RMIT University Student Union

Fourth Quarter Report

Reporting Period: 1 October – 31 December 2018



President's Report

What an amazing year for the RMIT University Student Union. It's hard to believe that it's already the end of 2018: it all seemed to pass so quickly. We're proud of everything we've managed to achieve this year, and we look forward to building on our accomplishments going into the new year. This report outlines the incredible work done by all the staff, representatives, and volunteers who make RUSU what it is, and the contributions they have made in the last three months. We've included a summary of the key achievements from 2018 in this report. We hope you enjoy!

On a personal note, the Student Union Council elections were held in September, and I was honoured to be elected as President of this wonderful organisation. I take over from Abena Dove, and feel immensely proud to continue, and build on, her incredible two years as a strong female leader of RUSU. In November, the RUSU elected representatives attended a one week induction and planning program. We have a fantastic set of campaign priorities ready for 2019, which will contribute to making RMIT a fantastic place to study!

Ella Gvildys President, RMIT University Student Union



2018 Snapshot

A Message from the 2019 RUSU President

As President of RUSU I am always amazed by how many RMIT students our work involves and reaches.

I am so proud of the progress we made throughout 2018 and the continued hard work of our student representatives, team of staff and our RUSU volunteers.



Ella Gvildys

2018 started with the opening of the new RUSU information counter, Compass Drop in Centre and Women's and Queer rooms at Bundoora. We love that we are now at the heart of the Bundoora campus. The year ended with RMITV and Catalyst moving into the new Media Precinct in the City, alongside SYN Media. This collaborative media hub will enable RMIT student media to thrive. The opening of the RUSU Games Room in building 57 and upgraded RUSU Games Lounge at Bundoora East were also great wins for RUSU and students.

We realise that mental health is a huge issue for students and this was at the forefront of our work in 2018. RUSU collaborated with RMIT on its Mental Health Anti-Stigma Campaign and on the Student Led-Mental Health Project. Compass provided a drop-in service for students as well as reaching students through outreach events such as Stress Less week, Exam Calm Zone, R U OK? Day and more. All RUSU staff working with students now have either been trained as Youth Mental Health First Aiders or hold a social work/ youth work qualification.

We have also worked closely with the University on its response to Change the Course and its commitment to Respect Now Always and in advocating for action on sexual assault and harassment on campus.

Our free food and entertainment continues to be loved by students. We've served 55,000+ free lunches and 70,000 free breakfasts and provided 22,000 serves of snacks in RMIT libraries through the Welfare on Wheels Trolley. By year end,114 clubs were affiliated with RUSU and RUSU provided 376 club grants totalling over \$173,000 to these clubs.

RUSU is truly powered by our volunteers. In 2018 they contributed almost 7,000 hours to RUSU events and services. RUSU is run by students for students. Our 27 elected representatives worked hard to ensure RUSU was the best it could be and that RMIT students had a strong voice on RMIT Committees and meetings. A huge thank you goes out to the 2018 elected student representatives and our RUSU volunteers!

Ella Gvildys

President, RMIT University Student Union

RUSU Financial Update

Your student fees at work @ RUSU

RMIT University charges students an annual Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF). This fee is collected by RMIT University to fund student services and amenities of a non-academic nature. Funding is distributed between a range of service areas and providers at the University, including RUSU.

In 2018 RUSU received a total of \$3,792,185 in SSAF fees through RMIT. This represents a \$205,335 increase on our 2017 total grant (\$3,586,850).

\$983,500 of the 2019 funding was in special SSAF Committee grants to provide a wide range of services and events run by students, for students (e.g. free breakfasts, campus events, English language workshops, RMITV programs and training, orientation events and specialist support for vocational education and postgraduate students.) All of these funds were spent on the 19 areas permitted by the SSAF legislation (Allowable Items).

RUSU SSAF Funding 2018

RUSU funding from RMIT for 2018 is made up of the following:

\$2,785,317
\$983,500
\$23,368
\$3,792,185

Additional sources of RUSU income include: investment income, 2018 financial memberships, Realfoods Cafe revenue, event ticket sales and student media advertising.

The 2018 grant from RMIT was received as a lump sum payment in late January. This upfront payment enabled RUSU to maximise opportunities to generate additional income through strategic investments. RUSU engaged Advisersure as investment advisors to assist with the management of our investments in accordance with the approved RUSU Financial Investment Strategy.

Finance Summary 2018

Total Revenue in 2018	\$4,424,016
Total Expenses in 2018	\$4,617,047
Loss	(\$193,031)
Other comprehensive income for the year	\$43,263
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	(\$149,768)

The financial audit for financial year 1 January to

31 December 2018 was conducted by independent auditors BDO and will be presented at the Annual General Meeting on each campus.

RUSU Highlights 2018



RUSU Clubs

- » 376 individual grant payments totalling \$173,702 were distributed to RUSU Clubs in 2018.
- » We supported 114+ RUSU Clubs (estimated 13,300+ members).
- » 600+ student leaders supported as Club executives.

RUSU likes to Party

- » Estimated 5,500+ student attendances at RUSU Orientation events and RUSU parties/ special events (excluding weekly events and club events) in 2018.
- » Brunswick Special Events including; Networking Gala, Open Air Cinema.
- » Bundoora Special Events including; Open Air Cinema, Bundie Trivia Night, Zorb Soccer, Walert House Events.

RUSU – Free Weekly Lunches

- » 55,000+ free lunches over 111 free lunch events.
- » Themed events included; Oktoberfest, International Chill & Grill, Indigenous themed Chill and Grill (featuring Philly), Super Chill and Grills, Tacos, ice cream trucks.

Free Healthy Breakfasts & Welfare on Wheels

- » 70,000 serves of free healthy breakfasts over 196 free breakfast events.
- » 22,000 serves of free snacks provided through City Library Welfare on Wheels program.

RUSU Realfoods Cafe

 » RUSU Realfoods provided yummy, healthy, vegan food options and barista made fairtrade coffee at Bundoora & City campuses.

RUSU Membership

» 4909 students joined as RUSU financial members in 2018.

- » 5250 students participated in the City Chill & Grill 'RUSU Members Tent' events (free drinks, entertainment and games).
- » RUSU Volunteers & Student Employment
- » RUSU volunteers contributed a grand total of 6,888.5 hours of volunteer work.
- » 783 student participants in RUSU volunteer training (inc: Food handling, RSA).
- » 25 RMIT students employed as RUSU student casuals (Info Counters, Events and Realfoods).

RUSU's Advocacy and Student Rights

- » Our 7 Student Rights Officers provided individual casework advocacy support for 1094 new student cases.
- » RUSU trained student reps provided a student voice on 57 student appeals and hearings.

Compass

- » 530 students supported through the RUSU Compass Drop in Service (including free food bank).
- » New Compass Drop in Centre opened at Bundoora.
- » 3,500+ students engaged with Compass welfare outreach programs (Stress Less Week, Wellness Workshops, R u Ok Day, Chill out Zones, Compass Market Place (free food, info and recipes)).
- » RUSU & RMIT Wellbeing collaborated on the Calm Zones at the Exam venue (1,500+ students engaged).

RUSU – There to help!

- » RUSU operated 5 Information Counters across all campuses, providing information, advice and referrals and club equipment hire.
- » RUSU opened new offices at Bundoora.

Student Media

- » 500+ RMITV financial members. RMITV provided high quality training and production experience to RMIT students.
- » Catalyst published 5 student magazines & produced podcasts. Over 100+ contributors.
- » RMITV & Catalyst moved into the Student Media precinct alongside SYN Media.

New Initiatives

- » RUSU Edible Gardens opened at Brunswick & Bundoora.
- » Student Life Awards over 120 applications received. 20 different awards provided to 19 students and 3 clubs.
- » RUSU Games Room opened in Bld 57 and upgraded at Bundoora East.
- » Library Lock In- City library open for 24 hours as part of RUSU campaign for extended library hours.

Representation & Campaigns

- » RUSU representatives sat on over 15 RMIT committees across RMIT.
- » RUSU Top 20 Priorities Campaign created change on campus, both in better facilities and the involvement of RUSU in successfully advocating for more student friendly policies.
- » RUSU's Queer, Women's, Sustainability, International, Education, Welfare and Postgraduate departments contributed to student life through regular events, conferences, activities and campaigns.
- » Leadership training and networking program provided for Staff Student Consultative Committee (SSCC) representatives. 350+ students attend SSCC Leadership Summits.
- » RUSU Women's and Queer rooms resourced on all campuses including New Queer & Women's rooms at Bundoora!



End Of Exams Party: Out Of This World

Activities & Events

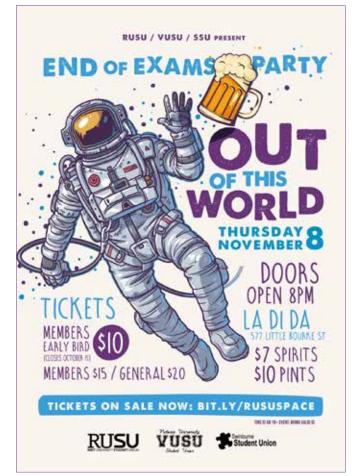
End Of Exams Party: Out Of This World

Around 500 students from RMIT, as well as students from Swinburne and Victoria University, attending the RUSU-led End Of Exams party on November 8 at La Di Da nightclub.

Ice Cream Week

RUSU spread joy to RMIT students with free ice cream vans on all campuses (including Carlton and Bundoora East) during the first week of October.





Volunteers

Volunteer Training

There have been **783** student participants in the RUSU Volunteer training program in 2018.

Volunteer Contribution

RUSU Volunteers have contributed a total of **6888** volunteer hours to RUSU programs in 2018.



Training - Number of participants					
Quarter	1	2	3	4	Year Total
Program induction	289	77	84	0	389
Responsible Service of Alcohol	48	76	65	0	177
Safe Food handler	50	60	74	0	174
Youth Mental Health First Aid	0	20	40	0	43
TOTAL	356	193	234	0	783

Volunteer Hours Worked City Campus						
Quarter	1	2	3	4	Year Total	
Activities & Events	584.75	877.5	1049.96	49.65	2561.86	
Realfoods	262.28	733.2	562.45	101.75	1659.68	
Administration	178.33	134.75	73.5	65	451	
Compass	72	57	189	13	331	
Healthy Breakfasts	95.5	65.25	120	59	339.75	
English Conv. Workshops	102	80	141	0	240	
Student Rights	89	38	80	39	246	
TOTAL	835.35	1,562	1453.05	327.4	5828.43	

Volunteer hours worked Bundoora campus

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Year Total
Activities & Events	32	25	82	10	149
Breakfasts	5	20.25	53.81	4	83.06
Administration	5	20	63.5	6	94.5
Realfoods	106.33	201.2	312.35	112.25	732.13
TOTAL	163.33	284.95	511.66	132.25	1092.19



End of Year Volunteer Appreciation Party

Across Campuses

City

The volunteer program concluded at the end of semester. We've had so many great volunteers through the Building 12 office this year, and we're so grateful for all the time and effort they contribute.

There were 41 bookings made for the Building 10 Large Activity Space during the fourth quarter. The majority of these bookings were for club events, but there were also several staff and student training sessions held in the space during the quarter.

City Chill 'n' Grill (and other events)

The weekly Chill 'n' Grill barbecue in Alumni Courtyard provides approximately 1000 serves of free food per week. This quarter there were two Chill 'n' Grill events. This year there have been 22 Chill 'n' Grill events. The total number of serves of food at Chill 'n' Grill year to date is 22,000+. Chill 'n' Grill caters to our diverse student population, providing halal and vegan options for students that require them.

The last Chill & Grill of the year focused on celebrating our Chill & Grill Volunteers, with Food Trucks provided so our volunteers could have a week off from cooking the BBQ.

Members Tent

Each week, around 250 students have free drinks (soft-drinks, beer or cider) and entertainment inside the RUSU member's tent. In 2018, 5250 students have participated in the member's tent events.



Chill N Grill in Alumni Courtyard

Week	Event	Additional	Lunch
2	Chill 'n' Grill: Mexican Fiesta	Frozen margaritas	Taco bowls
3	Chill 'n' Grill: Nerd Appreciation Week	Lollies and sweet treats	Barbecue sausages and vegan burgers
4	Chill 'n' Grill: Indigenous Australia	Welcome to country, live music from Philly with support from Neil Morris	Food truck - Jerry's Veggie Burgers
5	Chill 'n' Grill: Women in Higher Education	Blue stocking cupcakes	Barbecue sausages and vegan burgers
6	Chill 'n' Grill: RUSU Pride Week	DJ Salvador Darling	Barbecue beef and vegan burgers
7	Chill 'n' Grill: International Week + RUSU Elections	South-east Asian food trucks and free bubble teas from Suzy Lee	Pad thai and popcorn chicken noodle salad
8	Chill 'n' Grill: Education Week	Stationery Giveaway	Barbecue sausages and vegan burgers
9	Chill 'n' Grill: Sustainability Week	Sustainability stall, giveaways, prize draw, RUSU Swap Shop	Vegan schnitzel sandwiches
10	Chill 'n' Grill: Oktoberfest	Imported German beers, pretzels, live music from Horns of Leroy	Food truck - halal beef bratwursts and vegan hot dogs
11	Chill 'n' Grill	None	Barbecue beef and vegan burgers
12	Chill 'n' Grill: Vollie Appreciation Week & Stress Less Week	Food trucks & stalls	Indian curries and tacos

Bundoora East & West

Bundoora Events

This year was amazing for the Bundoora campus. RUSU moved into the brand new space where we've been able to support a lot of students with student rights enquiries and expand the volunteer program. A Bundoora-specific volunteer appreciation movie night was organised on October 4 and was attended by approximately 20 volunteers. All regular weekly events were wrapped up in Week 12.

The End of Semester party was held in Walert house on October 31. Around 50 students attended this event. This was a fantastic wrap-up to the year with Walert House.

East office closed down at the end of week 13 and the West office closed down for the year at the end of November.

Bundoora West

The weekly free lunch event provides approximately 650 serves of free food per week. This quarter there were two Bundoora West free lunch events, serving 1300 serves of food. This year there have been 23 free food events.

Bundoora East

The weekly free lunch event provides approximately 120 serves of free food per week. This quarter there were two Bundoora East free lunch events. This year there have been 23 free food events.

RUSU free lunches cater to our diverse student population, including halal and vegan options.



Chill N Grill is a favourite across all campuses

Brunswick

In the last quarter of 2018, RUSU's events focused on promoting student welfare and wellbeing at the Brunswick campus. During Week 12, RUSU, led by Compass, held our Stress Less Week, an event to bring students together to think, talk, and explore different coping mechanisms just before one of the more stressful times during the semester. Food, freebies, and other giveaways were included as well.

Our free weekly yoga and meditation classes were run until the last week of classes, providing students an opportunity during their busy schedules to slow down, relax, and de-stress.

The weekly free lunch event provides approximately 450 serves of free food per week. This quarter there were two Brunswick free lunch events, serving 900 serves of food. This year there have been 23 free food events.

Carlton

Administration volunteers contributed hundreds of hours assisting the operation of the Carlton front desk by answering phone calls, responding to student enquiries, and performing various office duties. As the year concludes, we'd like to take the opportunity to thank all the students who have offered their time and energy volunteering in the Carlton office throughout the year.

As exams were held and results released, we saw an increase in student rights queries in the Carlton office. Most of these related to special consideration, appeal against assessment, and show cause submissions. In the week following the release of final marks, the Carlton office had 28 drop-ins and around 50 enquiries over the phone.

There were 49 bookings made for the Building 57 Multipurpose Room for the quarter. As club events began to slow down towards the end of the year.

There were nine bookings made for club equipment during the quarter.

Carlton VE & Chill

The Vocational Education Department has been busy running our VE Chill event every second Monday. VE Chill has been great and students are loving it, with different food options every time. In Semester 2, the VE Lunches served approx 250 students per week. Three regular fortnightly lunches were held in the quarter.

Point Cook

Two regular fortnightly lunches were held in the quarter. This year there have been 12 free food events, serving a total of 1200 serves.

Our fortnightly breakfasts commenced after the Easter break, feeding around 70 hungry students each week.

RUSU Departments

Postgraduate

The Postgraduate Department ran numerous events during this guarter, with involvement from numerous RUSU staff and student representatives. These events included a Postgraduate Dinner at a local Carlton restaurant, Postgraduate Morning Tea in Bundoora, an end of year party, as well as the renowned Sit & Write. These events were all very well attended by students and were not only opportunities for students to meet their Postgraduate Officer, but also to network and socialise with their colleagues and peers. The Sit ϑ Writes have been successful particularly among HDR students who have displayed their appreciation for an event that is conducive to study, socialise, and wellbeing

A new Student Rights Officer (Ela Stewart) commenced in November, undertaking case work and advocacy for HDR students, as well as participating in policy and process discussions among various Schools, Colleges, and RUSU.

Education & Welfare

Healthy Breakfast Program

The Healthy Breakfast Program has been really well received by students this semester! We have provided a range of free breakfast foods including yoghurt cups, vegan cake slices, fresh fruit, fruit salad cups, hummus and veggies, across the City, Carlton, Bundoora West and East and Brunswick campuses. Total estimated number of weekly serves this quarter was 2800. 70,000 free breakfasts were served over all campuses in 2018.

The Welfare Trolley

RUSU provided the Welfare Trolley service for students after-hours in the Swanston Street Library. We have served approximately 500 serves of food per week in the Library starting every week up to week 12. During SWOTVAC RUSU held three special Welfare outreach events in the library (reaching around 3,000 students). We had a stall with information, give-aways and free food, while the Welfare Trolley roamed the library with free packaged snacks. This service was very popular with students and a welcome treat for those studying hard in the library!

Realfoods

City & Bundoora

The Realfoods City store continued regular trading hours of 8am to 3.30pm (Monday - Thursday) and 8am to 3pm (Friday), and Bundoora continued operating 8am-2.30pm (Monday -Thursday) and 8am to 2pm (Friday) for Semester 2. Bundoora traded until the end of SWOTVAC and the City store ceased trading in the final week of November. There were approximately 200 inducted student volunteers for the quarter, usually with 50-70 active in any given week.

Realfoods has continued its success in maintaining volunteer numbers for the period, particularly at Bundoora where volunteer retention is at an all time high since opening in March, 2016. A waiting list for the City program continued right up until the end of the semester. The City store has continued to increase it's catering aspect of the business, involved in more events than in any other semester.



RUSU Departments in action

Clubs & Societies

RUSU Club Grants

RUSU Clubs & Societies accessed \$36,856 of Clubs Grants funding during the fourth quarter of 2018 comprising:

\$21,299 of Annual Administration and Annual Program Reimbursement Grants (regular grants)

\$750 of Special Program and Event Grants (regular grants)

\$14,807 of Special Program and Event Grants (SSAF funded – new and special initiatives)

A total of 376 individual grant payments totalling \$173,702 were distributed to RUSU Clubs in 2018.

Affiliation

As at the end of 2018, RUSU has 113 Fully Affiliated student clubs and societies.

New Clubs

We welcome two new academic clubs for 2019:

- » RMIT Exercise and Sport Science Society (ESS)
- » RMIT Project Management Chapter

And we welcome back:

» RMIT Electrical and Computer Engineering Club (RMIT ECE)

Club Achievements In The Spotlight

RMIT Tech Clubs Boat Party "Sea++ Boat Party" saw three of our tech clubs -Computer Science & Technology Society (CSIT) the RMIT Programming Clubs and the Society of Women in Technology (SWITCH) - join forces to host their first ever combined social event, a boat cruise in the bay. Seventy-five students attended the event which included food, dancing, many of the obligatory Titanic photo opps (minus the sinking and drowning bits) and lots of fun for everyone. The event is destined to become an annual event with more of our tech clubs to get involved. Thanks again to our favourite boat cruise company Victoria Star Boat Cruise Company for supporting another RUSU club event.

RMIT Lab Med Students' Society Summer Masquerade Ball saw one of our newish clubs put on a formal masquerade event at the San Remo Ballroom. Well attended by both RMIT students and staff, the evening was glamorous night providing especially the graduating students a final opportunity to celebrate their achievements and to create some lasting memories.

Vietnamese International Students at RMIT (VISAR) "Antidote" Musical Night was an end of year musical extravaganza featuring musicians and DJs drawn from the highly talented Vietnamese International student cohort at RMIT. The night offered the students a chance to wind down before the exam period, display their talents and recognise their club's very active volunteer team. A huge effort to organise and a tribute to VISAR's commitment to supporting its' members to make their time at RMIT University a creative and fun experience.

2018 Diwali Celebrations – supported by both RUSU and RMIT Student Life, the RMIT Indian Club decorated Bowen Street to celebrate the annual "Festival of Lights". Attended by several hundred students and staff, the event celebrates the changing of the seasons and provided the RMIT Indian community another chance to feel at home at



RUSU Clubs Activity Affiliation

The distribution of clubs across our different categories breakdown is as follows:

TOTAL	113
Academic	55
Cultural	21
Political	4
Social	25
Spiritual	8

Provisional Clubs

RUSU has provisionally approved five new clubs for the beginning of 2019 university year:

RMIT Film Appreciation Society

RMIT Saudi Students Association

RMIT Construction Management Society

ASEAN RMIT

RMIT Regional Students Association



Diwali and ISA Graduation

4th QUARTER CLUB ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Academic Clubs

RMIT Accounting Students Association (ASA), PwC Office Tour and Interview Techniques @ Riverside Quay, Southbank

RMIT Accounting Students Association (ASA), AGM @ RMIT BSA Office Building 80

RMIT Aviation Society, RAS Post Exam Go Karting Event @ 234 Fun Galore, Braybrook

Business Information Systems (RMIT BIS), AGM @ RMIT BSA Office Building 80

RMIT CSIT Society, RMIT IT Academy @ RMIT Building 8

RMIT CSIT Society, Machine Learning for Games 101 @ VX Labs, RMIT Building 91

RMIT CSIT Society, Pizza and Study Jam @ The VX Labs, RMIT Building 91

RMIT CSIT Society, AGM @ RMIT Building 80

RMIT Entrepreneurs and Start-Up Association (RESA), Worldbuilding Meetup @ RMIT Building 98

RMIT Entrepreneurs and Start-Up Association (RESA), AGM/Post Meeting Celebration @ RMIT Building 92

RMIT Civil Engineering Student Association (CESA) and RMIT ACES, End of Sem: No Stress Drinks Sesh @ Little Jax, City

RMIT Economics, Finance and Marketing Student (EFMSA), AGM @ RMIT Building 80

RMIT Economics, Finance and Marketing Student (EFMSA), Economics & Finance Graduate Panel @ RMIT NAS Media Portal Building 14

RMIT Economics, Finance and Marketing Student (EFMSA), Marketing Panel and Cocktail Night @ RMIT Building 80

RMIT Environmental Engineering Student Association (EESA), Farewell BBQ @ RMIT Building 10 Garden Building RMIT Environmental Engineering Student Association (EESA), Graduation Dinner @ Collins Quarter, City

RMIT Geospatial Science Students Association (GSSA), AGM & End of Year Drinks @ Blue Moon venue, City

RMIT Human Resources Association (HRA), AGM @ 80.01.07

RMIT International Student Association (ISA), 2018 Elections and AGM @ RMIT Building 80 $\,$

RMIT International Student Association (ISA), End of Year Graduation Cocktail Party @ Arcadia Hotel, South Yarra

Student Interior Design Association (S.IDA), 123 Semester Two Exhibition @ Testing Grounds, Southbank

RMIT Lab Med Student Society, Summer Masquerade Ball @ San Remo Ballroom, 365 Nicholson St, Carlton

RMIT Law Students Society (LSS), Leo Cussen: Tools you need to become a later lawyer @ RMIT Building $80\,$

RMIT Law Students Society (LSS), General Meeting @ RMIT Building 13

RMIT Law Students Society (LSS), End of Year Party @ 379 Russell St, City

RMIT Law Students Society (LSS), AGM @ RMIT Building 13

Management and International Business Student Association (MIBSA), Rooftop Cocktails @ RMIT Building 80 Rooftop

PSYCHED! @ RMIT (Psychology Students Assoc.), Cocktail Night @ RUSU Activity Space Building 10

RMIT Photonics Society, AGM & End of Year BBQ @ RUSU Activity Space Building 10

RMIT Photonics Society, Christmas Dumpling Night @ Empress of China Restaurant, St, City

RMIT Supply Chain Student Association (SCSA), Pizza Night and AGM @ RMIT Garden Terrace Building 10



RMIT Christian Club



VISAR Antidote

Cultural Clubs

RMIT Bangladeshi Association, Club Meeting @ RUSU Multipurpose Room, Building 57

RMIT Filipino Association, End of Year Party @ La Di Da, City

RMIT University Society of Hellenes (RUSH), After Exams Party @ Diesel Bar, City

RMIT Hong Kong Student Association (HKSA), Visa Options and Career Workshop @ Theatre C, Old Arts Building (University of Melbourne), Parkville

RMIT Hong Kong Student Association (HKSA), AGM @ Private Residence, St, City

RMIT Hong Kong Student Association (HKSA), End of Exams Clubbing Event @ Coco Saturdays Nightclub, City

RMIT Indian Club, Diwali Night @ Bowen Street RMIT City Campus

RMIT Indian Club, Club Meetings x 2 @ RUSU Activity Space Building 10 $\,$

RMIT Indonesian Students Association, Kintamani (Kindness Towards Minorities In Needs) Charity Spring Fair @ RMIT Alumni Courtyard

RMIT Italian Society, Dinner & AGM @ Crinitis Carlton,

RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA), EY Engagement Session @ Ernst Young Offices, City

RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA), MoMU x RUMA Halloween Movie Night @ RMIT Building 80 Cinema

RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA), RUMA's Destressor @ RUSU Activity Space, Building 10

RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA), Club Meeting @ RUSU Activity Space, Building 10

RMIT Taiwan Club, Club Meetings @ RUSU Activity Space Building 10

RMIT Vietnamese Student Association (VSA), Com Tam Night @ Saigon Pho Bourke St, City

Vietnamese International Students at RMIT (VISAR), Antidote – End of Semester Music Night @ Therapy Night Club, Crown Casino

Social/Special Interest Clubs

RMIT AIESEC, Outgoing Preparation Seminar @ RMIT Building 8

RMIT Asian Association (RAA), Club Meeting @ RUSU Activity Space Building 10

Digital Media Club (DMC), End of Year Party @ The Boatbuilders Yard, 1 South Wharf Prom

RMIT Engineers without Borders (EWB), Bike Fixing Session @ Collingwood

RMIT Exercise and Sport Science (ESS), IGM @ RMIT 205.03.011

RMIT Games Manga and Anime Society (GMAS), Final Weekly Meet/Elections/AGM @ RMIT Building 80

RMIT Games Manga and Anime Society (GMAS), End of Year Party @ RUSU Activity Space Building 10

Greening RMIT, Gardening Session @ RMIT Alumni Courtyard

Greening RMIT, Skillshare | Urban Beekeeping @ RMIT Alumni Courtyard

Greening RMIT, End of Year Celebrations @ The John Curtin Hotel, Carlton

RMIT IAESTE, Club Meeting @ 1 RUSU Activity Space Building 10

RMIT IAESTE, Movie Night @ RUSU Activity Space Building 10

RMIT Science Fiction & Gaming Association (SFGA) twice weekly gaming sessions @ RMIT Building 57 RUSU Multipurpose Room and the B57 Cafeteria



Tech Clubs Boat Party

RMIT Science Fiction & Gaming Association (SFGA), AGM & Lasertag @ AGM at RUSU Multipurpose Room Building 57 & Lasertag at QV

Students for Sensible Drug Policy RMIT (SSDP RMIT), Victorian Hub in the Pub @ The Clyde Hotel, Carlton

Students for Sensible Drug Policy RMIT (SSDP RMIT), Workshop: Know Your Rights @ Level 2 Theatre, Carlton

RMIT Vegan Club, World Vegan Day Meetup @ Melbourne Showgrounds, Ascot Vale

Spiritual Clubs

RMIT Christian Tuesday Nights @ Lygon Christian Chapel, Carlton

RMIT Christian Union, Praise & Worship at RMIT @ RMIT Building 12

RMIT Christian Union, BUS Movie Afternoon @ CrossCulture Church, City

RMIT Christian Union, Food for Thought DSC @ Queensberry Hotel, North Melbourne

RMIT Christian Union, Annual Dinner @ Arrow on Swanston, City

RMIT Christian Union, National Training Event @ Roadtrip to Canberra

RMIT Jewish Student Society, AGM @ RMIT Alumni Courtyard

RMiT Overseas Christian Fellowship, Wrap Up (Club Meeting) @ RUSU Activity Space

Political Clubs

RMIT Labor Club, Pay Rise Pre-Rally Huddle @ RUSU Multipurpose Space

Student Media

Catalyst

Catalyst produced 5 editions over 2018 as well as the Cataclysm podcast. Over 100 students contributed to Catalyst in 2018.

The newly elected Catalyst editors commenced on 1 November 2018. Welcome Emily Cork, Lekihika Jain and Rana El-Mahmould.

The long awaited move of Catalyst, RMITV and Syn, to the new Media Precinct, Media Collective space occurred in December.



Catalyst Launch



RMITV currently has **501 members**. This is approximately **80 more** than our average.

RMITV in action

Date	Training/Event Title	Description	Attendance
	Trainings		
12/11/18	Writer's Workshop	Screenwriting workshop with Ben Michael	8
03/12/18	Offbeat Season 6	A 4-hour masterclass with film industry veteran Mark Ruse from Ruby Entertainment	32
	Events		
04/11/18	RMITV Trivia night	A perplexing night of puzzles, riddles and trivia at the Queensberry Hotel	10
03/11/18	RMITV End of Semester Party	A fun party at The Fiftyfive to celebrate the achievements and hard work of RMITV volunteers over that past semester	25
14/12/18	RMITV End of Year & Christmas Party	A celebration of the RMITV as an organisation through member recognition and community connection	36
	Past Productions		
22/10/18 - 21/11/18	Emmylou Loves	A live talk show hosted by Emmylou MacCarthy. 6 x 30 min episodes filmed and broadcast from RMIT's Studio A	20 - 24 members,(14-17 students),(2-3 alumni)
27/10/18 - 01/12/18	Half Hour	A look at political issues and news in the lead-up to the Victorian State Election. Six x 30 min episodes filmed at C31 Melbourne	16 members, (3-6 students), (1-3 alumni)
28/11/18 - 06/12/18	1Fall Studio Superstars	Live event Australian wrestling. four shows live streamed from RMIT's Studio A	17 members, (5 students), (1 alumni)
	Upcoming Productions		
29/03/19 - 10/05/19	Offbeat Season 7	Arts talk show live-to-air on C31 and live streamed to Facebook. Six x 30 min episodes filmed and broadcast from RMIT's Studio D	
01/05/19 - 03/07/19	The Leak Season 6	Satirical news program live-to-air on C31 and live streamed to Facebook. Eight x 30 min episodes filmed and broadcast from RMIT's Studio A	
01/04/19 - 01/07/19	RMITV Presents Season 4	Short online productions pitched by RMITV members for the online/digital space	

Social Media & Publications

Social Media

Facebook

We now have 21,350 likes (up 1791 from this time last year). Facebook still serves as our number one social media engagement tool, and our presence on the platform continues to grow. Facebook is our main tool for event advertising, and our reach, reactions, comments and shares remain very strong. As an organisation, we are becoming more focussed on presenting (curated) offers and competitions to users, in a bid to drive engagement further.

Website

With around 8000 uses this quarter, the RUSU website continues to be a necessary resource to consolidate all that RUSU offers into one place. The website appears to be a particularly useful tool for new users, as over 7000 of our website hits for the quarter were from new users. We have made it as simple as possible for students to locate up to date information on our upcoming events, student support and student rights.

Newsletter

Our newsletter continues to be a great source of quick bites of information delivered directly to students inboxes, with simple and direct messaging to help students know all that is on offer at RUSU. With 5352 current subscribers (newsletters are now sent to current RUSU members only), and an open rate of 50% (almost double the industry standard), the newsletter serves as an excellent engagement tool for our members. While the newsletter is normally sent out monthly.

Instagram

In Q4 2018, our aim was to begin building our Instagram following, with a view

to our numbers rising steadily on the platform through 2019. We are pleased to have achieved the initial phase of that aim, by doing more regular instagram posts, using Instagram stories to tell followers about events, and by sharing our Instagram content to our Facebook page to raise awareness of our Instagram activity to our Facebook users.

Since taking aim at Instagram in Q4, we have increased our Instagram following by 119 followers, to 1236 followers. That works out to an average of one new user per day, and we're planning to increase that number in 2019, particularly through Q1, by hosting Instagram-only competitions and offers. This is quite new territory for RUSU, and we are very excited to see what we can achieve on the platform over the coming year.

Other social media

For Q4 2018, and heading into 2019, we have decided to park all other social media, so that we can concentrate on building our Instagram. While in the past, RUSU has used platforms such as Twitter and Snapchat, we have never seen them as our primary social channels. Twitter is now largely focussed towards a more mature audience base, relies mainly upon the written word, and is not conducive to the type of social sharing that RUSU wants to achieve. Snapchat was a promising channel for us, but algorithm changes in February 2018 effectively halved the platform's user base overnight. Snapchat is now considered 'over' for our current student reps, and we will not use the platform in 2019. However, RUSU is aware that the platform has a growing user base among younger teens, and we may come back to the platform at a future date, particularly as those teen users become of University age.

Promotional Material

Volunteer Appreciation Week

RUSU's annual 'Thank You!' celebration of the amazing work that RUSU volunteers do was held on October 9, and featured food trucks and frozen cocktails.

Stress Less Week

Held during Week 13, our Semester 2 Stress Less Week featured lots of fun activities, advice and giveaways, included free coffee cards for Realfoods, designed by the Communications Team.

RUSU Achievements 2018

The Communications team designed a slideshow presentation, highlighting the amazing work that RUSU has done throughout 2018. This was presented to Belinda Tynan and Martin Bean by our newly elected RUSU President, Ella Gvildys, and our General Secretary, Aditya Sharma.

Preparation for 2019

While Q4 is a quieter time for events at RUSU, it's actually the Communications Team's busiest time for preparatory work for the coming year. This quarter, amongst many other things, we have been working on membership, a huge variety of branded goods and merchandise, both for RUSU and departments, a joint RMIT-RUSU Orientation guide book and a brand new Beyond Mee Goreng cookbook. Look out for all of these and more in Q1 2019.





Representation & Advocacy

Compass

Location	Action	Q4	YTD
City	Drop-ins (Including Compass Cupboard users)	112	492
	Outreach		
	Compass Marketplace	350+	
	Stress Less Week	350+	
City	Stuffed Animal Petting Zoo	300+	
	Chill-out Zones	400+	
	R U Okay Day	400+	
	Outreach total	1800+	
Bundoora	Drop-ins (Including Compass Cupboard users)	15	24
	Compass Marketplace	160	
	Stress Less Week	210	
Bundoora	Weekly service promotion	100	
	Compass Cupboard	2	
	Outreach total	472	944
Brunswick	Drop-ins (Including Compass Cupboard users)	8	14
	Compass Marketplace	120	
	Stress Less Week	180	
Brunswick	Weekly service promotion	100	
	Compass Cupboard	1	
	Outreach total	401	802
Exam Calm Zone	Thousands of RMIT students engaged in activities, used the space or saw it availability during the exam period.	1500+	



Compass & RMIT Wellbeing Exam Calm Zone

Representation

RUSU SUC Elections

In accordance with the RUSU Constitution the Student Union Council elects the President and Communications Officer from its elected members. The SUC elections were held on October 10.

Ella Gvildys was elected as SUC President for a second term.

Lily Hawkins was elected as Communications Officer.

This meeting also elected SUC members to a range of RUSU internal committees such as Staffing Committee, Classification Committee, Finance 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.

2019 Student Union Council Induction

The 2019 Student Union Council attended six days of intensive induction sessions on campus (3 days) and off-campus (3 days) at Queenscliff.

The induction training for the new student representatives included topics such as:

- Meeting the legal requirements of RUSU as board (SUC) members including Workplace Behaviour Laws (bullying and sexual harassment)
- RUSU in Context: the departments, roles and responsibilities of student representatives, role of RUSU staff, services, activities and events of RUSU past and present
- Planning and organising events at RMIT
- Finance Made Easy reading a department budget, P&L reports, RUSU funding and SSAF requirements
- Writing motions and reports (including quarterly reports)
- Essential office and organisational skills
- Strategic planning and goal setting for 2018 (including organisational priorities, student engagement and membership targets)
- RUSU Top 20 Priorities for 2019
- Calendar and event planning for Semester
 1, 2019

Appeals Committe Representation

Hearing Type	Q4 No. Student Reps	Q4 No. Hearings	YTD No. Student Reps	YTD No. Hearings
University Appeals Committee	7	7	10	14
Student Conduct Board	5	5	21	31
College Appeals Committee	4	4	9	12
TOTAL	16	16	30	57

NUS Conference

The 2018 NUS National Conference was held from December 10 to 14, with RUSU sending a delegation of students, including seven NUS delegates. The NUS National Conference is a great way for our student representatives to connect with other student leaders from around the country, and unite around common goals for the year ahead.

RMIT Graduation

RUSU President Ella Gvildys attended the RMIT graduation ceremony at Melbourne's Marvel Stadium on December 12.

Student Voice

RUSU's elected student representatives provided a student voice on a wide range of RMIT committees and meetings during this quarter.

Appeal Committees Representation

RUSU's elected student representatives and student rights volunteers acted as student members on Appeals Committees.

RUSU Internal Meetings

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

- 5 Student Union Council Meetings
 (including the October Elect
 Meeting)
- 7 Secretariat meetings
- Student representatives gaining governance experience on internal Student Union Committees, such as Staffing Committee, Finance Standing Committee and OH&S Committee.
- Elected student councillors supported and mentored to work as governors and managers.



Volunteer Appreciation Day in the City

Student Rights

The fourth quarter can be a challenging time for students as they complete the academic year. Appeals against final assessment results, graduation finalisation issues, WIL placements, requirement to Show Cause, and preparation of Exclusion appeals are just some of the complex matters that the Student Rights Team supports students with during this time.

In addition to this, the team provided input in relation to changes to RMIT Special Consideration policy and transitional arrangements of some of the RMIT Assessment Processes. Student Rights Officers also and advocated for students in relation to the updating of the RMIT Complaints website and accessibility issues that were apparent for students.

Feedback from students to the team on they have been supported is always a great motivator and a reminder of the importance of the RUSU Student Rights Service at RMIT University. Please see some of the student feedback below:

"Good news the fee remission application has been approved. Thanks heaps. It feels so much lighter now and I can actually have a stress-less semester."

"I have just received the confirmation that I will be re-sitting exam. My family and I would like to express our gratitude in helping us and your kindness is appreciated."

"Hope you are doing well, Just wanted to update you on my review application. Finally a moment of relief, HESA has approved my request for remission of debt under special circumstances. I am highly grateful for your time and guidance to file this review, it was not only helpful while writing my review but it also left me with a lifelong lesson while engaging with bureaucratic environments."

Issues Created - this quarter	
HDR Issues	
Candidate Action and Support Plan	2
HDR Appeal final mark	1
HDR At Risk Issue	1
Research Candidate Progress Committee	2
Scholarship Issue	2
Supervisor Issue	4
Discipline (University Level)	
Academic (Plagiarism) Misconduct	8
General Misconduct	1
Complaint	
RMIT Ombuds	2
School level	12
University Level	6
Discipline (School Level)	
Academic (Plagiarism) Misconduct	20
General Misconduct	1
Uncategorised	
Admin Issue	3
Admission Issue	2
Appeal Against Assessment	60
Assessment Issues (Other)	21
At Risk	1
Bullying	5
Disability	4
Enrolment Issue	21
Equitable Assessment Arrangements (EAA)	1
Exclusion	11
Fees Issue	25
Group Work Issue	1
Leave of Absence (LOA)	7
Mental Health Issues	7
Other Issues	42
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	7
Remission of Debt	12
Show Cause	38
Special Consideration	40
Supplementary Exam Request (Pass By Compensation)	9

Outcomes Achieved - this quarter	
Appeal Against Exclusion University Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	3
Appeal Upheld	4
Exclusion Withdrawn by School before the hearing	4
Fee Remission	
Fee Remission Approved	4
Fee Remission not approved	3
Special Consideration Granted	
Alternative Assessment	1
Deferred Exam	1
Extension of time	3
Late withdrawal without Academic Penalty	8
Special Consideration Not Granted	2
Appeal Against Special Consideration University Appeal Committee	
Special Consideration Granted without a hearing	1
Complaint Outcome	
School level Complaint Dismissed	3
School Level complaint Resolved	3
University Level Complaint Dismissed	1
Referral – Internal	
Compass	1
Counselling Service	1
Disability Liaison Unit	1
Contacted School Issue Resolved	
Contacted Academic Administrator	6
Contacted Course Coordinator	1
Contacted Head of School	1
Contacted Lecturer/Tutor	1
Contact Program Manager	11
Other	
Advice given - Student able to proceed with the case themselves	81
Attended group session	14
Other Outcomes	23
Student doesn't want to pursue with the case	12

Discipline/Plagiarism Meeting Case School Level	
Other Penalty	1
Student Reprimanded	3
Student suspended for fourteen days	0
Student was given a fail for all or any part of any assessment	5
Leave of Absence (LOA)	
LOA Granted	2
LOA Not Granted	1
Discipline Board Hearing Academic Misconduct	
Fail recorded in an assessment session	1
Other Penalty	3
Student Reprimanded	1
Appeal Against Assessment CAC Decision University Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	1
Appeal Upheld	1
Fee Issue Outcome	
Issue Resolved	2
Supplementary Exam	
Supplementary Exam Granted	2
Appeal Against Assessment (AAA) College Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	1
Appeal Upheld	2
Informal Review of Assessment Resolution	1
Discipline/Plagiarism Meeting Case School Level	
Student found not guilty	3
Discipline Board Hearing General Misconduct	
Student Reprimanded	1
Show Cause Outcome	
Show Cause approved by SPC	8

This Quarter: Total cases opened: 285 Total cases closed: 185

Total issues created: **379** Total outcomes achieved: **233**

RUSU Governance, Administration & Services

RUSU's operations are supported by the Governance, Administration and Finance staff.

This quarter was very busy for Governance and Finance staff as RUSU reviewed the RUSU regulations and reviewed and/or created new Finance and operational procedures.

Financial Overview

RUSU SSAF Funding 2018

RUSU funding from RMIT for 2018 is made up of the following:

(Base grant)	\$2,785,317
(SSAF Committee Grants)	\$983,500
Additional mid year Clubs SSAF Grant	\$23,368
2018 TOTAL GRANT:	\$3,792,185
2018 GRANT RECEIVED TO DATE:	\$3,792,185

The 2018 grant was received as a lump sum payment in February, 2018. This upfront payment enables RUSU to generate additional income to supplement the grant. At mid -year RUSU was granted an additional \$23,368 in SSAF Competitive grant funds specifically for RUSU Clubs.

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.



Stress Less Week with the therapy dogs

Table 1: RUSU SSAF Grant Expenditure on Allowable Items 1 January – 31 September 2018

Allowable Item	Item Description	YTD Expenditure (SSAF Funded)
Giving students information to help them in their orientation;	» Orientation specific events	\$116,158
Promoting the health or welfare of students;	 Activities and events from advocacy and welfare departments: Queer, Women's, Postgraduate, Environment, Welfare, Education, Indigenous Campaigns, events, honorariums, programs, marketing All City Compass programs and staff 	\$457,033
Helping meet the specific needs of overseas students relating to their welfare, accommodation and employment;	» Activities and events from International Department & International Support SSAF grant	\$51,728
Helping students develop skills for study, by means other than undertaking courses of study in which they are enrolled;	 Induction programs/student representative professional development Volunteer program + program staffing Student Engagement Officer Student Union Council elections Secretariat honorariums All of SUC campaigns Students as Partners Grant Student Life Awards 	\$421,932
Supporting the production and dissemination to students of media whose content is provided by students;	 » RMITV operations, honorariums, special projects, productions, training, website » RMIT Flagship Program (SSAF grant) » Catalyst magazine operations, student honorariums, publication (online and print) » Communications/graphic design staff 	\$304,972
Providing food or drink to students on a campus of the higher education provider;	 » Campus-specific events and marketing (all campuses) » Realfoods » Healthy Breakfast SSAF grant 	\$304,972
Supporting a sporting or other recreational activity by students;	 Major events and intervarsity recreational activities and competitions Activities & Events collective including administration, student honorariums, marketing and staff support 	\$287,148
Supporting the administration of a club most of whose members are students;	 » Administration, grants, equipment and support to student run clubs and societies » Clubs & Societies staff and other support 	\$372,652
Advising on matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described);	 » Administration and support staff members: Administration, Governance and Finance » 5 x information counter staff and operations (including Bundoora East info counter) 	\$721,240
Advocating students' interests in matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described);	 » Student Rights Officers » Student advocacy materials, campaigns, research and training for staff and student representatives on committees 	\$726,150
YTD SSAF EXPENDITURE		\$3,792,185
YTD 2018 SSAF FUNDS RECEIVED		\$3,792,185
AMOUNT OF GRANT REMAINING		\$0
% OF 2018 GRANT SPENT		100%

Table 2: RUSU End of Year SSAF Grant Spending 2018 SSAF Committee Grant Financial Report, 1 January –31 December 2018

Program Title	Grant Amount	Expenditure 1 Jan – 31 Dec
RUSU Volunteer Program (includes training)	\$185,000	\$164,578
RMITV flagship production and RMITV training	\$55,000	\$56,853
RUSU International Student Support - conversation classes and city tours	\$40,000	\$35,098
Bundoora Common Lunch Hour (inc SRO & Bundoora East)	\$90,000	\$85,900
RUSU Orientation Package	\$120,500	\$116,158
RUSU Free Healthy Breakfasts	\$65,000	\$67,845
Postgrad Support Program (inc SRO)	\$38,500	\$45,601
Brunswick Common Lunch Hour	\$37,000	\$39,801
RUSU VE Awareness & Support	\$40,000	\$41,847
SSCC Mentoring Program	\$23,000	\$23,548
Compass Bundoora & Brunswick	\$112,000	\$137,357
City Campus Events Boost	\$71,000	\$68,498
Point Cook Student Life Boost	\$19,000	\$9,119
RUSU Clubs Grants (included extra mid year grant)	\$50,868	\$50,420
RUSU Student Life Awards	\$22,000	\$20,375
RUSU Indigenous Department	\$30,000	\$27,832
RUSU Students as Partners	\$8,000	\$3,545
TOTAL	\$1,006,868	\$994,375
Grant Underspend		\$12,493





🐨 RUSU.RMIT.EDU.AU 📑 RUSUPAGE 🎔 RMITSU 🖸 RMIT_RUSU 🕒 RUSUONLINE