gsa
graduate student
association

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

**UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

C O N T E N T S

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Graphic design by Bodhi Creative

01

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
AND GENERAL SECRETARY

GSA's initiatives for 2017 were ambitious – even dramatic – but they were also strategic. You could say we worked on the organisation's mind, body and soul.

In regard to GSA's 'mind', the team worked hard on representing graduate student interests. We fought hard against the proposed retrospective RHD timely completion policy, and succeeded in negotiating with the University and the Academic Board to remove the policy's retrospectivity, and to allow late submissions on personal or medical grounds. The Fares Fair campaign is also gaining momentum and tracking well (pun intended).

GSA's 'body' had a makeover too: our main offices and reception relocated to the centre of the 1888 Building. We're now bigger, better and significantly easier to find.

And in terms of the 'soul', we changed our approach to social events in order to offer experiences that really matter. We launched the first-ever Graduate Welcome Fair and the Warm Winter Welcome, among other major undertakings like the Ball – and we believe these experiences will live on for years to come.

GSA bloomed in 2017, but elected student representatives still worked tirelessly with staff to plant the seeds from which the organisation could grow over the next decade. Our new website, and our forthcoming expansion into WeChat, indicate our commitment to responding to the graduate community's needs. We are driving a more responsive and dynamic GSA in 2018.

The successes of 2017 are the product of tenacious team efforts, both within GSA and across our community. In no particular order: thank you to the GSA volunteers, GSA staff, the University of Melbourne, and to the graduate student community. We are excited to share our journey with you as GSA takes its next major leap forward into 2018.

Georgia Daly
President

Brad Knight
General Secretary
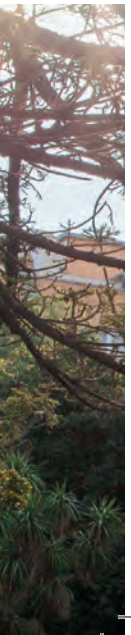
MESSAGE FROM THE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

GSA achieved a great deal in 2017. We adopted a nimble and determined approach to trialling new ideas – some worked well, some didn't. We sought, listened to and acted upon feedback from graduate students, and are determined to continue doing so.

Our metrics tell us we achieved more in 2017 than ever before. We've seen increased student participation and satisfaction in our events and services, we've extended our reach beyond Parkville and Southbank to Burnley and Werribee campuses, and we've launched some inspired new social events and programs while refining our previous offerings.

The organisation's backbone is a core group of over 150 graduate student leaders. Our President, Georgia Daly, and our General Secretary, Brad Knight, have shown extraordinary leadership and courage in leading a complex journey of organisational change at GSA. We are building the foundations for an even stronger and more effective GSA in the years ahead.

GSA strives to be 'the heart of graduate student life' at the University of Melbourne, and in 2018 will continue to make every effort to increase the value it creates for all graduate students.

Andrew Cameron
Chief Executive Officer

02

2017: THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

WE REACHED OVER **150,000** PEOPLE PER MONTH VIA SOCIAL MEDIA

WE GREW OUR MAILING LIST BY **100%** TO **7,000** SUBSCRIBERS

OVER **10,000** STUDENTS ATTENDED **50** SOCIAL EVENTS
WHERE WE GAVE OUT

22 DIFFERENT TYPES OF FOOD FROM **10** DIFFERENT CULTURES

AND GOT THROUGH **3** KEGS OF BEER

DURING EXAMS WE GAVE OUT OVER

3,000 CUPS OF COFFEE   AND OVER **60KG** OF FRUIT

< **20** PERFORMERS WOWED CROWDS AT **2** MARQUEE EVENTS >

MELBOURNE

AT SOUTHBANK CAMPUS
350 STUDENTS ATTENDED GSA EVENTS

AT WERRIBEE CAMPUS
250 STUDENTS ATTENDED GSA EVENTS

AT BURNLEY CAMPUS
200 STUDENTS ATTENDED GSA BBQS

PORT PHILLIP BAY
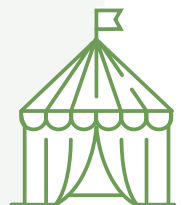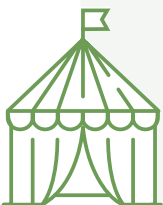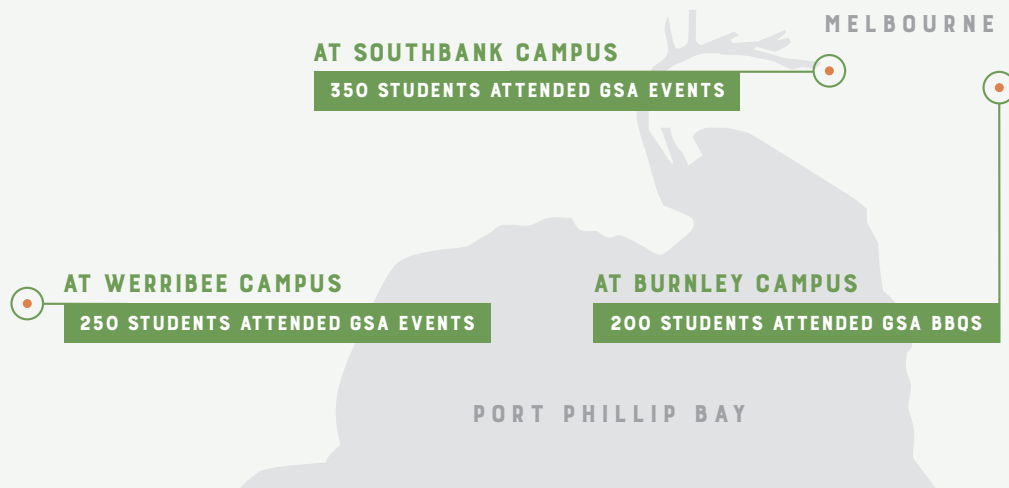
WE ENGAGED WITH OVER **800** STUDENTS ON **3** CAMPUSES
OTHER THAN PARKVILLE

BURNLEY   WERRIBEE   SOUTHBANK

INCLUDING **70%** OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
ON BURNLEY AND WERRIBEE CAMPUSES

WE ENGAGED WITH **111%** MORE STUDENTS THAN IN 2016
AND INCREASED OUR NET PROMOTER SCORE BY **5%**

2016

2017

29 GSA-NOMINATED COMMITTEE REPS SAT ON **29** COMMITTEES
ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY ATTENDING OVER
140 INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

gsa

WE HELD **6** THESIS BOOTCAMPS,
WHERE **180** STUDENTS WROTE **1,585,870** WORDS
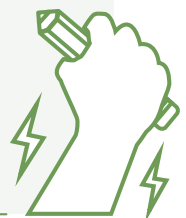
2017: THE YEAR IN NUMBERS (CONTINUED)

WE INCREASED OUR COMPUTER LAB CAPACITY BY 36%

WE RAN 239 PROGRAMS — AN INCREASE OF 113% ON 2016

**WE HAD 106 AFFILIATED GRAD GROUPS,
REACHING 21,124 GRADUATE STUDENTS**

WE HAD 150 ENTRIES IN OUR INAUGURAL SUSTAINABILITY PRIZE

AND WE HAD 41 ENTRIES IN OUR ANNUAL ART PRIZE

Above: *Nicola Rossdale with her winning entry in the 2017 Art Prize: 'Gramps! It's my turn!'*

Students at July's Thesis Bootcamp.

Grad Group leaders enjoy a networking lunch.

Grad Group training session.

Councillor Smriti (right) at the GSA Sustainability Prize.

Students admiring entries in the Sustainability Prize.

03

BUILDING OUR REPRESENTATIONAL STRENGTH

In 2017, GSA's Representation Team was involved in a number of key campaigns, both within the University and in the wider community.

On campus, both research and coursework students are faced with the ongoing problem of a lack of adequate study spaces. University policy states that all higher degree research students (including PhD and master's by research students) should be allocated a desk by their faculty, but anecdotal evidence presented to GSA in early 2017 made it clear that in many cases, this was far from true.

To find out more, we surveyed the graduate student population to collect data on which faculties were successfully providing adequate study spaces for their research students; and collected further data on provision of quiet study spaces for coursework students.

Working with Grad Groups, we then built a University-wide campaign to raise awareness of the problems faced by researchers lacking adequate spaces to study, putting pressure on faculties who were not complying with regulations.

The campaign was hugely popular among students, and will continue into 2018. In addition, we orchestrated a successful campaign against the University's changes to research higher degree completion policies. You can read more about this on page 13.

2017 was also a big year for campaigns outside the University. GSA was actively involved in the 'Yes' campaign for marriage equality in Australia, co-hosting phonebanking events with MDQueer and Melbourne University Law Students' Society. Over 100 calls were made across two events, and a fervent poster campaign was rolled out across campus.

Meanwhile, our long-running Fares Fair PTV campaign gained hard-fought ground in the push for public transport concession fares for Victorian postgraduate students. We held public events to rally support and raise awareness, and gained the assured support of the Rail, Tram and Bus Union.

Together with the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations and the Monash Postgraduate Association, we spoke with members of parliament across the political spectrum, gaining support from members of the Liberal Party, Labor Party and Greens.

Our campaign goals were even adopted as policy recommendations at the ALP state conference in May, with the Transport Policy Committee Report arguing in favour of equal treatment for undergraduate and postgraduate students. Lastly, a motion of support for the campaign was passed by the ALP youth conference.

Opposite page:
Councillor Smriti at the Fares Fair PTV rally.
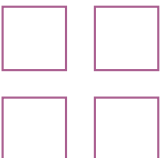
LAUNCHING THE GRADUATE LEADERS' FORUM SERIES

In February 2017, we launched the Graduate Leaders' Forum. This ongoing series brings together graduate student leaders including Grad Group presidents, members of GSA Council and GSA-nominated committee representatives, empowering student leaders to address the issues that matter most to them.

The event series focused on developing leadership capacity and cross-faculty collaboration. They featured keynote speakers from government and the University, and encouraged students to think creatively about solutions to the problems that mattered to them and their peers.

Left:
One of GSA's team members speaking to graduate student leaders.

Opposite page:
Research students faced pressure from looming policy changes.

GSA-APPOINTED COMMITTEE REPS MATTER

Meet Thibaut Clamart, a Juris Doctor student who graduated in 2017. He sat on the Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance Committee (TALQAC) for two and a half years as a GSA-appointed committee rep.

He was driven to become a committee rep by his strong belief that the University is fundamentally for students, and believes it crucial that students are involved in its governance.

"Over the time I spent on TALQAC, I was involved in many different things, including a working group looking at the ways in which the University ensures that students are equipped to work effectively in a regulated professional environment," he said. "I also collaborated with other members of the committee to attempt to reform the policy around resitting examinations."

"Thanks to GSA representation on University committees, the University is held accountable for its decisions," said Thibaut.

"Universities are places for students, and it is therefore crucial that universities work for students. Having GSA representatives on University committees is, in my opinion, the best way to make this vision a reality."

Right:
Thibaut Clamart served on a University committee for over two years.

FIGHTING FOR A FAIR APPROACH TO RESEARCH HIGHER DEGREE TIMELY COMPLETIONS

In August 2017, the University proposed a controversial new policy on the timely completion of research higher degrees.

The proposed changes would cause a fundamental shift in the University's approach to timely completion, and would remove protections for students who faced challenging personal or medical circumstances. The policy was intended to be applied retroactively, affecting students who were already partway through their candidature.

The University's proposal was brought to the Academic Board – the most senior academic decision-making body at the University – after spending over a year being discussed by various committees. At a vote in mid-August, it was passed by a slim margin.

GSA saw a number of potential negative impacts of the policy, both for students and the University itself. We were contacted almost immediately by a large number of students who expressed similar concerns, and we raced to mobilise the graduate student population against the changes.

"There was a vocal contingent of students and academics who, rightly, questioned the merits of having a timely completions policy at all," said Alaina Vasey, one of our representatives on the Research Higher Degrees Committee (RHDC). "However, based on discussions at RHDC and Academic Board, we felt the policy itself was a *fait*

accompli by that stage. As such, we took a harm-minimisation focus."

GSA's immediate response included a video campaign, featuring a number of research students expressing their concerns, which can be viewed online at go.unimelb.edu.au/6tf6.

Additionally, we held a snap forum, which was attended by over 50 research students; and we submitted a petition against the policy to the Academic Board, which was signed by over a thousand people.

Following these rapid responses, our representatives on the Academic Board and the Research Higher Degrees Committee worked for months to negotiate changes. In October they successfully ensured that protections were put in place for students who were already mid-way through their degrees, or who were facing challenging circumstances.

"I take pride in the fact that the campaign was a victory for both GSA and the Academic Board," says former GSA president Sina Khatami. Sina has been one of GSA's representatives on the Academic Board since May 2016.

"The outcome of this policy change helped develop our relationships with the University and its key players, and we built trust with different cohorts of University senior executives," he said.

04

INCREASING OUR ENGAGEMENT

University life is more than just an education – it's a valued and sought-after social experience. The years spent here are filled with opportunities for students to build a sense of connection, belonging and identity. Providing more of those opportunities is one of GSA's greatest strengths, and we see it as one of our greatest duties.

The largest of these social events is our twist on Orientation. The typical 'O-Week' experience, while exciting and memorable for a new undergraduate student, is not a perfect fit for students newly enrolled in a graduate course. Graduate students have a unique student experience ahead of them, as well as their own time pressures.

As such, we offered the Graduate Welcome Fair in semester one and the Warm Winter Welcome in semester two – single days in which all the offerings and resources of orientation are concentrated in one amazing event at the beginning of each semester.

In our efforts to obtain regular feedback on our events, to ensure that we accurately reflect graduate student needs, we also found a demand for social events that were low in commitment but high in frequency, such as casual barbecues ("every now and then"). We responded to that feedback by introducing recurring barbecue events on a weekly basis. This 'Hump Day'

tradition, so named for being on Wednesdays, was born.

Alongside improving our social events, we've also increased our offering of workshops and seminars. In 2017, we ran a total of 239 programs aimed at boosting graduate student skillsets for both study and work – more than doubling the offering of 2016.

We also upgraded and refurbished our facilities in the 1888 Building. We increased our computer lab capacity by 36 per cent; re-painted our meeting rooms and furnished them with new tables and chairs; and even installed a new collection of artworks with the help of the Ian Potter museum.

In 2018, we'll continue our strategy of offering memorable events for graduate students – and will continue to refine the programs, facilities and services that support graduate student success both during and after university for years to come.

Opposite page:
Warm Winter Welcome (top), Nightmare Ball (bottom).
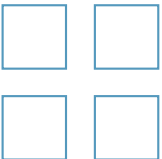
INTRODUCING
MARQUEE SOCIAL EVENTS

At the beginning of 2017, GSA charted a bold change of direction for all our social events. We were determined to create hallmark experiences that we could refine year after year, allowing each iteration to resonate with growing strength.

We started by concentrating 'O-Week' into a single incredible day: the inaugural Graduate Welcome Fair. An estimated 3,000 students were in attendance at this carnival-style transformation of the 1888 Building, roaming freely between information stalls, food vendors, games and activities – all while being provided with resources and support for the year ahead.

Following the success of this new style of orientation, semester two introduced the Warm Winter Welcome. It continued the emphasis on the 1888 Building as a home away from home with a day of winter-themed games, food and activities, along with the reassurance that GSA will support graduate students for their entire time at university.

Family Fun Day, also at the start of each semester, was a chance for graduate students with kids to connect their student life with their family life. The day included face painting, a jumping castle and a ball pit, along with healthy snacks and coffee – the latter just for the adults, thankfully. In offering a family-friendly counterpart to orientation, GSA is taking extra care to acknowledge the unique challenges and excitement of being a graduate student parent.

After orientation, we continued the trend of building new ideas into something longstanding and memorable. We launched the autumnal Garden Party in April, followed by its bigger, German-themed counterpart Septemberfest

in semester two: a one-day bonanza of bratwurst, lederhosen, beer-filled steins and even an oompah band.

But the most anticipated and memorable of GSA's events remained the Annual Graduate Ball. The Ball was already a longstanding tradition for GSA, offering graduate students the largest cross-faculty formal night of the entire year. Dramatically themed in 2017 as the 'Nightmare Ball', the grandiose Plaza Ballroom was draped in formal gothic trappings as it played host to over four hundred guests. Swanning through mist, music and shadow, attendees were enveloped in an air of the uncanny and the unseen, in an atmosphere that embraced both the gravity and grace of an unforgettable formal night.

But although we focused on providing crowning, flagship-style events, we still wanted to offer something more frequently accessible. The new 'Hump Day' barbecue lunch events helped us be a reassuring presence for students throughout the entire academic year. We've seen a positive response to this reliable fixture, and many graduate students seem grateful to stop worrying about organising lunch in the middle of the week.

By organising social events that recognise and embrace the life experiences of a graduate student, GSA is enhancing meaningful student connections within the university community. The growth of these events allows new connections to flourish, and helps lasting friendships to feel at home. Engaging with graduate students is not just critical to GSA's success; it's also critical to every graduate student's success to know that they are uniquely recognised, and that they belong.

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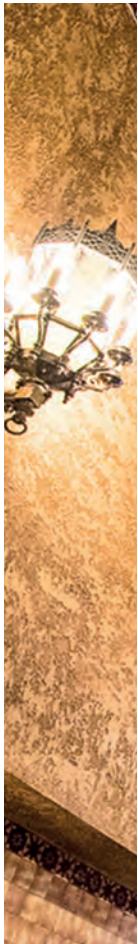
Above: *Storytelling Night (top left), Septemberfest BBQ (top right, bottom left), Nightmare Ball (bottom right).*
Opposite page: *Nightmare Ball.*

NUMERACY BUDDIES

GSA was delighted to partner with the Ardoch Youth Foundation to take part in 'Numeracy Buddies' in 2017. The Numeracy Buddies program is a unique online education platform designed to encourage primary school students to truly interact with learning maths.

Graduate students gained valuable work skills and insight by mentoring their Little Buddies, and local school kids from St Michael's Primary School had fun learning maths and receiving advice from their Big Buddies.

One of the Big Buddy volunteers, Anna Zobel, saw the program as the perfect opportunity.

 "As a primary school teaching student, I felt it would contribute positively to my experience of numeracy instruction," she said. "I enjoy working one–on–one ... and I re-learnt some maths topics I'd become unfamiliar with since leaving school!"

In October, the kids came to meet their graduate student Big Buddies with a day of fun-filled games and activities at GSA. For many Big Buddies, meeting their little protégés was the highlight of the program. We're just not sure who enjoyed the balloon animals more.

> **"**
>
> **As a primary school teaching student, I felt it would contribute positively to my experience of numeracy instruction.** I enjoy working one-on-one… and I re-learnt some maths topics I'd become unfamiliar with since leaving school!
>
> **"**
>
> *—Anna Zobel*

Above images: *Little Buddies visited GSA in October for a fun-filled day of meeting their mentors.*

WORKING WITH NON-PARKVILLE CAMPUSES

GSA sought out increased feedback from students of non-Parkville campuses in 2017, being conscious that our location in Parkville may cause students at other campuses to feel less connected and supported. Part of our improvement efforts involved online services: we completely overhauled our website at the end of 2017. But we've also listened to suggestions about physically holding more events at other campuses, so we launched a number of themed barbecues and other events at Burnley and Werribbee.

At Burnley, GSA's events included barbecues for R U OK? Day and Respect Week, as well as a rigorous three-day writing weekend otherwise known as a Thesis Bootcamp.

Pete Somerville, PhD candidate and 2017 President of the Burnley Campus Postgrad Group (BCPG), said that 2017 was the most interactive year of working with GSA.

"Students at Burnley don't always regularly get to Parkville and we can feel quite insular," said Pete. "So to help run writing weekends, barbecues and mental health initiatives as part of the bigger university was great, and it does reinforce to us our place in the big University of Melbourne landscape." The BCPG, which has a dedicated group of students from every continent on Earth

(except Antarctica), was also able to use GSA's support as an affiliated Grad Group to run events such as barefoot bowling.

"We were very pleased and invigorated that the GSA put quite an effort into connecting with us out here at Burnley," said Pete. "We are always thrilled to help host events at Burnley … it's such a beautiful place to work at or to visit."

"

Students at Burnley don't always regularly get to Parkville and we can feel quite insular. So to help run writing weekends, barbecues and mental health initiatives as part of the bigger university was great, and it does reinforce to us our place in the big University of Melbourne landscape.

"

—Pete Somerville

Above: *Storytelling Night at the Burnley campus.*

05

BUILDING OUR INFLUENCE

In 2017, GSA's influence among our key stakeholder groups and our strategic environment continued to grow.

We worked with departments across the University on a number of key initiatives, including leading the narrative on sustainability and working with the University on its response to the Changing the Course report into sexual assault and harassment on campus.

More than ever before, we engaged with organisations off campus to develop a stronger service offer for our students. This has included a collaboration with the Postgraduate and Research Student Association at the Australian National University, and the negotiation of numerous offers for students with organisations such as Zoos Victoria, Smiling Mind and Melbourne Theatre Company.

RESPECT. NOW. ALWAYS.

In August 2017, the Human Rights Commission released its Changing the Course report into sexual assault and harassment on Australian university campuses.

In the lead-up to the report's release, GSA worked with the University on their intended response, including their contribution to the Respect. Now. Always. campaign, which emphasised the University's zero-tolerance stance on discrimination, assault and harassment of all kinds.

GSA President Georgia Daly had previously held the position of Women's Officer on GSA Council and was determined to be a resolute student voice for change. She featured alongside the Vice-Chancellor and Provost in the University's poster campaign responding to the issue.

GSA intends to continue to work with the University to increase the provision of support for students facing issues such as sexual assault and harassment on campus.

We recognise that, in the past, the University has not gone far enough to prevent such incidents happening on campus. But while other student organisations around the country have taken strong oppositional stances against their respective universities, we believe that the only way to see real change is to work together.

We remain an ardent voice for change, and we will hold the University to account.

Opposite page: *Respect. Now. Always. campaign poster.*
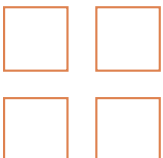
GEORGIA DALY, PRESIDENT
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

BULLYING, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT ARE UNACCEPTABLE. SO HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO.

We want our campus community to be safe, inclusive and respectful. Support and help are available, if you or someone you know has experienced inappropriate behaviour.

UNIVERSITIES AUSTRALIA

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

gsa
graduate student association

RESPECT. NOW. ALWAYS.

IF YOU NEED HELP:
> CALL UNIVERSITY SECURITY ON +613 8344 6666 OR THE POLICE ON 000
> CONTACT THE SAFER COMMUNITY PROGRAM ON +613 9035 8675

A PIONEERING VOICE ON SUSTAINABILITY

Having successfully worked with Sustainable Campus on their Ride to Uni initiative since early 2016, GSA stepped up and became a pioneering voice on the issue of sustainability on campus in 2017.

In March, we launched our Sustainability Prize, a student photography competition aimed at raising awareness of biodiversity and native flora and fauna across the University of Melbourne's seven campuses. This initiative had the dedicated support of Sustainable Campus, and was sponsored by the ECOCITY World Summit, an environment-focused conference hosted at the University later in the year.

The competition saw record student engagement, reaching tens of thousands of students via an integrated marketing campaign, and received over a hundred eligible entries. Its awards night, held in May, was emceed by comedian and environmentalist Rod Quantock, and was attended by over 120 students.

"I found that the prize gave me a chance to learn more about native wildlife," said Adhitya Yusuf, the first-place winner. "It helped me gain awareness of the fact that there's so much native flora and fauna around campus."

Later in the year, GSA participated in Green Impact, an environmental challenge for teams across the University. Originally created by the UK's National Union of Students, Green Impact aimed to raise awareness of waste, biodiversity, and other environmental issues on campus among University staff.

The GSA team worked hard to complete the challenge, racking up many hours spent cycling to work, postering the 1888 Building, and making personal environmental commitments. We are proud to have won one of five Silver Awards given to the 31 University of Melbourne teams.

"

I found that the prize gave me a chance to learn more about native wildlife. It helped me gain awareness of the fact that there's so much native flora and fauna around campus.

"

—*Adhitya Yusuf*

Below: *Adhitya Yusuf, with one of his 2017 Sustainability Prize entries, 'Banksia spinulosa'.*

Above: *Rod Quantock at the 2017 Sustainability Prize exhibition.*

06

MORE SERVICES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

GSA was able to develop and launch a number of exciting programs and projects in 2017. This is due in no small part to the collaboration and support received from the University and the incredible work and support of volunteers.

These new projects have aimed at fostering the academic community and bettering the overall graduate student university experience. Major initiatives included the Graduate Research Network, a program of seminars and networking sessions that brings researchers together, and Storytelling Nights, a themed series of narrative-driven events that allows students to express themselves and process their memorable experiences.

In the midst of collaborating on these efforts, GSA has in turn expressed support for other initiatives around the University community.

Throughout 2017, a host of projects conducted by various student groups and volunteers tackled

issues such as sustainability, mental health, awareness and inclusiveness.

GSA has endeavoured to increase its service offering throughout the whole of 2017. This has involved launching better programs, pioneering new social events, improving the availability of our facilities, and collaborating with students to bring the community closer together.

We are glad to be part of a vibrant student environment that cooperates in imaginative new ways to improve the graduate student experience. In finding ways of bringing the University's communities and support networks together, GSA is committed to its mission of being the heart of graduate student life.

Above: *GSA Councillor Kezhan (left) and GSA Women's Officer Max (right) at the Warm Winter Welcome.*

Above: *Students at the Warm Winter Welcome in semester two.*

GRADUATE RESEARCHER NETWORK

The Graduate Researcher Network is a SSAF-funded program designed to help graduate researchers succeed in their candidature while building new friendships and connections across disciplines. Sessions are held once per month during semester, with presenters offering resources and strategies to help researchers through their candidature, alongside lunches and networking sessions to help them connect with each other.

"I was overwhelmed by the number of graduate researchers who expressed interest in volunteering to facilitate our sessions," said the project's coordinator, Felicity Ford. "Whether I'm meeting with student enrichment officers and panel experts or brainstorming discussion themes with my colleagues and volunteer facilitators, it's always fantastic seeing these ideas come to fruition and listening to participants share their own experiences and strategies."

The Graduate Researcher Network will be continuing its work in 2018, with session information appearing on GSA's website on a regular basis.

"We're still finalising the program, but we've got lots of exciting ideas in the pipeline," said Felicity. "Each event will be a collaboration with a different faculty in a variety of venues across campus." She is also launching a Graduate Researcher Network Facebook group, to allow participants to continue the conversation, share resources, and stay connected.

"A PhD is much more than just a thesis," Felicity added. "It's also about sharing your work and experiences, learning how to be a researcher, and building an academic community. Meeting researchers from different disciplines not only connects you to this broader academic network but is also a fun way to share ideas, learn new skills, and make friends outside of your school. Come along!"

STORYTELLING NIGHTS

Storytelling Night is a SSAF-supported program run by a team of student volunteers. Inspired by "narrative medicine" workshop events, which give health professionals a way to share their patient care experiences, Storytelling Nights have adapted this idea to the graduate student community, letting students share their personal stories in a supportive, safe and welcoming environment.

With recurring events highlighting different themes, topics and moods, Storytelling Nights allowed students from a host of different backgrounds to vent their frustrations, process their memorable experiences, and learn from each other's resilience and perseverance.

"

A PhD is much more than just a thesis. It's also about sharing your work and experiences, learning how to be a researcher, and building an academic community.

"

—Felicity Ford

Above: *Students at a GSA networking event.*
Below: *Storytelling Night at Burnley campus.*

SSAF GRANTS RECEIVED FOR 2017

GSA is grateful for the support and collaboration received from the University for two of our major undertakings in 2018.

The first is the rollout of an official GSA WeChat account, allowing us to better engage with international students via China's largest social network.

The second is a future-focused, outsourced review of GSA's governance and performance. This review is an ambitious but crucial initiative aimed at building unprecedented stability and continuity at GSA – by better supporting elected graduate students engaged in the governance of the organisation.

SSAF GRANTS SUPPORTED

GSA gave support for numerous initiatives in 2017. They were:

· Pedal Projections, a battery-powered mobile projection bicycle that brings stories to life through sound, light and film, transforming public spaces into a captivating work of art.

· The Well-Being Arts Summer Program, in which students engage with internationally renowned artists in community-facing interdisciplinary Arts practice, with emphasis on inclusiveness and equality.

· The UniCycle Fair Food Challenge, where a portable bicycle kitchen offers students a reusable servingware service, leading to improved food skills and more sustainable on-campus food options.

· The School of Ecosystems and Forest Science (SEFS) Student Conference 2017, an annual three-day event involving workshops and themed panels that empower graduate students to learn and connect with each other.

· The TransHealth@Unimelb Project, a group of predominantly student volunteers who endeavour to provide reliable, evidence-based information to transgender and gender diverse (TGD) students for their health and wellbeing while promoting transgender awareness.

The allocation of SSAF grants to these projects has given them the greatest chance of meeting the needs and expectations of graduate students for 2018.
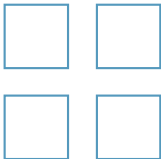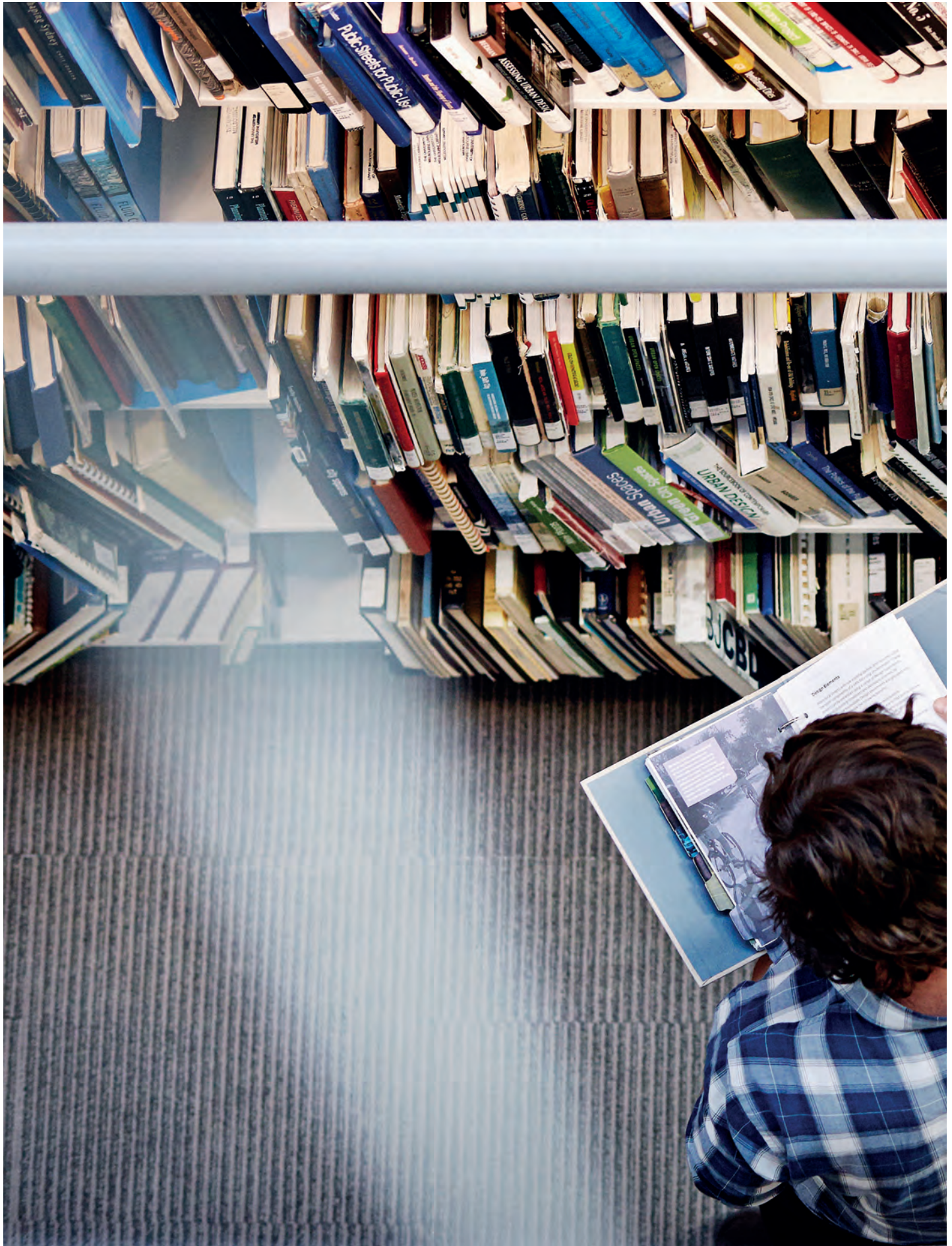
Above: *The Architecture, Building and Planning Library.*

07

GSA COUNCIL
MAY 2017 - DEC 2017

GEORGIA DALY

President
Executive Committee member

CATHERINE CHENG

Vice President
Executive Committee member

BRAD KNIGHT

General Secretary
Executive Committee member

XU (JOHN) ZHANG

Health & Welfare Officer

SMRITI GHIMIRE

Families Officer

PENG KUANG

Co-LGBTIQ Officer

ADELE GUILLE

Co-LGBTIQ Officer
Executive Committee member

SAREH NAJI

International Officer
Executive Committee member

JACOB RODRIGO

Activities Officer
Executive Committee member

MAX BERGH

Women's Officer

WINSTON DZAU

Education & Research Officer

KEZHAN ZHANG

Council member

YALI ZHAO

Council member

YUE SUN

Council member

DENIZ TUNCER

Council member

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Sina Khatami
President

Thomas Whiteside
General Secretary

Lida Rashidi
International Officer,
Education & Research Officer,
Executive Committee

Shirley Jackson
Education and Research Officer

Bren Carruthers
Health & Welfare Officer

Eva Birch
LGBTIQ Officer,
Committees Officer

Georgina Tweedy
Council member

Patrick Clearwater
Council member

Jim Smith Council member

08

OUR PARTNERS

UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

The University of Melbourne is the major partner of GSA. Our work would not be possible without their support.

Chancellery

Prof. Glyn Davis AC, Vice Chancellor

Prof. Margaret Shiel, Provost

Prof. Dick Strugnell, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Graduate & International Research)

Prof. Susan Elliot, Deputy Provost and Carolyn Evans, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International)

Elizabeth Capp, Director of Students & Equity

Amanda Davis, Graduate Research Advisor

Clare Walker, Associate Director of Sustainability

New Student Precinct Project Team

Faculties & Academic Departments

Faculty of Arts, notably Erin Scudder

Faculty of Business and Economics, notably Clare Harper, Tracey Skordos and Sharon Soltys

Faculty of Fine Arts and Music

Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Science, notably Dimity Evans

Faculty of Science, notably Monique Alexander

Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences

Graduate School of Education

Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Melbourne Business School

Melbourne School of Design

Melbourne School of Engineering

Melbourne School of Government

School of Ecosystem and Forest Sciences

School of Law, notably Centre for Media and Communications Law and the Intellectual Property Research Institute of Australia

Support Services

Daniel Persaud, Director of Health & Wellbeing

University Maintenance Team, Harry Whitehouse

University Security, Tony Leonard, Dave Fitches, Medi Mehanna and Ben Purvis

University Services, Alastair Ingham, Terry Zhu, Maureen Luna, Nael Abojalboush, and Vinnie Citino

University Venue Management, notably Martin Anderson

The University Community

Alan Smith and Tony Campbell, Cleaning

Alex Pappos, Andrew King, Adam Leach, Mal Abley, Security (Infrastructure)

Andrew Gay, Grounds

Brett Berlowitz, Nuvo Group

Cheng, Sam, Vince and Kyle, Tsubu and Lot 6

Dove Rengger-Thorpe, Southbank Campus

Erin Watson-Lynn, Director, AsiaLink Diplomacy

Graduate Research Services, notably Michelle Green and Libby Maunder

Kevin Horin, Parking

Melbourne Centre for the Study of Higher Education, notably Sylvia Schaffarczyk

Melbourne University Sport, notably Aaron McNaughton and Tim Lee

Nadine Carter and Stacey Wardrop, Werribee Campus

Nick Swan & Pete Barry, Campus Services (ReUse)

Peta Humphrey and Sandra Woods, Libraries

Research Platforms

Ross Payne, Burnley Campus

Stop 1 Student Administration Team

Student Success, notably Megan Dench, Shari Blanck and Jaci Blumhagen

Sustainable Campus, notably Danielle Rostan-Herbert and Sue Hopkins

The University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU), notably Justine Baré, Fiona Sanders and Isobel Hammel

UMSU Advocacy and Legal, notably Michelle Almiron, Isabelle Butler, Phoebe Churches and Paul Hornsby

UMSU International

University social media team, notably Yves Makhoul

University Trades and Services, notably Jon Peacock

Xain, Steve and Isaac, UMSU AV Melbourne

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Organisations

Ardoch Youth Foundation, notably Kylee Bates

Butterfly Internet

Calm

Carlton Baths, Department of Family Services, notably Vanessa O'Toole and Janine McDonald

Cinema Nova

Melbourne Theatre Company

Postgraduate & Research Student Association, notably Mike Heffron

Smiling Mind

The Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations

The Council of International Students Australia

Zoos Victoria

Individuals

Andrew Klein, Spike Presentations

Brockhurst Consulting, notably Tom Brockhurst and Sarah Wood

CEO of AMPLA, Susan Timbs

Chris Van Diepen, Bodhi Creative

Clive McVeay, PFD

Dameon Mitchell

Daniel King

Dina Pozzo, Insium

Dr. Helen Marshall, RMIT lecturer

Dr. Inger Mewburn, Australian National University lecturer

Dr. Jessie Owens, Centre for the Study of Workplace Leadership

Dr. Kathryn Firth

Dr. Liam Connell

Dr. Mladen Adamovic, Centre for the Study of Workplace Leadership

Dylan Harris

Emma Macgregor, Plaza Ballroom

Fiona Koetsier

Hannah Moore

James Freemantle, REDGum

James Poulos, Glen Roy Bakery

John Dedes, Harts Party Hire

Karen George, Coffee Cube

Kenneth Suico

Kirsten Brown, Wholehearted Life Pty Ltd

Lauren Anderson

Linn Stewart

Lucy Foster, Lulu Snap

Michael Gorton, Principal, Russel Kennedy Lawyers

Michael McBain

Prof. Peter Gahan, CSWL

Rebecca Houlden

Richard Woodward

Sam Tzouramanis, Evoco Design

Suki Ibbetson, The Prop Store

Susan Butler, Senior Manager, Corporate Communication, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Victoria)

Yana Amur

OUR PARTNERS [CONTINUED]

GSA GRAD GROUPS

Agrifoodies
Amphora Issue Collective
AntiTHESIS
Asia Institute Postgraduate Group
Australia Award Scholars
Bioinformatics Graduate Student Association (BGSA)
Biosciences Postgraduate Society (BIOPS)
Built Industry Group (BIG)
Burnley Campus Postgraduate Group (BCPG)
Cancer Society of Melbourne University (CSM)
Chemistry Postgraduate Society (CPS)
Chinese Philosophy in Business Graduate Student Group
Chinese Studies Research Group (CSRG)
Classics and Archaeology Postgraduate Group (CAPG)
Climate College Graduate Student Group (CCGSG)
Computational Biology Postgraduate Sports Group (CBPSG)
CREGA Melbourne
Criminology Graduate Students' Society (CGSS)
Crossing Borders Melbourne
Culture and Communication Postgraduate Committee
De Minimis
Earth Science Postgraduate Group
Ecuadorian Research and Entrepreneurship Network
Enactus
Forest Ecosystem Student Society
Geography Postgraduate Society
Global Law Students Association
Graduate Agriculture and Food Society (GAFS)
Graduate Backyard Cricket Club (GBCC)
Graduate Education Society
Graduate House Student Group
Graduate Infrastructure Engineering Society
Graduate Organisation of Development Studies (GOODS)
Graduate Researchers in Psychological Sciences (GRIPS)
Graduate Society of Advanced Learning and Leadership (GSALL)
Graduate Yoga Society (GYS)
History and Philosophy of Science Postgraduate Society
History Postgraduates Association
IIC IISC Graduates (12G)
Indigenous Graduate Student Association (I-GSA)
Inside Outside Circle
LAL Postgrad
Later Law Students' Network

Law Students For Refugees
MDQueer
Mechanical Engineering Research Student Association (MERSA)
Med Moves
Melbourne Business School Students Association
Melbourne Dental Student Society (MDSS)
Melbourne Emergency Student Society (MESS)
Melbourne Energy Students Association
Melbourne Graduate Music Society
Melbourne Hydrological Society
Melbourne Population Health Students Association
Melbourne University Civil and Structural Society
Melbourne University Drone Society
Melbourne University Genetics Postgraduate Society
Melbourne University Geomatics Society (MUGS)
Melbourne University Graduate Christian Union (MUGCU)
Melbourne University Law Students' Society (MULSS)
Melbourne University Nepalese Students' Society
Melbourne University Nursing Students' Society (MUNSS)
Melbourne University Physiotherapy Students Society (MUPSS)
Melbourne University Planning Student Society (MUPSS)
Melbourne Victorian Environmental Law Student Network
Graduate Students Group
MSD Research Students Association
Murdoch Children's Campus Research Students' Association
Neuropsychology Students Society
One Health Research Society
OVS Research Crew
Pathology Undergraduate and Graduate Group (PUGG)
Persian Art and Culture
Philosophy Postgraduate Group
Physiology Postgraduate Student's Society (PPSS)
Platform: Journal of Media and Communication
Postgraduate Association of Chemical and Engineering Researchers
Postgraduate Environment Network (PEN)
Postgraduate International Relations (PIRO)
Postgraduate Physics Society
Postgraduate Students of Anatomy Society
Postgraduates at Werribee (PAWS)
Postgraduates of Veterinary Science (POVS) Student Society

GSA GRAD GROUPS CONTINUED

School of Health Sciences Graduate Group

Social Work Association of Graduate Students

Special Postgraduate Association for Students of Immunology and Microbiology (SPASM)

Sri Lankan Graduates' Society

St. Vincent's Student Society

Statistics and Mathematics Postgraduate Society

Student Conservators @ Melbourne

Students of Neuropsychiatry Research (SONR)

Students in Primary Care Research

Students of Brain Research (SOBR)

Students of Pharmacology (STOP)

Students of Royal Melbourne

Students of Florey Institute (SOFI)

SYNAPSE

Taiwan Research Reading Group

The Global Consulting Group

The Pathology Undergraduate and Graduate Group (PUGG)

The Navigators

University of Melbourne Medical Students' Society (UMMSS)

University of Melbourne Optometry Students Society

University of Melbourne Space Program

Wellbeing Arts Graduate Student Group (WAGSG)

Wilderness Medicine Students' Society (WMSS)

GSA-NOMINATED COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES (2017)

Non-Council

Simin Rezaei (Athena SWAN SAT, Central Human Research Ethics Committee)

Jordon Finn (Course and Subject Planning Advising Taskforce)

Travis Hughes (Arts Graduate Studies Committee)

Alaina Vaisey (Research Higher Degrees Committee)

Chia Sharpe (Research Training Advisory Committee)

Bren Carruthers (Sustainability Executive Committee, Mental Health Promotion and Support Strategy Working Group)

Sheena Chen (Libraries and Academic Resources Committee)

Juliana Betts (Selection Procedures Committee)

Thibaut Clamart (Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance Committee)

Rishabh Sharma (Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance Committee)

Gabriel Ong (Melbourne Custom Programs Committee)

Maria Di Biase (Research Ethics and Integrity Strategy Committee)

Molly Fredle (Science Graduate Academic Programs Committee)

Chukwuma Okonkwo (Academic Consultation and Coordination Committee)

Martin Ditmann (Arts Faculty Board)

Chen Liu (Selection Procedures Committee)

Council

Sina Khatami (Academic Board)

Georgia Daly (Academic Board)

Winston Dzau (Academic Programs Committee)

Brad Knight (Student Precinct Steering Committee, SSAF Consultative Committee)

Max Bergh (Respect Taskforce)

Smriti Ghimire (Child Care Management Advisory Committee)

Thomas Whiteside (Student Precinct Steering Committee, SSAF Consultative Committee)

GSA VOLUNTEERS

Sheena Chen

Rahul Sharma

Yan Wu

Bishal Sapkota

Min Jae (Albert) Choi

Aarushi Sawhney

Shawn Wenxuan Zhang

Andrea Pianella

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	2017 $	2016 $
Income		
Student services and amenities fee (SSAF) funding - core	**2,410,024**	1,937,398
SSAF - other	**96,871**	-
Event income	**55,622**	51,043
Rental income	**162,497**	165,433
Interest income	**29,754**	36,921
Training and workshops	**20,747**	18,282
Venue hire income	**23,013**	21,400
Other income	**29,910**	5,553
	2,828,438	2,236,030
Expenditure		
Depreciation expense	**76,780**	69,132
Employee benefits expense	**1,587,051**	1,456,030
Other operating expenses	**70,034**	36,257
Loss on disposal of assets	**-**	10,910
Honoraria	**129,681**	130,372
Program / project activity costs	**347,528**	268,852
Administration expenses	**253,860**	202,468
Audit fees	**11,000**	15,500
Computer / ICT expenses	**45,289**	42,092
Graduate groups support	**171,679**	169,031
Marketing and communications	**78,329**	64,778
Occupancy expenses	**37,712**	52,278
	2,808,943	2,517,700
Profit/(loss) for the year	**19,495**	(281,670)
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year	**1,543,767**	1,825,437
Retained profits at the end of the financial year	**1,563,262**	1,543,767

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Note	2017 $	2016 $
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	**1,944,577**	1,599,982
Trade and other receivables	3	**3,689**	41,746
Prepayments		**35,706**	16,266
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		**1,983,972**	1,657,994
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant and equipment	4	**242,677**	107,769
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		**242,677**	107,769
TOTAL ASSETS		**2,226,649**	1,765,763
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	5	**206,268**	87,611
Employee benefits	6	**130,306**	113,268
Income in advance		**148,379**	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		**484,953**	200,879
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	6	**35,934**	21,117
Income in advance		**142,500**	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		**178,434**	21,117
TOTAL LIABILITIES		**663,387**	221,996
NET ASSETS		**1,563,262**	1,543,767
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained profits		**1,563,262**	1,543,767
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		**1,563,262**	1,543,767

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

2017

	Retained Earnings $	Total $
Balance at 1 January 2017	**1,543,767**	**1,543,767**
Profit for the year	**19,495**	**19,495**
Balance at 31 December 2017	**1,563,262**	**1,563,262**

2016

	Retained Earnings $	Total $
Balance at 1 January 2016	1,825,437	1,825,437
Loss for the year	(281,670)	(281,670)
Balance at 31 December 2016	1,543,767	1,543,767

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Note	2017 $	2016 $
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Receipts from customers		**193,900**	107,804
Proceeds from student services and amenities fee funding		**3,077,551**	2,131,138
Rent received		**162,497**	165,433
Interest received		**29,754**	36,920
Payments to suppliers and employees		**(2,907,419)**	(2,712,505)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	7	**556,283**	(271,210)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment		**-**	19,529
Purchase of plant and equipment		**(211,688)**	(15,024)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		**(211,688)**	4,505
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		**344,595**	(266,705)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		**1,599,982**	1,866,687
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	2	**1,944,577**	1,599,982

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

The financial statements cover University of Melbourne Graduate Student Association Inc as an individual entity. University of Melbourne Graduate Student Association Inc is a not-for-profit Association incorporated in Victoria under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* ('the Act'). The Association is registered with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.*

Basis of Preparation

In the opinion of the Executive Committee, the Association is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial statements who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the Act.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*, AASB 107 *Statement of Cash Flows*, AASB 108 *Accounting Policies*, *Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* and AASB 1054 *Australian Additional Disclosures*.

1   Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a)   Income Tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

(b)   Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Items of property, plant and equipment acquired for nil or nominal consideration have been recorded at the acquisition date fair value.

Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the assets useful life to the Association, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

(c)   Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Cashflows are discounted using market yields on high quality corporate bond rates incorporating bonds with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cashflows. Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss.

Employee benefits are presented as current liabilities in the statement of financial position if the Association does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting date regardless of the classification of the liability for measurement purposed under AASB 119.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

1   Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(d)   Revenue and other income

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Association and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

Grant revenue is recognised as follows: where obligations exist to meet specific conditions and/or deliver economic value to the grant contributor in exchange, revenue is deferred and first recognised as a liability in the statement of financial position (income in advance) then progressively recognised as revenue in the statement of profit or loss as performance occurs in accordance with grant requirements, otherwise grants are recognised as revenue when the entity obtains control of the grant and it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the entity.

Grants received relating to the purchase of capital items are first recognised as income in advance then progressively recognised as revenue over the expected useful life of the related assets.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(e)   Leases

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all of the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease term.

(f)   Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST.

Cash flows in the statement of cash flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

(g)   Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

(h)   Comparative amounts

When necessary, comparative information has been reclassified to enhance comparability in respect of changes in presentation adopted in the current year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

2   Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2017	2016
	$	$
Cash at bank and in hand	542,473	81,949
Short-term deposits	1,402,104	1,518,033
	1,944,577	1,599,982

3   Trade and Other Receivables

	2017	2016
CURRENT		
Trade receivables	51	36,976
Provision for impairment	-	(80)
	51	36,896
Other receivables	3,638	4,850
Total current trade and other receivables	3,689	41,746

4   Property, plant and equipment

	2017	2016
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Student furniture & fittings		
At cost	12,432	12,432
Accumulated depreciation	(9,526)	(7,414)
Total plant and equipment	2,906	5,018
Office fixtures & fittings		
At cost	39,119	7,042
Accumulated depreciation	(9,083)	(4,626)
Total furniture, fixtures and fittings	30,036	2,416
Service improvements		
At cost	23,836	23,836
Accumulated depreciation	(13,056)	(8,289)
Total office equipment	10,780	15,547
Office equipment & computer hardware		
At cost	506,610	327,000
Accumulated depreciation	(307,655)	(242,212)
Total computer equipment	198,955	84,788
Total plant and equipment	242,677	107,769
Total property, plant and equipment	242,677	107,769

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

5   Trade and Other Payables

	2017	2016
	$	**$**
Current		
Trade payables	**77,076**	5,675
Sundry payables and accrued expenses	**129,192**	81,937
	206,268	87,612

6   Employee Benefits

	2017	2016
Current liabilities		
Long service leave	**52,034**	42,201
Annual leave	**78,272**	71,067
	130,306	113,268
Non-current liabilities		
Long service leave	**35,934**	21,117

7   Cash Flow Information

	2017	2016
Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities		
Profit/(loss) for the year	**19,495**	(281,670)
Non-cash flows in profit/(loss):		
- depreciation	**76,780**	69,132
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	**38,137**	11,779
- (increase)/decrease in other assets	**(19,440)**	(352)
- increase/(decrease) in income in advance	**290,879**	-
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	**118,577**	(1,258)
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	**31,855**	(68,841)
Cashflows from operations	**556,283**	(271,210)

The Association has no significant stand-by or financing facilities in place. There were no non-cash financing or investing activities during the period.

8   Contingencies

Contingent Liabilities

University of Melbourne Graduate Student Association Inc had the following contingent liabilities at the end of the reporting period:

Payroll tax - University of Melbourne Graduate Student Association Inc is seeking legal advice regarding its payroll tax exemption status. Currently the Association believes it is payroll tax exempt under section 48 of the Payroll Tax Act and has not accrued any associated liabilities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

9   Economic Dependence

The Association is economically dependent on continued funding from The University of Melbourne. In 2017 Student Services and Amenities funding received from The University of Melbourne was 88.63% (2016: 86.64%) of its income.

10   Going Concern

In October 2011, the Australian Parliament passed legislation to allow Universities and other higher education providers, to charge a compulsory Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) from 2012 (see the Higher Legislation Amendment (Student Services and Amenities) Act 2011). The University of Melbourne has introduced a compulsory Student Services and Amenities Fee and has entered into a three year funding agreement with University of Melbourne Graduate Student Association Inc based on the collection of SSA Fees. The funding agreement has been renewed for another three years ending December 2019. The financial statements of the Association have been prepared on the going concern basis given that the Association will continue to receive funding from the University of Melbourne in 2018.

STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Executive Committee the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 9:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of University of Melbourne Graduate Student Association Inc as at 31 December 2017 and its performance for the year ended on that date.

2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that University of Melbourne Graduate Student Association Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Executive Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Executive Committee by:

President ....

General Secretary ....

Georgia Daly

Brad Knight

Dated this ....1................. day of ....March...........2018

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION INC

Accru⁺
Melbourne

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of University of Melbourne Graduate Student Association Inc (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2017, the statement of profit or loss, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by the executive committee.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Association as at 31 December 2017 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policy described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist the Association to fulfill the financial reporting responsibilities under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Association and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the Association. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other matter

The financial report of   University of Melbourne Graduate Student Association Inc for the year ended 31 December 2016 was audited by another auditor who expressed an unmodified opinion on the financial report on 19 May 2017.

Responsibilities of Executive Committee

The executive committee of the Association   is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the executive committee is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The executive committee is responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

*TO THE MEMBERS OF UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION INC*

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgemental and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the executive committee.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the executive committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern.   If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial reporter, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the executive committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

ACCRU MELBOURNE (AUDIT) PTY LTD   C J FLYNN
Chartered Accountants   Director

1 March 2018