



# FOURTH QUARTER REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD  
01/10/2014–31/12/2014

 [su.rmit.edu.au](http://su.rmit.edu.au)

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**RUSU**  
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION



## President's Report



Himasha  
Fonseka

As 2014 draws to a close, the baton is passed from the outgoing student union council to the incoming cohort of 2015.

I would like to thank the outgoing council for their passion and endeavour this year, and particularly thank our outgoing President, James Michelmore for his service to the students of RMIT over the last three years.

2014 was another successful year for the student union.

We have seen an increase of around 22% in paid membership with an identical price point and comparable benefits as 2013.

Our weekly lunchtime activities continue to be our most visible and popular initiative, with thousands of students taking advantage of the free food and taking the opportunity to meet other students.

We saw a steady rise in the contribution of our accredited volunteers. The reputation of this program has never been higher, with many of our prospective volunteers coming to us on the strength of word of mouth recommendation.

Our clubs and societies continue to be the heartbeat of campus life. We have seen a rise in the number of affiliated clubs and societies, and we are constantly impressed by their determination to add to tapestry of social life at RMIT.

This quarter we saw our council members and elected delegates take part in the National Union of Students annual conference, which is the largest gathering of elected tertiary students representatives in the nation, as well as the annual conference of the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations, the peak body for post-graduate students. Members of the student union council ensured that the voice of RMIT students was heard loud and clear across these forums.

2014 was capped by the induction of the 2015 Student Union Council, with an emphasis on strategic planning and building on the successes of 2014.

As of 2014, the state of this union is strong, and we look forward to meeting the challenges of 2015.

Himasha Fonseka  
President  
RMIT University Student Union



# Activities and Events

## Standout Events

### Oktoberfest, Thursday 2nd October

In order to mark this popular German festival, RUSU created its own Munich-style beer hall on Bowen Street to run alongside the regular weekly bbq. We poured traditional German beer Lowenbrau and provided wholegrain mustard and sauerkraut to compliment the regular BBQ offering.

RMIT Study Abroad were also present, promoting student exchange to places including Germany.

### End of Exams Party – Happily Ever After, Thursday 13th November

The bi-annual End of Exam party was held on the Thursday of the final week of exams for Semester Two. This event was held on the deck at the Waterside Hotel on Flinders Street.

Attendance was around 600, with \$10 for members, \$20 for general public pricing structure.

## 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 the event each week and contribute to the overall atmosphere of the Chill n' Grill, this well received by students.



## RUSU Membership

» A total of 3,862 RMIT students became financial members of RUSU during 2014.

## Volunteers

RUSU Volunteers ended 2014 on a high, with our purple people amassing more than 6500 volunteer hours throughout 2014!

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's City and Bundoora front counters, at RUSU's English Conversation classes and also lending an attentive ear at Compass.

Volunteers from all departments were treated to karaoke, pool and pizza at RUSU's End of Year Volunteer Party on Thursday, November 13. Five volunteers were presented with RUSU Volunteer of the Year awards and prizes for their contribution to their respective volunteer departments. These were: Appu Vinnod (Student Rights), Jake Crossin (Activities & Events), Tina Dochana (Admin), Stephanie Goh (Compass) and Wei Shan Goh (Realfoods).

## RUSU Volunteers Professional Development

### Fourth Quarter 2014

Recruitment	Oct-Dec	Year to date
Number of students registering their interest to volunteer during third quarter	56	526
Training	Completions	
Volunteers inducted		263
Volunteers trained in Food Handling Level 1		153
Volunteers trained in RSA		143
Volunteers trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid		20
Realfoods Café onsite kitchen & operations training		93
Volunteers trained in Community First Aid		20
Volunteers trained in manual handling		10

## Volunteer Hours Worked in 2014

At the end of the fourth quarter, RUSU volunteers had contributed more than 6500 working hours to RUSU services.



# Across the Campuses

## City

The RUSU Information Counter (Building 8, Level 3, Room 1) has had a very busy quarter, serving as an important 'go to' contact and information point for all RMIT students and visitors. We had a record breaking numbers of students who came in for student rights related drop-ins, queries, and appointments; for instance, helping over a 100 students a day during peak weeks.

## Bundoora

### Weekly Barbecues

Every Wednesday, RUSU staff, student representatives and volunteers cook a free BBQ for approximately 400 students. Three barbecues took place in this quarter, rounding out a very successful year.

### 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. Black tea, chai tea, chamomile tea, green tea, coffee and milo are provided free for students. The students take care of the kitchen and regularly clean it.

### 'Free Breakfast'

Held on the Bundoora West campus (each Monday) and Bundoora East campus (each Tuesday), the breakfasts were extremely popular in 2014 and attracted large numbers of students, particularly on the West campus, where 100 students attend each week.

### Bundoora Queer Collective

A Bundoora Queer Collective finished the year with two final lunches that attracted 5 collective members on each occasion.

## Bundoora East Womyns Room Launch

Held in the final week of the year, the Bundoora East Womyns Room was launched with great success.

### Student Fundraiser

The Bundoora Student Liaison Officer helped a group of students from the School of Education to arrange two cake stalls, to raise funds for the Teaching Resource Foundation who are travelling to Nepal to develop educational resources in small communities.

### Education Break-up

Building 204 hosted the graduation party for students from the Bachelor of Education program, providing music, a location, and a dance floor, for approximately 100 students.

## Brunswick

It has been a great few months at Brunswick. The Chill n Grill is gathering pace and popularity amongst the students, who eagerly start lining up well before the food is even cooked!

Another ongoing successful event is the weekly healthy breakfast. Muffins, fruit cups and fresh fruit are extremely popular. On average this quarter, the breakfasts have finished up in less than 10 minutes of being presented to students.

## Carlton

Due to the RMIT University construction/upgrade, the Carlton office was closed for the most part of quarter 4. With construction ongoing for the first half of 2015, the TAFE Officer and the SLO will be working closely together to plan events for the semester for TAFE students during this period.



CITY VOLUNTEERS ON BREAKFAST DUTY

# RUSU Departments

## Environment

The key areas of focus for the Environment Department have been the Realfoods Review, department transition and the clearing of the Furniture Cage in preparation for the NAS construction phase.

The environment department held the following events during October through November:

### Vertical Gardening Workshop

A Vertical Gardening Workshop was held by the Greening RMIT Committee where KIIVA (kiiva.com.au) taught students to build vertical gardens at home.

### Community Dinner

As a 'thank-you' to all the Realfoods volunteers and students who have been involved in the balcony garden's workshops.

### Furniture Cage

The Furniture Collective was started in 2008 as an extension of the Environment Collective. It is dedicated to collecting discarded RMIT University Furniture and redistributing it FREE to students and staff.

The Furniture Cage is open during Semester - every Wednesday from 3.30pm to 6pm, located behind the gym (Building 8, level 3 car park in the City campus) and can be accessed by turning right after passing the Sport and Recreation Office. Students and staff members drop by to look for some furniture the Cage has in stock for their homes, offices or lounge rooms. Unfortunately due to RMIT's New Academic Street works project, the furniture cage project has shut down for the foreseeable future.

## RUSU Realfoods

The Realfoods review begun with data being consolidated from across the café, analysis and business planning is set to commence in the coming week. Professional assistance for the project has been secured from RMIT's Entrepreneur in residence Dr. Marcsu Powe.

### Trading periods

Realfoods was open 11am–4pm, Monday to Friday during semester 2. The Realfoods Café operated up to week 13.

### Realfoods for 2015

With the NAS Early Works leading to the closure of the Bld 8, lvl 4 cafeteria as we know it at the end of 2014, RUSU has been in discussions with RMIT to enable RUSU Realfoods to continue to operate as the sole provider in this space for semester 1, 2015.

RUSU is appreciative of the support shown by RMIT and Property Services for Realfoods who have agreed to RUSU operating Realfoods in semester 1, 2015 and allowed us to expand our premises and partner with Coffee Nomad.

This new opportunity and operating environment has meant that a lot of time has been dedicated this quarter to a Realfoods review. The Realfoods review begun with data being consolidated from across the café, analysis and business planning is set to commence in the coming week. Professional assistance for the project has been secured from RMIT's Entrepreneur in residence Dr. Marcsu Powe.

RUSU is extremely excited about what 2015 holds in store for Realfoods!

**RUSU PRESENTS**

• • • •

**GREENING RMIT'S**

**COMMUNITY DINNER**

• • • •

**TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER, 6:00 TO 8:00 PM**

**AT REALFOODS CAFE**

• • • •

**A free community dinner open to all students of RMIT to thank them for their love and support towards Greening RMIT and Realfoods.**

• • • •

**RUSU Environment Department**

**GREENING RMIT**

**RUSUrealfoods**

**ssaf**



## RUSU International

During the exam revision period the International Department promoted exam revision sessions to students in collaboration with the Compass drop in centre.

## RUSU Postgraduate

This reporting period saw the Department re-establish strong ties with the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations, the national peak body that represents post-graduate students.

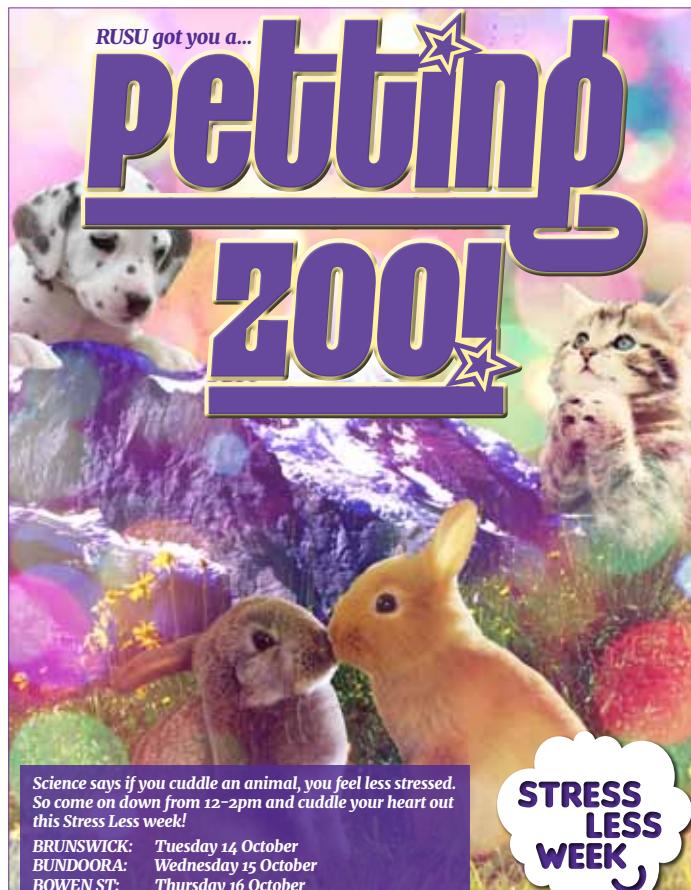
The Postgraduate Officer attended the Annual Council Meeting of Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA) in Canberra from 25 – 28 November 2014 at the Australian National University.

The department held a forum in Melbourne on the 17th of October with Universities such as Monash Melbourne, La Trobe and Swinburne to discuss issues postgraduate students face in Victoria. An example of this is transport concessions. We have also funded a few information sessions, especially for the Higher Degree by Research Students Association (HDRA) who were trying to engage with their new members and inform them about what RPA and the HDRA can do for them.

## RUSU Womyn's

### The Bundoora East Womyn's Room Launch

The Bundoora East Womyn's room was officially launched on the 15th of October, following a long campaign by RUSU to ensure that there is a safe space for womyn-identifying students at this campus.



## RUSU Welfare and Education

### Mental Health Week and Stress Less Week.

The former being a national awareness campaign promoted through the likes of the ABC and other public organisations and the latter being the staple of the Welfare Department. Stress Less Week saw the Department be out on all three major campuses handing out material, food and water to students with the main event being a petting zoo.

The Department hosted the final weekly breakfast for the year in which we served over 600 students at the City campus. Two-thirds of students live below the poverty line and 1 in 6 occasionally go without food hence it is extremely important that the Welfare Department's flagship program continues and grows going forward.

## RUSU Queer Department

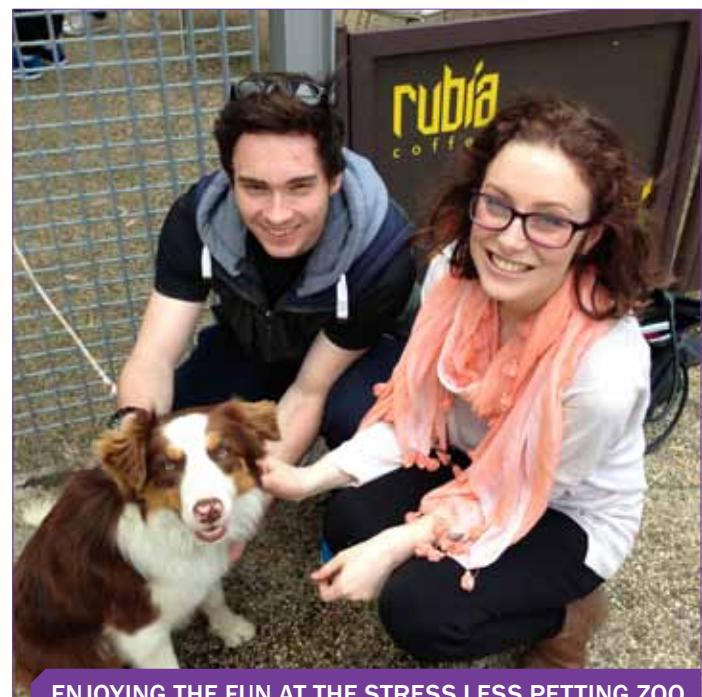
Mental Health week was a large success. The personal development workshop Brenton ran was well received. The feedback heard from participants has been very positive and many expressed requests for more events of this nature next year.

The Queer Department also worked with Realfoods on a number of occasions. This helped put focus on how food affects wellbeing. This relationship extended to the Mental Health Week 'Real Brain Food' Realfoods event. It had a great turn out and some amazing presenters and tasty delights.

We also ran a successful chill out space alongside Chill n Grill in combination with Compass, Realfoods and RMIT counselling, where we gave out over 200 herbal teas, 100 Realfoods smoothies and an assortment of Beyond Blue mental health advice. We also had 3 minute angels (massage therapists) come to Bundoora and City campus to help the students relax.

This event helped cement the years goals of cross collective teams working together to present the best events and educational workshops for RUSU.

The end of semester party was held at a Strike QV in the karaoke bar.



# Clubs and Societies

## RUSU Club Grants

RUSU Clubs & Societies accessed over of \$22,000 in clubs' grants this quarter.

## RUSU Clubs Activity

### Affiliation

As at the end of 2014, RUSU has 91 Fully Affiliated student clubs and societies. The distribution of clubs across our different categories breakdown is as follows:

- » Spiritual Clubs – 13
- » Social Clubs – 17
- » Political Clubs – 5
- » Cultural Clubs – 19
- » Academic Clubs – 37

### Brand New Clubs

The vast majority of new Club affiliations for the following calendar year affiliation period are generally finalised at the beginning of first semester. However, RUSU welcomes Catholics@ RMIT, a new spiritual club, who managed to fulfil their 2015 affiliation requirements before the end of 2014.

RUSU has also provisionally affiliated the following new clubs who will finalise their Affiliation in 2015:

- » Biomedical Engineering RMIT Student Society (BERSS)
- » Business Information Systems Student Association (BISSA)
- » RMIT School of Electrical & Computer Engineering Club (SECE)

We are also working with students to support the Provisional Affiliation of the following Clubs:

- » RMIT Industrial Design
- » RMIT Law Students Society
- » RMIT Sustainable Systems Engineering
- » RMIT Gamers Society
- » RMIT Masters of Supply Chain Student Association

RUSU has received expressions of interest from students around establishing a Saudi Arabian Students Society, a Social Motorcycle Club and an Ice Breaker Club.

Since 2011, RUSU has generally affiliated at least 10 new clubs each year. Not all new club ideas are viable – some do not meet the requirements of SSAF legislation, others seek to replicate existing clubs or to deliver services, functions or activities already provided by RUSU or other areas of the University. RUSU works with such students to redirect their efforts to existing clubs or other services or engagement and development opportunities available within the University.



## Club Achievement In The Spotlight

### RMIT United Society of Hellenes (RUSH) – “Zorba ‘Till You Drop” Competition @ Bowen Street

One very sunny Thursday in October, the RMIT United Society of Hellenes (Greek Club) held a “Zorba ‘Till You Drop” competition in Bowen Plaza. The activity was held in conjunction with RUSU's regular City Campus Chill N Grill Thursday BBQ. Essentially, the activity encouraged students to dance the traditional Zorba until they could dance no more. 8 brave competitors began until, after 40 minutes, only one remained. The winner was rewarded with a great prize including a place in a similar competition at the 2014 Antipodes Festival in February.

This simple and engaging Club activity reflects something RUSU Clubs is working to develop as a feature of campus life in 2015. These opportunities enable our cultural clubs to not only promote themselves but to share aspects of their culture with the broader RMIT community. We congratulate RUSH for their initiative and looking forward to working with them to build their club and on campus engagement with Hellenic culture in 2015.

### Launch of RMIT Racing and RMIT Electric Racing 2014 vehicles.

RUSU supports two student groups engaged in designing, building and racing motor vehicles. RMIT Racing, in operation since 1999, brings RMIT students from many disciplines together to build a petrol engine vehicle. The RMIT Electric Racing Club or “RMIT e-Racing” builds a sustainable electric engine vehicle powered by RMIT's green energy grid. Both groups compete in the Society of Automotive Engineers International (SAE) competition circuit specifically for university student entrants – the FSAE.

This competition attracts over 500 entrants across the globe with competitions on every continent.

RUSU supports these clubs to develop the social and promotional activities of the clubs. We assist with funding for on-campus social activities, camps, club branded shirts and launch events. We also provide the clubs with access to practical food safety, responsible service of alcohol, event and financial management support and training. We have also supported the clubs to engage students from many academic disciplines enabling a wider cohort of students to bring their own skills and passions to the club; be this the technical aspects of building the car, managing budgets, seeking sponsorship, organising events and promotions, artistic design or simply being part of the cheer squad! The dedication of the students in these clubs reflects their skill, engagement with and passion for their crafts and industries as well as their personal and professional commitment to their team and the university. Both clubs play an active role in University Orientation, Open Day and LEAD Programs.

RUSU wishes both RMIT Racing and RMIT e-Racing all the best with their 2014/15 competitions!

For further information about the clubs, please visit their websites:

- » [www.fsaermitracing.com](http://www.fsaermitracing.com)
- » [electric.rmitracing.com](http://electric.rmitracing.com)

## Club Activities this Quarter

- » RMIT League of Legends End of Year Party @Strike Bowling, City
- » RMIT Engineers Without Borders Wind Turbine Working Bee @ RMIT Building 56
- » RMIT Civil Engineering Student Association (CESA) Hoodies received and distributed @ Building 8 Cafeteria, RMIT
- » RMIT Greens Climate Form @ B 56 RMIT
- » Vietnamese International Students at RMIT (VISAR) Fashion Illustration Skill Share Workshop @ Swanston Library, RMIT
- » RMIT Christian Union Mission Training @ RMIT Spiritual Centre
- » RMIT League of Legends Friday Afternoon Smash Tourney Series @ RMIT B56
- » RMIT Australian China Youth Association Movie Night @ Building 37, RMIT
- » RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA) Movie Night @ Hoyts Theatre, Melbourne Central
- » RMIT Electric Racing Presentation at AutoCRC 3rd Technical Convention @ Melbourne Convention Centre
- » RMIT Hong Kong Student association “Orz Escape” Activity Series @ A’Beckett Square RMIT and Melbourne surrounds
- » RMIT Economics, Finance and Marketing Student Association End of Semester BBQ @ RMIT A’Beckett Square
- » RMIT Aerospace Student Association (AES) Pub Trivia Night @ John Curtain Hotel, Carlton
- » RMIT Civil Engineering Student Association (CESA) Graduation BBQ @ Bowen Street, RMIT
- » RMIT Geospatial Science Students Association (GSSA) End of Semester Social @ Workshop Bar, Melbourne
- » RMIT Association of Biomedical Science Students End of Semester Event “Sweet Stand” @ Bundoora West Library Courtyard, RMIT
- » RMIT Applied Chemistry and Environmental Science (ACESS) End of Semester BBQ @ FigTree Courtyard, RMIT
- » RMIT Islamic Society (RMITS) Speaker Event and BBQ @ RMIT Storey Hall and Bowen Street
- » RMIT Singapore Students Association End of Semester Dinner @ Universal Restaurant, Melbourne
- » RMIT Environmental Engineering Student Association (EESA) End of Year BB @ FigTree Courtyard, RMIT International Students Association (ISA) End of Semester Picnic @ Carlton Gardens, Carlton
- » RMIT Engineers Without Borders End of Semester BBQ @Fig Tree Courtyard, RMIT
- » RMIT Chinese Methodist Christian Fellowship End of Year BBQ Day Trip @ Maroondah Reserve, Healesville
- » RMIT Christian Union Annual Dinner @ Rydges Bell City, Preston
- » RMIT Singapore Students Association Party @ Lush Bar, Southbank
- » RMIT Supply Chain Student Association – End of Year Event @ Asian Beer Café, Melbourne
- » RMIT Association of Chemical Engineers (ACES) Boat Party @ Yarra River/Port Philip Bay, Melbourne
- » RMIT Asian Association End Of Exams Party @ Shed 9, Central Harbour Docklands
- » RMIT Australian China Youth Association Team at the Bilingual Education Foundation Australia (BEFA) Bilingual Trivia Night @ Doncaster

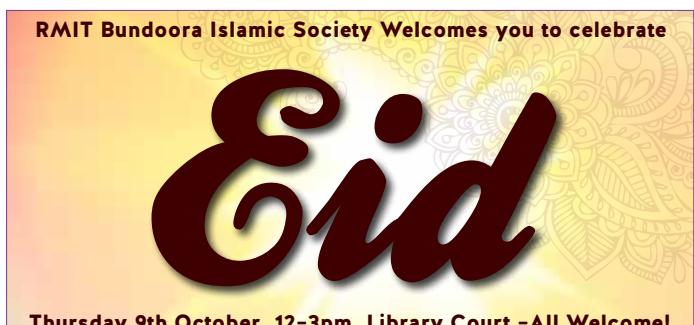
- » Vietnamese International Students at RMIT End of Semester BBQ @ Batman Park, Melbourne
- » RMIT PPIA Indonesian Student Association End of Semester Beach Trip @ Brighton Beach
- » RMIT Interior Design and Decoration TAFE Exhibition Launch @ RMIT Design Hub
- » RMIT Games Manga and Anime Society (GMAS) end of year party @ Nekocards, Melbourne
- » RMIT Electric Racing Club Camp in conjunction with December Formula SAE Australia Championships @ TreeTops, Riddells Creek (Championships at Calder Raceway)
- » RMIT Electric Racing Launch Night @ Design Hub, RMIT

## Information To RUSU Clubs

- » Provisional Affiliation Form and instructions
- » Clubs Orientation Events registration form and instructions
- » Annual General Meeting Templates including the Annual Club Financial Report Template
- » How to run Club Elections Guide prepared and distributed
- » Updating “Clubs Guide to Booking Space on Campus” Guide in response to NAS

## New Developments & Support To RUSU Clubs

- » Updated Clubs Model Constitution and Annual review of RUSU Clubs Grants Schedules approved by SUC
- » Expansion of Clubs participation opportunities at RMIT Orientation events
- » Development of training priorities and schedule for Club Leaders to better access opportunities available through the RMIT LEAD Program
- » Development of proforma and guidance material to support planning and delivery of higher risk activities such as Camps and food fundraisers



# Student Media

## Catalyst

At year end Catalyst finds itself in a far stronger position than the beginning of the year. All of its contributors have worked tirelessly to continue the tradition of publishing an exceptional student magazine.

2014 saw a massive upsurge in participation from RMIT's Design, Photography, and Fine Art faculties, including some of the university's award-winning students engaging with the magazine. This resulted in each edition receiving more submissions than page space allowed for from issue two until the end of the year. Of course, this was reflected in our numbers online, inclusive of our social media and virtual editions on Issuu.

We were lucky enough to launch the Cataclysm podcast in 2014. We've also established ongoing relationships with a number of RMIT bodies such as RMIT Link Arts & Culture, First Site Gallery, and the RMIT Design Hub Curatorial Office to name a few. Additionally, we have reached out to local businesses in the CBD and beyond which have brought RMIT student work to a far greater audience.

While having contributors achieve success in the industry, it's important to note Catalyst's place as the first place of publication for many RMIT students. In 2014, Catalyst was the home to many first-time feature writers, photographers, and illustrators that went beyond the Media & Communications bubble.

### Training / Industry Engagement

In semester two, 2014, the Catalyst editors ran two workshops with industry professionals.

#### Industry workshops

##### Workshop #1: Hard News Journalism.

- » Guests/Speakers: Myriam Robin and Rachel Baxendale. Rachel (journalist The Australian newspaper) and Myriam (journalist with Crikey) each gave a short talk before a Q&A session with questions revolving around journalism, writing tips and the media industry

##### #Workshop #2: Cultural Coverage / Arts Journalism

- » Guests/Speakers: Tim Fisher & Penny Modra

Tim is editorial director at Broadsheet. Tim is a former editor of Surfing Life magazine, and is a current board member at the Emerging Writers' Festival.

Penny is the editorial director of The Good Copy, a freshly launched Melbourne writing studio, publishing house, and bookstore. Penny was formerly the editor of Three Thousand for seven years and editorial director of The Thousands cultural guides nationally. Additionally, Penny pens visual arts columns for The Age and The Sunday Age.

#### Catalyst at the National Young Writers' Festival.

In early October, the 2014 editors flew up to Newcastle, NSW for the annual National Young Writers' Festival that forms part of the broader 'This is Not Art' (TiNA) Festival each year.

Catalyst was instrumental in organising a student media roundtable which included a series of panels and workshops that revolved around design, journalism, and censorship within student media.

## RMITV

### Industry Engagement and Employment

RMITV - Student Community Television Inc. replicates a professional media production experience which translates to member success in the media industry. Recent successful transitions and achievements of RMITV members and alumni include:

- » Jess May - Gearhouse
- » Andrew Fenaughty - ABC
- » Luke McGregor - Utopia (ABC)
- » Tegan Marie Higginbotham - Fresh Blood (ABC iView), host of the Antenna Awards (C31)
- » Dave Thornton - Double Dribble (ABC 2)
- » 1440 Productions [Kirsty Fuller] - Heart and Soul (nominated for Emmy award)

### RMITV Alumni

Much of our alumni have gone on to achieve great things in the industry. Some of our current and former members have been interning on the ABC program 'Heart and Soul', recently nominated for an EMMY award! These members were able to work on the show after 1440 Productions approached RMITV seeking our best and brightest for internships.

### New RMITV Volunteer Managers

Ronja Moss has recently moved on from her role as Office Manager at RMITV. Ronja will be completing her Media degree from RMIT University at the end of this year. Bridget McClumpha has been appointed the new Office Manager. She is currently completing a Masters of Media at RMIT and crews on RMITV's long-running program 'Tough Times Never Last'. Bridget is also an editor for the new RMITV web based series 'Follies of Youth' and has been involved with various film festivals, including Melbourne International Film Festival.

Pamela Meagher has finished her term in the lead role of RMITV General Manager, progressing to an exciting Marketing and Public Relations role. During her time at RMITV Pamela strengthened relationships with stakeholders, established long-term marketing materials, was successful in grant funding, overseeing around ten productions, and most of all seeing countless members launch their careers in the media industry.



SOME 2014 CATALYST ISSUES

## Training

The RMITV training program provides not just theoretical knowledge but a swathe of practical, hands-on training that distinguishes our members from the wider media industry.

Our recent 'Advanced Directing Workshop' conducted by ABC Senior News Director, Mr Ron Frim, provided attendees with the opportunity to draw upon Ron's years of professional experience and knowledge with one attendee gaining employment through contact with Ron.

"It was a good opportunity for the attendees to have a hands on experience learning the craft of television production. This is what RMITV does well throughout the year with its television, OB and film productions."

- Ron Frim, Senior News Director at The ABC

## Flagship Production

### Live on Bowen:

Live on Bowen completed filming and airing its fifth season on Channel 31 earlier this month with the support of the SSAF Funding, under the production expertise of Elena Szymanski and Antonio Cafasso, both recent RMIT graduates and producers of the fourth and fifth season of the show. Live on Bowen is currently being aired around Australia and New Zealand.

RMITV's flagship production Live on Bowen can gain students work exposure to a viewership of 80,000+ in Melbourne and Geelong alone. With notable celebrity guests featured this season namely:

- » Paul Verhoeven and Luke Ryan
- » Ella Hooper
- » Tosh Greenslade
- » Khaled Khalafalla
- » Claire Hooper
- » Tegan Higginbotham
- » Shaun Micallef

"Working with RMITV not only helped me realise the career path I wanted to take, but also gave me the opportunity to work on a televised show as a floor manager at industry standard. Priceless experience in the field."

- Kurt McCowen RMITV alumni, Diploma of Screen and Media



FILMING ON SET AT RMITV

## External productions

### RAY Program- Red Cross

RMITV in conjunction with the Red Cross created an introductory television production workshop for the Red Cross's Refugee and Asylum Seeker Youth Holiday (RAY) Program. The RAY program is for newly arrived refugee and asylum seeker children aged 12-20. The program aimed to orientate them with the workings of a television studio facility and gave them the unique experience of learning from some of RMITV's more experienced members. All participants had a fun, inspirational time.

### Formula SAE-A 2014

The annual event held by the Society of Automotive Engineers-Australasia is scheduled to take place from 11th- 14th December this year and has over 25 teams participating; including 2 teams from RMIT University. RMITV will be filming and streaming the event 'live' from Calder Park, making the event accessible online as it happens.

### Carols By Daylight

RMITV has been invited to be a part of an annual Christmas event: "Carols by Daylight", held at Deakin Edge at Federation Square on Sunday 14th December.

## Social Media & Publications

- » Facebook – 10,032 likes
- » Twitter – 1,733 followers.

### Facebook

Our Facebook presence continues to grow stronger, and serves as our number one social media engagement tool. This quarter saw us reach the fantastic milestone of 10,000 likes, which we celebrated by giving away luxury hotel vouchers to two lucky students. 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). Post-event photo galleries also continue to be a major drawcard for students on the Facebook platform. Popular events on Facebook this quarter included Happily Ever After end of exams party and the Oktoberfest celebrations.

### Twitter

RUSU currently has over 1,700 Twitter followers, 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. Campaign events seem to be popular on the Twitter platform, with NUS National Day of Action proving to be a popular topic, along with Catalyst news stories.

### 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 3,777 subscribers to date, and a readership engagement rate of around 50 per cent. To date, there have been 14 issues so far in 2014, providing students with the latest news and information on upcoming events and activities.

### Promotional Materials

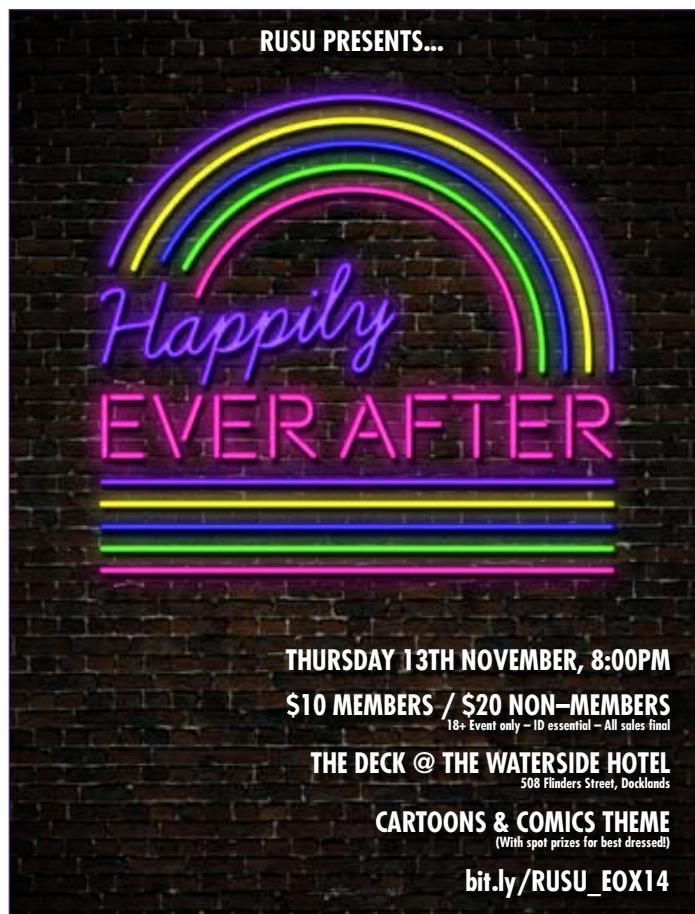
The RUSU Media Department produces a wide variety of publicity materials for RUSU departments, events and clubs. To ensure their suitability over a broad range of printed and digital media, publicity materials are always made in a range of formats. Some highlights this quarter include:

#### Oktoberfest

This event was organised at the last minute, and incorporated a fun, traditional design, including the Munich blue and white check and wood elements to give a beer-hall vibe.

#### Happily Ever After

The Official RUSU End of Exams Party this year had a cartoon characters theme. Originally, we had planned to have a Disney theme, but the design department raised concerns over potential copyright infringement. Instead, we went for a brightly-lit neon style logo on a brick wall. It was a popular design that was effective across all marketing platforms.



# Representation and Advocacy

## Compass

There were 39 student drop-ins at Compass throughout October, November and December.

Compass volunteers continued to staff the drop in space four days per week and helped out on numerous outreach events. They finished up at the end of week 12 and we celebrated with a volunteer thank-you party.

### Standout events for Compass:

- » Yoga finished up for the year and students have been expressing their hope that the classes will be offered again next year.
- » The RUSU English Language Workshops finished up and again students have been expressing their hopes that the classes will run again next year as they have found them so valuable.
- » The Compass Project Officer along with a Student Rights Officer worked closely with senior advisors from RMIT wellbeing and the communications team around an anti-sexual harassment campaign to take place in 2015. More details to come in the next quarter report.
- » Psychology student Tina Dochana undertook a placement at Compass and while she was with us she digitalized all of our files making Compass almost paper free and completely up to date on the new database which will be a great way to start the New Year.
- » Stress Less Week was held over all metropolitan campuses including Bundoora East. This year alongside the usual mini massages and de stress information we had a petting zoo to help relax students. This was again a huge success with students at the City campus braving heavy rain to play with the animals.
- » Mental Health Week was held in October and Compass teamed up with the RUSU's Queer Department and RMIT counselling to provide a Chill Out Zone alongside the weekly BBQ's. This consisted of comfy sitting spaces, free herbal teas, free mini massages- all alongside heaps of information about mental health and visits from RMIT Counselling staff and Compass volunteers.
- » Compass Project Officer has instigated a project along with the Disability Liaison Unit to speak with teaching staff from the College of Business about students and mental health. This presentation aims to explain to staff what services are available to support them when they encounter a student they may be worried about and also what their obligations are. This will hopefully come to fruition early in the New Year.



FREE FRUIT AT STRESS LESS WEEK



PETTING ZOO FUN

# Representation

The 2015 Council attended 5 days of intensive induction sessions on campus and in Bendigo. The training provided covered such topics as:

- » Meeting the legal requirements of RUSU as student reps
- » Finance Made Easy - reading a department budget, P&L reports, RUSU funding, SSAF requirements, quarterly reports
- » Student Unions and RUSU in Context: the departments, functions, services and activities of RUSU past and present.
- » Planning and organising events at RMIT
- » Identifying Roles and Responsibilities- being a good representative,
- » Essential office and organisational skills
- » Who's who at RMIT
- » Strategic planning and goal setting for 2015

At the conclusion of Induction the Council members developed a calendar of events and campaigns for 2015.

A comprehensive RUSU Induction Manual was developed to assist student representatives to understand their role and navigate RUSU and RMIT processes.

## Election of RUSU President

In accordance with the RUSU Constitution the Student Union Council elects the President and Media Officer from its elected members. The SUC elections were held on 16 October.

- » Himasha Fonseka was elected as SUC President.
- » The 2014 Activities Officer, Clinton Elliot was elected as Media Officer for 2015.

This meeting also elected SUC members to a range of RUSU internal committees such as Staffing Committee and the Occupational Health & Safety Committee. Participation in these committees enables student representatives to build their skills and experience in organising and managing an organisation, and reflects RUSU's commitment to being a student controlled organisation.

## Appeal Committees Reps

RUSU has supported students on the following RMIT hearings:

- » 8 student representatives sat on 20 Student Conduct hearings
- » 5 student representatives sat on 37 University Appeals Committee hearings.
- » 2 student representatives sat on 4 College Appeal Committee Hearings

## NUS Conference

RUSU supported seven delegates to represent RMIT at the National Union of Students Conference in December 2014. This conference provided the opportunity to work intensively with students from around the country; to share ideas and experiences and to coordinate activities and campaigns benefitting students for the year ahead. Key areas of discussion were:

- » The campaign against fee deregulation for 2015
- » The compulsory recording of lectures to better assist students who cannot attend
- » Abolishing Parallel Import Restrictions on textbooks in order to make these materials cheaper
- » Constitutional change of NUS to create a union that is more relevant, active and efficient.
- » CAPA Affiliation & Conference
- » RUSU's incoming Postgraduate Officer, Paul Hoac attended the 2014 Council of Postgraduate Associations (CAPA) annual conference.

## Student Voice

The Incoming RUSU President and General Secretary met with the new Vice Chancellor, Marin Bean this quarter and look forward to further discussion with him in 2015.

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

- » Academic Board
- » Action on student satisfaction Project
- » Academic Portfolio retreat with RMIT management
- » Student Engagement Bundoora Campus Committee
- » Monthly Catch Up Meetings with the Dean of Students
- » Office for Learning and Teaching Project (Peer Review)
- » Orientation and Transition Steering Group
- » Policy and programs committee
- » Student Experience Advisory Committee
- » VET committee
- » HECQN Deregulation Forum

The 2015 President & General Secretary also attended the HECQN Deregulation Forum with management from universities across Australia to learn more about the sector's broad response and viewpoint in relation to the deregulation of university fees. The General Secretary found it an invaluable experience, speaking to the architect of HECS, Bruce Chapman.

## 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
- » 11 Secretariat meetings
- » Student representatives gaining governance experience on internal Student Union Committees, such as Staffing Committee, Finance Standing Committee and Student Rights Group Monthly Meetings
- » Elected student councillors supported to act work as governors and managers.

# Student Rights

## Student Rights

"The hearing went well. The decision was upheld and I was granted a deferred exam in February.....Overall, thanks for your great help with the written submission" – Text from a student.

The Student Rights Service experienced unprecedented demand during the end of quarter peak following the release of results and students being asked to 'show cause'. The RUSU front counter was staffed by 2 Student Liaison Officers wherever possible during this time to cope with the demand.

At the height of this peak (Monday 8 – Friday 12 December) 388 students sought assistance from the RUSU student rights service through the RUSU information counter, email advice service or via phone. These students were provided with initial advice, information resources, booked into group sessions and where required and possible into consultations with Student Rights Officers.

### Student Rights Enquiries Monday 8 – Friday 12 December

» Phone enquiries	122
» Email enquiries	160
» RUSU Front Counter	106
» Total	388

Ade Adenyi has taken 12 months leave from the role of Bundoora Student Rights Officer. Ollie Fabinyi will replace Ade during this period. Ollie has jumped in the deep end arriving during shortly after the release of results.

Due to the NAS Early Works occurring on the Building 8 stairwell entry, the Student Rights Service has been operating out of Building 80. RUSU is very appreciative of the support shown by Property Services in finding us suitable alternative accommodation so we could continue to assist students at such a critical and peak time.

### Feedback from Students

"Compiling support documentation has been quite a painful process -stirring back up some memories I wish I would have been entitled to leave behind- but it was worth it. Most importantly, I sincerely wanted to thank you very much for your patience and support; I could not have been through all this without you." – Email from a student

Thank you for your help so much and I really appreciate it at last I can graduate I hope. I'm so happy right now. – Email from a student

### STUDENT RIGHTS CASES: 1 OCTOBER–31 DECEMBER 2014

Problems created during the last quarter	Number
Discipline (University Level)	
Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism)	3
General Misconduct	1
Discipline (School Level)	
Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism)	16
General Misconduct	2
Complaint	
RMIT Ombudsman	1
School Level	40
University Level	7
Uncategorised	
Admin Issue	4
Admission Issue	3
Appeal Against Assessment	53
Assessment Issues (other)	9
At Risk	1
Bullying	2
Disability	5
Enrolment Issue	6
Exclusion	8
Fees Issue	6
Leave of Absence (LOA)	3
Mental Health Issue	6
Other issues	10
Remission of Debt	4
RMIT English Worldwide (REW)	1
Show Cause	29
Special Consideration	50
Supplementary Exam Request (Pass by Compensation)	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>271</b>

**STUDENT RIGHTS CASES: 1 JULY–30 SEPTEMBER 2014**

Problems outcomes during the last quarter	Number
Appeal Against Exclusion	
University Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	2
Appeal Upheld	6
Exclusion Withdrawn by School Before Hearing	3
Exclusion Withdrawn by Student	1
Fee Remission	
Fee Remission Approved	1
Special Consideration Granted	
Alternative Assessment	1
Deferred Exam	5
Extension of Time	2
Late Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty	2
Appeal Against Special Consideration	
University Appeal Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	2
Appeal Upheld	1
Special Consideration Granted Without a Hearing	2
Complaint Outcome	
Alternative Resolution Reached	2
RMIT Ombudsman Complaint Dismissed	1
School Level Complaint Resolved	1
University Level Complaint Dismissed	1
Referral Internal	
Compass	9
Counselling Service	10
Disability Liaison Unit	6
Housing Services	1
International Student Services	1
Legal Service	1
Student Wellbeing	4
Study and Learning Centre	6
Appeal Against RPL/RPL Issue	
College Appeals Committee	
RPL Achieved	1
Contacted School Issue Resolved	
Contacted Academic Administrator	1
Contacted Course Coordinator	2
Contacted Head of School	3
Contacted Lecturer/Tutor	1
Contacted Program Manager	4

Problems outcomes during the last quarter	Number
Other	
Advice Given – Student Able to Proceed With Case Themselves	49
Other Outcomes	19
Student Doesn't Want to Pursue the Case	6
Discipline/Plagiarism Meeting Case School Level	
Other Penalty	3
Student Asked to Resubmit the Assessment	12
Student Reprimanded	5
Student Given a Fail For All or Any Part of any Assessment	9
Leave Of Absence (LOA)	
LOA Granted	1
Discipline Board Hearing Academic Misconduct	
Case Dismissed in Favour of Student	2
Appeal Against Assessment (AAA) CAC Decision University Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	1
Appeal Upheld	3
Fee Issue Outcome	
Issue Resolved	1
Payment Plan Provided	1
Supplementary Exam	
Supplementary Exam Granted	1
Supplementary Exam Not Granted	1
Appeal Against Assessment (AAA) College Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	1
Appeal Upheld	2
Appeal Upheld Exclusion Withdrawn	1
Informal Review of Assessment Resolution	2
Discipline/Plagiarism Meeting Case School Level	
Student Found Not Guilty	14
Discipline Board Hearing General Misconduct	
Case Dismissed in Favour of Student	1
Student Reprimanded	1
Student Suspended	1
Show Cause Outcome	
Show Cause Approved by SPC	1
Phone Advice Given	36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>221</b>
<b>Student Cases Opened During Last Quarter</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>Student Cases Closed During Last Quarter</b>	<b>160</b>

# 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 – \$2,509,007**

The 2015 RMIT/RUSU Deed Agreement has been signed. It has been agreed that the 2015 grant will be received as a lump sum payment in January, which will enable RUSU to generate additional income to supplement the grant.

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 December 2014

Allowable Item	Item Description	YTD Expenditure (SSAF Funded)
Giving students information to help them in their orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orientation specific events</li> <li>• Re-Orientation Events</li> </ul>	\$37,421
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"> <li>• All activities and events from advocacy and welfare collectives: Queer, Womyn's, Post-Graduate, Environment, Welfare, Education</li> <li>• Campaigns, events, honorariums, programs, marketing</li> <li>• All Compass Centre, programs and staff</li> <li>• Healthy Eating SSAF Grant</li> </ul>	\$243,938
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"> <li>• All activities and events from International student department and International Support SSAF Grant</li> </ul>	\$52,913
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"> <li>• Induction programs/Student Representative Professional Development</li> <li>• Volunteer Program + program staffing</li> <li>• Student Engagement Officer</li> <li>• Student Union Council Elections</li> <li>• Secretariat Honorariums</li> <li>• All of SUC campaigns</li> </ul>	\$336,125
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"> <li>• RMITV operations, honorariums, special projects, productions, training, website</li> <li>• RMIT Flagship Program</li> <li>• Catalyst magazine operations, student honorariums, publication (online and print)</li> <li>• Communications/Graphic Designer Staff</li> </ul>	\$183,667

**TABLE 1:** RUSU SSAF Grant expenditure on Allowable Items 1 January – 31 December 2014 (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"> <li>Campus specific events and marketing (all campuses)</li> <li>RUSU Realfoods</li> </ul>	\$131,753
Supporting a sporting or other recreational activity by students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major events and intervarsity recreational activities and competitions</li> <li>Activities and Events Collective including administration, student honorariums, marketing and staff support</li> </ul>	\$183,749
Supporting an artistic activity by students	-	\$0
Supporting debating by students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grants paid to debating club are included with clubs reporting.</li> </ul>	\$0
Supporting the administration of a club most of whose members are students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administration, grants, equipment and support to student run clubs and societies</li> <li>Clubs and Societies Staff and other support</li> </ul>	\$230,313
Advising on matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administration and Support staff members: Administration, Governance and Finance</li> <li>5 x Information counter staff and operations (including Bundoora East and SSAF Project)</li> </ul>	\$673,871
Advocating students' interests in matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student Rights Officers</li> <li>Student Advocacy materials, campaigns, research and training for staff and student representatives on committees</li> </ul>	\$523,201
	<b>YTD SSAF Expenditure</b>	<b>\$2,596,951</b>
	<b>YTD 2014 SSAF Grants Received</b>	<b>\$2,509,007</b>
	<b>Adjusted YTD Grants Received<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>\$2,595,412</b>

**NOTE:** # This figure includes the following amounts:

- » 2014 Grant (combined SSAF and Base Grant) \$2,509,007
- » Bundoora East Grant carried over from 2013 \$47,633
- » Other SSAF Grant underspend carried over from 2013 \$38,772
- » **TOTAL** \$2,595,412

**TABLE 2:** 2014 SSAF Committee Grant Reports 1 January – 31 December 2014

Program Title	Grant Amount	Expenditure Jan–March	Comments
RUSU Volunteer Program	\$149,000	\$136,303	Expenditure on target for project.
Compass – funding a welfare information and referral drop-in space	\$105,000	\$110,374	May run slightly overbudget.
RUSU Flagship Production (Live On Bowen) and RMITV training program	\$35,000	\$37,677	Expenditure on target for project.
RUSU International Student Support – conversation classes and city tours	\$25,000	\$22,968	Expenditure on target for project.
RUSU Bundoora East rejuvenation – phase 2	\$30,000	\$88,458	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	\$37,421	Under budget due to income from the Re-O Night party.
RUSU Healthy Eating program, including sustainability awareness	\$40,000	\$39,971	Expenditure on target for project.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$424,000</b>	<b>\$473,172</b>	
<b>TOTAL (With Bundoora East \$47,633 rollover from 2013)</b>	<b>\$471,633</b>	<b>\$473,172</b>	
<b>OVERSPEND</b>		<b>\$1,539</b>	

**RUTSU**  
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION