

Victoria University
VUSU
Student Union



VUSU 2017 Annual Report



This page intentionally left blank

Publication Date:

April 4, 2018

Victoria University Student Union

2017 Annual Report

Prepared by:

Elisse Baitz

Executive Officer

Contact Us

Email: vusuqueries@gmail.com

Phone: (03) 9919 5053

Facebook: www.facebook.com/VUStudentunion

This page intentionally left blank

Contents

Acknowledgement of Country	5
About VUSU.....	6
VUSU ORGANISATION CHART 2017	7
President – Jill Horman.....	8
General Secretary – Deanne Koonwhyte	10
Vice President (Activities) – Ronna Sua	12
Vice President (Welfare) – Anthony Mallon	13
Vice President (Education) – Jasmine Birch	14
Women’s Officer– Holly Walker.....	16
LGBTQIA Officer – Kate Mayer	19
Cultural Diversity Officer – Sanjula De Silva	20
2017 EVENTS	21
Tropical Island Boat Party – Welcome to 2017!	21
VUSU & VU Symposium Semester 1 & 2.....	22
Solidarity Lunch.....	22
Back to the 90’s Party – Welcome Back	23
VUSU Annual Ball - Great Gatsby.....	24
Hyde Magazine	27
Financial Statements	28

Acknowledgement of Country



Acknowledgement of Country

Victoria University Student Union acknowledge the Elders, families and forebears of the Boonwurrung and Wurundjeri tribes of the Kulin Nations who were the custodians of University land for many centuries. Victoria University Student Union acknowledge that the land on which we meet was the place of age old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal and that the Kulin people's living culture had and has a unique role in the life of this region.

About VUSU

Victoria University Student Union (VUSU) is the peak representative student body at Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia. VUSU represents and supports all students at Victoria University (VU). The stated objectives of VUSU are to provide a range of representation and general services to a student population of approximately 40,000 across all campuses of the university.

VUSU provides representation and advocacy to all VU students. Student representatives often provide support to students when needed, and when students have complaints and grievances against Victoria University. VUSU representatives lobby the University for inclusive services that benefit all students.

VUSU representatives are elected annually by the student body. Elections are fundamental to the democratic nature of the organisation. Participation rates in VUSU elections vary from year to year; in 2017 approximately 5% of enrolled students voted in the election, a high percentage of participation relative to other Victorian universities.

VUSU conducts Board and Executive meetings to facilitate informed discussion with the aim of making decisions. Mobile information booths and surveys conducted via the website and social media channels facilitate the exchange of information between VUSU representatives and the students they represent. Forums and symposiums with staff and students are an opportunity for students to come and voice their views on issues they face.

VUSU is affiliated to the National Union of Students (NUS). The NUS is the peak student representative body in Australia. It has over 600,000 members within Australian tertiary institutions. VUSU is a proud member of NUS and values the contribution it makes to further the interests of students. Each year VUSU sends delegates to the National NUS Conferences. Those delegates take part in the democratic process of formulating NUS policy and electing NUS office bearers.

VUSU ORGANISATION CHART 2017

EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT JILLIAN HORMAN		GENERAL SECRETARY DEANNE KOONWHYE	
VICE PRESIDENT – EDUCATION JASMINE BIRCH	VICE PRESIDENT – WELFARE ANTHONY (FELIX) MALLON	VICE PRESIDENT – ACTIVITIES RONNA SU'A	

OFFICE BEARERS

WOMEN'S OFFICER HOLLY WALKER	CULTURAL DIVERSITY OFFICER SANJULA DE SILVA	LGBTQIA+ OFFICER KATE MAYER
--	---	---------------------------------------

AFFILIATED ORGANISATION REPRESENTATIVES

VU-ISA PRESIDENT NORBERT KINDERMANN	VUPA PRESIDENT JAMES SORENSEN	UNIVERSITY COUNCIL VACANT
---	---	-------------------------------------

COLLEGE SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES

ARTS & EDUCATION* (CAES)	BUSINESS* (COBS)	ENGINEERING
HEALTH & BIOMEDICINE (CHABS)	LAW & JUSTICE* (DICTUM)	SPORT & EXERCISE SCIENCE* (SESS)
	POLYTECHNIC* (TRADES)	

*2017 Affiliates



President – Jill Horman

For me, this year has been focused on looking at the policies of VU and of VUSU with a critical lens to ensure that VU students are getting the best out of University, and being provided with a safe, secure and uplifting environment in which to succeed and learn.

At the beginning of my term I attended the TEQSA (Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency) Conference at Park Royal Hotel. I was on a panel of five students, being the only one from Victoria University and one of two people from Victoria. I prepared a short presentation on my perspective of “The Student Experience” and of “What students want” which was well received by the audience. Universities may nominate only one student to attend this conference each year, so it was a great experience to kick-start to my term.

This year I wanted to look at how to make the everyday life of students easier, and how to best deliver students’ fee’s back to them. I began to conduct research on and drafted a potential VUSU loyalty program, including a number of benefits to students. This was based on a set of high-level objectives I had created with the VUSU 2017 team, to increase engagement and to improve our outreach and service delivery. Since the beginning of this initiative, we have had some engagement from students, but on a higher level we’ve been able to collaborate with VU campus cafes to look at student discounts and work with other departments at VU to find the best way to provide the most efficient and valuable membership idea.

This year, with the collaborative effort from the VUSU awareness campaign from the Education department, the success of VUSU events and the launch of our new website, VUSU engaged more students than ever gaining close to 700 new sign-ups just since March of 2017. VUSU has also set the bar in terms of service delivery, fighting for the needs of students at all campuses in terms of space, services and amenities. The new website and mailing list has made VUSU more accessible to students, and enabled the team to achieve its high level objectives.

Collaboration

In the first half of the year I have been attending Prevention of Violence Against Women committee meetings organised by Respect and Responsibility with James Sorensen, Norbert Kindermann and Holly Walker. I was able to publish a Hyde article about some of the collaborative work done by VUSU and other departments in terms of Women's respect and safety at VU. After developing a number of shared goals with Respect and Responsibility, VUSU co-signed an application for a government grant to support a collective initiative to create awareness of the implications of violence against women, implement policy recommendations and develop preventative measures. This May, we found out that we had been successful in receiving the entire \$50,000 grant which we had applied for which means we will have the ability to facilitate a number of campaigns, events and activities with the assistance of an appointed staff member for the next three years.

VUSU was also a recipient of the Major SSAF Grants scheme during semester one. Due to the SSAF collection for VU having decreased this year, the association experienced a consequentially lower allocation than proposed and thus, we had to endeavour to seek extra funds to continue to support our services. I supported Hyde magazine – an associate publication team run by students as a suitable candidate for a grant. Hyde worked collaboratively with VUSU to apply – eventually being successful in securing a further \$10,000!

Through our success in the Major SSAF Grant scheme, I worked supportively with the VUSU Vice President of Welfare in delivering a number of Mental Health First Aid sessions, accrediting between 50 and 60 students, at a substantially subsidised price for students. Mental Health First Aid has been well received by VU Students, and we have made VU one of the first universities in Australia to make the course accessible to students at this rate.

VUSU and VU

VUSU ran a very successful symposium with Victoria University's management in first semester. Some good information we got out of this interaction was an abundance of information on the First Year College. The discussion around this can be found on the VUSU website as we recorded the event. There were many interesting topics which came out of this student and staff discussion, ones that were able to lead to important avenues of student advocacy.

VUSU will be working with Ian Solomonides, the Pro-Vice Chancellor, Learning Innovation and Quality, in providing student representation for the First Year College roll out. Since the symposium, VU staff members and facilities have been working closely with the VUSU LGBTQIA+ officer and VU Pride in getting all-gender bathrooms on all VU campuses, which is a huge success. Many students were able to speak openly and directly to VU Senior Staff, and I have only received excellent feedback about the event since.

In semester two, I have been liaising with Adrian Wong who is the Director of Strategic Procurement in developing a plan for the improvement of campus café's including what is available and the pricing of these items. This plan has involved gathering data and research and asking students what they want and value in terms of food on campus. The café prices at VU have been a consistently emerging issue which VUSU has noticed, and will continue the endeavour to create a more affordable everyday university experience.

To conclude...

This year we have been able to provide advocacy and support to a number of student groups and events including the VU Music Society, the Community Development students, VU Multicultural Week and the VU Music Awards. It has been such a pleasure having been the VUSU President this year and being able to support such a strong and hard-working team who I have had the positive opportunity to see grow and prosper over the year. Although I have been involved with VUSU for 4 years, I could not have gotten through this one without the support of the 2017 team, and am so lucky to have been able to have this experience. Best of luck to Jasmine Birch, your President elect for 2018!

General Secretary – Deanne Koonwhyte



It has been an honour to serve the Victoria University community this year! I started at VU in the double degree Bachelor of Law and Bachelor of Business as a keen student who wanted to complete their degree as expeditiously as possible but after meeting many leaders at events I was inspired to get involved in leadership roles such as officer, director, treasurer, secretary, vice president and president of two exceptional societies. During this

time I also secured a role within the National Australia Bank Financial Crime Services division where I have been able to help customers who are impacted by crimes such as fraud, money laundering, identity fraud etc. and subsequently went on to intern in the prestigious law program at State Trustees in their Corporate Legal and Compliance team to influence positive change in their electronic systems, policies and submissions to court.

This avid experience allowed me to join VUSU in a senior leadership role upon first nomination, which is an opportunity that very few people are able to take on as democratic elections ultimately decide who serves, I have been grateful for the opportunity and taken it as a way to influence and act as a change champion in the student union, particularly as a student who

manages multiple priorities of work, study and leadership, my focus has been on expanding opportunities for all students to join VUSU in some way, shape or form.

When looking at how much has been achieved in just 12 months to set VUSU on a better track for the future, I have been amazed by the amount of hard work and dedication each office bearer has put into improving conditions for students.

I would also like to thank the past leaders who inspired and supported me through my journey of growth at VU. Brenton March VUSU President 2014 and General Secretary 2013, Shagufta Ali, VUSU President 2015 and General Secretary 2014, Emma Ward, VUSU General Secretary 2016 and Vice President of Education 2015 and Dylan Styles, VUSU Vice President of Activities 2015 and VUPA President 2016. Without their infinite support I do not believe I would have been able to achieve this many outcomes for students this year.

Lastly, two highlights of the term for me personally was the opportunity to attend the National Union of Students National Conference on behalf of two NUS Delegates Shagufta Ali and Ashleigh Davey. Through the conference I was able to share the views of VUSU, learn more about national movements for students and forge many new relationships with other student union representatives to enable more collaboration between VU and other universities such as La Trobe University, RMIT University, The University of Melbourne, Federation University, Swinburne University and Griffith University. I am proud to announce that I will continue to serve the student population on a national level as one of the seven democratically elected NUS Delegates for 2018.

As commendation to my passion for advocating for student rights, I was invited to represent Victoria University as a delegate at the Melbourne United Nations Conference and Competition where amongst 196 competitors, I won the Best Delegate for the Human Rights Council which required competitors to represent a randomly ballot selected country within 48 hours to pass a resolution with a minimum of 28 countries for peace or action. I have now been invited to represent at the National United Nations Conference, which has been an excellent avenue to raise awareness about student engagement opportunities and VUSU's reputation as a whole.

Vice President (Activities) – Ronna Sua



And my term as your Activities Officer for 2017 has come to an end.

I can't take all the credit and owe many of this year's achievements to Jillian, Elisse and Jasmine. Without their continuous help and support, I wouldn't have been able to see through to the end.

VU, you've been a pleasure to plan and hold events for.

From planning, to the process, all the way through to the end results, there is so much more that happens behind the scenes and there is no right or wrong way of going about it. It is just merely your way and the angle you choose to take.

Some events were successful and others weren't so much. At the beginning of the year, I threw a 'Welcome back – Tropical Island' themed boat cruise, which set the standards high. Throughout the term, I took turns to visit every campus on a weekly basis and hold an event for them. This included giving away free stationary, food, drinks and VUSU merchandise. Up to the last week of the semester, with the help of President – Jillian, I was able to go around to each campus and give away free stationary, drinks and lollipops. It was a full week of travelling and we ended with a Study Reviver on Thursday at Footscray Park. We had games laid out, free food and drinks, music, beanbags and other activities. We found that all students wanted was a few hours of just having somewhere to chill in campus. It was a success and I highly recommend the incoming VUSU team to continue this activity.

The beginning of this semester we held a 'Welcome Back – Back to the 90's' party, and it too was a popular night for students. I focussed on the annual VUSU Ball at this point and most of time and effort went into perfecting every detail for the night. For the VUSU Ball, our theme was 'The Great Gatsby' and it was a night to remember.

I am planning a mini Oktoberfest to end off my term and that will conclude the activities on my behalf for VUSU.

Looking back over the year, it has been an experience that has taught me so much and allowed me to fully grow in character and attain skills I'll be able to use in my future career. I am thankful to those who have helped me along the way, continuously supported me, and pushed me beyond my limits.

VUSU has been a crucial part of my life for the past 4 years, and it has been memorable and challenging, but nonetheless rewarding.

To the future of VUSU – all the best and remember to put a bit of you into it!!!

Vice President (Welfare) – Anthony Mallon



Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) subsidy

The VUSU MHFA subsidy was introduced as a response to the perceived requirement of students going into placements. It was also suggested after the discovery of free MHFA courses available exclusively to VU staff. This included nursing, midwifery, social work, paramedicine, and education. Students in these fields had contacted VUSU, and suggested that any qualifications that would assist them in gaining placements would be useful. This was especially true of those students dealing with any direct practice to the public. The MHFA courses subsidised 38 students, paying \$65 each for the two-day course. It is highly recommended that this initiative continue where funds are available.

Student Homelessness

Student homelessness is an ongoing problem throughout Australian universities, however research into this field has been limited. Victoria University has demonstrated an awareness of this issue remaining invisible (<https://www.vu.edu.au/news-events/news/homeless-uni-students-invisible>) but still does not actively report on homelessness as an issue for students. The primary example of this is the nature of reportable issues when unenrolling or deferring from university studies. Some headway has been made into this student concern, such as the Student Housing Database. However more visibility and research is required if the university is to tackle this issue head on in a meaningful fashion.

Weekly Brunches (VUSU)

VUSU Welfare funds were used in previous years to provide breakfasts and brunches to university students on campus. It is in the opinion of this welfare officer that these kinds of initiatives are good for image and visibility, but not good in terms of usage of funds, due to the sheer amount of wastage that has occurred in the past. This is especially true of the long-life goods which were found to be out of date by the time the 2016-2017 office was taken up. If there is to be any food services provided, then heavy monitoring is required, as it is imperative that student funds are not thrown into the bin in the form of needless food waste.

VU Pride Room (Nicholson T10#)

The current “Pride Room” booking has been stalled since the 2016 term of VUSU, under a different name: “Rainbow Room”. This has caused issues with the current booking, as a room that is earmarked for one use cannot be overwritten by another, even though it is from the same organisation. It is recommended that the original booking is removed such that this LGBTQIA+ safe space can be installed at the Nicholson campus.

Bike Share

The design of a pilot Bike Share Scheme in Footscray was proposed in February 2017, by the Maribyrnong City Council (MCC) and the VU Footscray University Town organisation. The key plan for this scheme is sustainability in transport for students, prioritising walking and cycling. Inspire 9, the lead tenant at DreamFactory in Footscray, has approached MCC with the bike share scheme. Continued development and awareness of this scheme is recommended, as without student awareness there is a chance it may fade out of relevance, in an age of increased parking fees and space problems.

Vice President (Education) – Jasmine Birch



This year has been a massive learning curve for me. Working on advocating and campaigning for student rights both on and off campus has helped me to grow as a person and as a student leader.

This year I have focused on two major campaigns, and multiple smaller events and partnerships.

The VUSU Sexual Consent Awareness Campaign began in first semester, and received much attention after the release of the 2017 Human Rights survey into assault and harassment on campus. The survey sparked a much-needed review into the safety of students across Australia. VUSU has been and will continue to work with the Respect and Responsibilities -

Prevention of Violence Against Women committee, to strategically reduce the number of cases occurring at VU.

The VUSU Awareness Campaign has been an ongoing multiple stage campaign throughout the year, components such as student engagement through campaigning at certain VU Events, Orientation weeks and running campaigns at Open Day. The Awareness Campaign served both as promotion for VUSU and created student awareness about what we do as a union. The VUSU Awareness Campaign supported the VUSU Symposium each semester, in which students

conversed directly with university staff including the Provost, IT Director and the Student Engagement team about current student issues and how we can work to solve them.

Throughout semester one, I also engaged in multiple projects, such as the VUSU Text Book Grant – a grant of \$100 awarded to 4 individual students, to spend at the Co-Op Book Shop. VUHQ refurbishment – gathering up student opinions about Building M level 1, for the current remodelling. VU Safety App, a project by safer communities, in which we added in details about the Women’s and Pride Rooms on all campuses.

During the winter break I attended the National Union of Students Education Conference in Brisbane, at which students from all across Australia gathered to discuss the main issues affecting students nationwide. The most prominent issues concerning students were the lack of mental health support on campus and the cuts to HECS funding nationally. From this conference the National Union of Students organises the National Day of Action (in which we took part) to fight against these cuts to Higher Education. VUSU participated in the NDA and hosted a Free Pizza day to create awareness of how these changes affect students at VU.

This year I also worked in a number of partnerships including the Solidarity Event for Women in Higher Education Week with VU Pride and the VU Women’s Collective; “15 Years of VU Sport” with the Sport and Exercise Science Society; “1 Night in Footscray with Metrowest” and lastly, the National Union of Students, “Love Your Body” campaign. In addition to this, I have continued to support my fellow comrades in their events such as Mental Health First Aid workshops – by the Vice President of Welfare; the VU Pride Scholarship – by VU Pride and the LGBTQIA+ Officer and the VUSU Ball – by the Vice President of Activities.

Lastly this year, a major campaign has revolved around the Marriage Equality laws. With the postal plebiscite results to be released on November 15th, this year I have continuously pushed for the “Yes” vote. I hosted a number of stalls to encourage students to enrol or update their details, and raised awareness of the plebiscite at all events run by VUSU, in addition to raising community awareness on VU Open Day. To finish off my term I am working with a group of motivated students to successfully see Gender Neutral bathrooms provided on all campuses.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my term as VUSU Vice President of Education. 2017 has presented many challenges during which I have grown immensely. I wish the outgoing team well, and hope I can lead the incoming team with as much grace, motivation and inspiration as the 2017 President.

Women's Officer— Holly Walker



My main passion is a desire to combat both domestic and sexual violence, educate on sexual health and promote women in authority positions. Hence the events and campaigns I choose to run reflect this.

During semester one the main focus was on International Women's Day. With the passion and hard work from the Women's collective, particularly Madeline McCormick, I held an International Women's Day event on Tuesday 7th March, held in VUSU lounge. It was a panel discussion that explored *violence against women and its intersection with racial inequality*. The panel only featured women of colour and was aimed at an ethnically diverse audience.

The event was to be chaired by MC Nathalie Mclean, a Kullali, Wakka Wakka and Gubbi Gubbi woman and freelance creative director; however, she had to pull out last minute. But a member of the Women's Collective stood up and took admirable initiative; Jaxson Benjamin, an international student from Philadelphia, filled in on such short notice.

The event was very successful, with approximately 45 people in attendance. Catering was through a local catering, women run company, *Sorgham Sisters Catering*. Marion from Respect and responsibility provided the funds for catering.

The panel consisted of 5 amazing women:

- ❖ Aishwarya Ramji - activist, founding member of No Room for Racism, founder of Feminazis Against Actual Nazis.
- ❖ Tigist Gobena - activist, member of No Room for Racism, campaigns to end classist segregation in state schools and for improvements to public housing.
- ❖ Lizzy Kuoth - South Sudanese refugee and community advocate.
- ❖ Dr Natalie Kon-Yu - creative writer, editor and feminist academic.
- ❖ Karen Jackson - Yorta Yorta woman and Director of the Moondani Balluk Indigenous Academic Unit at Victoria University.

We promoted the event online through Facebook, as well as really pushing it on orientation.





I also attended the International Women's Day March in the city on the 8th of March to support women, protest and promote solidarity with women from VUSU and the Women's Collective.

I also affiliated our club with student life, which is a very positive step moving forward and growing within the university community.

I also, along with the Women's collective held an event called 'Feminist Rant Space'. This event is for members to come along, have drinks and actively engage in and discuss various stimulating topics. The first of these events was held in May, and we had 5 attendees who are very keen to come back and bring friends. We were also complimented on the safeness of the environment (women's room).

I also contacted companies regarding sanitary products for women on campus. With successfully being donated a stack of sanitary products and condoms, I distributed these on campuses, beginning with City Queen (my personal campus). This aimed to ensure all women feel like they are being looked after by their university, as well as give them peace of mind in emergencies. I attached a note to these jars of products that promoted VUSU and the Women's Collective.



I completed Lead to Change, which was a wonderful leadership growing opportunity.



I had a 2-month Europe trip, and upon my return, I was involved in a few other things throughout semester two.

I hosted Respect and Responsibilities Women in Higher Education Week event, which was a seminar with a series of guest speakers from a variety of educational backgrounds like Women's Health West, Bystander training and West Casa.

I was involved in VUSU's Women in Higher Education Week event, which was hosted in response to hate received online against trans women and sex workers. The event was very special with a variety of different speakers from many different backgrounds who shared their stories and really emphasised that women at VU stick together and support each other through the rough times.



I was involved with orientation day where I promoted the Women's Collective as well as gave out free sanitary products to women. This was important to me as it showed incoming students that their university cares about their certain needs.



I was also involved in campaigning for VUSU's elections for team Undivided which was a very tiring yet rewarding time.

I also attended the amazing VUSU ball hosted by the wonderful Rona!

I had planned a series of things for semester two but had a death in the family, which caused things to be put on hold for a while. These were some of the plans:

- For orientation in semester two, I will be distributing lollypops that have a message to do with consent wrapped around them. This will aim to educate as many people on campus about consent.
- I am holding an arts and crafts class/workshop ran by the Women's Collective executive for any woman-identifying student at the university to attend. The event is headlined "Stitch and Bit*h". Women can meet and learn new craft techniques, have some fun, some laughs, as well as help decorate the women's room at Footscray Park.
- I am also holding a drinks and finger food evening to keep our Women's Collective united and in touch during the year. This will be a 'member's event' to recruit/hear from the women in our university community and see what they want and need. This

event will positively promote the Women's Collective as well as ensure we have a presence on campus.

- I am also in the process of organising a banner for the Women's Collective. Jaxson from the Women's Collective will be pioneering the banner with her creative/artistic skills. This banner will raise awareness on campus of the Women's Collective to reach more members. This banner can be used for events throughout the year, as well as during re O Week in semester 2.
- I am also planning on creating connections with local sexual health organisations to promote safe sex on campus, which may be in the form of STD testing kits or similar.

I am passionate about supporting women in any way possible and am excited to see the future Women's Officer, President of the Women's Collective, myself and other women successful in doing this.

LGBTQIA Officer – Kate Mayer



2017 has been a fantastic year for VUSU. Being the LGBTQIA+ officer has been both a rewarding and educational experience. It was very inspiring to see the hard work and dedication put in by the entire team at VUSU. I was able to learn a lot from the way the board conducted its meetings, events and policy. 2017 has been a very challenging year for the LGBTQIA+ community. With a number of internal and external challenges. The entire VUSU team was very supportive, and was always prepared to stand in solidarity and show the Victoria University queer community that they had the entire student union behind them. This notion begun right at the start of the year, with the VUSU team attending events and providing advice and guidance wherever possible.

In light of the recent Marriage Equality survey, this trend has continued. This unwavering support has been one of the highlights of being part of the VUSU team in 2017.

As LGBTQIA+ officer, I have also held the position of VU Pride President this year. This team has been incredibly positive, and has been an amazing committee to work with.

This year it was very exciting to start off by attending the Mid Summa Pride March. This event was an inclusive celebration of the LGBTQIA+ community. The passion and pride that was shown on this day set the tone for a very wholesome year! This was one of my first events that I had organised as LGBTQIA+ officer, and it was great to have the VUSU Education officer help with organising the meet up, and then further attend the event alongside VU Pride members.

Throughout the year, it was always enjoyable to hold regular meetings with the VU Pride team. The commitment and support of the executive team and the entire committee was overwhelming, and ensured that the routine meetings were filled with positivity! It was also

great to hold a more casual Public meeting. This enabled us to meet some new students, and step away from business and planning.

Another notable experience this year was the opportunity to represent VUSU and VU Pride at the Victoria University Open days. These events highlighted the commitment the entire VUSU team has to making our university a better place for students. It was great to get to connect with new, first year students, and introduce them to the idea of the student union. The open day provided further opportunity to learn from the VUSU team, who demonstrated a very high level of organisation, and were able to make the new students feel welcome, and comfortable enough to engage with our stalls.

A major highlight of this year was the Dollar Store Drag event. This event aimed to welcome everyone for a night of fun, with no judgement! It was great to meet some new VU students at this event, and introduce them to VUSU and VU Pride. It was really rewarding to organise an event like this at University, with no judgement, and instead we received encouragement and support from VUSU.

One major highlight of this year is the developments in providing gender neutral bathrooms across Victoria University campuses. This has been a lengthy process, and the support of the VUSU team, and dedicated individuals has culminated to result in our University taking major steps towards being a more inclusive and diverse institution.

It has also been fantastic to engage with local council members from our area, and the ALLY Staff network. Having these support networks has been encouraging and provides the opportunity to expand VUSU and Pride even further.

Ultimately, being the 2017 VUSU LGBTQIA+ officer has enabled me to meet and connect with some passionate and inspiring individuals. These connections and the variety of events we organised and attended are credit to the dedicated VUSU team!

Cultural Diversity Officer – Sanjula De Silva



Within my term I worked closely with the General Secretary and ISA to create more culturally diverse activities at VU. This involved connecting multiple societies such as the Sri Lankan Society, Indian Society, Nepalese Society and Vietnamese Association to lobby for more food on campus to cater to diverse backgrounds.

Part of my work involved organizing a Multi Cultural Festival to showcase the different cultures we have within our VU community.

Unfortunately, I ended my term earlier than expected since I was offered entry into my dream course at RMIT University and was not able to complete all the great projects I had planned.

My last project was advocating for international student scholarships where I met with the Registrar, Directors and College Deans at many events across the year to see what possibilities there were to offer these in 2018.

2017 EVENTS

Tropical Island Boat Party – Welcome to 2017!



VUSU & VU Symposium Semester 1 & 2



Solidarity Lunch



Back to the 90's Party – Welcome Back



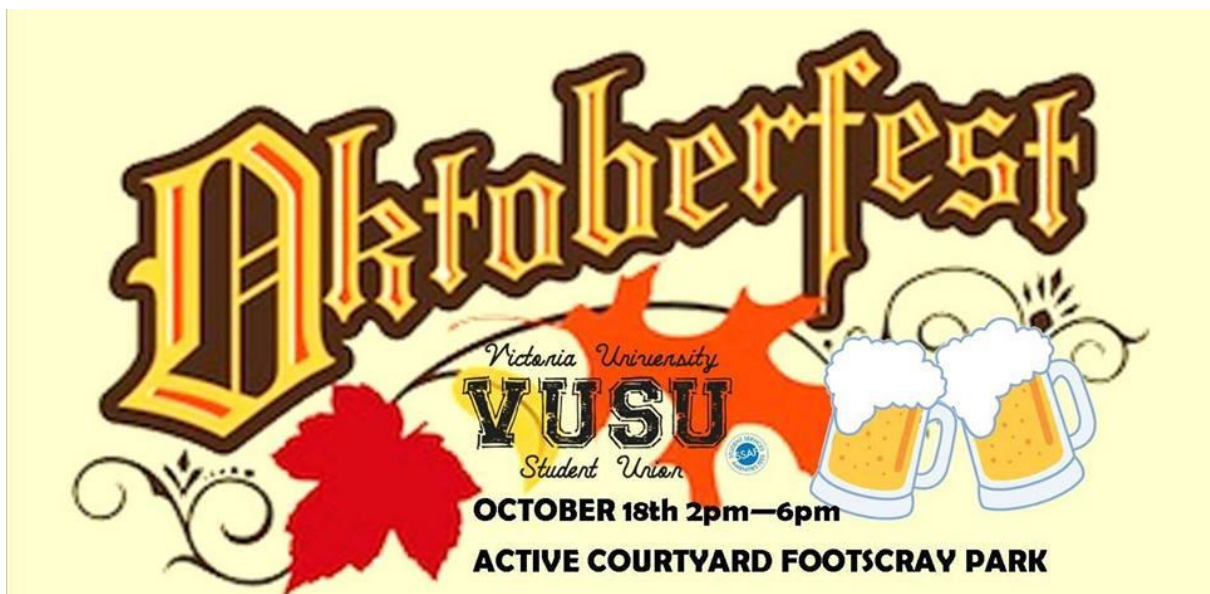
VUSU Annual Ball - Great Gatsby







Oktoberfest '17



Hyde Magazine

2017 Team

Editor in Chief – Jason Lie

Editor – Alex Lotito

Layout and Graphic Design – Chloe Watson

Social Media and Distribution – Ronna S’ua



Financial Statements

Notes to Financial Statements

Victoria University Student Union Inc

Financial Reports for 2016/2017 Financial Year

The Executive Officer of VUSU Inc declares that the Union is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be read in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

- 1. The financial statements fairly present the Union's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Union will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.*

It should be noted that most VUSU operations and activities are funded by the Student Services and Amenities Fees (SSAF) as collected and allocated by the University. The University has allocated funds to spend on activities and operations as determined by VUSU. The Financial Statements do not include this sum of money, however information is provided and solely prepared for the benefit of students.

EXTERNAL ACCOUNTS

The Balance sheet and Profit and Loss Statement represent the external account held by the Union. The Union operates an external account with Westpac Bank.

UNIVERSITY ACCOUNTS

The University spends money on VUSU's behalf as allocated from the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF). The University Profit and Loss Statement for the Union account is taken directly out of the University Finance System as of 9th October 2017.

VUSU does not accept responsibility to any other person for the contents of the special purpose financial report.

DETAILED BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

ASSETS

Cash at Bank	\$	11,599.71
Total Assets	\$	11,599.71

LIABILITIES

Total Liabilities	\$	0
--------------------------	-----------	----------

DETAILED PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT


FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

INCOME

Events	\$	29,244.66
Victoria University (SSAF)	\$	20,000.00
Total Income	\$	49,244.66

EXPENDITURE

Reimbursements	\$	3,237.53
Other Expenditure (Suppliers)	\$	18,781.42
Grants	\$	17,304.88
Total Expenditure	\$	39,323.83
Net profit or loss from Ordinary Activities	\$	9,920.83

 VICTORIA UNIVERSITY MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA	
For the Period January to October, 2017 275 - STUDENT ORGANISATIONS	
PROFIT & LOSS	Year to Date
	2017 Actual
Revenue	\$
Other Income	-
Internal Income	-
Total Operating Revenue	-
Salary Expenditure	
Academic Employee Benefits	(2,899)
Non-Academic Employee Benefits	89,081
Non-Academic Casuals	-
Total Salary Expenditure	86,182
Non-Salary Expenditure	
Repairs & Maintenance	-
Cleaning & Security	-
Operating Lease Rental	909
Telecommunications	-
Equipment & Furniture	-
Scholarships Grants & Prizes	26,461
Fees & Subscriptions	26,470
Legal & Professional Fees	-
Advertising & Marketing	2,455
Travel, Staff Development & Entertainment	10,586
Printing & Stationery	12,697
Consumables & Class Materials	1,354
Other Miscellaneous	7,202
Internal Expenses	2,581
Total Non - Salary Expenditure	90,715
Total Expenditure	176,897
Gross Margin	(176,897)
Less: Depreciation	36,980
Total Extraordinary Items	(36,980)
Net Margin	(213,876)