

A photograph of three young women standing outdoors, smiling. The woman on the left has long brown hair and is wearing a black t-shirt and a pink skirt. The woman in the middle has red hair and is wearing a light grey t-shirt. The woman on the right has blonde hair and is wearing a black and white striped t-shirt and a black choker. They are all wearing sunglasses. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with other people.

RMIT University Student Union

First Quarter Report

Reporting Period:
1 January – 31 March 2017

RUSU
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

President's Report



We launched into 2017 with a lot of momentum following on from an incredibly successful 2016, in which we campaigned for and achieved so many things that will benefit RMIT students. After planning over summer, our student representatives and staff now have the opportunity to begin implementing the projects, activities, and campaigns that will drive us to further successes in the year ahead.

In the first quarter of 2017 RUSU enjoyed one of the biggest orientation periods ever, introducing a new event called RUSH Week. This event drew groups of students from all over RMIT who competed against each other in games, scavenger hunts, logic puzzles, competitions and challenges. A huge hit, we can't wait to do RUSH Week even bigger and better next year!

This year we reached thousand of students with our series of orientation talks. This is something we've always done, but this year we really took it to the next level. Our student reps and staff spoke to dozens of large student cohorts, informing them of who RUSU is, what we do, and how we can help them in times of need.

With the opening of the NAS precinct, 2017 promises to be a big year for both RMIT and RUSU. We can't wait to build on our fantastic start to the year!

Abena Dove
President,
RMIT University Student Union

Activities & Events



*Chill N Grill with Birdhouse
and Barefoot Spacemen*

February is the time for welcoming new members to RMIT and RUSU and engaging students with our services and events. This has been the focus of the Activities Department over this reporting period.

Standout Events

RMIT Welcome Events

10 February	VE Welcome – Brunswick
11 February	VE Welcome – City
23 February	Welcome Day – Brunswick
24 February	Welcome Day – Bundoora
25 February	Welcome Day – City
3 March	Clubs Day
4 March	Foundation Welcome

At all these events RUSU provided a space for students to learn about our services and functions, and sign up for our collectives, clubs and RUSU financial membership.

Pop Up Pub

RUSU provided one of our famous 'Pop Up Pubs' serving food, drinks and playing some tunes in the building 57 courtyard. This event was made possible by the Orientation SSAF grant.

Global Experience Welcome

Following on a traditional established in 2015, RUSU has partnered with RMIT Global Experience to deliver a fun welcome event for new inbound exchange students. RUSU made provisions for a free wet bar and distributed Australiana themed souvenirs. This event was made possible by the Orientation SSAF grant.

Welcome Bash 2017

The Welcome Bash was held on the afternoon of Thursday, February 23, between 5pm and 10pm in Alumni Courtyard. The event attracted over 1200 attendees (all RMIT students) and featured free food and free alcohol with music provided by a mix of RMIT students and prominent local DJs. This event was made possible by the Orientation SSAF grant.

Pizza Party

RUSU continued its traditional recovery party following Welcome Bash, with RUSU providing free pizza and soft drinks at lunchtime in the Alumni Courtyard on Friday, February 24. This event was made possible by the Orientation SSAF grant.

Brunswick Open Air Cinema

This event was held on February 28, and was the first major Orientation period event to be held by RUSU at Brunswick campus. The night included a showing of Frozen on a large inflated screen, a bar and food trucks. Attendance was approx 250, with highly positive feedback from attendees. This event was made possible by the Orientation SSAF grant.

Bundoora Open Air Cinema

This event was held on March 1 and was the first major Orientation period event to be held by RUSU at Bundoora campus. The night included a showing of Finding Dory on a large inflated screen, a bar and food trucks. Attendance was approximately 100. This event was made possible by the Orientation SSAF grant.

Welcome Bash 2017



'Heroes and Villains' Boat Cruise

This event was held on March 9, with the 350 capacity of the boat being sold out within two weeks of tickets going on sale.



Toga Party

For the second year running RUSU has taken over Storey Hall to put on one of the biggest parties of the year. This event saw around 600 students dressed in the classic toga enjoying an impressive array of RMIT talent and high-end production.



Below: Toga Party, Right: Boat Cruise





RUSH Programme

Monday 20th Mind Over Matter

Today is the day for the brainiest among your team mates to shine! We start with logic puzzles in Alumni Courtyard before releasing you into the city for the ultimate scavenger hunt!

Tuesday 21st Unleash Your Inner Child

Throw yourselves head first into childish madness in Alumni Courtyard! We have some games that are reminiscent of your childhood, as well as a massive game of Hungry Hungry Hippos... with a twist.

Wednesday 22nd Sports Day

Due to poor weather this day was moved to Lazer Tag in Box Hill.

Thursday 23rd Is Your Body Ready

Here's a Hint: No, your body is not ready. We start the day with crazy food challenges, break to give everyone the opportunity for a quick food coma nap.

Friday 24th Closing Ceremony

Once the scores have been tallied and the week has been rushed, come along the RUSU Rooftop Party to receive prizes for the winners, party with your new friends and relive the week's best moments.



RUSH Week

Instagram photos #RusuRush

RUSH Week was a new initiative for 2017. It stated aim was to engage students across varying cohorts in a fun and social way. The week consisted of a programme of puzzles, games and challenges and attracted around 30 teams with around 200 individual participants. Particularly pleasing was the high rate of participation from international and exchange students. This week of events was made possible the Orientation SSAF grant.

Membership

Membership as of March 31 was 3414. This is an impressive start to the year given that RUSU was mid-move between Building 5 and NAS during this period and also that we were not able to set up membership stalls in the high traffic Building 8 foyer as we have done in previous years.

While the newly launched RUSU website was amazing, the shift to doing membership sign-ups online using the UniOne system was far from smooth

and these issues will need to be resolved before future membership drives.

In previous years RUSU members received a member pack from us. This year we supplemented this pack by purchasing a range of items and using a large spinning wheel to allocate one per member. This wheel is visually impressive and no doubt played a role in promoting RUSU to the student body. Special RUSU prizes included; RUSU bucket hats, key rings, shot glasses and sunglasses.



Right: Welcome Bash 2017,
Below: Chill N Grill Volunteers

Volunteers

It is pleasing to report that the amount of student interest in the RUSU volunteer program remains steady with almost 200 inductions into the organisation so far. However, the impact of the NAS project has made volunteer placement very challenging, particularly within the Realfoods and Compass projects. Good student take up of RSA and SFH training remains with many using this credential to advantage outside of the volunteering program. We have seen a significant jump in the number of hours worked in the English Language Workshops.



Training: Number of participants					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
Program Induction	188	-	-	-	188
Responsible Service of Alcohol	20	-	-	-	20
Safe Food Handler	43	-	-	-	43

Volunteer hours worked: City Campus					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
Activities & Events	361	-	-	-	361
Realfoods	0	-	-	-	0
Administration	75	-	-	-	75
Compass	66	-	-	-	66
Healthy Breakfasts	74	-	-	-	74
English Language Workshops	171	-	-	-	171
Student Rights	22	-	-	-	2

Volunteer hours worked: Bundoora Campus					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
Activities & Events	21	-	-	-	21
Breakfasts	7	-	-	-	7
Realfoods	66	-	-	-	66

Across the Campuses

city

The Building 5 front counter dealt with many students in need of general directional queries over the quieter months of the year.

We also provided advice for students on admissions and co-ordinated college appeals and student conduct board matters. RUSU's student rights volunteers were extremely helpful with Appeal Against Assessment panels and Academic Board. The quality of training they receive is paying off as they continue to act in the best interests of students.

Students also continued to access the Compass Cupboard over this period, as many students were sorting out their living arrangements for the semester ahead and some disadvantaged students skip meals at this time to save for moving expenses.

Building 5 continued to be the mainpoint of contact for students on the City campus prior to the move to the NAS front counter in Building 12. The Healthy Breakfast program was reinvigorated and run from the Building 5 space. New volunteer interest has been sparked in the program with many regular dedicated volunteers starting at the beginning of Semester 1.

The Building 5 front counter continued to provide general and student support and referrals to students in February and March. We conducted membership outreach for commencing student at the end of February. We also gained plenty of new members over the O-Week period and the first four weeks of semester. Students continue to enjoy having somewhere to go to discuss difficulties they are having with the university in a

confidential manner and we keep getting great feedback on the city campus regarding the help students receive, particularly in referrals and student rights.

Our volunteers have gained much from working in the front counter and have made great friends, networked and learnt important cultural workskills in the Australian context. The move to Building 12 will mean we can reach more students than ever before!

City Chill & Grill

New and returning students alike have loved the weekly City Chill & Grill events (commenced week 2) in Alumni Courtyard. RUSU has provided free BBQ lunches to 1000 - 1,200 students each week. RUSU members love the free bar in the member's tent.

Brunswick Open Day, Brunswick VE Open Day



Brunswick

The first quarter of 2017 has been an exciting one for RUSU at the Brunswick campus. We have settled into the new office location very nicely, now being in prime location for student foot traffic in Building 514. This has allowed RUSU to have a real presence on campus and has been a great opportunity to directly engage with students.

The year started out with very successful Orientation and Welcome events at the campus, both for higher education and vocational education students. RUSU held stalls at these events, and many new students signed up for RUSU memberships here.

In February, we held an outdoor cinema event in the Brunswick courtyard, which included free food trucks and drinks, which went down a treat with students.

Our weekly free food events are always a hit, and this year we are offering the Healthy Breakfast program on Mondays and Chill 'n' Grill on Tuesdays. The Brunswick students always leave these events with full stomachs and smiles on their faces!

After many years at RUSU, our Brunswick Student Liaison Officer, Tali Polichtuk left RUSU. We wish her all the best for the future. Alaina McMurray commenced as Brunswick Student Liaison Officer in March. Alaina previously worked in a temporary role in the busy building 8, RUSU front counter in 2014/15 and we were all thrilled to welcome her back to RUSU.



Above: City Chill N Grill

Bundoora East & West

The Bundoora West office re-opened on February 13 and operated five days a week for the rest of the semester. We dived straightaway into O-Week, which ran smoothly on campus. The East campus office re-opened on March 6, and is staffed by student casuals who were recruited at the start of the year. This office was open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

The Healthy Breakfast program has picked up popularity steadily as students become aware of the weekly event. By the end of March, we have had students lining up to grab their fruit cups or muffins. The volunteer program is gaining strength in Bundoora, with dedicated and committed volunteers providing staff with valuable support to run the Healthy Breakfast program.

This year, the volunteer inductions were conducted in Bundoora with specific focus on recruiting and maintaining volunteers for the year. As part of the volunteer inductions, RUSU organised

two training sessions for volunteers in Bundoora. These were the Responsible Service of Alcohol and Food Safety Handling trainings. These were well attended by the Bundoora volunteers and staff needing to update their trainings. As part of the volunteer recruitment drive, staff are planning an event at the Walert House student accommodation on campus, which will be catered by RealFoods. This event will be held in the first week of April.

The pop-up movie night held in the first week of March was a success, with a screening of Finding Dory and a food truck providing meals. The Chill 'n' Grill events continue to be popular among students and is a great opportunity to promote other events run by RUSU and also the student rights service, on a weekly basis. We have seen a consistent volunteer presence at the Chill 'n' Grills at Bundoora so far.

To further promote the upcoming events in the semester, RUSU organised a Walert House specific BBQ evening at the Walert House grounds. There were snags, vegetarian options and soft drinks along with a chat about what RUSU is all about.

Carlton

The Carlton office had a relatively quiet start to the year as staff returned from the Christmas break and enjoyed the opportunity to plan for the year ahead. The building 57 office continued to be the focal point of student rights issues, with the SRO team kept busy.

The volunteer program trained and inducted a new group of administration volunteers who have quickly proved how helpful and attentive they are. The volunteer program means students can build skills in an office environment that is friendly and professional, and continues to provide students with job opportunities. We have hired a new cohort of student casuals, many of whom have come through the volunteer program. This is very satisfying to those who have worked closely with them.

The Women's and Queer lounges remain popular while the new Catalyst team has been busy getting together their first issue. As events and activities recommence for the new year, the Carlton office looks forward to an increase in excitement around the building.

The Bundoora East weekly lunches are running smoothly as well and RUSU has so far provided BBQs, pizza, and Subway wraps at the East campus.

The English Language Classes started on March 22 and have been running successfully. These classes are currently catered by the on campus café – Refuel, who provide us with vegetarian, non-vegetarian, and halal options.

The Queer Department started their 'Queer as Lunches' on March 20. This year, they are working collaboratively with Realfoods to provide students with lunch vouchers redeemable at Realfoods.

The free student kitchenette services at Bundoora East and West continue to be popular among students. We provide free instant coffee, drinking chocolate, black tea, green tea, chai tea, and milk (full cream, light, and soy) to all students, and these items are stocked regularly.

The student participation at Bundoora has been good in the first quarter and we look forward to more student engagement throughout the semester.

RUSU Departments



Queer

Above: New Queer Books, Right: Girls Night Out



Women's

Pride

The Queer Department started the year with a wonderful student and staff turnout at the Pride March on January 29, with 42 people in attendance. It was really great to see so many people attend outside the normal semester time.

O-Week

During O-Week, the Queer Department was represented at Brunswick, Bundoora, and City campuses. The Queer Officers spoke to a countless number of new students, many of which joined our Facebook groups and have since become active members in our Collective. We started the hashtag #RUSUQ2017 on Instagram to collect photos of everything that happens with the Queer Department and Collective in 2017, which was also the basis of our O-Week competition, 'What would you tell your younger self?' Students and staff were invited to write on a whiteboard some advice for their younger selves, post it on social media with the tag #RUSUQ2017, and go into the running to win a Hares & Hyenas voucher. We had participation from all three campuses, which was wonderful.

Rush Week

Rush Week saw a team of 12 students

from the Queer Collective come together for a week of activities of the like that none of us had ever tried before. From riddles and mental arithmetic to eating century eggs, the team came together and got through it all, and even came out the other end with an award for best team costume.

Diverse Genders, Sexes and Sexualities (DGSS)

The RUSU Queer Officers have had the privilege to be included in the DGSS Working Group, where we were involved in the creation and roll-out of the Diverse Genders, Sexes and Sexualities Action Plan at RMIT, which aims to build a culture of inclusion and respect for LGBTIQ students and staff. We have also witnessed the launch of the DGSS Staff Network, which is a great social network for queer and ally staff.

Collaboration with RMIT

The Queer Department also supported a University survey during the first quarter requesting students to flag gaps in RMIT's administrative systems and databases where their affirmed name or gender did not appear. The survey was posted on the Queer Department Facebook page on March 20.

During the first quarter, the Women's Officer organised a free lunch event in March in the City campus Women's Room so that women from the Collectives Department could meet and welcome new members as well as discuss and suggest future events to the Women's Officer.

During March, the Women's Officer also started planning the Department's 'Girl's Night Out' event hosted at HOYTS cinema in Melbourne Central. This event will be held in April and all attendees will be provided with a free dinner, free entry to the movie at Hoyts as well as giveaways.

Education & Welfare

Your Rights at Work, Uni and Home

The Education Department has worked with the National Union of Students on the 'Your Rights at Work, Uni and Home' campaign. This is a multi-faceted campaign aimed at informing students of their rights in all aspects of their lives. A key part of this campaign has been engaging in the penalty rates debate, an issue that affects many students who work in retail, fast food or hospitality.

Policy

The Education Department has been heavily involved in giving feedback about university policies as they have been moved into the new policy framework. The key policies during Q1 were the Student Conduct Policy, Assessment Policy and Complaints Resolution Policy.

Advocacy

RUSU's Education Officer is one of the elected undergraduate representatives on Academic Board. One of the key roles of RUSU representatives in this forum is to

advocate on behalf of students and make sure decisions at RMIT are focused on the student experience. The Education Officer has been engaged in discussions concerning academic freedom, as well as how to foster student representation on overseas campuses.

National Day of Action

The Education Department organised a RUSU contingent to the National Union of Students' National Day of Action on March 22. The rally demanded no more attacks on higher education, no campus cuts, and no Centrelink cuts. RUSU provided free pizza and t-shirts for students before the rally to encourage attendance and talk about rally's demands.

Welfare

The Welfare Department has had a very busy first quarter. We discussed how to make RMIT University a Child-friendly campus and how RMIT plans to put in different processes and procedures to ensure that this can happen. Meetings were held with RUSU SROs regarding the Inherent requirements for some of

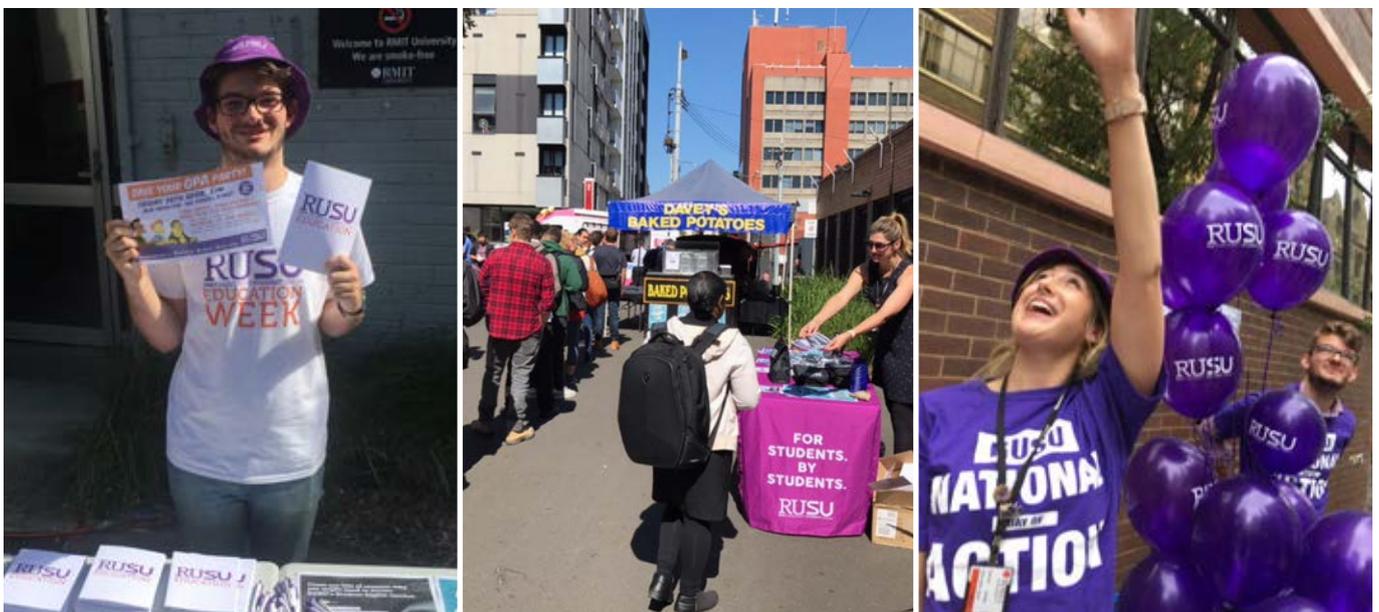
the courses in RMIT University; which has been followed up and reviewed and changes would be made soon.

Vocational Education: VE Chill

RUSU rebranded the Tradies 'n' Chill free lunch event in the first quarter and changed the name to VE Chill to make it more inclusive of all VE students. The free lunches have been scheduled as fortnightly events on Mondays from 12pm to approximately 1:00pm in O'Grady's Place in front of Building 57 with three free lunches held during the first quarter. Approximately 200 students each week enjoyed free serves of Mama Gozleme and La Revolucionian. This is an increase on 2016 numbers and is made possible by the VE Support SSFA grant.

The VE Officer and Student Rights Officers were present at both events and provided students with information specific to VE related issues as well general information regarding the student rights service. Planning of the larger scale outreach events also started during this quarter.

From left: Education Week at VE Chill, VE Chill Free Lunch, National Day of Action



Sustainability

Orientation

Sustainability at RUSU had a strong presence at O-Week at RMIT. With clubs and organisations such as Greening RMIT, Engineers Without Borders and the Onyabike bike fixing workshop, No Waste Yes party, Oxfam RMIT, and the many academic-based sustainability groups such as Student Association for Sustainable Systems Engineering (SASSE) attending. Overall it was reported to be a successful day of new signups and conversations around sustainability at RMIT.

Supporting Clubs and Societies

Throughout the first quarter the Sustainability Department mainly acted as a support role for current functioning clubs by assisting with room bookings and general complaints within the university. The Department also attended a number of events such as film screenings and skill shares, as well as hosting a sustainability catch up for the clubs who attended O-Week in order to continue the work of the Sustainability Collective and also discuss plans for the upcoming year.

Collaboration with RMIT University

One of the many things that the Sustainability Department is proud to continue from the previous officer is the relationship and collaboration with RMIT University. The Officer sits on the Sustainability Committee as a voice for student issues and the Student Union generally. There are also many opportunities to engage collaboratively through events such as sustainability week which was held during Week 4.

Sustainability Week

The Department was involved in Sustainability Week (March 20-24) through helping MC some of the speaker sessions held within the then recently opened Innovation Design Showcase space in the NAS area. The events were reasonably well attended



Postgraduate

The postgraduate department started the quarter with its newly hired student rights officer for HDR students (Sarah Joyce) commencing at the beginning of the year. It was a busy start to 2017, which began with the postgraduate handbook being given a major overhaul. A new design was created, and the content was streamlined and updated just in time for O-Week. Information in the booklet was about all the things relevant to postgrads that RMIT, and the RMIT University Student Union provide. This resulted in a handbook that is an extremely valuable resource for both new and continuing postgrads alike!

The department had a strong presence at O-Week events in the City and Bundoora campuses, where the handbook was distributed to students, and postgraduate events overall were promoted. The very popular speed friending event was held in March, with more than 50 students in attendance. It was a great chance for postgrads to get together and mingle in a social setting.

While no other events were held in this period, planning and promotion for a number of other events, including the postgraduate masterclass, was well underway! The Student Rights Officer (HDR) had introductory meetings with key staff members of the School of Graduate Research, and as the quarter progressed, she met regularly with the School of Graduate Research to both work on individual student cases, but also on broader advocacy campaigns.



Above: Postgrad Speed Friending

Realfoods

Realfoods, Bundoora

Realfoods Bundoora opened on February 21 and we are pleased to report it was again a great hit with staff and students. The sales of curries, wraps and vegan cheese toasties continued to rise throughout the semester. Coffee sales also continued to be hugely successful, as anticipated. After a successful dinner party at Walert House to promote volunteering, there was an increase in volunteers within the café. We had a strong start to the semester and have seen a significant jump in sales this semester. Realfoods Bundoora employs five student casual staff, including two new baristas trained staff to accommodate the growing demand for both tasty and ethical coffee on campus.

Clubs & Societies

Clubs Update

RUSU Club Grants

RUSU Clubs & Societies accessed \$26,910 of Clubs Grants funding during the first quarter of 2017 consisting of:

- \$16,210 of Annual Administration and Annual Program Reimbursement Grants (regular grants)
- \$10,700 of Academic Clubs Orientation Events Special Initiative Grants (SSAF Orientation Projects funded)

Brand New Clubs

The following brand new clubs were affiliated to RUSU during the first quarter:

- RMIT Afghan Students Society
- RMIT Programming Club
- RMIT Biosciences Society
- RMIT Mechanical and Automotive Engineering Society

Returned Lapsed Clubs

- RMIT Chinese Debating Group
- Institute of Electrical Engineers RMIT Chapter (RMIT IEEE)
- RMIT Aviation Society

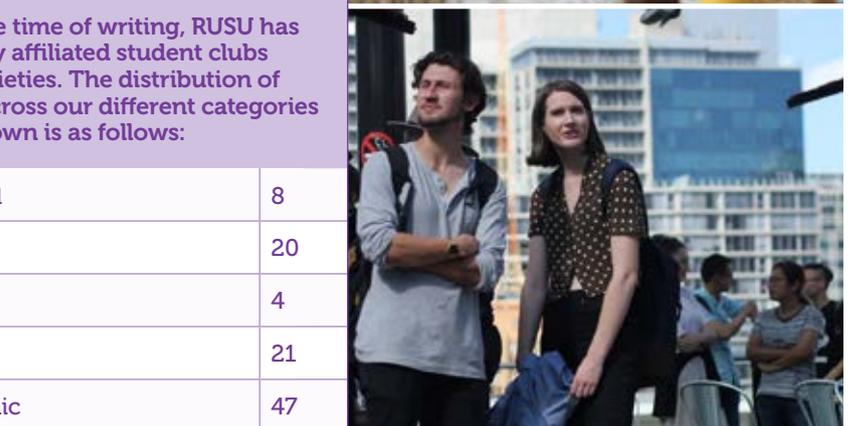
Lapsed clubs seeking re-affiliation for mid-year intake

- RMIT Union of Jewish Students Society
- RMIT Italian Society
- RMIT Amnesty

New clubs provisional affiliation applications received & approved

- Fossil-Free RMIT
- Students for Sensible Drug Policy RMIT Chapter
- RMIT Omani Students Society
- RMIT Vegan Society

From top: EFMSA Boat Cruise, RAA Camp, Islamic Society Welcome BBQ, SLAB Rooftop Welcome Party



RUSU Clubs Activity Affiliation

As at the time of writing, RUSU has 100 fully affiliated student clubs and societies. The distribution of clubs across our different categories breakdown is as follows:

Spiritual	8
Social	20
Political	4
Cultural	21
Academic	47

What are clubs saying?



Clockwise from top left: CESA Welcome, French Club Welcome, Basement O Activity, SSA Welcome Event.

Club Achievements in the Spotlight

RUSU Clubs participation in Semester 1 University orientation events:

Fifty-nine RUSU clubs participated in the University-delivered orientation events staffing 99 tables across the six main events. All RUSU clubs who apply for a table at City Clubs Day receive a place. However, as space and event resources are limited at the other campuses and smaller city events, the demand for places by clubs always exceeds capacity.

Academic Clubs Welcome/Orientation Events:

With the support of additional SSAF orientation funding, RUSU was again able to offer its academic clubs a Special Initiative Grant to assist them with the cost of club welcoming events at the start of Semester 1. Seventeen academic clubs applied for and received this funding. Events ranged from simple on campus BBQs and pizza nights to meals at city restaurants, social events at local pubs, a creative workshop and go-carting.

The grant was especially taken up by relatively new and smaller clubs which have not previously offered a welcome/orientation event. The grant assisted established clubs to deliver new events and to expand their usual O-Week events programs. More than 1000 new RMIT students were welcomed to RMIT by their academic clubs as a result of this additional funding

Feedback from clubs about the value of this additional funding included:

"The funding gave us a great opportunity to organise and run this fun event and give everyone a creative outlet from University where it can be very conceptual".

"[As a small and new club] developing the initial momentum is difficult, and so this funding will contribute to our growth."

"The Orientation Grant means we are able to readily host welcome social events for our students, without having to worry about raising adequate funds prior to the semester starting to cover the upfront costs of running the event".

"Our orientation events were really successful this year ... we have many new first year members, our first year rep positions have already been filled and a number of first years already signed up to our first camp."

"Being granted orientation funding enabled us to hold the type of event that we desperately needed to welcome everyone and engage people in our club. It was the difference between not holding future events in place of this initial 2017 opener".

"The funding was useful as it allowed us to be able to take more people to the event and allowed people that would usually not be able to afford such an expense to be able to come along and participate in a team building activity. "

"One of the best outcomes from the event was how excited the first years were in coming to this event, getting to chat to other students and they were genuinely grateful for what was provided. As a result of this, three of the attendees expressed their interest in becoming part of the committee to help plan future events throughout the year."

"This grant was great assistance in organising a new event during orientation week for new students to meet and mingle with the club. It also helped to bolster our other first year events and make them more attractive for students to attend".



From top: VSA Pizza Lunch, Thai Society Welcome, Christian Union Fish & Chips

New Developments & Support to RUSU Clubs

- Clubs staff attended UniOne web page training and meetings and stage one of the UniOne system introduction released to clubs.
- Delivered clubs processes training to RUSU admin volunteers and student casuals to ensure they were able to effectively respond to club enquiries.
- Met with University staff within RMIT Venues/ Engagement to try and develop a more timely and streamlined process for clubs to book University venues (academic and non-academic).
- Represented the Clubs Department and club needs at a series of University orientation working group meetings.
- Met with Associate Professor Margaret Jollands, Associate Dean, Student Experience, from the School of Engineering to discuss how the School could more support SOE academic clubs to increase their reach and operate more effectively.

Highlight Club Orientation Events

RMIT Communication Design Guild – Welcome BBQ @ RMIT Urban A'Beckett Square

RMIT Business Information Systems Student Association (BISSA) – social get together @ The Queensberry Hotel

RMIT Basement Club (Fine Arts Sculpture) - social tote bag making workshop (with nibbles) @ RMIT Building 1

RMIT Civil Engineering Student Association (CESA) Welcome BBQ @ RMIT O'Grady's Place

RMIT Environmental Engineers Student Association (EESA) – program of events including a Treasure Hunt, O talks, an interactive social (get to know one another games) at the John Curtain Hotel and a Welcome BBQ @ RMIT A'Beckett Square

RMIT Electric Racing Go Kart Night @ Auscarts Port Melbourne

Student Landscape Architecture Body (SLAB) – Welcome Social @ RMIT Building 80 Rooftop

Student Association of Sustainable Systems Engineering (SASSE) Post Clubs Day Welcome BBQ @ RMIT O'Grady's Place

RMIT Urban Planning Society (RUPS) Welcome BBQ followed by Welcome Social @ alumni Courtyard and the John Curtain Hotel

RMIT Information Security Collective (RISC) Welcome Social @ Captain Melville, City

RMIT International Studies Association O Trivia Night @ The Eureka Hotel, Richmond

RMIT Optics Student association (OSA) Welcome Dumpling Night @ North East China Family Dumplings Restaurant, City

RMIT Geospatial Science Student Association (GSSA) Inaugural barefoot Lawn Bowls @ Flagstaff Gardens Lawn Bowls Club

RMIT Law Students Society (LSS) Program of Welcome events - Get to know you Pizza, Wine & Cheese Tasting and Sunday Social Session @ RMIT Building 13 and Asian Beer Café

Club Activities Quarter 1, 2017

RMIT Accounting Students' Association (ASA) Networking Evening @ Rendezvous Grand Hotel, City	RMIT Christian Union Games on the Green @ Carlton Gardens	RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA) – Pre Departure Orientation @ Rendezvous Restaurant Subang Jaya, Malaysia
RMIT Accounting Students' Association (ASA) CPA Bootcamp @ RMIT Storey Hall	RMIT Christian Union Business Students Pizza Lunch @ @ RMIT Alumni Courtyard	RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA) Welcoming Party @ The Drill Hall, City
RMIT Accounting Students' Association (ASA) visit to Melbourne corporate headquarters of BDO International	RMIT Christian Union Tuesday Bible Study	RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA) 1000 Steps @ Kokoda Memorial Walk, Tremont
RMIT Aerospace Engineering Students Association (AESA) Industry Night @ RMIT Storey Hall	RMIT Christian Union Fish & Chips Event @ Port Melbourne Beach	RMIT League Of legends (LOL) weekly "Community Night" of online gaming and socialising @ alternating between RMIT Building 80, and OP Gaming Internet Café, City
AISEC RMIT – "Make the World a Sweeter Place" ideas generating event @ RMIT A'Beckett Urban Square	RMIT Civil Engineering Students Association (CESA) & RMIT Environmental Engineering Student Association (EESA) Week 3 Social @ RMIT Alumni Courtyard	RMIT League Of Legends (LOL) Welcome BBQ @ RMIT A'Beckett Urban Square
RMIT Asian Association Orientation Camp @ Log Cabin Camp, Creswick Victoria	RMIT Economics, Finance and Marketing Student (EFMSA) Annual Boat Cruise – "Double Denim" Theme @ Victoria Star Cruises, Docklands	RMIT Law Students' Society (RLSS) Summer Arvo Session @ Father's Office, City
RMIT Asian Association Orientation Camp in conjunction with Monash Chinese-Australian Cultural Community Orientation Dance Party at Seven Nightclub, South Melbourne	RMIT Electric Racing @ International Airshow, Avalon	RMIT Law Students' Society (RLSS) Plain English for Legal Writing Workshop presented by the Victorian Law Foundation @ RMIT Building 13
RMIT Asian Association Orientation Camp in conjunction with Monash Chinese-Australian Cultural Community Glow Party @ The Royal Melbourne Hotel, City	RMIT Electric Racing & RMIT [Petrol] Racing @ the Innovation Precinct, Australian Formula 1 Grand Prix Albert Park	RMIT Law Students' Society (RLSS) Trivia Night @ The Fitzroy Beer Garden, Fitzroy
Beer Brewers and Connoisseurs Club (BBCC) Fortnightly Meet Up @ Beer Deluxe, Fed Square	RMIT Engineers Without Borders weekend camp to join the Gariwerd Working Party, a land rehabilitation project on Djab Wurrung clans land near Halls Gap, Victoria	RMIT Law Students' Society (RLSS) Hoodie Design Competition
RMIT Business Student Association (BSA) & RMIT Accounting Students' Association (ASA) BBQ @ RMIT A'Beckett Square	Greening RMIT weekly skillshare activities @ RMIT Alumni Courtyard	RMIT University Korean Association (RUKA) Welcome Dinner @ Hwatu Korean Restaurant, Carlton
CAINZ RMIT "The Startup Journey" – entrepreneur speakers/networking event @ RMIT Building 12	Greening RMIT 1st Bundoora Campus Edible Garden Working Bee @ RMIT Bundoora	RMIT Islamic Society (RMITIS) Welcoming BBQ @ RMIT Alumni Courtyard
Catholics @ RMIT Fortnightly discussion group @ RMIT Chaplaincy	RMIT Games Manga and Anime Society (GMAS) Welcome Icebreaker @ RMIT Rooftop Bld 80	RMIT Islamic Society (RMITIS) "The BEauty of the Quran" Public Lecture @ RMIT Building 80
RMIT Chess Club participation in the 3rd Inter Uni Chess Tournament @ Swinburne University, Hawthorn Campus	RMIT Games Manga and Anime Society (GMAS) weekly games & anime sessions @ RMIT Building 12	RMIT Islamic Society (RMITIS) "Be the Best You Can Be" Public Lecture @ RMIT Building 80
RMIT Chinese Students & Scholars Association (RCSSA) Welcome Event @ RUSU Multipurpose Room, Building 57 Level 4	RMIT French Club Welcome Event – Coffee & Croissants @ RMIT Building 94	RMIT International Studies Association Fortnightly Social @ Workshop Bar, City
	RMIT French Club Weekly French Conversation Classes @ RMIT Bld 12	
	RMIT Mandarin Christian Fellowship Welcome Party @ UniLodge Swanston Street	



RMIT Indonesian Students Association (RMIT PPIA) Welcoming BBQ @ RMIT A'Beckett Urban Square	RMIT Japan Club Fortnightly Activities (games, anime, trivia etc.) @ RMIT Building 51	RMIT Thai Student Association (RTSA) BBQ Party @ Abode, City
RMIT Indonesian Students Association (RMIT PPIA) MAKRAB - Makin Akrah (annual "get to know you" camp @ Portland Bay Lodge, Allestree	RMIT Pakistani Club Welcome Event @ RMIT Building 57 RUSU Multipurpose Room	RMIT Taiwan Club Picnic @ Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne
RMIT Indian Club collaboration with Sizzlin Production to present "Da-Bang - The Tour" Bollywood Concert @ Rod Laver Arena	RMIT Pakistani Symposium: Pakistan's Image in Western Media @ RMIT Building 1	RMIT Student Association for Sustainable Systems Engineering – SASSE Orientation Camp @ Camp Getaway, Axedale
RMIT IAESTE Info Evening (about the IAESTE Program) @ RMIT Building 12	RMIT Aviation Society BBQ @ RMIT O'Grady's Place	RMIT University Sri Lankan Students Association (RUSLSA) Welcome BBQ @ RMIT A'Beckett Urban Square
RMIT Hong Kong Student Association (RMIT HKSA) Welcoming BBQ @ Alexandra Gardens	RMIT Planet Uni Weekly Prayer Sessions @ RMIT Building 9	RMIT Socialist Alternative hosted Public Meeting "Resisting Trump Around the World" @ Trades Hall, Carlton
RMIT Hong Kong Student Association (RMIT HKSA) Easter Afternoon Tea @ RMIT Bld 80	RMIT Planet Uni Annual Amazing Race starting @ RMIT A'Beckett Square	RMIT Singapore Student Association (SSA) Welcome Back BBQ @ RMIT A'Beckett Urban Square
RMIT Hong Kong Student Association (RMIT HKSA) Easter Dinner @ Famous Hot Pot and BBQ Restaurant, City	RMIT Motorcycle Club Ride & Camping Trip @ Kendalls Campground, Rubicon	RMIT Singapore Student Association (SSA) iDarts Night @ iDarts QV, City
RMIT Greens Welcome Social @ The John Curtain Hotel, Carlton	World Congress of Chiropractic Students RMIT Chapter (WCSS) professional development guest speaker activity "Adjusting Ninjas State of the ART Address" @ Masters of Training & Conditioning, Brunswick	RMIT Science Fiction & Gaming Association (SFGA) launch of official SFGA Minecraft Server @ online
RMIT Greens Fportnightly Meetings @ RMIT Pearson & Murphy's	RMIT Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) in conjunction with Uni Melb VSA and Monash VSA "Old School RnB Night" @ Eden Bar, City	RMIT Science Fiction & Gaming Association (SFGA) twice weekly gaming sessions @ RMIT Building 57 RUSU Multipurpose Room and the B57 Cafeteria
RMIT Greens Drug Law Reform Q&A @ RMIT Storey Hall	RMIT Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) free Pizza Lunch @ RMIT A'Beckett Urban Square	RMIT Science Fiction & Gaming Association (SFGA) introduction of weekly (teaching period) gaming sessions at Bundoora Campus with the support of SSAF funding for RUSU Clubs New Special Programs & Events
RMIT Management and International Business Student Association (MIBSA) Take On Start Ups Industry Night @ RMIT Building 12	RMIT Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) Movie Night @ RMIT Building 80	
	RMIT Thai Student Association (RTSA) Welcoming Social @ RMIT Building 47 RUSU Multifunction Room	

Student Media



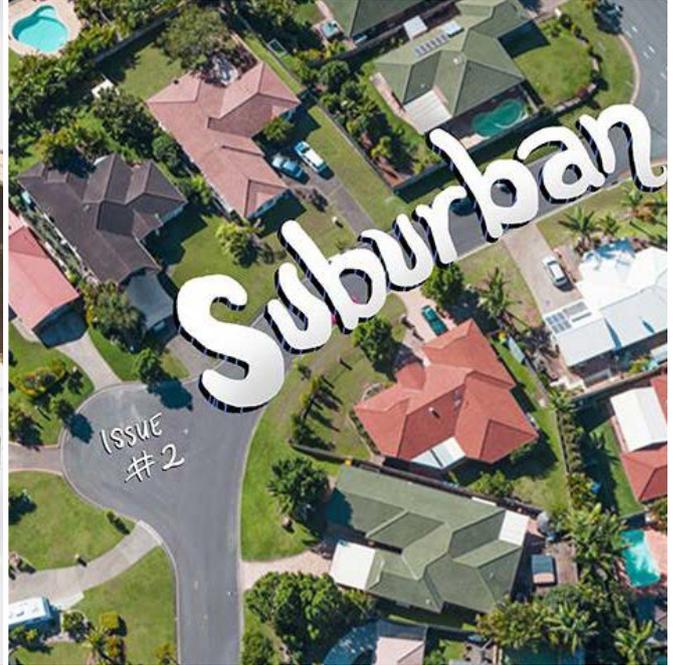
Catalyst

The Catalyst team has been hard at work redesigning the magazine and website. We are moving to a more compact size in 2017, just slightly bigger than A5. We were very proud to launch the first issue for the year in late February. The theme was 'Surreal', and we called on students to share the kind of experiences that make us feel unsettled and strange. Our contributors produced some great writing and art, and we were proud to distribute the magazine during O-Week.

In March one of editors, Claudia Long, resigned from her position. We are currently taking applications for a replacement. We are sad to see Claudia go, and thank her for her efforts.

The second issue, themed 'Suburban', is almost ready to be published. We've asked students to explore suburban life, and the response has once again been amazing. We can't thank our contributors enough. It should be ready in early April. We are really excited about this one!

During the first quarter the team continued to produce the Catalyst podcast, Cataclysm, as well as publish content on social media including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



Catalyst Issue 2: Suburban

RMITV

RMITV Leadership Team

RMITV bids farewell to General Manager, Karen Dennerley, after advancing into full-time industry employment. Former Training Manager, Edward Hirst, has since moved into the position of General Manager. Current RMIT student Jessie Upward has been appointed as RMITV's new Training & Development Manager.

Industry Employment

RMITV continues to provide a gateway to industry employment. Examples this quarter include:

Mike Beckham (RMIT Alumnus) Runner for Emerald Pictures

Tez Kavanagh-Dando (Current RMIT Student) Shadow Producer at Thoroughbred Racing Productions

Karen Dennerley (RMIT Alumnus) Production Assistant at Method Studios

Jessica Dunn (RMIT Alumnus) Casual Studio Technician at RMIT University

Nicholas Stevens (RMIT Alumnus) Broadcast Technologist for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation

RMITV Content

Current Programming

The Leak: The Leak is gearing up to broadcast the first season of the year! This year the focus is on growing the online audience for the show and utilising new technology to deliver content to audiences.

RMITV Presents: RMITV's latest flagship production, allowing members greater input in the creative process. Consisting of three unique shows, RMITV Presents is incredibly exciting to watch develop.

Good Morning Melbourne: RMITV's first morning show is in full swing producing online content and building their audience awaiting the opening of RMIT's new media precinct and television studios.

RMIT Alive: A production working closely with the School of Communications in an effort to uncover lesser known success stories within the University. The first production is slated to broadcast late May.

Tough Times: Tough Times has

RMITV is celebrating 30 years of student community television, 2017 sees RMITV's volunteers continue to thrive from the many productions and activities on offer.



RMITV's The Leak

completed yet another season that will be airing on Aurora and C31 in the coming months. Tough Times is one of RMITV's long-stay training vehicles for new members.

Upcoming Shows

Learning with Difficulties: RMITV's first ever animated series! Learning with Difficulties tells the story of Willy, who in seven days will suffer from the biggest mental breakdown ever recorded in medical history. He just doesn't know it yet. Utilising new motion capture technology RMITV plans to streamline the production pipeline to ensure that episodes are produced as fast as possible.

In Pit Lane: IPL is gearing up to produce their first season of 2017! With a format change and a new focus on more international events, IPL looks to set itself apart from the competition and break new ground before anyone else!

Formula SAE - Following the success of last year's Formula SAE Student Engineering Competition, which garnered over 8000 viewers, RMITV are set to broadcast the event again in 2017.

RMITV Training

Moving into a new year RMITV's Training Department has seen a growth in

interaction and participation across the membership base. The department continues to expand with the launch of a new training website, offering online courses for the first time, the new levels-based training program and a new training newsletter. The department has also introduced regular information sessions to recruit new members and to be able to gather feedback.

The levels-based training program has had a soft launch with the first course being released for the members. It focused on technical direction. The course develops skills and knowledge in television studio production through on-set training. Students will learn the key roles in a studio production: camera, lighting, audio, vision mixing, EVS and graphics. It will provide the framework to experience and learn the skills required to be a technical director and prepare them to take the next steps in broadcast technology. The course is taught in studio and requires students to work on numerous productions in numerous roles. The members are supported by senior volunteers and the training department. This course is a fast track to completing the RMITV 'Broadcast Television' course which will be the second levels-based course to be released ahead of Semester 2.

Aside from the levels-based training program and online courses in 2017, the

training department has continued to host workshops featuring students, alumni and industry professionals. RMITV's recent workshops include:

Livestream Workshop

Livestreaming is an essential part of our current programming with each show not only going live to Channel 31 but to various internet outlets such as YouTube and Facebook. The workshop covered not only how to livestream from the RMIT studio but how you would livestream in an outside broadcast. The workshop was taught by Nicholas Stevens, currently a Broadcast Engineer at ABC Southbank and previously Technical Manager at RMITV.

Pitching Masterclass

In anticipation of RMITV's new flagship production RMITV Presents, the training department ran a pitching masterclass this coming to prepare the shortlisted candidates for their own television show pitch. Pitching is an essential skill to have when wanting to develop your own project in the media industry. The workshop was conducted by renowned producer Stephen Luby of Ruby Entertainment.

GMM Field Workshop

In the lead up to Good Morning



RMITV Open Day, RMITV Promotional shot

Melbourne going into production the training department ran an exclusive field training workshop for the crew. Being able to operate camera and audio equipment in the field is essential when wanting to be a segment producer, camera operator or audio director. The workshop was conducted by RMIT Students Jessie Upward and Kyle Barbour-Hoffman.

Social Media Workshop

In a growing world of social media marketing and strategy it is an essential part of any business. RMITV ran a social media workshop that covered how to build a social media account following, how to direct traffic, SEO, social media campaigns, and more. The workshop speakers were Hollie and Alice from Get Glossy, a social media marketing agency focused on delivering innovative and creative strategies for our clients across digital and emerging platforms.

RMITV Technical Update

Equipment Utilization

Equipment was, once again, well utilised in Q1, with RMITV providing 5-10 hires to its members every week. Popular items include cameras and audio gear, both examples of items that were purchased in Q4 2016.

The growing uptake of newly purchased, higher end production equipment is satisfying, with two of the three RMITV Presents shows aiming for a more polished look, for which such equipment is indispensable.

Future Purchases

The only item that is commonly overbooked is our Sennheiser G3 wireless lapel mics, and we are in the process to acquiring additional units to alleviate this demand. Additionally, a lightweight jib will be purchased for location crane style shots, facilitating a more 'three dimensional' style of cinematography.

Following this, we will explore options to improve the equipment hire process for members, with items such as cases designed to hold multiple cameras for larger field shoots, and greater documentation as a part of our newly redesigned website, so that members are more aware of the options available to them.

Community Heritage Grant

The most exciting news of Q1 is undoubtedly the rapid development of the CHG archival project, which is to see hundreds of old RMITV programmes digitised and made available online.

2017 should see RMITV receive the final portion of the three part grant towards the preservation of the tape collection.

Jack Neill from FATS Digital - one of Australia's premier digital media services - performed an inspection of the physical media, and is pleased with its current state and confident that the results will be of a high quality.

RMITV has also formed a team to conclude the cataloguing of the collection as well as create a Collection Management Policy for future reference. They have made tremendous progress on this front, and things are well on schedule ahead of our eventual receipt of the grant later this year.

RMITV Events

Welcome drinks for both new and old members were held at the John Curtin Hotel in February. This served as an excellent opportunity for networking amongst both old and new faces.

This year, RMITV began holding monthly movie nights. These movie nights are held on the first Thursday of every month and have been met with an incredibly positive response from our members. The theme is picked by the management and board members who then come up with five movies from which members vote on. The selected movie is then screened in RMIT's Building 80 cinema, with free food and drinks provided to all who attend.

Social Media & Publications

Social Media

Facebook

17,623 Likes (Up 1,545 from previous quarter. Up 2,513 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 stronger than ever with our likes, engagement and reach continues to increase. Facebook serves as a platform for event advertising for both RUSU events and for Clubs & Societies. Our reach, reactions, comments and shares have also increased in the last quarter. Videos have been the most popular feature on Facebook and we hope to produce more video content for Facebook throughout the year.

Website

We are very proud to have launched our new website at the start of the year. The new website has been a long time in the making and has been a great collaborative effort between RUSU and UniOne. The website has a fresh, clean, bright, welcoming new look and is now mobile friendly. This has made it much easier for students to navigate and locate information they require. The site has the ability for students to find upcoming events, join clubs, become members, and locate information regarding their rights and welfare.

Newsletter

RUSU's newsletter continues to be popular, with more than 5000 subscribers to date, and a readership engagement rate of around 45%. This continues to be great way to keep students up to date with the latest events, news and information. The newsletters provides concise information directly to the student's in-box.

Snapchat

The introduction of Snapchat has been very popular among students. RUSU has also introduces event specific filters to help enhance the branding of RUSU, bring a sense of community and helps students share their experiences at RUSU events.



Promotional Material

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. Starting this year has included:

Rush Week 2017

A big week called for a big promotion. It was decided to give the week an 'American College' vibe, with a fraternity feel. A logo was created and used across all platforms - print, digital and t-shirts.

Welcome Bash

Continuing on from Rush Week, the Welcome Bash party was 'College' themed.

Toga Party

Getting into the ancient Greek feel, the Toga Party promotional materia.

VE Chill

New year and new look for the VE lunches! Gone are the Tradies 'n' Chill, introducing the new VE Chill. Promoting

the free lunch and tunes with the fun, bright food truck.

Pizza Party

Who doesn't love pizza? This event needed no promotion, but we did anyway with a pizza DJ cat in space.

Outdoor Cinema

RMIT Brunswick and Bundoora hosted a very popular outdoor movie night, perfect for a warm summer night.

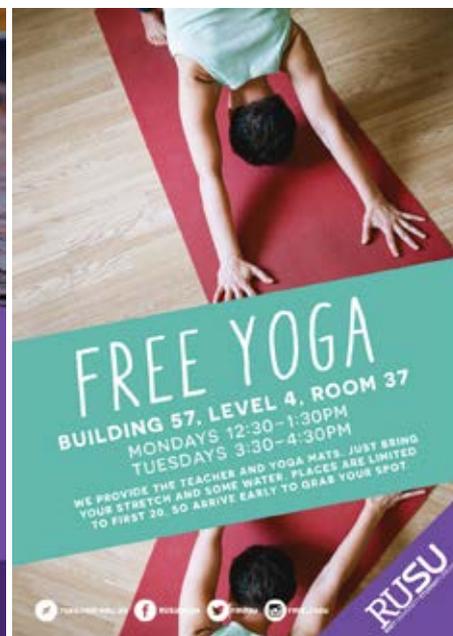
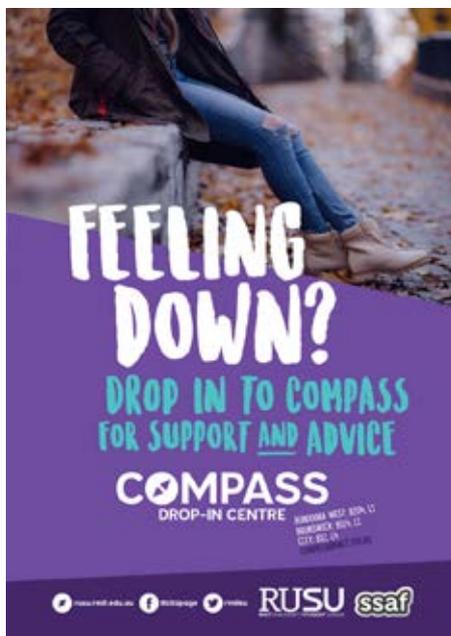
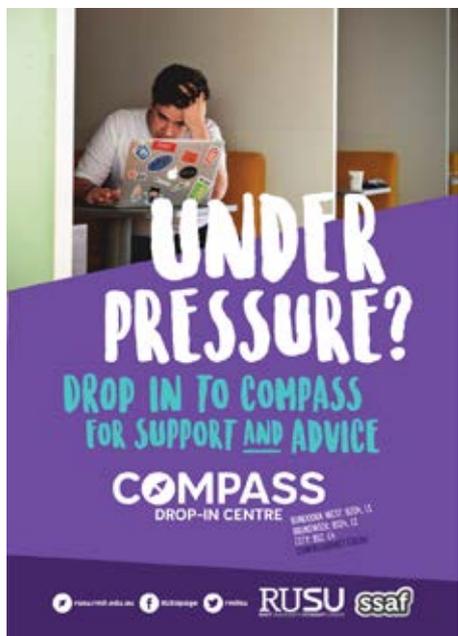
Chill 'n' Grill

This remains one of the most popular events run by RUSU and it was decided to give the promotional material a bit of a facelift this year. Promoting the food and fun across all campuses. Our Super Chill 'n' Grill also had a soul and reggae look.

Boat Cruise

The heros and villains theme was a big success with a lot of students getting dressed up. The promo material

Representation & Advocacy



Compass

This has been a time of transition and growth for the Compass program. The Compass project readied itself for major change in the lead up to first Semester.

Over the January break the Compass Drop-In centre in Building 5 was packed up, ready to move into it's new home. The move date was to be before Orientation Week, to allow for Compass to set up and showcase the amazing new space provided to students who are seeking support, information or referrals. Unfortunately, this date has since been moved back.

Sarah Duff, along with Andrea Ogier travelled to Sydney to complete Youth Mental Health First Aid Facilitator training, which was a five day course to become accredited in training students, volunteers, student representatives and RUSU staff to become Youth Mental Health First Aiders. Both Sarah and Andrea received their qualifications and learned very valuable skills and information around mental health first aid and what it is to be a first aider in this space.

Compass Co-ordinator Thea Lamaro returned from leave in Week 3 of Semester

1, which was fantastic, and Sarah worked from the City, offering support where needed and to support the move into the new space. With delays continuing to push back operations with Compass, Thea moved into the empty student rights space and supported students in lieu of a drop-in space to support students. These delays impacted the timeline both Thea and Sarah had envisaged and lead to volunteers being unable to offer their time to Compass.

Despite the setbacks directly impacting the Compass Drop-In Centre, Compass still delivered our very successful yoga sessions in the City campus and recruited, organised and began facilitating our English Language Workshops in both the City campus and Bundoora West.

Although this quarter has seen Compass face great obstacles, we look forward to the second quarter, when we are able to rejuvenate the program, as well as build two new services from the ground in Brunswick and Bundoora and implement important and relevant campaigns, events and activities.

Representation

Appeal Committees Reps

RUSU has supported students on the following RMIT hearings;

- 2 student representatives sat on 4 University Appeals Committee hearings.
- 7 student representatives sat on 8 Student Conduct Board hearings.
- 1 student representative sat on 3 College Appeals Committee hearing.

Student Voice

RUSU elected student representatives provided a student voice on a range of RMIT committees during this quarter, including Academic Board and the Student Experience Advisory Committee.

RUSU/ RMIT Meetings

RUSU leaders including the President have held numerous meetings with RMIT University this quarter including with Vice Chancellor, Martin Bean, and Deputy Vice Chancellor of Education, Belinda Tynan.

Student Rights

RUSU Top Priorities Meetings with University Stakeholders

The RUSU President and Campaigns Officer attended two RUSU Top Priorities Meetings with the Director of Planning and Resources, Sue Bolt, and Senior Advisor, Student Wellbeing Strategic Projects, Kirsten MacLeod, during the first quarter. During these meetings, the RUSU President explained the intention and aims of the top priorities and subsequently work has begun to start assigning accountable RMIT stakeholders to collaborate with RUSU in achieving the priorities.

President's Summit

In February, Abena represented RUSU at the NUS President's Summit. This summit was an excellent opportunity for networking and sharing ideas between student unions.

RUSU Internal Meetings

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

- 3 Student Union Council Meetings
- 9 Secretariat meetings

Student representatives gain governance experience on internal Student Union Committees, such as Staffing Committee, Finance Standing Committee and OH&S Committee

Elected student councillors supported to work as governors and managers.

The first quarter of 2017 has been a busy one for RUSU's student rights team, with students requiring assistance on a wide range of issues, with allegations of academic and general misconduct, special consideration, academic progress, appeals against assessment, late cancellation of enrolment and requests for fee waivers making up a large proportion of cases.

The Student Rights team has also undertaken significant policy input, review and feedback to the University. Members of the student rights team, alongside the Campaigns Officer, have continued to work on the Assessment Policy and Processes and the Student Conduct Policy. They have been advocating for student friendly provisions in these areas that are fair and equitable for all students studying at RMIT.

In addition to this, the student rights team participated in numerous orientation week events and presentations, and have continued outreach through the semester at events on all RMIT campuses, to inform students about the student rights service. Many students continue to be unaware of this vital service provided by RUSU and the team are always looking for creative ways to inform students of the service and their rights during their tertiary education.

Finally the student rights team welcomed three new members to the team in the first quarter, Sarah Joyce (HDR SRO replacing Ollie Fabinyi) and Inger Ross (replacing Caspar Cumming who is on leave). Ganesh Sundaramurthy commenced a 12 month secondment as an SRO (replacing Sarah Marshall who is on leave). They all bring extensive knowledge and experience to the student rights service and we are very happy to them on board. Welcome Sarah, Inger and Ganesh!

What are student's saying?

Direct quotes from students assisted by the student rights team:

"I just received this email in the morning and I couldn't be happier with the outcome. I wish to thank you for all the assistance and support you've given me over the semester and I know that this would not have been possible without you and the Student Union. You've been the reassurance I've needed over this semester and I appreciate you going above and beyond to help secure this result for me."

"Just wanted to shoot you an email saying I have received the email granting me credit! Thank you very very much for all your help! I would not have been successful at appealing without you. Again, thank you."

"Today I write this email to especially thank you for the responsibly kind help that you have given to me. From the bottom of my heart, I never think this will turn out to be better than my expectation. Although, I still have more works ahead to strive for, I am grateful for what you have done to me, what you share with me. That is not only the usual work for a professional but also the humane encouragement that sparks a beam of hope in my mind. Again, thank you very very much."

RUSU Governance, Administration & Services

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

- Assisting and resourcing RUSU student representatives in meetings with RMIT University.
- Regular Meetings with RMIT University and Property Services especially regarding NAS and Building 202 Bundoora Campus development.
- Coordinating logistics for the move of RUSU information counter and Compass from Building 5 into NAS (RUSU Central).
- Moving the student rights outreach service from Building 5 to consolidate City campus student rights support in Building 57.
- Supporting and participating in the recruitment and induction of new RUSU staff and student casuals.
- Refining the 2017 RUSU budget in accordance with the RUSU funding agreement and SSAF grant requirements.
- Finance Standing Committee meetings held.
- Reporting on SSAF Funded projects.
- RUSU Investment Strategy updated for 2017 and approved by SUC.
- Administrative and payroll tasks associated with new RUSU staff and student casuals.
- Undertaking the 2016 Annual financial audit.
- Providing advice to the RUSU management on IT related issues.
- Participation in the Uni One RUSU website project, which rolled out in February 2017.
- Coordinating and attending Student Rights and Welfare team meetings and the RUSU Administration & Student Liaison Officer team meetings.
- Providing first point of contact Student Rights advice for RMIT students (both onshore and offshore).
- Sourcing and resourcing student representatives to RMIT Appeals Committees.

In February 2017, the RUSU Administration Co-ordinator, Ganesh Sundaramurthy, commenced a 12-month secondment with the RUSU student rights team. RUSU welcomed Ben Golby into the Administration Co-ordinator temporary position.

SSCC Student Leadership Summit



Financial Overview

RUSU SSAF Funding 201

RUSU funding from RMIT for 2017 is made up of the following:

Base grant	\$2,705,350
SSAF Committee Grants	\$881,500
2017 TOTAL GRANT	\$3,586,850
2017 GRANT RECEIVED TO DATE	\$3,586,850

The 2017 RMIT/RUSU Deed Agreement has been signed. The 2017 grant was received as a lump sum payment in late January. This upfront payment enables 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.



Right: Welcome Bash 2017

**Table 1: RUSU SSAF Grant Expenditure on Allowable Items
1 January – 31 March 2017**

Allowable Item	Item Description	YTD Expenditure (SSAF Funded)
Giving students information to help them in their orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Orientation specific events » Re-Orientation Events 	\$53,635
Caring for children of students	Nil	\$0
Providing legal services to students	Nil	\$0
Promoting the health or welfare of students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » All activities and events from advocacy and welfare collectives: Queer, Women's, Post-Graduate, Environment, Welfare, Education » Campaigns, events, honorariums, programs, marketing » All Compass Centre, programs and staff » Healthy Eating SSAF Grant 	\$54,016
Helping students secure accommodation	Nil	\$0
Helping students with their financial affairs	Nil	\$0
Helping meet the specific needs of overseas students relating to their welfare, accommodation and employment;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » All activities and events from International student department and International Support SSAF Grant 	\$4,810
Helping students obtain employment or advice on careers	Nil	\$0
Helping students obtain insurance against personal accidents	Nil	\$0
Helping students develop skills for study, by means other than undertaking courses of study in which they are enrolled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Induction programs/Student Representative Professional Development » Volunteer Program & Program Staffing » Student Engagement Officer » Student Union Council Elections » Secretariat Honorariums » All of SUC campaigns 	\$51,397
Providing libraries and reading rooms (other than those provided for academic purposes) for students	Nil	\$0
Supporting the production and dissemination to students of media whose content is provided by students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » RMITV operations, honorariums, special projects, productions, training, website » RMIT Flagship Program » Catalyst magazine operations, student honorariums, publication (online and print) » Communications/Graphic Designer Staff 	\$57,759
Providing food or drink to students on a campus of the higher education provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Campus specific events and marketing (all campuses) » RUSU Realfoods 	\$38,167
Supporting a sporting or other recreational activity by students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Major events and intervarsity recreational activities and competitions » Activities and Events Collective including administration, student honorariums, marketing and staff support 	\$181,827

**Table 1: RUSU SSAF Grant Expenditure on Allowable Items
1 January – 31 March 2017 (continued)**

Allowable Item	Item Description	YTD Expenditure (SSAF Funded)
Supporting an artistic activity by students	Nil	\$0
Supporting debating by students	» Grants paid to debating club are included with clubs reporting	\$0
Supporting the administration of a club most of whose members are students	» Administration, grants, equipment and support to student run clubs and societies » Clubs and Societies Staff and other support	\$69,666
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 and SSAF Project)	\$132,200
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	\$132,283
YTD SSAF EXPENDITURE		\$663,204
YTD 2017 SSAF FUNDS RECEIVED		\$3,586,850

**Table 2: 2017 SSAF Committee Grant Financial Report
1 January – 31 March 2017**

Program Title	Grant Amount	Expenditure YTD
RUSU Volunteer Program	\$183,000	\$188,142
RUSU Flagship Production (Live on Bowen) and RMITV training program	\$42,316	\$35,659
RUSU International Student Support - conversation classes and city tours	\$45,500	\$30,880
Bundoora Common Lunch Hour (including SRO & BE)	\$72,552	\$75,245
RUSU Orientation Package	\$123,727	\$116,154
RUSU Free Healthy Breakfasts including nutrition & sustainability awareness	\$56,373	\$68,738
Post-grad Support Program (including SRO)	\$43,000	\$28,990
Brunswick Common Lunch Hour	\$38,824	\$31,249
RUSU VE Awareness & Support	\$33,842	\$32,157
SSCC Mentoring Program	\$30,000	\$21,110
Compass Bundoora & Brunswick	\$110,000	\$8,100
City Campus Events Boost	\$49,784	\$2,652
Point Cook Student Life Boost	\$22,988	\$0
RUSU Clubs Grants	\$30,000	\$0
TOTAL	\$881,500	\$128,995

RUSU

RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

 RUSU.RMIT.EDU.AU  [RUSUPAGE](#)  [RMITSU](#)  [RMIT_RUSU](#)  [RUSUONLINE](#)