



# RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION: THIRD QUARTER REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JULY 2015 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2015



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Himasha  
**FONSEKA**

What an exciting and eventful quarter it's been for the RMIT University Student Union. The period was filled with amazing parties, cultural events, and student activism at its best. For many the highlight was the Demolition Party held in August that saw RUSU team up with the New Academic Street planners to produce a memorable and action-packed night of entertainment.

In a totally different vein, but equally successful, September's Mooncake Festival brought a large number

of students to Alumni Courtyard to celebrate the traditional Autumn harvest. The event is especially dear to RMIT's many students from China and Vietnam, who see it as a wonderful opportunity to connect with the traditions of their homelands.

In July many of our representatives attended the National Union of Students (NUS) Education Conference in Sydney where we worked with student groups across the country. The conference is important as it allows students from across the country to share their concerns, generate policy, and organise responses to government actions that disadvantage students. Topics of discussion included funding, student union staffing structures, the National Day of Action (which was a huge success), events, and more.

At a more local level, RUSU has been committed to ensuring the student experience at RMIT is not heavily impacted by the NAS works, and continued to work closely with the university to make sure progress is as smooth as possible.

With student union elections held in September, we look forward to welcoming a new group of representatives who are committed to the rights, welfare, and enjoyment of all RMIT students.

Himasha Fonseka  
President  
RMIT University Student Union



# ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

## STANDOUT EVENTS

It's been a huge quarter for events on campus, here are some of the highlights!

### Mid-Year Orientation Roundup

We spoke to thousands of students as part of the mid-year orientation program:

- » Attending 14 orientation talks across campuses and schools.
- » Chatting to and signing up new members at every single welcome and Founders Day event.
- » Hosting cohort-specific pop-up pubs for the vocational education and study abroad programs, handing out free food and drinks.
- » Celebrating Founders Day with a bang and a massive on-campus bar that was open to all RUSU members and RMIT Staff, providing a great chance for everyone to mingle on what turned out to be a gorgeous winter's day.

In addition to collaborating with the RMIT Events team on their mid-year orientation festivities, RUSU held two of its own special events to welcome students to a new semester and the University. Held over the weekend of July 17 was our first – but hopefully annual – Mid-Year Sn'O Camp; while the second event was our Back to School Party on July 23.

### Mid Year Sn'O Camp

Mid-Year Sn'O Camp was an all-ages and alcohol-free orientation camp designed for mid-year intake and first-year RMIT students. It sold out even with the short two-week lead up that we had to promote it. Camp Jungai, situated in the gorgeous bush behind the Cathedral Ranges National Park, was the perfect location to introduce international, exchange and even a few local students to some Australian native animals, with kangaroos, kookaburras, possums and rosellas all frequenting the grounds. After a trivia night on Friday broke the ice, the following Saturday was filled with team-building activities, high ropes, games of football, camp fire s'mores and a chance to meet new people. Sunday saw everyone enjoying – some for the very first time – the chance to see and play in the snow at Lake Mountain Alpine Ski Resort.

The highlight of the event was seeing such a diverse group of students – local, international, exchange, undergraduate, postgraduate and from every RMIT campus – get on so well, pitching in to set up for dinner and helping each other navigate the high ropes course. We have been so excited to see these same students at subsequent RUSU events, with many also joining our volunteer program and some taking up the challenge of leadership roles within RUSU Clubs and Societies.



Founders Day fun

### Back to School Party

The Back to School Party at La Di Da went off, with most party goers putting in a fine effort to dress to impress in school attire. While parties are part of the core business of the RUSU activities department, it is always great to see people really engaging with a theme beyond the chance to just drink and dance. For the first time we awarded the best dressed guy and girl on the night the opportunity to keep the party going this semester, offering free entry for them and a friend to every upcoming event.

### The Demolition Party

By far the largest event of the semester, RUSU was really excited to be teaming up with the New Academic Street (NAS) team to create and host the Demolition Party. When NAS approached RUSU to work with them to design a student-centred event that would promote the project and get students talking about the upcoming works, we jumped at the opportunity. What a great way to demonstrate our amazing skills with regard to engaging the student body and show that RUSU really does throw the best parties. As this was a chance to really try something new at RMIT, we brought in a few more stakeholders, including Shape RMIT, RMITV, RMIT Link Arts and the RMIT Events, Security and Property Service Teams. These stakeholders supported RUSU in creating an event in building 10 and 12 that encompassed:

- » Three different zones, each with it's own DJ (including the amazing DJ Mimi), dance floor and bar.
- » Graffiti artists creating a mural for the event.
- » An interactive photo booth, giving students great mementos to take home.
- » Funkedalic dance performances.
- » Fun sets, props, lighting and projections changing the internal space into that of a ready-for-demolition warehouse.
- » A wall through which students could see the future (or at least the fly-through of the NAS works).
- » Free street food, water, and cider (for RUSU members).

Working with NAS as our core partner we were able to navigate and pull off a sold out event that we hope students will be talking about for years to come. A video of the event, produced by RMITV, can be found at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=3S\\_GHILvf2w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3S_GHILvf2w)



All dressed up for the Back to School Party



## Mooncake Festival Night

The Mid-Autumn Festival is a harvest festival celebrated by ethnic Chinese and Vietnamese peoples. The festival is held on the 15th day of the eighth month in the Chinese Han calendar and Vietnamese calendar (within 15 days of the autumnal equinox), on the night of the full moon between early September to early October of the Gregorian calendar. Observance of this event includes sharing traditional moon cakes to celebrate the harvest full moon, lighting lanterns and being around family and friends watching the moon rise. Feedback from students at the event was very positive, with many students saying they were reminded of being at home, of good childhood memories, and that they appreciated having the opportunity to celebrate this traditional event on campus with other students.

## Walking Tacos – Week 8

To celebrate Mexican Independence Day and the diversity of RMIT's student group, RUSU themed the Chill 'n' Grills at each campus during Week 8 by serving 'Walking Tacos' rather than the regular BBQ. The event was extremely popular among students who enjoyed the change in food for the free lunch event. Global Mobility collaborated with RUSU on this event at the city campus and provided students with information regarding exchange programs and study tours to Latin American.

## Oktoberfest Outer Campuses – Week 9

Oktoberfest was celebrated by RUSU across the outer campuses providing a total of 1000 free German-style sausages (including bratwurst, kransky and veggie sausages) to the Brunswick, Bundoora West and Bundoora East students. Rather than running the regular BBQ, the 'Sausagefest' food truck was hired to provide an authentic Oktoberfest-style free lunch to all students. RUSU also set up a themed bar to run alongside the Brunswick and Bundoora events, providing free German beer and cider to students and staff aged 18 years and older.

## MEMBERSHIP

Over the third quarter we had 588 new members sign up and pay, bringing the annual total to more than 5200 members. This is a great result, with memberships up 46% compared to this time last year!



Dressed up in Lederhosen for Oktoberfest



Demolition Party dance floor crew



Back To School Party



Demolition Party was a blast



Solid teamwork at Sn'O Camp



Carving up the dance floor at Founders Day



# VOLUNTEERS

The third quarter saw continued growth for the RUSU Volunteer Program. The re-launch of Realfoods enjoyed great support from existing and newly recruited volunteers. The hands-on experience and hospitality credentials offered through Realfoods volunteering are paying off, with many volunteers securing work within the sector. This is a very satisfying outcome for RUSU and we continue to be available as referees and supporters for those seeking paid work. We continued our provision of Responsible Service of Alcohol, Safe Food Handler Level One and First Aid training. It has been pleasing to support services at Bundoora with city campus volunteers traveling to Bundoora to support their small but growing volunteer team.

Identifying and developing volunteers as leaders is a key aspect of the RUSU Volunteer program. This quarter up to 40 volunteers attended the Volunteer Leadership Camp at Creswick. This camp is an opportunity for volunteers to self-reflect upon how they function as a team member and recognise the opportunities to lead fellow students in the course of their volunteer work.

This quarter also saw the continuation of the wonderful partnership we enjoy with Certificate 1 Work Education Students at Brunswick campus.

## VOLUNTEER HOURS WORKED IN 2015

During the third quarter, RUSU volunteers contributed more than 1687 working hours to RUSU services, bring the total hours for the year to date to 3927 hours.

## RUSU VOLUNTEERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Third Quarter 2015

Recruitment	Jul-Sep	Year to date
Number of students registering their interest to volunteer during third quarter	156	527
Training	Completions	
Volunteers inducted	84	326
Volunteers trained in Safe Food Handling Level 1	75	167
Volunteers trained in RSA	75	164
Volunteers trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid	22	22
Volunteers trained in Community First Aid	52	52



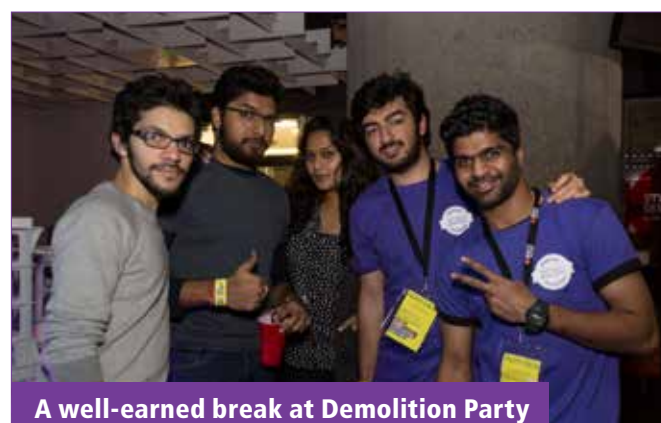
Our volunteers make RUSU great



Working hard at Founders Day



Always ready to help



A well-earned break at Demolition Party

# ACROSS THE CAMPUSES

## CITY

The commencement of the New Academic Street (NAS) project saw RUSU move out of its building 8 home and relocate to two new offices in building 5 and buildings 56 and 57.

RUSU opened its new office in building 5 on July 6. This space contains:

- » The Compass Drop-In Centre and the Compass Project Officer's office.
- » RUSU front office and info counter .
- » One consultation space, used primarily for student rights appointments.
- » An activities preparation area which incorporates a break-out space for volunteers.
- » An activities store room housing high-use activities/ volunteer program items.

The remainder of RUSU's operations – including another information counter, student rights consultation spaces, meeting rooms, RMITV, *Catalyst*, Women's and Queer rooms, and various staff – made the move to our brand new Carlton offices in buildings 56 and 57, with the office officially opening its doors on August 3.

Both RUSU information counters functioned as important 'go to' information and contact points for RMIT students this quarter. July, August and September proved to be very busy months, with many students signing up for RUSU memberships, seeking student rights advice and advocacy, and accessing RUSU services. The admin volunteer program continued to be successful, with 10 volunteers staffing the building 5 office during the peak periods of the day. This program provides RUSU volunteers with experience in administration and student-focused customer service.

## Oktoberfest

Following the success of last year's event, RUSU created a bigger and better Oktoberfest themed Chill 'n' Grill by transforming Alumni Courtyard into a Munich-style bier hall. Traditional German beers including Bitburger, Erdinger and DAB were served to students, along with soft German pretzels. The regular BBQ of halal sausages and veggie patties was modified to fit this event by serving the food in long buns with sauerkraut and whole grain mustard. Students were provided with more than 800 sausages, 150 veggie patties, 400 pretzels and over 250 litres of German beer and cider.

Global Mobility collaborated with RUSU on this event and provided students with information regarding their exchange programs and study tours to Germany, free gingerbread men and fun photo opportunities with props and a photo board.

## Free Welfare Breakfasts

The free welfare breakfasts continued to provide hungry students across all campuses with healthy morning munchies such as vegan muffins, fresh fruit, and yoghurt. There is a high awareness level among students and many regulars stop by to grab a snack every week.

## Chill 'n' Grill

The city Chill 'n' Grill has continued to be an extremely successful event, with around 15 volunteers assisting with the delivery of the free lunch to approximately 1000 students every week. Chill 'n' Grill continues to provide volunteers with an opportunity to meet new friends, develop new skills, and gain event work experience, while facilitating a fun and atmospheric event on campus every week for all RMIT students. It has also continued to offer opportunities for student employment through booking student DJs to perform at various events.



Oktoberfest shenanigans





## BUNDOORA (EAST & WEST)

Bundoora East and West campuses have seen plenty of activity during the third quarter of 2015. The information counters at Bundoora West and Bundoora East have continued to open regularly and have provided a first point of contact for students seeking assistance with a range of issues, including student rights queries.

A number of improvements to campus facilities have been made at Bundoora West as part of Shape RMIT and other RUSU initiatives. This has included the installation of two new student study spaces in building 201, as well as more microwaves, tables, chairs and magazines (*Catalyst* and *Beat*) in building 204. We have received great feedback from the students regarding these changes, and are proud of the role that RUSU played in making this happen.

It has been a busy quarter for clubs, activities and wellbeing at Bundoora, with the Bundy Games, Walking Tacos and Oktoberfest events all huge draw cards for students.

### The Bundy Games

The Bundoora Games is a concept that has been in development for the last two years so we were hugely excited when it was held over the second week of August. Based around the popular young adult novel and movie series *The Hunger Games*, we looked to bring a sense of adventure and competition to the RMIT Bundoora campuses.

How the week played out:

- » *Tuesday - Bundoora East Archery Tag, Bouncy Boxing and Tacos*
- » We gave away 140 serves of tacos and there were people playing archery tag and enjoying the bouncy boxing for two hours.
- » *Wednesday - Bundoora West Archery Tag, Bouncy Boxing, Jam Donuts and Tacos.*
- » The jam donut line was long and we gave away 300 donuts, as well as 500 serves of tacos. Archery tag was very successful and people were playing on the bouncy boxing for the whole two hours.
- » *Thursday - Bundoora East Laser Tag and Ice Cream*
- » We gave away 200 serves of ice cream, with the first 100 going in just 20 minutes. The laser tag got really busy towards the end of the event, but unfortunately the weather was poor and limited the amount of people that stayed to play.
- » *Friday - Bundoora West Zorb Ball Soccer and Ice Cream*
- » Sixty-five people played zorb soccer in teams of five with heaps of spectators and 325 serves of ice cream given away.

This event was extremely successful and we reached well over 1500 students from the Bundoora campus. The badges and t-shirts were really popular and lots of students were commenting on how good the week was and how we should run events like this more often.



### Free Welfare Breakfasts

The free welfare breakfasts continued to provide hungry students across all campuses with healthy morning munchies such as vegan muffins, fresh fruit, and yoghurt. There is a high awareness level among students and many regulars stop by to grab a snack every week.

### Chill 'n' Grill - Bundoora West

RUSU staff, student casuals and volunteers have continued to provide a free weekly lunch event every Wednesday during the shared lunch break for Bundoora West students. Approximately 650 students per week have been provided with either a free vegan soup or BBQ lunch (sausages, veggie burgers, onions, salad, water and soft drinks). The themed Chill 'n' Grills have been extremely popular, in particular the Oktoberfest events, when we hosted a bar and a German 'Sausagefest' food truck on-campus at Bundoora West.

### Wear It Purple Day

The RUSU Queer Collective collaborated with the weekly Chill 'n' Grill event to host Wear It Purple day, featuring purple fairy floss and the opportunity to make your own badge. Wear It Purple Day aims to celebrate and support sexuality and gender diversity. Hosting this event on-campus provided a great opportunity to inform students about the queer lounge, and the weekly queer lunch that takes place every Friday – not to mention the chance to make some excellent badges!



## BRUNSWICK

The Brunswick campus has been alive with activity as the winter chill finally makes way for some sun!

### Crafternoons at Brunswick

As part of the Hangs in the Hood funding initiative it was decided to bring a weekly interactive craft session to Brunswick in the first half of Semester 2. Tied in the Brunswick Ball, the Brunswick crafternoons gave students a chance to learn a new skill and socialise right in the middle of building 514. RUSU sought the help of entrepreneurs and RMIT alumni Gene & Peta to help the weekly student participants create the decorations and theming for the ball. The amazing work of all involved can be seen in photos.

### The Brunswick Ball

For years students at Brunswick have been asking for a glamorous event of their own, and this year we were able to answer the call. The Brunswick Ball, held on September 17 at the stunning Brunswick Mess Hall on Sydney Road, was the culmination of years of dreaming and months of planning. The night's theme was a vintage garden party, incorporating items made by students during the weekly Brunswick crafternoon session. These included an eye-catching paper floral feature wall/ photo backdrop, table centre pieces and numerous little touches that gave the whole evening a true 'Brunswick' vibe. Everyone exceeded in dressing to impress and venue staff both requested the contact details for the Gene & Peta creative team and commended RUSU staff on the planning and management of the event. Overall, the sell-out event was a huge success, with many of the 150 attendees asking for it to be repeated next year.

### Free Welfare Breakfasts

The free welfare breakfasts continued to provide hungry students across all campuses with healthy morning munchies such as vegan muffins, fresh fruit, and yoghurt. There is a high awareness level among students and many regulars stop by to grab a snack every week.

### Chill 'n' Grill - Brunswick

The free weekly lunch event provided by RUSU every Tuesday at the Brunswick campus has continued to receive praise from the Brunswick students. Approximately 400 students per week have been provided with either a free vegan soup or BBQ lunch (sausages, veggie burgers, water and soft drinks).

This event has become a weekly highlight for both the Brunswick students and the work education students who volunteer their time each week to assist with the running of the event. Not only have the work education students been provided with a fantastic opportunity to broaden their social networks, learn new skills (safe food handling, cooking, customer service and event coordination) but RUSU has benefitted significantly from their weekly contribution.



## CARLTON

The move to the refurbished building 57 and the now main RUSU operations location is complete. A big thank you to RMIT, Puzzle Partners, and all RUSU staff and representatives for assisting with this mammoth task.

The RUSU presence here in Carlton has been well received with the front counter constantly busy. The new Carlton front counter is charged with being the go-to place for the student rights service and also acts as the main reception for clubs and societies, finance, the student representative council and the campaigns and collectives department. This front counter is staffed from 9:00am - 4:00pm, Monday to Friday.

Apart from the big move, there has also been some exciting events and parties being held at Carlton.

### RUSU Launch Party

At the end of July RUSU moved from building 8 to a revamped office space in building 57 and an outpost in building 5. RUSU celebrated the move with a Pop-Up Pub on August 28, providing free drinks, food and tours of the new RMITV and *Catalyst* spaces. This event was a great way to introduce our shiny new digs to our members. Beer pong was a major draw card, as always, and the great pool tables that are in the space added to the theme. The party continued on around the corner at the Blue Moon Bar.



Going glam at Brunswick Ball



Gorgeous work from Brunswick Crafternoons





# RUSU DEPARTMENTS

## WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

The women's department had an excellent quarter. The Women's Officer attended the National Union of Students Education Conference where she was able to meet with other campus women's officers and discuss campaigns, events and the specific issues happening on each campus and how they relate to each other.

The annual student union elections took place in September and excitedly the department will be shortly moving to handover to the newly elected Women's Officer for 2016, Ella Caulfield – an active volunteer for the women's department this year.

The department held one of the most exciting ladies night of the year, a 'Who's the Hen?' party, in September. Ticket sales were strong and the attendees all had a night they won't soon forget.

## QUEER DEPARTMENT

In August the department finalised the move and the room is starting to repopulate. The introduction of the free Tuesday lunches in the city is part of a variety of events that will hopefully allow the student to make the trip to the new location. While the room is beautiful and there are many new wonderful features, unfortunately we have been experiencing quite a lot of unacceptable queerphobia and comments from the those outside the room.

The Queer Officers succeeded in their negotiations with the university registrar in allowing all students to self identify without any submission of documentation. This makes students' lives easier allowing them to really realise their rights. Students will also be more able to use a preferred name with all databases pulling that information as the default. This will also benefit a lot of international students, as it's a field that is not fully utilised by the university.

The department submitted a proposal to have a queer space in the Brunswick campus. The proposal was informally accepted and the new space should be up and running soon.

The department worked in partnership with the LGBTI inclusion-working group, a group that attempts to make the university experience more inclusive. This working group works with the department closely with Mohammad being the co-chair of the working-group. This is certainly a step forward in advocacy and representation efforts. This working group goes to all the different aspects of the university and it'll be an advising body for all university departments.

## INTERNATIONAL

The International Officer attended Student Experience Advisory Committee meetings along with other student union representatives, discussing some of the issues affecting international students.

## WELFARE & EDUCATION

The National Day of Action on August 19 was a raging success. Once again students rallied together in an attempt to bring a stop to the government's unfair changes to the higher education system. It was great to see so many student activists expressing their right to protest in a peaceful manner.

A lot of work has been done to ensure a reasonable and equitable education product is provided to RMIT students by informing the policy and procedure overhaul lead by Academic Registrars Group and the department of Learning and Teaching at Education Committee and Academic Board. Collaboration was coordinated across RUSU departments and the efforts of many staff were called upon to ensure a comprehensive outcome was achieved. Accordingly, the Welfare Officer has ensured firm representation of students at numerous meetings with the university, both formal and informal.

In July a contingent of SUC members attended the annual NUS Education Conference in Sydney. It was great to see so many student leaders engaging to discuss the issues and policies that affect students around the country. The numerous workshops available at the conference also provided delegates with essential skills and tools to engage students on campus and provide quality support for their peers.

The welfare department has continued to provide thousands of breakfasts to hungry students. Some changes in suppliers have allowed for better efficiencies in the both the cost and delivery of the healthy breakfasts.

The department collaborated with Student Services during 'Wealth Week' to disseminate resources to students about managing their finances. Among other things this included information on how to budget and access services like Centrelink.

## POSTGRADUATE

The postgraduate department has continued to engage with postgraduate students in both social and academic spaces. Semester 2 got off to a social start with the Postgrad Speed Friending event. This was a great success and a popular way for postgraduate students to meet other students from across the University.

The postgraduate masterclass events have also continued to be a success, attracting postgraduate students from across a range of schools and featuring special guest speakers from RMIT Alumni. The first evening Masterclass on September 24 was popular with postgraduate students who are balancing full-time work with their studies.

The most recent masterclasses focused on following topics:

- » The Importance of Self Promotion, with guest speaker Chinmay Ananda
- » Work-Life Balance, with guest speaker Andrew Jena

There will be one more masterclass before Semester 2 wraps up. The postgraduate department was also thrilled to be a part of the cross-institutional Postgraduate Ball with the University of Melbourne and Monash University, held on September 25 at the Plaza Ballroom. The Postgraduate Officer has continued to advocate for postgraduate students at a range of forums including Academic Board. Postgraduate students continue to forward positive feedback about the increased opportunities available for networking and professional development.

## REALFOODS CAFE

Realfoods opened with a bang this quarter. With the new menu and coffee offerings, students have been flocking to the cafe since it opened on August 26. The cafe is open from 8.00am–4.30pm Monday to Friday right up until shortly before Christmas.

This semester Realfoods has relocated to a new no-cook facility due to the redevelopment at the old site. This semester has been a huge success and its new location next to RMIT Connect has also helped contribute to this.

Realfoods went through an extensive recruitment process to find ideal candidates for casual front of house staff (all of whom are current RMIT students) and a barista. The focus of the recruitment was to target RMIT students through the Jobs on Campus employment service.

Daily retail operations have continued to be overseen by the Realfoods Café Administrator and Volunteer Support Officer, supported by the barista, a team of over 50 trained volunteers and seven student casuals.

All food is freshly prepared off site at Invita Living Food who share our ethos in providing organic, vegan, sustainable food.

Realfoods continued to provide hands-on hospitality and customer service experience to RMIT students and assisted them in increasing their employment prospects, with most students requesting references for their resumes, and many reporting back that they have found employment. By participating in this program, they not only gain experience but solid skills through certification in Responsible Serving of Alcohol and Food Handling – all funded by RUSU. Both certificates can often prove too costly for students to afford. All volunteer time is LEAD accredited.

### Some of our Realfoods volunteer feedback

“University gets so stressful sometimes, coming in for my Friday shift is the highlight of my week, it really puts me in a positive mood.” – Kelvin

“I never would have gotten a job if it wasn't for my Realfoods experience on my CV.” – Gabriela

It's rewarding to hear of lasting friendships that have been built through volunteering at Realfoods. Another volunteer informed me that every second weekend he and his 'volunteer buddies' catch up. Many of our volunteers are new to Melbourne and having a support network plays an important role in creating a positive university life.

### Highlights

This semester a new role was developed for the barista, who produces fantastic organic fair-trade coffee as well as assisting with overseeing the cafe's daily operations in the mornings during opening. Various new items that were added to the menu – including a large range of salads, wraps, pies and soups – have been a huge hit with students. Our returning volunteers love the streamlined structure of Realfoods and comment on how much they enjoy preparing the new menu items such as the coconut yoghurt cups. As our new location is a no-cook site, this has allowed our volunteers to focus on building their customer service skills and other various operational skills they gain during their time at Realfoods. The new grab 'n' go Realfoods has well exceeded our expectations.

## SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENT

It's been another exciting quarter for the sustainability department. In lieu of Realfoods semester one 2015 success, the university has invited RUSU to tender for a Realfoods location in Bundoora. Accordingly, an extensive amount of work has been put into developing a business case, costing and planning for another healthy vegan cafe in Bundoora West.

The department continued to support sustainability-focused groups on campus in their efforts to engage the wider student population in environmental issues. Key to these efforts was the in kind support of a hugely successful screening of the recently released documentary *Cowspiracy* organised by Engineers Without Borders RMIT, Greening RMIT and Fossil Free RMIT.





# CLUBS & SOCIETIES

## RUSU CLUB GRANTS

RUSU Clubs & Societies distributed over \$28,000 of clubs' grants this quarter.

## RUSU CLUBS ACTIVITY

### Affiliation

As at the end of the third quarter of 2015, RUSU has 96 fully affiliated student clubs and societies. The distribution of clubs across our different categories is as follows:

- » Spiritual Clubs – 10
- » Social Clubs – 18
- » Political Clubs – 5
- » Cultural Clubs – 21
- » Academic Clubs – 42

### New Clubs

RUSU welcomes the following new Clubs:

- » RMIT Maths, Analytics and Statistics Society
- » RMIT Expanded Studio Practice Club
- » RMIT Bachelor of Arts Photography Club
- » RMIT Mandarin Christian Fellowship
- » RMIT Entrepreneurship Association
- » RMIT IAESTE

Anyone who keeps an eye on RUSU club numbers will notice that, although we have added new clubs, our total number is only one more than last quarter. Several of our mid-year clubs have not finalised their annual re-affiliation and RUSU is working to assist them to re-affiliate as calendar year clubs. Maintaining a club takes a lot of work and club leaders have many competing demands, meaning not all clubs can maintain their activity.

RUSU continuously looks for ways to provide greater support to our clubs – grants are only part of the package of support RUSU offers. The introduction of a requirement for clubs to develop and approve an annual activity plan is helping clubs to gain greater 'buy in' for their activities from their entire membership (who must approve the plan) and to plan more effectively rather than rolling in an ad hoc manner from one activity to the next. The plan also helps clubs to budget more effectively and is a valuable tool against which to measure their achievements and to guide them from year to year.

The establishment of the Club's Executive Resources shared folder enables clubs to more easily access information and templates they need for club administration and event management. Access to RUSU electronic point-of-sale terminals assists clubs to sell event tickets and fundraise whilst minimising the risk of having to handle lots of cash. Access to an increasing range of RUSU practical event equipment and the kitchenette and event prep space in RUSU's new building 5 office is of valuable assistance with outdoor events. Access to professional design support from the Publications & Communications Officer helps clubs to create effective promotional material. The streamlining of the process to request club promotions on RUSU media channels helps clubs to get their messages out to a wider audience. RUSU has also printed over 9000 club posters and fliers this year. New arrangements with the RMIT Commonwealth Bank (where club bank accounts are based) have simplified the annual club account signatory changeover process and provided access to free online funds transfers at the bank.

RUSU is working to provide an increasing level of support our clubs and will continue to do so. We want all of our clubs to be great clubs, to continue to grow in membership and to deliver effective annual activity programs responsive to the changing interests and needs of their members and the opportunities and challenges RMIT presents.

### New Provisional Clubs

The following groups have gained provisional affiliation to RUSU and are working to gain full affiliation for 2016:

- » RMIT Hazara Student Association
- » RMIT Astronomical Society
- » RMIT Taiwanese Association
- » RMIT Filipino Club

RUSU is pleased to welcome these new groups which reflect the increasing cultural diversity of the student body and the University itself.



**RMIT Electric Racing Club**



**RMIT Iranian Students Association**



**RMIT African Students Association**

## 3RD QUARTER CLUB ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

### CLUB ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

#### Founders Day

More than 60 clubs participated in the various Founders Day events, with several clubs attending all events. RUSU thanks its clubs for their ongoing commitment to welcoming new students to RMIT and providing opportunities for them to make the most of their RMIT experience. Clubs at the City Founders Day event were very excited by the visit from our new Vice Chancellor, Martin Bean. RUSU thanks him for coming up to Alumni Courtyard to say hello and talk with some of our clubs – they really appreciated it!

#### RMIT Business Ball

This quarter, RUSU provided Special Event Grant funding to support the RMIT Business Ball coordinated by the RMIT Business Student Association (combined College of Business Clubs – EFMSA, Accounting Students Association, Business Information Systems Student association, Supply Chain Student Association) Ball. Held at Crown Palladium on Southbank, the James Bond-themed night was attended by almost 800 RMIT COB students and staff. Feedback received is that the Ball was a huge success. Special congratulations go out to RMIT BSA Ball Coordinator Madeline Burder. Maddie put a HUGE amount of work into making this event a success, particularly given the fact that ticket sales were double the original estimate requiring Maddie and her team to double the orders for everything. At all times, Maddie demonstrated a professional and enthusiastic attitude and RUSU was proud to support her. Congratulations also to RMIT BSA Treasurer Michael Russo for ensuring the financial processes related to the Ball were managed in a professional manner.



Socialist Alternative



RMIT CAINZ Club

#### Fundraising

This time of year is also fundraising time for students enrolled in RMIT Fine Arts programs. Most of the programs present a graduate student exhibition which the students must mostly self-fund and do so through their RUSU clubs. RUSU has put a lot of work into developing these clubs to become more than just final year student exhibition committees and we are pleased to see this happening. In addition to opening up participation of first and second year students within the club executives and in the planning and delivery of the exhibitions, these clubs are offering welcome events for new students, more frequent social events, guest speakers, workshops, visits to galleries, etc. They are becoming clubs for all RMIT students studying in their programs as well as other RMIT students interested in the fine arts. The graduate exhibitions (and fundraising for them) are still a key focus of these clubs and RUSU is proud to assist. We do this through event planning support, lending them event equipment, printing their promotional material and lending them the RUSU eftpos machines for their main fundraising activities – their fine art auctions. In doing so, RUSU assisted the following clubs to raise the following amounts:

- » RMIT Ceramics Club – \$8355.50
- » RMIT Expanded Studio Practice Club – \$8625
- » RMIT Gold & Silversmithing (undergrad) – \$11,950
- » RMIT Open Bite (Sculpture) – \$8180
- » RMIT Master Fine Arts Club – \$8430

We wish them all the best with their exhibitions which are not only a celebration of the graduating students' achievements but an important opportunity for members of the professional fine arts community to view RMIT student work with the possibility of this leading to employment or other forms of professional engagement.

#### Clubs Trivia Night

RUSU also ran its second annual Clubs Trivia Night. This year, the event was held in the RMIT Building 57 Level 4 cafeteria with 80 students representing 16 clubs, RUSU volunteers and a couple of general RUSU member teams attending. Although the event was smaller than our 2015 event (held in the building 8 cafeteria), much fun was had by all. We congratulate our winners: 1<sup>st</sup> prize to RMIT Electric Racing and 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize to RMIT Engineers Without Borders. Special thanks to the RUSU Activities Department, RMIT Security and RMIT Property Services for their assistance.





### Club activities this quarter

- » RMIT Environmental Engineering Student Association (EESA) Snow Camp @ Preston Lodge Mt Buller
- » RMIT Association of Biomedical Science Students Annual Ball @ The Regal Ballroom, Northcote
- » RMIT Ceramics Student Association Annual Auction @ RMIT Building 4
- » RMIT League of Legends Aram Tournaments #2 and #3
- » RMIT Christian Union Tuesday Nights @ Lygon Street Christian Chapel, Carlton & RMIT Storey Hall
- » RMIT Master of Fine Arts Annual Auction @ RMIT Building 4
- » RMIT University Malaysian Association Ski Camp @ Falls Creek, Victoria
- » RMIT Engineering Student Clubs (ACES, ACESS, AESA, EESA & SASSE) combined formal ball 'Back to The Future 80s Ball' @ San Remo Ballroom Carlton
- » RMIT Business Student Association in conjunction with RMIT Careers & Employability Service Internships & Volunteer Fair @ RMIT Storey Hall
- » CAINZ RMIT Guest Speaker Event featuring Matt Gallant (Channel 10 News Reporter) @ RMIT Building 10
- » CAINZ RMIT Investment Series featuring speakers from the ASX and National Australia Bank @ RMIT Building 80
- » RMIT Economics, Finance & Marketing & Students Association (EFMSA) 'Casino Royale' boat cruise @ Docklands/Port Phillip Bay, Melbourne
- » RMIT Christian Union Snow Day Trip @ Mount Baw Baw, Victoria
- » RMIT Islamic Society Eid Mubarak BBQ - RMIT Bowen Street
- » RMIT League of Legends Oceanic Championships Viewing Night @ RMIT Building 80
- » RMIT Asian Association (RAA) - 'CaRAAbbean Pirate Party' boat cruise @ Docklands/Port Phillip Bay, Melbourne
- » RMIT Aerospace Engineers Student Association (AESAs) (in conjunction with the Royal Aeronautical Society) Aerospace Industry Night @ RMIT Storey Hall
- » RMIT Games, Manga Anime Society (GMAS) weekly games events @ mostly RMIT Building 12
- » RMIT Vietnamese International Student Association (VISAR) Mid-Autumn Festival @ RMIT University Lawn
- » RMIT Science Fiction and Gamers Association weekly gaming sessions @ various locations, RMIT
- » RMIT Master of Fine Arts Club Fine Art Auction (fundraiser for their upcoming Graduate Exhibition) @ Gossard Project Space in Franklin Street, City
- » RMIT Business Student Association Cupcake Day @ RMIT A'Beckett Square
- » RMIT IAESTE Internships Information Sessions @ RMIT Bundoora Campus Building 201 and RMIT City Campus Building 12
- » RMIT Ceramics Student Association Auction (fundraiser for their upcoming Graduate Exhibition) @ RMIT Building 4
- » RMIT AIESEC Global Fair (internships information with an opportunity to talk with RMIT students from some of the locations AIESEC internships are available) with participation from RMIT Islamic Society
- » RMIT Bundoora Islamic Society BBQ @ RMIT Bundoora Lakeside
- » RMIT Singapore Student Association, RMIT PPIA (Indonesian Student Association) and RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA) @ RMIT Alumni Courtyard
- » RMIT Islamic Society Guest Speaker - Sheikh Khoder Soueid @ RMIT Building 12
- » RMIT Vietnamese International Student Association (VISAR) discover Melbourne event "Melbourne Journey" @ various locations, Melbourne City
- » RMIT PPIA (Indonesian Student Association) 'Plug & Play' charity event @ Little Nyonya Restaurant, Docklands
- » RMIT Chess Club weekly chess playing gatherings @ RMIT Building 7
- » RMIT Chess Club hosted the Inaugural Intervarsity Chess Tournament @ RMIT Storey Hall
- » RMIT Environmental Engineering Student Association (ESSA) end of month drinks @ Workshop, Melbourne City
- » RMIT Beer Brewers & Connoisseurs Intro to Brew Workshop @ RMIT Building 80
- » RMIT Environmental Engineering Student Association (ESSA) monthly BBQ @ RMIT O'Grady's Place
- » RMIT Geospatial Science Students Association (GSSA) Annual Ball and Awards Night @ the Regal Ballroom, Northcote
- » RMIT Engineers Without Borders Trivia Night with Uni Melb Engineers Without Borders @ The Clyde Hotel, Carlton
- » RMIT Press Club attended 'Hemingway Has a Cold' - fortnightly discussion presented by the La Trobe University Journalism, Media, Arts and Communications Society @ The Rose, Fitzroy
- » RMIT International Studies Association Trivia Night @ The Dan O'Connell Hotel, Carlton
- » RMIT Hong Kong Student Association (HKSA) @nd Semester Welcome Dinner @ Shark Fin House, Melbourne City
- » RMIT PPIA (Indonesian Student Association) 'YOK DOLANAN' picnic @ Royal Botanic Gardens South Yarra
- » RMIT Student Landscape Architecture Body (SLAB) Krump Park Design Competition & Awards Night @ RMIT Building 7 (with winning design to be displayed at Les Erdi Plaza, Melbourne City)
- » RMIT Accounting Students Association Industry Night @ The Long Room, Melbourne City
- » RMIT League of Legends Bilgewater Showdown # 1 and #2 @ Renegade Gaming, Carlton



- » RMIT Applied Chemical Engineering Student Society (ACCESS) BBQ @ RMIT O'Grady Place
- » RMIT Electric Racing Boat Cruise @ Docklands/Port Phillip Bay
- » RMIT University Sri Lankan Student Association (RUSLSA) BBQ @ RMIT A'Beckett Square
- » RMIT Law Students' Society (LSS) fundraiser bake sale for 'RU OK' Day @ RMIT Building 13
- » RMIT Law Students' Society (LSS) Professional Development workshop series - College of Law Special Legal Drafting, Leo Cussen Centre for Law Info Session 'Getting Your 1<sup>st</sup> Job in Law', Victorian Law Foundation 'Plain English in Law Training' @ RMIT Building 13
- » RMIT Students Association for Sustainable Systems Engineering (SASSE) social event @ Asian Beer Café, Melbourne City
- » RMIT Press Club Trivia Night @ North Melbourne Town Hall Hotel
- » RMIT PPIA (Indonesian Student Association) "Cook Off Race" @ RMIT Bowen Street
- » RMIT Singapore Student Association social event @ Bounce Inc!
- » RMIT Japan Club special guest speaker, the Consulate General of Japan on the topic of Festivals in Japan @ RMIT Building 80
- » RMIT University Sri Lankan Student Association (RUSLSA) 'Nostalgia' 90s Theme Party @ La Di Da, Melbourne City
- » RMIT Vietnamese International Student Association (VISAR) started up its own Futsal Team @ Albert Park
- » RMIT Hong Kong Student Association (HKSA) Mid-Autumn Festival @ RMIT Building 80
- » RMIT Games, Manga Anime Society (GMAS) joint social event with Monash Caulfield Anime Club (MCAC) @ RMIT A'Beckett Square
- » RMIT Games, Manga Anime Society (GMAS) stall at ANIMAGA 2015 (Anime, Manga and Games Convention) @ Royal Melbourne Showgrounds, Flemington
- » RMIT Engineers Without Borders film screening 'Cowspiracy - The Sustainability Secret' @ RMIT Building 80
- » RMIT Association of Debating (RAD) weekly debating training @ RMIT Building 57
- » RMIT Science Fiction and Gamers Association - locker sale (to clear out their equipment due to New Academic Street development) @ RMIT Building 16
- » RMIT Oxfam social lunch @ RMIT Pearson & Murphy's
- » RMIT Asian Association BBQ @ RMIT A'Beckett Square
- » RMIT Chess Club weekly chess games & training @ RMIT Building 56
- » RMIT Beer Brewers & Connoisseurs Brewery Tour @ Mountain Goat Brewery, Richmond



RUMA – The Malaysian Students Association

## INFORMATION TO RUSU CLUBS

- » 2016 affiliation form and instructions
- » Updated annual general meeting and reporting templates
- » Regular updates on changes to club facilities on campus (new process for booking RUSU space and equipment, changes to process to book RMIT space on campus, impacts of NAS).

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS & SUPPORT TO RUSU CLUBS

### NAS

RUSU staff attended a meeting with Kelly Bosman, Project Manager Student Experience NAS, to receive updates and provide feedback about NAS impacts and opportunities for students. RUSU is pleased to note the redevelopment of the old building 8 RUSU office into bookable activity space, the plan to locate some bookable BBQs on Alumni Courtyard and the continuation of A'Beckett Square (of which RUSU clubs are significant). RUSU will continue to distribute relevant NAS information directly to our clubs to help get the message out.

### College of Business Clubs

RUSU also received advice that the College of Business is allocating office space for use by COB-based clubs. This will improve these clubs' capacity to operate effectively giving them storage space for club materials, meeting space for planning and generally, a more professional presence on campus. RUSU thanks the College for this support.

A working party involving RUSU, RMIT Link and other relevant services is to be established to consider ways to make booking space and gaining approval and support to run events on campus more student friendly. At present, several systems exist to book space and get approval to run club and other student activities on campus. RUSU welcomes this coordinated approach.

### RASCAL

Over 80 RUSU club executives registered for the first semester of the RASCAL Club Leadership Program. Fourteen training sessions were delivered by RUSU including certificated training in Food Safety Handling and Responsible Service of Alcohol. Other RUSU-provided training included Leadership Communications, Networking Strategies for Student leaders, Community First Aid, General Executive Training, Running Club Meetings training and Clubs Financial Management training. RASCALS also attended generic RMIT LEAD training sessions: Ethics in Leadership, How Volunteering Links to your Future Career, LEAD and LinkedIn, Leadership and Assertiveness and Professional Communication Skills for the Workplace and First Impressions. RUSU looks forward to RASCAL continuing in 2016 and providing more RUSU club leaders with this support and recognition.



Engineers Without Borders



# STUDENT MEDIA

## CATALYST

*Catalyst* has finished production on its last issue for the year. We've been pleased by the high quality we've produced all year and the enthusiasm on campus for the magazine. We are very pleased to hand the magazine over to Claudia Long, Nathan Brown and Katie Coulthard.

Advertising has been slower than expected but we have picked up over the year. This has been partly due to a stronger relationship with RUSU in co-ordinating advertising. Our website is nearly a year old and is doing very well. Our social media output has also increased.

We're pleased with our two major spin-offs, the *Cataclysm* podcast and the Politics at the Belleville video series. The latter in particular has led to a very good relationship with RMITV. We hope this continues next year. We have achieved a yearlong goal in setting up a permanent place to stock *Catalyst* in Building 80. This will greatly improve our reach.



## RMITV

The third quarter of 2015 has seen RMITV continue to improve and diversify. Growing numbers of members and expanding productions means RMITV's resources are being heavily utilised. Relationships with affiliate organisations are continuing to be cultivated through co-productions and external industry events.

## WEB SHOWS

### Sorry What?

A web-series of short, snappy comedy sketches that are released online every fortnight. *Sorry What?* sketches are written by women about everyday experiences.

### Politics at the Bellville

A weekly, casual look at Australian politics hosted by Harriet Conron and Brendan Wrigley. They don't always agree: Harriet's a latte-sipping lefty and Brendan is a Ayn Rand-loving neocon. Sitting down for a soy mocha or beer, the two don't just offer a wrap of events but a nuanced and relevant analysis that is understandable for students. Each episode ranges between four-to-eight minutes and is posted online just hours after being filmed on Friday evening.

## WRAPPED PRODUCTIONS

### Stage Door

Darcy Oliver takes you backstage and gives you the behind the scenes treatment to look at the world of musical theatre. This is a mini-series that gives you full behind the scenes access to your favorite stars and musical theatre shows.

### Live On Bowen

An hour-long variety show featuring skits, celebrity interviews, stand-up comedy and live music performances. Since its commencement in 2012, the show has evolved and developed, becoming a launching pad for many young media professionals and up-and-coming comedians. Since 2014, *Bowen* has extended its audience beyond Channel 31 Melbourne and Geelong to 31 Digital Brisbane, C44 Adelaide and internationally to Face TV New Zealand.

### Melbourne Q

Produced by international student group and RMIT alumni Chai Junction, *Melbourne Q* is a game show in a quiz format where teams test each other's knowledge of Melbourne. The show aims to have general knowledge questions about Melbourne such as iconic locations, people, events, and history, giving both international students and residents a fun insight into Melbourne. Having wrapped filming the show is currently in post-production.

### In Pit Lane

Having just filmed its nineteenth year on air, *In Pit Lane* is Australia's longest running prime-time motorsport journalism series and RMITV's longest running production.

### Tough Times Never Last

Having completed its fourteenth season, *Tough Times* remains one of the best basic training productions for first time RMITV members. Members are fully immersed in training for roles from camera, sound, and light to directing and production management.

### The Sally-Ann Show

*The Sally Anne Show* interviews guests with positive stories or informative situations that educate and stimulate the public. Sally-Ann McCormack (clinical psychologist, media consultant and former teacher) has a regular segment on Channel 10's *The Circle*, and has featured on Channel 7's *Sunrise* and *The Morning Show*.

### The Assenders

A show produced by long term RMITV members, *The Assenders* is made by students for students. It gives members an opportunity to get hands-on experience, training and mentorship from talented students and experienced RMITV members. The plot centres around a group of friends following a disastrous attempt at a variety show, the titular assenders coming together from a unique group of Melbourne-based wannabes. Now burdened with the glorious purpose of becoming a successful online sketch-comedy troupe, the team has to reconcile their performance styles and personal agendas in order to succeed.

### Roll for Adventure

Once seen as only the province of geeks in their mother's basements, tabletop role-playing has exploded in the last ten years. There are dozens of independent games made every year, and players have more options than ever before. But how do you learn about an RPG without buying it or being lucky enough to find a gaming group that plays it? Enter *Roll for Adventure*. Each week, three veteran role-players take a look at a different RPG, digging into what makes it unique as well as talking to the creators about the inspiration and systems behind them. Viewers will learn about the basic mechanics of the game, as well as learning how it fits into the role-playing spectrum, and tips for getting the most out of their games. With shows like Wil Wheaton's *Tabletop* and *Titansgrave*, lots of new players are looking for a way to get into role-playing. *Roll for Adventure* hopes to be one of the first stops on their journey into the many new worlds they are about to discover.

### The F-Word

(Hint: it's feminism) *The F-Word* seeks to explore how a movement seeking political, social and economic equality came to have such a tarnished reputation. What has so many people convinced that equality has been achieved when there is mountains of evidence to the contrary? Why is speaking out about systemic inequality considered more offensive than the inequality itself? *The F-Word* is a group of Melbourne based bra-burners setting out to explore these questions, and to have some open discussions about the way forward for women's rights on community television.

### Provisionally Approved

A weekly audio and video podcast on the happenings of the media world through the eyes of RMITV members. Open to all with an interest in talking on current events both inside and out of the industry, *Provisionally Approved* offer a lighthearted look at the trials and tribulations of up and coming media personalities.



## SOCIAL MEDIA & PUBLICATIONS

### Facebook – 13,885 Likes

Facebook still serves as our number one social media engagement tool, and our presence on the platform continues to grow stronger, with approximately 440 new likes this quarter, an impressive result for the second half of the year. 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 the RUSU Back To School Party, Pop-up Pub events, Demolition Party, Brunswick Ball and Oktoberfest.

### 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 5080 subscribers to date, and a readership engagement rate of around 40%, which is far higher than the industry average. To date, there have been nine main issues so far in 2015, and many more smaller updates, 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. New this quarter is the Instagram-style format – appropriately sized for that social platform. Some of the highlights from this quarter include:

### RUSU Back To School Party

The RUSU Back To School Party was a fantastic event to welcome in the new semester. With a 'School Disco' theme, students were encouraged to come in uniform, and many of them did just that. Marketing materials featured lads and lasses in uniform, some more crazy than others, such as the bearded tough guy dressed as a schoolgirl!

### Demolition Party

In honour of the sad closure of RUSU's central city campus location to make way for the New Academic Street development, RUSU held a Demolition Party in conjunction with Shape RMIT and New Academic Street. Marketing materials were suitably industrial in nature, featuring concrete and yellow paint, and were in keeping with the themes on the night, that included a graffiti wall, live art demonstrations, break dancing and more!

### Brunswick Ball

The Brunswick Ball brief was for a natural, hand-crafted and beautiful poster. Marketing materials featured a gorgeous, decorated tree with rainbow bokeh. The design was in keeping with the look of the event on the night, which was held in a wood-panelled hall with hand crafted decorations adorning the walls.



# REPRESENTATION & ADVOCACY

## COMPASS DROP-IN

Compass settled into its new location in building 5 after a mammoth move. New promotional materials were a little slow coming making July a pretty quiet month for us. This has picked up towards the end of the quarter as students become familiar with our new location.

There were 66 student drop-ins at Compass throughout this third quarter with issues of mental health and housing remaining strong themes. Twelve newly-trained volunteers took up their positions staffing the Compass Drop-in space four days per week. The volunteers have been wonderful in assisting with the move to the new premises and also in patiently waiting for numbers of students accessing the service to pick up.

Wealth Week was held in August bringing information about budgeting, saving, scholarships and more to students over all campuses. RMIT Student Wellbeing Advisors assisted with this event in providing much sort after centrelink advice throughout the event. The Compass Project Officer attended a seminar on domestic violence in intercultural settings. Compass volunteers assisted with the English Language Workshops which were again a great success, receiving some wonderful feedback from both volunteers and participants.

RUSU Free Yoga also moved this quarter and is now located in building 57. As always, these classes remain very well attended.

## REPRESENTATION

### RUSU Annual Student Union Council Elections

The annual elections for the Student Union Council, *Catalyst* student newspaper editors and National Union of Students delegates were held from September 7 to 11. Polling was held across all campuses.

Vibrant campaigning and slightly expanded polling times (included evening polling for Postgraduate students in building 13) lead to a high voter turn-out with 3428 votes cast over the week.

A total of 74 nominations were received with three tickets registering. The election results are available at [www.su.rmit.edu.au/about/elections](http://www.su.rmit.edu.au/about/elections)

### Student Voice

RUSU has continued to be an active voice for students this quarter, participating in #Shape RMIT and on a wide range of committees and meetings.

RUSU has also continued to work collaboratively with RMIT on events and projects such as Founder's Day, Mid-Year Orientation the Demolition Party and Safety Week. It has been a very busy quarter indeed!

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
- » Bundoora Campus Advisory Committee
- » Equity and Diversity Committee
- » Education Committee
- » NAS Strategic Users Meetings
- » Orientation and Transition Steering Group
- » Religious Advisory Committee

- » Student Experience Advisory Committee
- » SSAF Consultative Committee
- » Student Staff Consultative Committees (SSCCs)
- » Science Engineering Health College Board
- » Design and Social Context College board
- » College of Business Board

### #shapeRMIT Forum with Waleed Aly

RUSU President Himasha Fonseka was a panel member at the Founder's Day #shapeRMIT Forum with Waleed Aly, providing both a student and RUSU perspective on the RMIT and its future direction.

### RUSU/ RMIT Meetings

The RUSU President and General Secretary have met with Vice Chancellor, Martin Bean several times this quarter. A focus of these meetings has been on improving the student experience at RMIT. We have continued our monthly catch up meetings with the Dean of Students.

The RUSU President has also meetings with key people at RMIT to provide student and input and feedback on a range of projects and initiatives. These include:

- » Chris Hewison - Executive Director Property Services
- » Paul Oppenheimer - Executive director for ITS
- » Zosh Pawlaczek - D/Dean - Associate Professor Learning Future the focus of these meetings has been to discuss improvement to Blackboard
- » Kelly Bosman - Project Manager Student Experience NAS
- » Paul Noonan - Deputy Director Marketing & Communications - Founder's Day celebrations, great debate and the 'You Asked, We Delivered' campaign
- » David Glanz - Senior Manager Marketing and Communications - Talk about #ShapeRMIT

### Appeal Committees Reps

RUSU has supported students on the following RMIT hearings:

- » Two student representatives sat on three University Appeals Committee hearings
- » Five student representatives sat on 14 College Appeals Committee hearings
- » Six student representatives sat on 10 Student Conduct hearings

### RUSU Internal Meetings

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

- » Three Student Union Council Meetings
- » Nine Secretariat meetings
- » Student representatives gaining governance experience on internal student union committees, such as Staffing Committee, Finance Standing Committee, Investment Committee, OH&S Committee
- » Elected student councillors supported to act and work as governors and managers.

# STUDENT RIGHTS

## STUDENT RIGHTS CASEWORK AND ADVOCACY

It has been another busy quarter for the student rights team, with many students accessing the service for assistance with issues that arose at the end of Semester 1, namely late special consideration applications, appeals against assessment and academic progress issues. Student Rights Officers supported many students with show cause submissions and a considerable number of these were accepted. Other students progressed to appeals against exclusion, and Student Rights Officers are continuing to support students who are called to exclusion hearings before the University Appeals Committee.

As part of a shift in approach to managing issues of academic progress, the School of Global, Urban and Social Studies (GUSS) introduced Show Cause Interview Panels. These panels provided an opportunity for students, accompanied by a support person, to meet with staff and representatives from GUSS to discuss their progress in their personal Program within the School. These panels acted as an additional point of intervention from the school and provided a space for open and reflective dialogue between students and the school. For the most part both students and Student Rights Officers reported positive feedback in response to the panels.

The student rights team also continued to engage with the University and advocate on behalf of students in respect of a range of policy initiatives. For example, Student Rights Officers continued regular meetings with representatives from the Assessment Support Unit, to discuss much needed reform to the Assessment Policy suite, in particular the policies concerning applying for special consideration and implementation of special consideration outcomes.

The team also provided feedback to proposed amendments to the *Assessment: adjustments to assessment procedure* in respect of additional attempts at end of semester exams where an adjustment to assessment has already been provided. The student rights team continues to advocate strongly for improved clarity and fair and equitable functionality of this procedure.

The University also advised of a positive change in respect of the process of dealing with vocational education students who fail to apply for a fee concession in accordance with strict timelines. Following comprehensive advocacy in the past by some members of the student rights team and the wellbeing team through meetings and submissions, the University has now advised it will now consider late requests for concession from students experiencing exceptional circumstances, who failed to show their concession or health care card at the beginning of semester and were issued with full-price fees.

Later in the quarter Student Rights Officers and student representatives also attended Academic Board, to explain the role of an SRO and the most common issues that the team deals with. The SROs who spoke also conveyed to the members of the Board the most pressing areas of policy reform from a student perspective, most notably the system of special consideration and the treatment of students with a disability.

On a staffing front, Bundoora Student Rights Officer Ollie Fabinyi has been appointed as the new Student Rights Officer (Higher Degree by Research), and will move across to this role before the end of the year. The team is gearing up for a busy end to the academic year!

## PROBLEMS ARISEN

Problems created during the last quarter	Number
HDR Issues	
HDR Appeal Final Mark	1
HDR At Risk Issue	2
HDR Submission/Examination Issue	1
Milestone Review Issue	1
Supervisor Issue	2
Discipline (University Level)	
Academic (Plagiarism) Misconduct	3
General Misconduct	2
Discipline (School Level)	
Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism)	16
General Misconduct	1
Complaint	
School Level	14
University Level	5
Victorian Ombudsman	1
Uncategorised	
Admin Issue	4
Admission Issue	3
Appeal Against Assessment	47
Assessment Issues (other)	9
At Risk	1
Bullying	4
Disability	12
Enrolment Issue	17
Equitable Assessment Arrangements (EAA)	2
Exclusion	46
Fees Issue	13
Leave of Absence (LOA)	5
Mental Health Issue	16
Other issues	14
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	3
Remission of Debt	11
Show Cause	46
Special Consideration	46
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>348</b>



## PROBLEMS RESOLVED

Problems outcomes during the last quarter	Number
Appeal Against Exclusion University Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	1
Appeal Upheld	3
Exclusion Withdrawn by School Before Hearing	3
Fee Remission	
Fee Remission Approved	2
Fee Remission Not Approved	1
Special Consideration Granted	
Alternative Assessment	2
Deferred Exam	4
Extension Of Time	4
Late Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty	4
Special Consideration Not Granted	11
Appeal Against Special Consideration University Appeal Committee	
Appeal Upheld	1
Complaint Outcome	
School Level Complaint Dismissed	2
School Level Complaint Resolved	1
University Level Complaint Dismissed	1
Victorian Ombudsman Complaint Dismissed	1
Late Enrolment Outcome	
Late Enrolment Achieved	1
Contacted School Issue Resolved	
Contacted Academic Administrator	3
Contacted Course Coordinator	2
Contacted Head of School	4
Contacted Lecturer/Tutor	1
Contacted Program Manager	2
Referral Internal	
Compass	1
Counselling Service	16
Disability Liaison Unit	12
Student Wellbeing	2
Study and Learning Centre	4
Other	
Advice Given – Student Able to Proceed With Case Themselves	64
Attended Group Session	5
Other Outcomes	19
Student Doesn't Want to Pursue the Case	6

Problems outcomes during the last quarter	Number
Discipline/Plagiarism Meeting Case School Level	
Student Asked to Re-submit the Assessment	3
Student Reprimanded	1
Student Given a Fail For All or Any Part of Any Assessment	6
Leave Of Absence (LOA)	
LOA Not Granted	1
Discipline Board Hearing Academic Misconduct	
Fail Recorded in an Assessment Session	1
Student Reprimanded	1
Student Suspended	1
Student was Asked to Repeat an Assessment Session	1
Fee Issue Outcome	
Issue Resolved	5
Appeal Against Assessment CAC Decision – University Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	1
Appeal Upheld	2
Appeal Against Assessment (AAA) – College Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	3
Appeal Upheld	3
Informal Review of Assessment Resolution	1
Discipline/Plagiarism Meeting Case School Level	
Student Found Not Guilty	5
Discipline Board Hearing General Misconduct	
Student Reprimanded	1
Student Suspended	1
Other Penalty	1
Show Cause Outcome	
Show Cause Approved by SPC	10
Show Cause Rejected by SPC	7
Email/Phone Advice Given	35
Singapore Institute of Management Cases	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>238</b>
<b>Student Cases Opened During Last Quarter</b>	<b>269</b>
<b>Student Cases Closed During Last Quarter</b>	<b>360</b>

# RUSU GOVERNANCE, ADMINISTRATION & SERVICES

RUSU's operations are supported by the governance, administration and finance staff.

The Governance Officer and Administration Co-ordinator co-ordinated the planning and logistics for RUSU's move to building 57 and building 5 this quarter. Relocating 70 staff and student representatives has consumed a significant amount of the governance and administration time this quarter.

Some key projects during this period include:

- » Participating in negotiation for the 2016 RUSU base funding and Deed Agreement
- » Co-ordination of the RUSU annual student union election
- » Finance Standing Committee meetings held monthly including reporting on the RUSU compliance checklist
- » RUSU Investment Committee meetings held as required
- » Providing advice to the RUSU management on IT-related issues
- » Providing first point of contact student rights advice for RMIT students (both onshore and offshore)
- » Coordinating Student Rights Team meetings
- » Assisting RUSU management with addressing any OH&S issues
- » Developing new security profiles for all RUSU staff and student reps for the new building 57 and building 5 offices
- » Coordinating recruitment of RUSU staff
- » Training and Inducting new RUSU staff
- » Co-ordinating student reps for RMIT Appeal Committees and Student Conduct Board.
- » Assisting and resourcing RUSU student representatives in meetings with RMIT University
- » Regular Meetings with RMIT University and Property Services regarding: Design of the Bld 57/Bld 5 temporary RUSU offices, Realfoods Café City & Bundoora, NAS & Storage, Bundoora Bld 204 (Bundoora), Building 514 (Brunswick) and the Student Experience Improvement Projects
- » Preparation of the Operational Plan and Scope of Works for the Realfoods café in Bundoora.
- » Assisting student representatives in their role on the SSAF Steering Committee

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

### RUSU SSAF FUNDING 2015

RUSU Funding from RMIT for 2015 is made up of the following:

- » \$2,270,498 (Base grant) and
- » \$553,500 (SSAF Committee Grants) and
- » \$36,483 (One off special payment for 2015 – non-SSAF)
- » **2015 TOTAL GRANT: \$2,860,481**
- » **2015 GRANT RECEIVED TO DATE: \$2,860,481**
- » **SSAF Component of 2015 Grant: \$2,823,998**  
(for SSAF reporting purposes)

The 2015 RMIT/RUSU Deed Agreement has been signed. The 2015 grant was received as a lump sum payment in February. This upfront payment 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 RUSU, 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.



**TABLE 1: RUSU SSAF GRANT EXPENDITURE ON ALLOWABLE ITEMS:  
1 JANUARY – 30 SEPTEMBER 2015**

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>	\$42,523
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>	\$188,726
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>	\$29,597
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>	\$287,273
Providing libraries and reading rooms (other than those provided for academic purposes) for students	Nil	\$0

**TABLE 1: RUSU SSAF GRANT EXPENDITURE ON ALLOWABLE ITEMS:  
1 JANUARY – 30 SEPTEMBER 2015 (CONTINUED)**

Allowable Item	Item Description	YTD Expenditure (SSAF Funded)
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>	\$131,827
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>	\$110,267
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>	\$126,930
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>	\$198,678
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>	\$497,166
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>	\$418,042
	<b>YTD SSAF Expenditure</b>	<b>\$2,031,029</b>
	<b>YTD 2015 SSAF Funds Received</b>	<b>\$2,823,998</b>





**TABLE 2: 2015 SSAF COMMITTEE GRANT FINANCIAL REPORT:  
1 JANUARY – 30 SEPTEMBER 2015**

Program Title	Grant Amount	Expenditure Jan–March	Comments
RUSU Volunteer Program	\$155,000	\$132,911	
Compass – funding a welfare information and referral drop-in space	\$115,000	\$88,425	
RUSU Flagship Production ( <i>Live On Bowen</i> ) and RMITV training program	\$40,000	\$23,005	One more flagship series in production
RUSU International Student Support – conversation classes and city tours	\$27,000	\$22,110	
Bundoora Common Lunch Hour (including SRO and BE)	\$72,000	\$54,642	
RUSU Orientation Package	\$50,000	\$42,523	
RUSU Healthy Breakfast program (including nutrition and sustainability awareness)	\$60,000	\$31,551	Awaiting invoices for Semester two breakfasts
Postgrad Support Program (including SRO)	\$34,500	\$18,197	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$553,500</b>	<b>\$413,364</b>	

**RUTSU**  
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION