

LEADERSHIP

STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

**HUMAN-CENTRED
LEADERSHIP**

2023 Program

**SSAF
FUNDED**

*Student
LIFE*

 **VICTORIA UNIVERSITY**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Ancestors, Elders and families of the Kulin Nation (Melbourne Campuses), the Eora Nation (Sydney Campus) and the Yulara/Yugarapul and Turrbal Nation (Brisbane Campus) who are the traditional owners of University land. As we share our own knowledge practices within the University may we pay respect to the deep knowledge embedded within the Aboriginal community and recognise their ownership of Country.

We acknowledge that the land on which we meet, learn and share knowledge is a place of age old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal and that the Traditional Owners' living culture and practices have a unique role in the life of this region.

To learn more, please contact the Moondani Balluk Academic Unit on +61 3 9919 2836 or Moondani.Balluk@vu.edu.au.



WELCOME

The Student Leadership Conference is Victoria University's flagship student leadership event. This annual one-day event is an opportunity for you to develop your leadership skills and to grow your professional networks by hearing from inspirational keynote speakers, participating in interactive workshops and connecting with peers and community leaders.

Since 2010 the Student Leadership Conference has inspired and empowered VU students just like you to learn more about themselves, cultivate a growth mindset, seek out opportunities, take risks, learn and adapt and take on leadership roles within VU and beyond.

Our theme for this year's conference is **Human-Centred Leadership**. Human-centred leaders take the time to get to know their teams, understand their needs and goals, and create an environment that allows them to perform at their best. They create a culture of trust, encouraging team members to speak up and share their ideas. This year's conference will explore leadership practices that put people first, and empower you to empower others.

Victoria University strives to support our students to shape not only their own futures but also the wider world in which they live. We have a deep and unwavering commitment to inclusion, to respectful relationships and diversity. We are a place where people are supported to realise their potential and aspirations.

Our 2023 Student Leadership Conference will help you to realise your leadership potential. There will be occasions to listen, reflect and learn by doing, as well as network, make friends and branch outside your comfort zone. Enjoy a delicious morning tea and lunch, take advantage of the LinkedIn photo booth, and stay for the canapés and live music at the post-conference networking event.

I encourage you to join us in this opportunity for personal and professional development.

I look forward to meeting you!



Leon Kerr
Director, Student Services



ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Time	Program Component	Presenter
8.45AM	Registration	
9.30AM	Acknowledgement of Country & Welcome	Leon Kerr Director, Student Services Ashlie Thorburn Leadership Assistant, Student Life & Leadership
9.45AM	Opening Keynote	Rochelle le Pere Manager, Aboriginal History Archive at Moondani Balluk Natasha Ritchie Research Archivist, Aboriginal History Archive at Moondani Balluk
10.15AM	Morning Tea	
10.45AM	Morning Workshop Session (choose one)	
	1. Leadership to Inspire	Mark Moore Training Consultant, Institute for Communication, Management & Leadership
	2. Storytelling for Impact	Fleassy Malay Writer, Educator, Performer
12.15PM	Structured networking	Ashlie Thorburn Leadership Assistant, Student Life & Leadership Amin Eslami Leadership Assistant, Student Life & Leadership
12.30PM	Lunch LinkedIn photo booth	

Order of Proceedings continued on page 2.

Time	Program Component	Presenter
1.30PM	Afternoon Workshop Sessions (choose one)	
	1. Level up your Leadership	Tionne Young Co-Founder & Programs Director, The Australian School of Entrepreneurship (ASE) Group
	2. Earned Leadership as True Leadership	Dr. Teresa De Fazio OAM (MAICD) Director, Intersect Global Partners
3.00PM	Break	
3.20PM	Closing Keynote	Aaron Fitzgerald COO Grill'd Australia CEO Grill'd International
4.20PM	Closing Remarks & Thank You	Leon Kerr Director, Student Services
		Amin Eslami Leadership Assistant, Student Life & Leadership
4.35PM	Post conference networking event Music, drinks, canapés & photo booth	
5.30PM	Event Concludes	



MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Leon Kerr *(he/him)*

Director,
Student Services

Leon Kerr is the Director of Student Services, a portfolio that includes Student Wellbeing, Student Life and Leadership, Student Advisory Services, International Student Advising and Student Communications. Leon works collaboratively with stakeholders across VU and beyond to regularly evolve and innovate, ensuring that VU continues to provide the best and most relevant student experience unique to each individual, supporting students to thrive and succeed.



Ashlie Thorburn *(she/her)*

Leadership Assistant,
Student Life & Leadership

Ashlie is one of the Leadership Assistants in the 2023 Student Life and Leadership team. Ashlie is a student studying a Bachelor in Dermal Science and is currently in her third year. She is experiencing clinical work at the VU Dermal Clinic to support skin health concerns. At VU, she has worked as the Vollies Assistant in the Student Life and Leadership team and a Student Ambassador for the Future Student's team. As a student, she has been a Team Leader at V4U Day and is completing the LEAD Program.



Amin Eslami *(he/him)*

Leadership Assistant, Student Life & Leadership

Amin is a Leadership Assistant and a LEAD Program Facilitator in the 2023 Student Life and Leadership team. Amin is a preservice teacher, in his second year of studying at Victoria University. He is also a project Leader with the EnactusVU Club. He is a VU Vollie, and VU Blood Champion working with Life Blood team of Red Cross Australia.



KEYNOTES

Rochelle le Pere (*she/her*) Manager, Aboriginal History Archive at Moondani Balluk

Rochelle le Pere is a Ngati Kuia woman with a Masters in Community Development and a Bachelor of Music. With a career dedicated to the creative arts, education, youth and community sectors, Ro has experience managing projects of international scale as well as at local and national levels that have been designed and articulated by Aboriginal people within a practice of self-determination. Ro is currently the Manager of the Aboriginal History Archive at Moondani Balluk.



Natasha Ritchie (*she/her*) Research Archivist, Aboriginal History Archive at Moondani Balluk

Natasha Ritchie has completed a Bachelor of Social Work at Victoria University and currently works as a Research Archivist with the Aboriginal History Archive at Moondani Balluk. In 2022, Natasha completed an undergraduate internship with the Aboriginal History Archive, where she lead a project centred around the individuals who were essential to the establishment and success of the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services Network including the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, Koori Kollij, Aboriginal Medical Service Redfern, National Aboriginal and Islander Health Organisation and the Aborigines Advancement League.

Opening Keynote

- ◆ Reflections on personal journeys and experience with Human-Centred Leadership.



Aaron Fitzgerald *(he/him)* COO, Grill'd Australia | CEO, Grill'd International

Aaron grew up on a farm in Lilydale, Victoria. Despite struggling financially, his parents managed to put themselves through university, one working to pay the bills, while the other studied. Eventually, they both became teachers, but they also instilled in Aaron an understanding of the importance of education that has fuelled his commitment to lifelong learning.

Aaron achieved the results he needed to get into his preferred course at Victoria University. He felt prepared for university life because he understood the value of hard work and how to control his own learning. He loved the VU environment where the lecturers and tutors actually knew who he was and cared about how he was going. He successfully juggled touring with a band whilst studying, and these years prepared him to manage competing priorities and get through periods of intense work.

Aaron is a leader who has worked with some of Australia's most famous and fastest growing brands, including Village Cinemas, Swisse Vitamins (General Manager) and NQR groceries (CEO). He has a proven track record of driving growth and profitability via culture, people, strategy and structure. His ability to think outside the box has earned him a reputation as an innovator and has helped him turn around the fortunes of the businesses he has worked for.

Bio continued on following page.



As CEO Grill'd International and COO Grill'd Domestic, Aaron is responsible for taking Grill'd to international markets. Aaron led Grill'd through the impacts of COVID ensuring the business not only survived but thrived.

Aaron has proved time and again that he can steer an organization through difficult times and help it respond to changing external forces. His people-oriented approach and focus on providing a positive culture builds high-performing teams that are able to deliver these results.

Aaron has a clear understanding of his purpose in life, or his “why?”. It is to give young people opportunity, education and belief.

He is dedicated to helping others around him reach their goals and potential. He sees it as paying forward the belief someone once showed in him as a young professional.



Closing Keynote

◆ The Canary Cage

Human centred leadership begins with the conscious leadership of yourself.

Hear Aaron's story about how a young boy from Lilydale became the COO of national burger chain Grill'd and is now taking healthy fast food to the world as CEO of Grill'd International.

Aaron will share his knowledge and experience and let you in on some of his secrets:

- ◆ What are the most important words we will ever hear?
- ◆ How to lead yourself to drive peak performance of your teams.
- ◆ Why culture now beats strategy in importance of driving teams and business.
- ◆ The 4 C's of building a successful Culture, Company, Community, Customer.



WORKSHOPS

Mark Moore (*he/him*)
Training Consultant,
Institute for Communication,
Management & Leadership

Mark has over 30 years of training, consulting and presenting experience. He has designed and delivered a wide range of technical and conceptual courses and presentations over this period. He has an Economics and International Politics degree from UNISA and the University of the Witwatersrand and has delivered over 2000 programs to over 200 organisations across several countries. His approach to training is to blend theory with lessons drawn from actual work experience. To achieve this end presentations are delivered in accordance with Modern Adult Learning Principles. Mark works hard to establish an open and trusting environment where participants are comfortable to share and explore these real-life experiences. The approach is to avoid over theorising – the emphasis is on practicality. He believes that participants should be able to immediately apply some of the tools and techniques they have learned.



Workshop

◆ Leadership to Inspire

Leadership is multifaceted - often it is associated with profitability, deadlines and results, but these are by-products of effective leadership. There is the organisational and communication aspect, where the leader takes this information and crafts it into a clear vision and motivates others to embrace it. There is the team aspect, where a leader unites people and inspires them to cooperate and support each other in the pursuit of this vision. Finally, a leader inspires individuals and helps them to grow and fulfil their potential. The most effective leaders understand that success happens with people, and that growing and developing employees is an integral part of the equation that leads to high performing teams. Human-centred leadership focuses on people, and building and maintaining strong relationships with your team.

In this session we will explore this aspect of leadership in more detail:

We will examine:

- ◆ Typical mistakes for leaders to avoid.
- ◆ Why some staff do not realise their potential.
- ◆ How to identify what motivates and energises your staff.
- ◆ Techniques to help them realise their goals.



Fleassy Malay (*she/they*)

Writer, Educator, Performer

Two times TEDx speaker and award winning poet, [Fleassy Malay](#) is an internationally renowned, evocative and powerful spoken word artist, speaker and coach. A global advocate for Women's and LGBTQI+ rights and a fierce voice for the power of authenticity and courage as a social change tool. She is the founder of Melbourne's acclaimed not for profit organisation and Women's Spoken Word event, **Mother Tongue Poetry**. A passionate, powerful, vulnerable and honest performer who's words leave a profound impression. Fleassy has a theatrical and yet deeply authentic performance and speaking style renowned for captivating their audiences with depth, honesty, and humour. Alongside their own course and classes, Fleassy also educates doctors and clinical staff for Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria (PMCV) on Communicating with Confidence.



Workshop

◆ Storytelling for Impact

This session presents a deep skillset of storytelling techniques. Stories amplify, inform, and educate audiences in a way we can all relate to as humans. Stories build trust, help audiences feel personally connected, and allow us to find meanings.

With a focus on connection and harnessing of theatre skills, we look at how to foster a deeper connection with your audience utilising some basic storytelling techniques on stage. This workshop gives lived experience and practical exercise.



Dr. Teresa De Fazio **OAM (MAICD)** *(she/her)* Director, Intersect Global Partners

Dr. Teresa De Fazio OAM has a strong background as an academic in the fields of education, inclusion and equity and leadership. She is the Director of [Intersect Global Partners](#), an organisation that focuses on supporting a broad range of equity and inclusion initiatives with corporate, government and not for profit entities. She remains an Adjunct Fellow of Victoria University. She has published various books, reports and papers and presented at both national and international conferences. Teresa was awarded the Order of Australia in 2021 for her services to tertiary education.

Teresa mentors and champions people who also contribute to bettering the community and workplace. A passionate advocate for multiculturalism, she was appointed as Commissioner for the Victorian Multicultural Commission for two terms by the Victorian Government. Teresa is a Board Director for Zoos Victoria, and former Board Director of Multicultural Arts Victoria and Edmund Rice Community and Refugee Services. She is also a Community Ambassador for Melbourne Victory Football Club and Love of Languages, and works as a freelance journalist and writer.

To tap into your leadership potential and enhance your people culture – [linkedin.com/company/www.intglobal.com.au/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/www.intglobal.com.au/)



Workshop

◆ Earned Leadership as True Leadership

Leaders are shaped by their vision, motivation, and sense of responsibility in engaging with people and the work before them. Each leader has a certain skill set, but they will also be shaped by their many formative experiences, some of which they will not even notice. This workshop will explore how people transform into leaders and provide an opportunity to reflect on what you bring. This highly interactive and thought-provoking workshop explores and breaks down various key notions which are integral to leading a healthy and productive environment around them, whether it be a workplace, team or community organisation.

Workshop participants will:

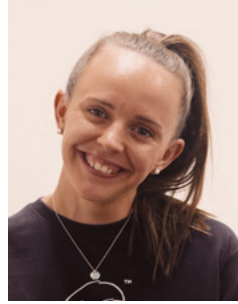
- ◆ explore their personal leadership pathway
- ◆ identify how they limit themselves in achieving or recognising their leadership potential
- ◆ consider strategies to ensure that leadership provides equitable opportunities and practices for all as part of the responsibility of being a leader
- ◆ examine the notion of earned leadership
- ◆ have fun as they reveal their leadership self.



Tionne Young *(she/they)*

Co-Founder & Programs Director, The ASE Group

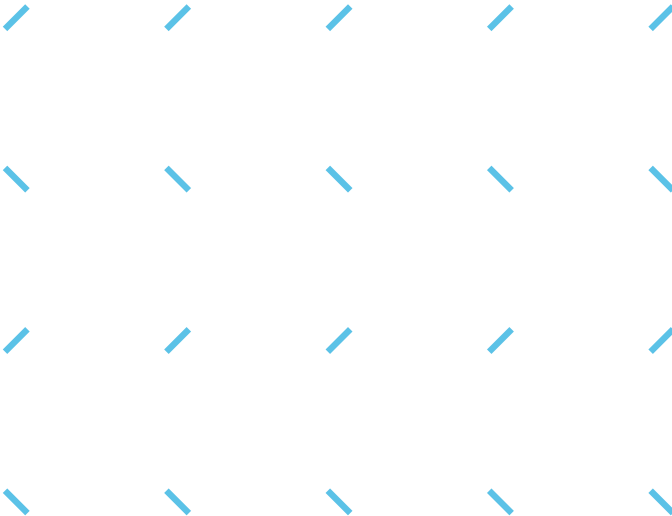
Tionne is a young professional with a passion for creating memorable experiences and opportunities for young people. She is the Program Director at [The ASE Group](#), a business that delivers education, entrepreneurship and employment programs for Australians of all ages. Their mission is to equip every Australian with the skills, resources and mindset they need to start a business or enter the workforce, regardless of their postcode. With experience in event management and community building, she has worked with organisations such as the Australian Government, MYOB, and Westpac to deliver youth engagement programs. One of her career highlights was being responsible for the delivery of the Minister's Climate Challenge, featuring the Former US Vice President, Al Gore. Tionne Co-Founded the ASE Group when she was 21 years old. She has worked with thousands of young people across Australia and New Zealand and has been responsible for overseeing the delivery of youth engagement for over 180,000 young Aussies. When she's not busy creating events that inspire and empower young people, you can find her cooking up a storm in the kitchen, dabbling in amateur painting, or getting her daily dose of dog pats.



Workshop

◆ Level up your Leadership

Ready to level up your leadership? Join Tionne for a dynamic workshop on leading with energy and intention. Learn practical tips for optimising your energy levels, improving your communication skills in your everyday life, and unlocking your inner innovator. Through engaging activities, non-lame prizes, and inspiring stories, you'll gain practical tips that you can apply right away to enhance your leadership skills. Most of all - you'll have heaps of fun!



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

To find out more about the Student Leadership Program, scan the QR code or visit:

vu.edu.au/student-leadership



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