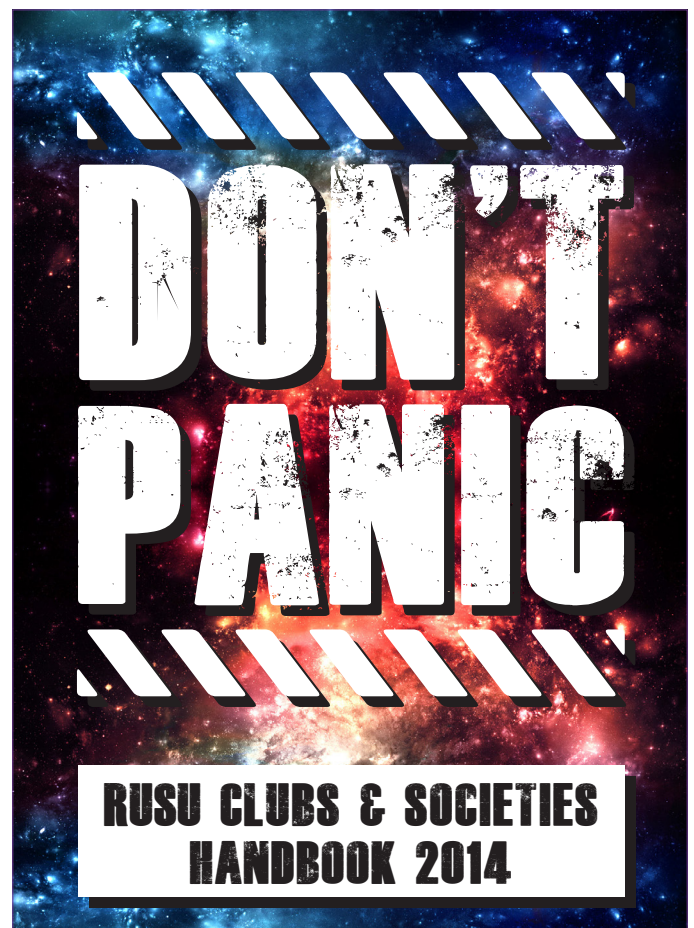
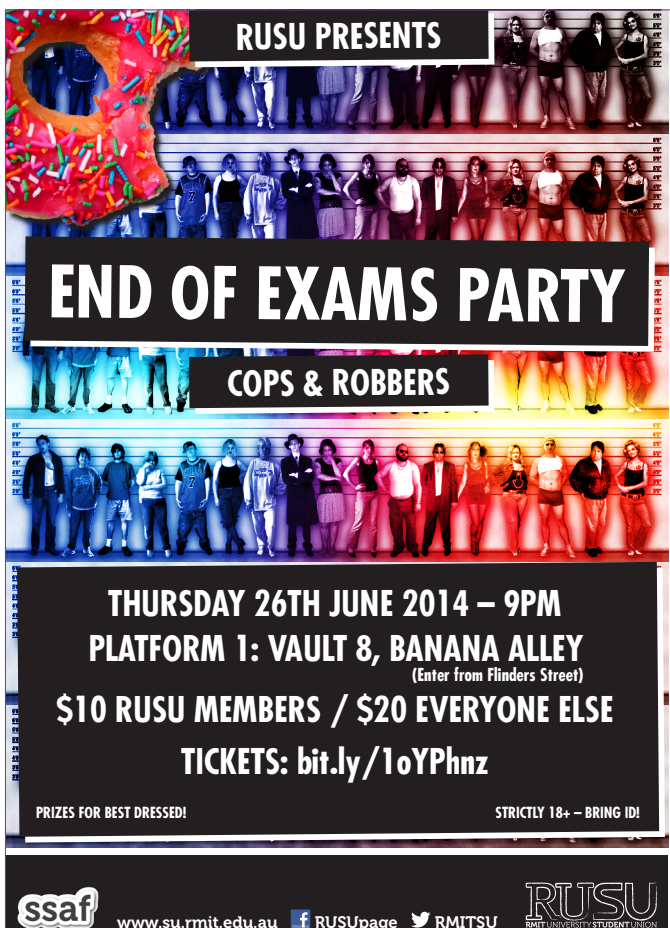
This event was an afternoon, off-campus event, held in Brunswick, and was very popular with students. The posters for the event were made in a brightly coloured, text-based design. The event was successful, and will be held again, and marketing materials were designed so that each event throughout the year will be similarly themed so as to be instantly recognisable with continuing students.

Realfoods Real Fit Food

This large and successful event was held at Realfoods Café. Materials included marketing for the event across the various media platforms, along with production of a recipe book after the event that was made available to attendees via the RUSU website.

Clubs & Societies Handbook

This major new publication for the Clubs & Societies team was completed during this quarter. The 72-page publication was design-focussed, and was a fun major project for Pubs & Comms.



Representation and Advocacy

Compass

- » There were 75 student drop-ins at Compass between April and June. Themes of mental health, financial issues and relationships remain strong, with study stress featuring highly as well.
- » Two free self-defence classes were held for students this quarter to give practical advice on safety and some skills on what to do if you happen to be attacked. The free classes were held alongside a safety campaign which promoted tips for personal safety as well as RMIT's new "safe zone" app.
- » The second 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 in an internationally accredited certificate which is provided to Compass volunteers free of charge.
- » Existing Compass volunteers staffed the drop in space 18 hours per week and finished up at the end of semester with thank you celebration which was enjoyed by all.
- » Yoga continued with 2 free classes running every week to keep students calm, cool and collected. Classes will stop for mid-semester break and start up again in week 1 of semester 2.
- » Together with the International department and the Campaigns and Collectives Officer, Compass assisted to run the RUSU English Language Workshops. This semester Compass volunteers helped out in the 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.
- » The Compass Project Officer assisted to write the SSAF grant proposal to fund Compass into 2015.
- » The Student Rights Data Base was modified to include Compass, which means that we will now be able to record student drop ins at Compass with greater ease and also be able to pull out specific bits of data that may be of interest to us which is very exciting.
- » Compass updated the LEAD accreditation for our program to include volunteering in the English Language Workshops, as these will continue in semester 2
- » Stress Less Week was held over all metropolitan campuses during week 12, with free fruit, water, stress balls, massage and of course important information about stress and support service. Approximately 3000 students accessed the pop up stall and received giveaways and advice.
- » The Compass Project Officer met with student support staff from William Angliss Institute to discuss how RUSU supports students. A great connection has now been made with the staff there and we hope to share more ideas into the future.

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
- » Business 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;

- » 3 student representatives on 3 Discipline Board hearings
- » 1 student representative sat on 4 College Appeal Committee hearings
- » 3 student representatives sat on 7 University Appeal Committee hearings.

RUSU Internal Meetings

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

- » 4 Student Union Council Meetings
- » 6 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.

RUSU Annual General Meetings

RUSU held a series of Annual General Meetings (AGMs) across all campuses from 20-22 May in accordance with the SUC Constitution and Regulations. At each AGM representatives from the Student Union gave an update on the activities of the Student Union, with a particular focus on events and issues affecting the campus that the AGM was being held on.

A 'RMIT University Student Union Snapshot – January –December 2013' booklet was produced and distributed at each AGM.

The audited financial report for 2013 was presented to each meeting. A representative of the Student Union provided a verbal summary of the Annual report and invited questions from students.



Student Rights

The Student Rights Service continued to be busy during first semester.

"Your understanding for my situation meant a lot of support to me, and I appreciate your patience to deal with my case. Some cases involved a lot staff and emails, but you always deal with them patiently. Your professional skills to cope with my case are outstanding." (Student)

College of Business Meetings

Student Rights Officers met with the College of Business Academic Administration heads who provided a better understanding amongst the Student Rights Team about the College's centralised administration structure, how it operates, who the key decision makers are, and how all of this affects the student rights related processes that Business students engage in. Business College Senior Officers remarked they found the meetings very useful as well to gain a better understanding of problems and issues their students face. More meetings are planned to further strengthen understanding and relationships between Student Rights and Business College.

Fee Liability Issues

Students received student rights advocacy that saved them tens of thousands of dollars by removing their fee liability this quarter. Fee liability had been incurred by international students without their knowledge for a mixture of reasons including compassionate circumstances, misunderstandings involved in provision of advice, and enrolment variation forms failing to be processed by Business College. In the last case a student found himself accused of trying to defraud the university because he insisted he had submitted the form. After being represented by a Student Rights Officer at the high level student misconduct board, the student was found innocent and had his fees refunded.

Student Rights Cases Statistics

Note: A new Student Rights Database went live on 3 January 2014. 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.

Feedback from Students

"I am so grateful for your help it is inexpressible how much you have saved me. I will be seeing my course coordinator this week to discuss an attack plan for the next semester, and I have a doctor's appointment on Wednesday after which I will fill in the remission of debt application. I will definitely call to ask for your assistance in finalising the submission. Thank you." (Student)

"Both times I came to student rights and saw two different people – you were both very efficient and I was very happy with the service you provided." (student)

"I just want to take this time to say a big thank you for all your help and afford in making sure I was offered a government subsidised place. I don't ever know how to say thank you but all I can say is I really appreciate ever bit of your time" (student).

STUDENT RIGHTS CASES:

1 APRIL–30 JUNE 2014

Problems created during the last quarter	Number
Discipline (University Level)	
Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism)	5
General Misconduct	1
Discipline (School Level)	
Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism)	15
General Misconduct	1
Complaint	
Ombudsman Victoria	1
RMIT Ombudsman	1
School Level	24
University Level	19
Uncategorised	
Admin Issue	11
Admission Issue	4
Appeal Against Assessment	16
Assessment Issues (other)	7
At Risk	2
Bullying	1
Disability	11
Enrolment Issue	14
Equitable Assessment Arrangements (EAA)	3
Exclusion	7
Fees Issue	27
Leave of Absence (LOA)	7
Mental Health Issue	13
Other issues	15
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	3
Remission of Debt	9
Show Cause	1
Special Consideration	63
Supplementary Exam Request (Pass by Compensation)	2
TOTAL	283

STUDENT RIGHTS CASES: 1 APRIL–30 JUNE 2014

Problems outcomes during the last quarter	Number
Appeal Against Exclusion University Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	1
Appeal Upheld	1
Exclusion Withdrawn by School Before Hearing	2
Exclusion Withdrawn by Student	1
Fee Remission	
Fee Remission Approved	1
Special Consideration Granted	
Alternative Assessment	1
Deferred Exam	8
Extension of Time	6
Future Assessment Arrangement	1
Late Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty	1
Supplementary Exam	1
Referral – External	9
Appeal Against Special Consideration University Appeal Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	1
Appeal Upheld	1
Special Consideration Granted Without a Hearing	5
Complaint Outcome	
Alternative Resolution Reached	3
RMIT Ombudsman Complaint Dismissed	1
School Level Complaint Dismissed	1
School Level Complaint Resolved	3
University Level Complaint Dismissed	1
Victoria Ombudsman Complaint Dismissed	1
Late Enrolment Outcome	
Late Enrolment Achieved	1
Late Enrolment Not Achieved	1
Referral Internal	
Compass	3
Counselling Service	6
Disability Liaison Unit	6
Housing Services	2
International Student Services	2
Legal Service	2
Student Wellbeing	4
Study and Learning Centre	5
Contacted School Issue Resolved	
Contacted Academic Administrator	1
Contacted Course Coordinator	11
Contacted Head of School	5
Contacted Lecturer/Tutor	2
Contacted Program Manager	2

Problems outcomes during the last quarter	Number
Other	
Advice Given – Student Able to Proceed With Case Themselves	22
Other Outcomes	13
Student Doesn't Want to Pursue the Case	8
Discipline/Plagiarism Meeting Case School Level	
Student Asked to Resubmit the Assessment	7
Student Reprimanded	2
Student Given a Fail For All or Any Part of any Assessment	10
Student Found Not Guilty	8
Leave Of Absence (LOA)	
LOA Granted	3
Discipline Board Hearing Academic Misconduct	
Case Dismissed in Favour of Student	2
Student Was Asked to Repeat an Assessment Session	1
Appeal Against Assessment (AAA) CAC Decision University Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	2
Fee Issue Outcome	
Issue Not Resolved	3
Issue Resolved	6
Payment Plan Provided	1
Supplementary Exam	
Supplementary Exam Granted	3
Supplementary Exam Not Granted	1
Appeal Against Assessment (AAA) College Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	1
Appeal Upheld	1
Discipline Board Hearing General Misconduct	
Case Dismissed in Favour of Student	2
Other Penalty	1
Student Reprimanded	1
Email Advice Given	15
Phone Advice Given	27
TOTAL	241
Student Cases Opened During Last Quarter	161
Student Cases Closed During Last Quarter	139

RUSU Governance, Administration and Services

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

- » Funds and projects administered in accordance with the RUSU 2014 Funding Agreement
- » RUSU submitted 12 SSAF proposals for 2015.
- » RUSU prepared reports for the Student Experience Advisory Committee on the outcomes of our 2013 SSAF Committee funded grants.
- » Meetings and site visits with RMIT regarding the numerous aspects of the NAS project including impact on students, RUSU offices, RMITV and Realfoods Café.
- » 2013 financial audit completed and Annual General Meetings held across campuses in accordance with the RUSU Constitution.
- » OH&S Committee meetings and ongoing OH&S compliance requirements.
- » RUSU staff members provided with First Aid Refresher Training as per RUSU First Aid Policy and Procedures.
- » Compass Drop In Centre database updated.
- » Old RUSU computers decommissions and provided for students through the furniture cage.

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 - \$1,254,504

RUSU's proposal to retain and expend the \$38,772 provided through SSAF but not fully spent in 2013 was formally accepted this quarter. These funds will be spent on SSAF Allowable items during 2014 and reported through our quarterly reports.

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 – 30 June 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 	\$25,744
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 	\$114,933
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 	\$22,565
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 	\$142,680
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 	\$79,518

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 	\$62,003
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 	\$92,283
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 	\$115,270
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) 	\$429,676
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 	\$266,176
	YTD SSAF Expenditure	\$1,350,848
	YTD SSAF Grants Received	\$627,252

TABLE 2: 2013 SSAF Committee Grant Reports 1 January – 30 June 2014

Program Title	Grant Amount	Expenditure Jan–March	Comments
RUSU Volunteer Program	\$149,000	\$62,579	Expenditure on target for project.
Compass – funding a welfare information and referral drop-in space	\$105,000	\$54,392	Expenditure on target for project.
RUSU Flagship Production (Live On Bowen) and RMITV training program	\$35,000	\$9,104	Expenditure on target for project.
RUSU International Student Support – conversation classes and city tours	\$25,000	\$12,491	Expenditure on target for project.
RUSU Bundoora East rejuvenation – phase 2	\$30,000	\$50,380	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	\$25,744	Income from the Re-O Night Party paid for the cost of the event. The remaining grant will now be used for a large program of mid-year Orientation events.
RUSU Healthy Eating program, including sustainability awareness	\$40,000	\$15,236	Expenditure on target for project.
TOTAL	\$424,000	\$229,926	

RUTSU
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION