

LEADERSHIP

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

PROGRAM

17 November 2022

**SSAF
FUNDED**

Student
LIFE

 **VICTORIA UNIVERSITY**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Victoria University (VU) acknowledges the Ancestors, Elders and families of the Boonwurrung, Woiwurrung (Wurundjeri) and Wathaurung (Wadawurrung) on our Melbourne campuses, and the Gadigal and Guring-gai people of the Eora Nation on our Sydney campus. These groups are the custodians of University land and have been for many centuries.

We acknowledge that the land on which our campuses stand is the place of age-old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal. The Kulin and Eora people's living culture had, and has, a unique role in the life of these regions. VU supports the aim of Reconciliation Australia to build better relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for the benefit of all Australians.

It is important that staff, students and visitors understand and respect the significance of recognising the traditional owners of University land.



WELCOME

This evening we acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of the University's student leaders. Since 2010, the Student Leadership Awards have recognised outstanding contributions to VU and the broader community.

I congratulate all of tonight's finalists for their dedication to creating an inclusive and vibrant student experience. 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.

Tonight's celebration is made possible by the generous support of our 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.

Please join me in congratulating our student leaders and I hope you enjoy the evening.



Leon Kerr
Director
Student Services



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 2023 and beyond.

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

Special thanks to our sponsors:



**RAJ KANNAN
FAMILY**



**ALUMNI
RELATIONS**



**STUDENT LIFE
& LEADERSHIP**

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

START TIME	PROGRAM COMPONENT	PRESENTER
6.45 PM	Housekeeping	Kate Benesovsky (MC), Student Leader
	Acknowledgement of Country Official Welcome	Professor Adam Shoemaker, Vice Chancellor & President
	Moondani Balluk Aboriginal Student Award	Marcus Brooke, Aboriginal Student Support Officer
	VU Spirit Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ VU Spirit VU Polytechnic Student Award◆ VU Spirit International Student Award◆ VU Spirit Undergraduate Student Award◆ VU Spirit Postgraduate Award	Professor Peter Radoll, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, People & Organisation
	Individual Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Volunteer of the Year Award◆ Students as Staff Award Team Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Student Group of the Year 2022	Shannyn Cain, Manager, Student Life & Leadership
	Special Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ VU Protecting Country Award◆ 2022 Outstanding Student – Sponsored by Alumni Relations◆ Raj Kannan Leadership Scholarship	Sedef Ozen, 2021 Raj Kannan Leadership Scholarship recipient
8 PM	Thank You and Closing Remarks	Kate Benesovsky (MC), Student Leader



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: \$300

Recipient to be announced



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:

- ◆ Victoria University Polytechnic Student
- ◆ International Student
- ◆ Undergraduate Student
- ◆ Postgraduate Student

Sponsored by Student Life & Leadership.

Prize: \$300

Finalists

Victoria University Polytechnic Student

- ◆ Hayden Pearson, VU Polytechnic
- ◆ Melissa Leonard, VU Polytechnic
- ◆ Raquel Pantelic, VU Polytechnic
- ◆ Seda Seeley, VU Polytechnic

International Student

- ◆ Ash Lukman, Engineering & Science
- ◆ Dedy Kurniawan, Engineering & Science
- ◆ Farriz Roslan, Law & Justice
- ◆ Samath Gamlath, Engineering & Science
- ◆ Michael Tian, Arts & Education
- ◆ Xu He, Sport & Exercise Science

Undergraduate Student

- ◆ Farriz Roslan, Law & Justice
- ◆ Kate Benesovsky, Law & Justice
- ◆ Laura Ireland, Health & Biomedicine
- ◆ Sedef Ozen, Health & Biomedicine

Postgraduate Student

- ◆ Dedy Kurniawan, Engineering & Science
- ◆ Zohreh Rajabi, Engineering & Science

Volunteer of the Year Award

This award recognises the outstanding contribution of a current student to the VU and/or broader community through volunteering.

Sponsored by Student Life & Leadership.

Prize: \$300

Finalists

- ◆ **Devika Chaudhary**, Arts & Education
- ◆ **Dimitria Petkovic**, Engineering & Science
- ◆ **Mei Lole**, Law & Justice
- ◆ **Smit Makwana**, Engineering & Science

Students as Staff Award

This award recognises an outstanding Student as Staff (SaS) employee for their outstanding work performance or service to the University.

Sponsored by Student Life & Leadership.

Prize: \$300

Finalists

- ◆ **Ash Lukman**, Engineering & Science
- ◆ **Elijah Cristiano**, Arts & Education
- ◆ **Joshua Alexander Muir**, Health & Biomedicine
- ◆ **Kang Ren (Adam) Ng**, Arts & Education
- ◆ **Natasha Milner**, Arts & Education
- ◆ **Sedef Ozen**, Health & Biomedicine
- ◆ **Smit Makwana**, Engineering & Science

TEAM AWARDS

Student Group of the Year 2022

Established in 2018, the Student Group of the Year Award recognises outstanding Student Groups for their achievements and success in meeting their Student Group's mission.

Sponsored by Student Life & Leadership.

Prize: \$600

Finalists

Islamic Society of Victoria University (ISVU)

- ◆ Houda Mawas, President
- ◆ Dina Hamdi, Secretary
- ◆ Edrin Yusof, Design/Marketing Manager
- ◆ Mahad Ali, Treasurer
- ◆ Amal Imlahi, Vice President
- ◆ Ummama Khan, Musallah/Dawah Officer

Victoria University Psychology Society (VUPS)

- ◆ Shiva Foroutan, President
- ◆ Jessica Ritchie, Secretary
- ◆ Toby Silcock, Treasurer
- ◆ Shayla Nguyen, Vice President

VU Queer Collective

- ◆ Mickey Deppeler, President
- ◆ Brie Parker, Secretary
- ◆ Holly Gleeson Payne, Treasurer
- ◆ Alev Asilioglu, Vice President



SPECIAL AWARDS

VU Protecting Country Award

This award recognises an individual or group of current Victoria University students for a project in progress or completed during 2022 that seeks to protect and improve the health and wellbeing of our local and global communities, and/or the planet we share.

Prize: \$300 for an individual or \$600 for a team.

Recipient to be announced

2022 Outstanding Student

Sponsored by Alumni Relations

The VU Alumni community includes 270,000 graduates living and working in over 136 countries. If you are a graduate from VU, VU Polytechnic, 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 prize to help them kick start their professional wardrobe.

Sponsored by Alumni Relations.

Prize: \$500

Finalists

- ◆ **Aayushi Patel**, Law & Justice
- ◆ **Ash Lukman**, Engineering & Science
- ◆ **Farriz Roslan**, Law & Justice
- ◆ **Samath Gamlath**, Engineering & Science



Raj Kannan Leadership Scholarship

Mr Raj Kannan is one of Victoria University's distinguished 90 Legends. He graduated from Footscray Institute of Technology in 1988 with a Bachelor of Engineering. 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 Raj Kannan family.

Prize: \$5000

Finalists

- ◆ **Kate Benesovsky**, Law & Justice
- ◆ **Mei Lole**, Law & Justice
- ◆ **Smit Makwana**, Engineering & Science



**THANK
YOU**

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