



Student Leadership
& Alumni Awards

Event Program

20 November 2025



**VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY**

*Student
LIFE*

**SSAF
FUNDED**

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

Since 2010, the Victoria University (VU) Student Leadership Awards have recognised and celebrated our students who make a demonstrable impact on improving the quality of the student experience at Victoria University as well as developing their leadership potential and building their graduate capabilities.

This year over 80 applications were received from VU TAFE, Higher Education and VU Research students.

I congratulate all this year's finalists for your dedication to making VU an inclusive and vibrant place to study. Each day we are inspired by your passion for making VU the university of inclusion, opportunity and success. I also thank the parents, relatives, partners and friends who support our student leaders as they pursue this mission.

This celebration is made possible by the generous support of our VU community. I acknowledge the generosity of Raj Kannan and family, who, through the Raj Kannan Leadership Scholarship, provide a special opportunity to foster VU's emerging leaders.



Michelle Gillespie
Chief Student Officer

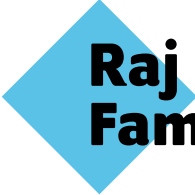


Acknowledgements

We would like to thank everyone involved in making the Student Leadership Awards a successful event. First and foremost, we thank and recognise our student leaders for their valuable contributions to VU and the broader community. You have all been great role models throughout the year and we hope to see you as actively involved in 2026 and beyond.

We would also like to thank the Awards Selection Panellists for their generous time and expertise.

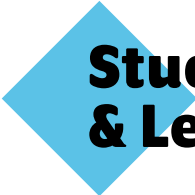
Special thanks to our sponsors:



**Raj Kannan
Family**



**Alumni
Relations**



**Student Life
& Leadership**

Order of Proceedings

Time	Program Component	Presenter
5.30PM	Canapés, networking and registration	
6.45PM	Acknowledgement of Country Official Welcome	Professor Adam Shoemaker Vice-Chancellor & President
	Housekeeping	Mayank Sajwan (MC) Outgoing President of VUSU
	Moondani Balluk Aboriginal Student Award	Marcus Brooke Aboriginal Support Officer
7PM	Main meal served	
	Individual Awards ◆ Volunteer of the Year Award	Hafiz Saleem President VU Postgraduate Association
	VU Spirit Awards ◆ VU Spirit International Student Award ◆ VU Spirit TAFE Student Award ◆ VU Spirit Undergraduate Student Award ◆ VU Spirit Postgraduate Student Award ◆ Spirit of Victoria University Alumni Award	John Kon Alumni
	Team Awards ◆ Best New Student Group ◆ Most Successful Event ◆ Student Group of the Year 2025	Stephanie Folau Senior Student Engagement Officer (Clubs)
	Special Awards ◆ 2025 Outstanding Student – Sponsored by Alumni Relations ◆ Professional Achievement Alumni Award ◆ Rising Star Alumni Award ◆ Raj Kannan Leadership Scholarship	Abiola Akinbiyi Alumni Geentash Goel, Rohan Kannan & Priyana Kannan
8.30PM	Thank you & closing remarks	Mayank Sajwan (MC) Outgoing President of VUSU
8.40PM	Networking, desserts & refreshments	



Individual Awards

Moondani Balluk Aboriginal Student Award

This award recognises a current Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander student for their contribution to VU and to the wider Aboriginal community.

The recipient of the Moondani Balluk Aboriginal Student Award is selected by [Moondani Balluk](#).

Sponsored by Student Life & Leadership.

Prize: \$500

Recipient to be announced

Volunteer of the Year Award

This award recognises a current Victoria University student who has made an outstanding contribution to the university and/or broader community through volunteering.

Sponsored by Student Life & Leadership.

Prize: \$500

Finalists

- ◆ **Charvi Koul** – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ **David Woods** – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ **Hai Pham** – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ **Sanyam Arora** – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ **Victor Hong** – Sport, Health & Engineering





VU Spirit Awards

The VU Spirit Awards recognise students who have gone above and beyond in their leadership and engagement activities at VU.

There are four categories for the VU Spirit Awards:

- ◆ International Student
- ◆ TAFE Student
- ◆ Undergraduate Student
- ◆ Postgraduate Student

Sponsored by Student Life & Leadership.

Prize: \$500

Finalists

International Student

- ◆ Ivy Fiecas – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ **Pragati Sharma** – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ **Vincent Gael Emmanuel Rose** – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ JJ Pant – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ **Sitashma Baniya** – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT

TAFE Student

- ◆ Summer Xia – TAFE
- ◆ Young Kwan Yun – TAFE

Undergraduate Student

- ◆ JJ Pant – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ **Marcellia Veronika Jonathan** – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ Olive Mboya – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ Pankaj Bansal – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ **Pragati Sharma** – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ Victor Hong – Sport, Health & Engineering

Postgraduate Student

- ◆ Achol Arow – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ Nas Mohammed Anas – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ Patricia Alessa Bayer – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ Rishan Rasikeen – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ Saman Bakhtawar – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT



Team Awards

Best New Student Group

This award recognises the outstanding achievements of a Student Group that was established in 2025 and has benefited its members and the wider VU community.

Prize: \$500

Finalists

Vietnamese Interclub of Victoria University (VIVU)

- ◆ Dinh Pham – President
- ◆ Quan Duong – Vice President
- ◆ Victor Hong – Secretary
- ◆ Hai Pham – Treasurer

VU International Affairs Club

- ◆ Sitashma Baniya – President
- ◆ Hoor Alagouz – Vice President
- ◆ Cha Wichaiphrom – Secretary
- ◆ Saman Bakhtawar – Treasurer

VU Matcha Club

- ◆ Kelly Purnawan – President
- ◆ Jiro Fontanilla – Secretary
- ◆ Graceline Supramono – Treasurer



Most Successful Event

This Award recognises a student group that has delivered an outstanding event which significantly contributed to the student experience at Victoria University. The winning event demonstrated strong planning, meaningful student engagement, positive impact, and alignment with the values of the Clubs Program and the broader university community.

Prize: \$500

Finalists

Victoria University Computer Science Society (VUCSS)

- ◆ Pankaj Bansal – President
- ◆ Geetansh Goel – Vice President
- ◆ Emilie Lun Leung – Secretary
- ◆ Victor Hong – Treasurer

Vietnamese Interclub of Victoria University (VIVU)

- ◆ Dinh Pham – President
- ◆ Quan Duong – Vice President
- ◆ Victor Hong – Secretary
- ◆ Hai Pham – Treasurer

Student Group of the Year 2025

This award recognises an outstanding Student Group for their achievements and success in meeting their mission in 2025.

Sponsored by Student Life & Leadership.

Prize: \$500

Finalists

Outdoor Adventures Club (VUOAC)

- ◆ Saman Bakhtawar – President
- ◆ KT Eam – Vice President
- ◆ Ethan Catlin – Secretary
- ◆ Remy Kenyon – Treasurer

Pasifika Islander Association (PIAVU)

- ◆ Vanessa Manuake – President
- ◆ Maggie Sand – Vice President
- ◆ Leah Bulu – Secretary
- ◆ Lewis Iwong – Treasurer

Women in Technology (WIT)

- ◆ Summer Xia – President
- ◆ Sakina Batool – Secretary
- ◆ Pauline Pagtama – Treasurer



Special Awards

2025 Outstanding Student

Sponsored by Alumni Relations

The VU Alumni community includes 301,000 graduates living and working in over 136 countries. If you are a graduate from VU, VU TAFE, or any of our predecessor institutions you automatically become a lifelong member of our alumni community.

Our alumni live the VU values of Always WEST:

Welcoming,

Ethical,

Shaping the future,

Together.

This award, proudly supported by the Alumni Relations team, has been designed to help the recipient receive the best chance of achieving their goals as they transition from student to employee. This peak award includes a 12 month mentorship from an alumni leader in the recipient's industry and a cash prize to help them kick start their professional wardrobe or invest in some tech.

Sponsored by Alumni Relations.

Prize: \$500

Finalists

- ◆ **Achol Arow** – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ **Marcellia Veronika Jonathan** – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ **Nas Mohammed Anas** – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ **Rishan Rasikeen** – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ **Connor Conkey-Morrison** – Sport, Health & Engineering

Raj Kannan Leadership Scholarship

Mr Raj Kannan is one of Victoria University’s distinguished 90 Legends. He graduated from Footscray Institute of Technology (FIT) in 1988 with a Bachelor of Engineering. He is currently Partner and Executive Director of Deloitte Consulting South East Asia. He was President of the Overseas Student Association, Co-President of the Student Representative Council and involved in other student leadership activities. Mr Kannan believes that the leadership experience he gained at FIT was invaluable to his later career and as such he is passionate about giving back to the University.

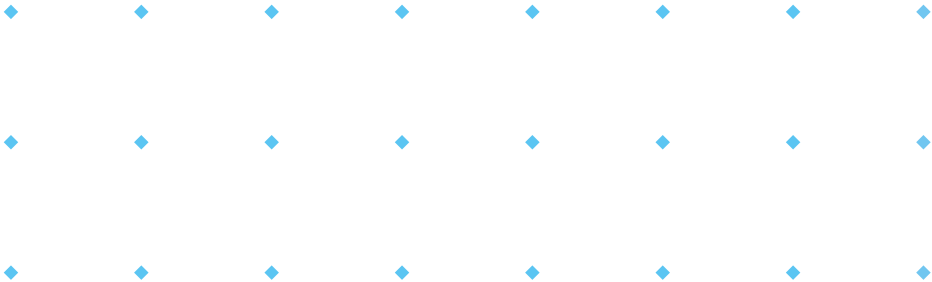
As a result, Mr Kannan has established a scholarship that will support and encourage students to undertake leadership activities at VU. This prestigious award comes with a prize in the form of a \$5000 scholarship.

Sponsored by the Raj Kannan family.

Prize: \$5000

Finalists

- ◆ **Ajoungh Maker Makur** – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ **Samreen Kaur** – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ **Sitashma Baniya** – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ **Soniya Thapa** – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ **Olive Mboya** – Sport, Health & Engineering



Top Vollies

Thank you to all our VU Vollies who collectively contribute thousands of hours throughout the year.

Vollies	Hours
◆ Hoor Ethar	180+
◆ Kenneth Pinto	160+
◆ Cindy Dang	125+
◆ Charvi Koul	95+
◆ Sitashma Baniya	95
◆ Pakhi Bargale	80+
◆ Trong Nhan Nguyen	65+
◆ Ivonda Fei	65+
◆ Gurbuneet Kaur	65+
◆ Marsianna Mastrantuono	65+
◆ Pritinder Kaur Baidwan	60+
◆ Dahana Halim	55+
◆ Thanawat	50+
◆ Victor Hong	40+
◆ Dinh Pham	40+



2025 Club Execs

Thank you to all the Clubs and Society Executive Committee members for your hard work and dedication to making VU a place to thrive.

Arts & Crafts Society

- ◆ Cylan Waldhart – President
- ◆ Claire Minchinton – Secretary
- ◆ Dan Pah – Treasurer

Computer Science Society (VUCS)

- ◆ Pankaj Bansal – President
- ◆ Geetansh Goel – Vice President
- ◆ Emilie Lun Leung – Secretary
- ◆ Victor Hong – Treasurer

Education Society

- ◆ Arsian Akbar – President
- ◆ Tim Cikron-Tighe – Secretary
- ◆ Marshall McDonald – Treasurer

Enactus VU

- ◆ Pratibha Kalra – President
- ◆ Charvi Koul – Secretary
- ◆ Pakhi Bargale – Treasurer

Gamers Guild (VUGG)

- ◆ Sei Vella – President
- ◆ Charlotte Sebastian – Secretary
- ◆ Talia Chapman – Treasurer

Greek Society (VUGS)

- ◆ Yianni Lekkas – President
- ◆ Sophia Melemenis – Secretary
- ◆ Michael Vellianis – Treasurer

Indian Club (VUIC)

- ◆ Rajbeer Singh – President
- ◆ Pragati Sharma – Vice President
- ◆ Moksh Vardhan Singh Salria – Secretary
- ◆ Mehak Kaur – Treasurer

International Youth & Students for Social Equality (IYSSE VU)

- ◆ Angelina Sinnema – President
- ◆ Fernando Jose Silva – Secretary
- ◆ Zahra Omar Mohamed – Treasurer

Islamic Society Victoria Univeristy (ISVU)

- ◆ Salim Sheikh – President
- ◆ Max Soto – Secretary
- ◆ Mazin Ragab – Treasurer

Malaysian Student Association (VUMA)

- ◆ Apsar Kuthubtheen – President
- ◆ Nur Shazreena – Vice President
- ◆ Xin Jie Eeu – Secretary
- ◆ Chloe Chua – Treasurer

Midwifery Society (VUMS)

- ◆ Raychel Davis – President
- ◆ Trinette Lewis – Secretary
- ◆ Maddie Sutcliffe – Treasurer

Motorsport (VUM)

- ◆ Joseph Kingston – President
- ◆ Lachlan Woods – Secretary
- ◆ Maurice Lun Leung – Treasurer

Music Society (VUMS)

- ◆ Evni Sapugoda – President
- ◆ Blake Mohamed – Vice President
- ◆ Lexi Braun – Secretary
- ◆ Kyle Payne – Treasurer

Nutrition & Dietetics Society (VUNDS)

- ◆ Aya Kalassina – President
- ◆ Caitlin Addison – Secretary
- ◆ Francis Francis – Treasurer

Outdoor Adventure Club (VUOAC)

- ◆ Saman Bakhtawar – President
- ◆ KT Eam – Vice President
- ◆ Ethan Catlin – Secretary
- ◆ Remy Kenyon – Treasurer

Paramedic Society (VU SPA)

- ◆ Tori Stephens – President
- ◆ Josie Lee – Vice President
- ◆ Ben Greaves – Secretary
- ◆ David Sutton – Treasurer

Pasifika Islander Association (PIAVU)

- ◆ Vanessa Manuake – President
- ◆ Maggie Sand – Vice President
- ◆ Leah Bulu – Secretary
- ◆ Lewis Iwong – Treasurer

PlanetUNI (PUVU)

- ◆ Chris Vasilevski – President
- ◆ Kelly Purnawan – Secretary
- ◆ Steph Lai – Treasurer

Psychology Society (VUPS)

- ◆ Beaudan Shaw – President
- ◆ Lauren Vella – Secretary
- ◆ Zac van Peelen – Treasurer

Queer Collective (VUQC)

- ◆ Chandra Altoff – President
- ◆ Aspen Murphy – Secretary
- ◆ Eddie Staples – Treasurer

Student Nursing Association (VUSNA)

- ◆ Dave Schreurs – President
- ◆ Maddie Sutcliffe – Secretary
- ◆ Harshy Tirivedhi – Treasurer

Student Osteopathic Medicine Association (SOMA)

- ◆ Josh Meyer – President
- ◆ Alice Smith – Secretary
- ◆ Grace Dunstan – Treasurer

Women in STEM Excellence (WISE)

- ◆ Amy Wamunyu – President
- ◆ Nita Pandey – Secretary
- ◆ Olive Mboya – Treasurer

Women In Technology (WIT)

- ◆ Summer Xia – President
- ◆ Sakina Batool – Secretary
- ◆ Pauline Pagtama – Treasurer

VU Arabian Cultural Club

- ◆ Mohamed Sharaf – President
- ◆ Tima Khalaji – Secretary
- ◆ Debasish Chowdhruy – Treasurer

VU Speechies Society

- ◆ Ella Keough – President
- ◆ Hala Idres – Secretary
- ◆ Kaili Kim – Treasurer

VU International Affiars

- ◆ Sitashma Baniya – President
- ◆ Hoor Alagouz – Vice President
- ◆ Cha Wichaiphrom – Secretary
- ◆ Saman Bakhtawar – Treasurer

VU Sri Lankan Association

- ◆ Narmada Makewita – President
- ◆ Jayani Dinara Paththini Gedara Mudiyansele – Vice President
- ◆ Kesh Marasingha – Secretary
- ◆ Rishan Rasikeen – Treasurer

VU Mature Minds Club

- ◆ Sheanaz Lagrutta – President
- ◆ Janica de Clercq – Secretary
- ◆ Lily Chalmers – Treasurer

VU Premed Club

- ◆ Nafisa Hassan – President
- ◆ Joel Wu – Secretary
- ◆ Harmony Legamo – Treasurer

VU Matcha Club

- ◆ Kelly Purnawan – President
- ◆ Jiro Fontanilla – Secretary
- ◆ Graceline Supramono – Treasurer

Vietnamese Interclub of VU

- ◆ Dinh Pham – President
- ◆ Quan Duong – Vice President
- ◆ Victor Hong – Secretary
- ◆ Hai Pham – Treasurer

Early Childhood, Primary, and Secondary Education Collective

- ◆ Aysha Mohammed Yasser Arafat – President
- ◆ Pratibha Kalra – Secretary
- ◆ Nafisa Nafsi – Treasurer

VU Labor Club

- ◆ Vedant Gadhavi – President
- ◆ Divjot Singh – Secretary
- ◆ Geetansh Goel – Treasurer

VU Socialist Club

- ◆ Oskar Martin – President
- ◆ Amiriya Dorian – Secretary
- ◆ Beth Jackson – Treasurer

Students for Palestine VU

- ◆ Amiyira Dorian – President
- ◆ Beth Jackson – Secretary
- ◆ Tom Mitchell – Treasurer

VU Community Development Club

- ◆ Ciri Stanek – President
- ◆ Alex Mateevici – Secretary
- ◆ Isara Iose – Treasurer

VU Dance District

- ◆ Linh Bui – President
- ◆ Eveleen Wright – Secretary
- ◆ Ciri Stanek – Treasurer



Thank you to our judges

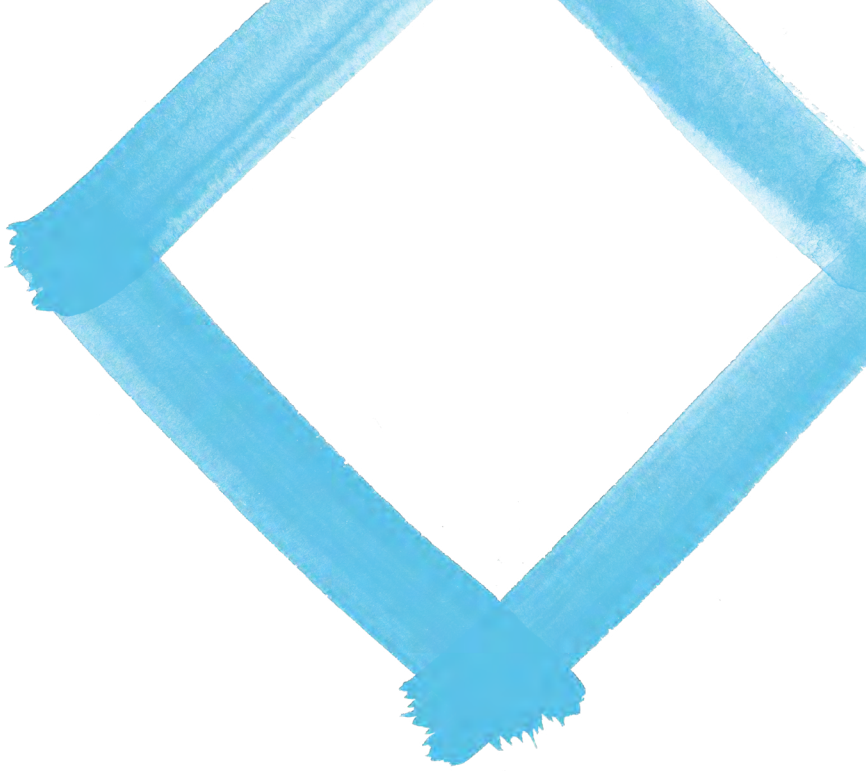


Student Award Judges

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ◆ Aaron Fitzgerald | ◆ Georgia Farquer | ◆ Ryan Dao |
| ◆ Annique Teycheney | ◆ Helen Tierney | ◆ Stacey Lynn |
| ◆ Arvind Sharma | ◆ Janine Kamleh | ◆ Stephanie Folau |
| ◆ Bert Oraison | ◆ Jessie Kuang | ◆ Tessa Benson |
| ◆ Elisse Baitz | ◆ John Weldon | ◆ Thinh Nguyen |
| ◆ Ellie Woods | ◆ Leigh Stewart | ◆ Tracey Cooper |
| ◆ Faith Tuncer | ◆ Nathan Byers | ◆ Trish Gray |
| ◆ Geentash Goel | ◆ Robert Bell | |

Alumni Award Judges

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ◆ Emily Bodey | ◆ Rob Strathdee | ◆ Maxwell Gratton |
| ◆ Emma Brimfield-Walsh | ◆ Symone Lambert | ◆ John Kon |
| ◆ Joi Parani | ◆ Lisa Line | ◆ Ken Matthews |
| | ◆ Patrice O'Brien | ◆ Daniel Wilson |



Thank you for joining us tonight!

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

vu.edu.au/student-leadership



Proudly brought to you by
Student Life – Victoria University