

LEADERSHIP

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

PROGRAM

16 November 2023

**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

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 90 applications were received from VU Polytechnic, 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 2024 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
5.45PM	Canapés, networking and registration	
6.45PM	Housekeeping	Chandra Altoff (MC) Student Leader
	Acknowledgement of Country Official Welcome	Professor Adam Shoemaker Vice-Chancellor & President
	Moondani Balluk Aboriginal Student Award	Marcus Brooke Aboriginal Support Officer
	Individual Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Volunteer of the Year Award◆ Students as Staff Award 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 Student Award	Michelle Gillespie Chief Student Officer
	Team Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Best New Student Group◆ Best Student Group Promotion◆ Student Group of the Year 2023	Stephanie Folau Senior Student Engagement Officer (Clubs)
	Special Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ VU Protecting Country Award◆ 2023 Outstanding Student – Sponsored by Alumni Relations◆ Raj Kannan Leadership Scholarship	Kate Benesovsky Student Leader
8PM	Thank you & closing remarks	Chandra Altoff (MC) Student Leader
8.05PM	Networking & 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: \$300

Recipient to be announced

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

- ◆ **Raquel Pantelic** – VU Polytechnic
- ◆ **Mikki Lilley** – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ **Daria Gaidarenko** – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ **Elijah Cristiano** – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT

Students as Staff Award

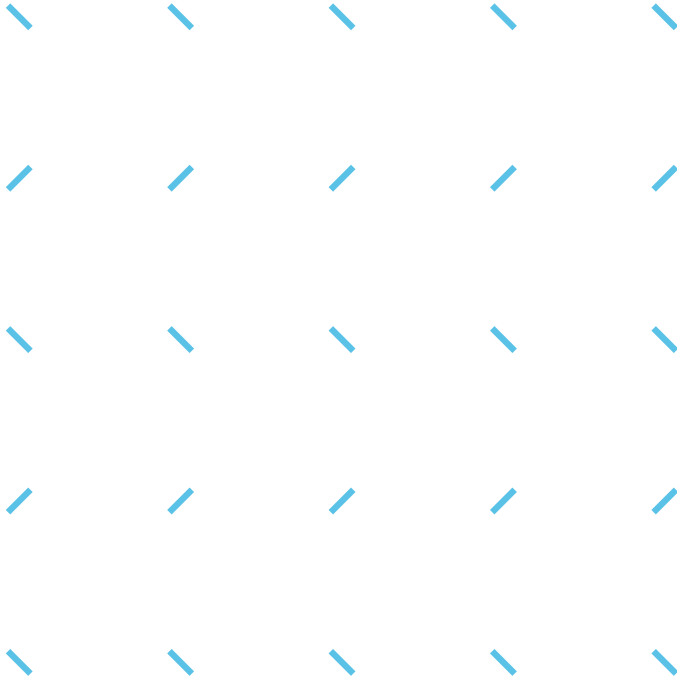
This award recognises an outstanding Student as Staff (SaS) employee for their outstanding work performance or service to the University.

Sponsored by Student Life & Leadership.

Prize: \$300

Finalists

- ◆ **Amin Eslami** – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ **Meredith Hunt** – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ **Smit Makwana** – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ **Shayla Nguyen** – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ **Elijah Cristiano** – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT



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

- ◆ Raquel Pantelic – VU Polytechnic
- ◆ Kelly Bolis – VU Polytechnic
- ◆ Emily Purvis – VU Polytechnic

International Student

- ◆ Joya Yadav – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ Sanskriti Kaul – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ Liana Gainutdinova – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ Adsheeya Vasakan – Sport, Health & Engineering

Undergraduate Student

- ◆ Ashlie Thorburn – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ Elijah Cristiano – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ Joya Yadav – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ Sanskriti Kaul – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ Shayla Nguyen – Sport, Health & Engineering

Postgraduate Student

- ◆ Zohreh Rajabi – VU Research
- ◆ Daria Gaidarenko – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ Prमितii Ranganathan – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ Adsheeya Vasakan – Sport, Health & Engineering

TEAM AWARDS

Best New Student Group

This award recognises the outstanding achievements of a Student Group that was established in 2023 and has benefited its members and the wider VU community.

Prize: \$600

Finalists

VU Student Nursing Association (VUSNA)

- ◆ Maddie Sutcliffe – President
- ◆ Jessica Charleston – Secretary
- ◆ Teaghan Wilton – Treasurer

Pasifika Islander Association

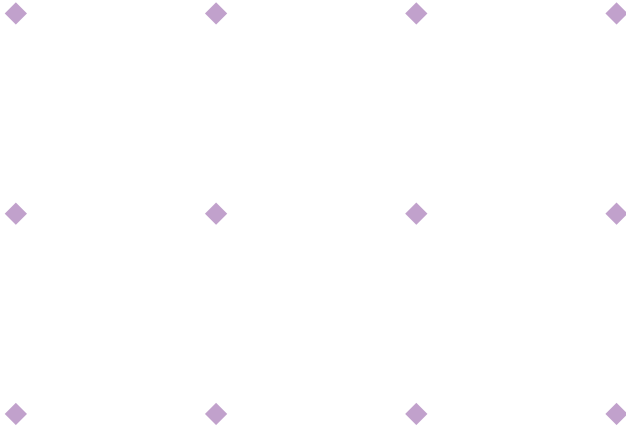
- ◆ Maggie Sand – President
- ◆ Naomi Fuimaono – Secretary
- ◆ Daisy Rose Sipiti – Treasurer

VU Speech Pathology Student Society (VUSPSS)

- ◆ Pram Ranganathan – President
- ◆ Michaela D'Abate – Secretary
- ◆ Hayley Genn – Treasurer

VU Outdoor Adventure Club (VUOAC)

- ◆ Alexander Stokes – President
- ◆ Xavier Stinziani – Secretary
- ◆ Steve Chandler – Treasurer
- ◆ Noah Anderson – Vice President
- ◆ Katja Hesse – Vice Secretary
- ◆ Poppy Llwellyn – Vice Treasurer
- ◆ Grace Braines –
Social Media Manager



Best Student Group Promotion

This Award recognises the most creative and successful Student Group promotional activity in 2023.

Prize: \$200

Finalists

VU Student Nursing Association (VUSNA)

- ◆ **Maddie Sutcliffe** – President
- ◆ **Jessica Charleston** – Secretary
- ◆ **Teaghan Wilton** – Treasurer

Pasifika Islander Association

- ◆ **Maggie Sand** – President
- ◆ **Naomi Fuimaono** – Secretary
- ◆ **Daisy Rose Sipiti** – Treasurer

Finalists continued

EnactusVU

- ◆ **Nardo Wai** – President
- ◆ **Lucinda Moje** – Secretary
- ◆ **Sharad Gopal Shrestha** – Treasurer
- ◆ **Elijah Cristiano** – Vice President
- ◆ **Smit Makwana** – Social Media Officer
- ◆ **Daniel Jaap** – Plastic Solution Project Director
- ◆ **Amin Eslami** – ESPRIT Project Leader
- ◆ **Janna Porras** – Pulp n’ Paper Project Leader
- ◆ **Andre Lobo** – REGEN Project Leader
- ◆ **Lily Sav** – Marketing Officer

VU Outdoor Adventure Club (VUOAC)

- ◆ **Alexander Stokes** – President
- ◆ **Xavier Stinziani** – Secretary
- ◆ **Steve Chandler** – Treasurer
- ◆ **Noah Anderson** – Vice President
- ◆ **Katja Hesse** – Vice Secretary
- ◆ **Poppy Llwellyn** – Vice Treasurer
- ◆ **Grace Braines** – Social Media Manager



Student Group of the Year 2023

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

VU Student Nursing Association (VUSNA)

- ◆ **Maddie Sutcliffe** – President
- ◆ **Jessica Charleston** – Secretary
- ◆ **Teaghan Wilton** – Treasurer

VU Postgraduate Association (VUPA)

- ◆ **Karena Punj** – President & Treasurer
- ◆ **Anitta Yathortou** – Vice President Coursework
- ◆ **Meixia Xu** – Vice President Research
- ◆ **Annemarie Agborchi** – Secretary
- ◆ **Ghazia Ali** – Equity Officer
- ◆ **Catherine Chen** – Events & Social Meida

Finalists continued

EnactusVU

- ◆ **Nardo Wai** – President
- ◆ **Lucinda Moje** – Secretary
- ◆ **Sharad Gopal Shrestha** – Treasurer
- ◆ **Elijah Cristiano** – Vice President
- ◆ **Smit Makwana** – Social Media Officer
- ◆ **Daniel Jaap** – Plastic Solution Project Director
- ◆ **Amin Eslami** – ESPRIT Project Leader
- ◆ **Janna Porras** – Pulp n’ Paper Project Leader
- ◆ **Andre Lobo** – REGEN Project Leader
- ◆ **Lily Sav** – Marketing Officer

VU Outdoor Adventure Club (VUOAC)

- ◆ **Alexander Stokes** – President
- ◆ **Xavier Stinziani** – Secretary
- ◆ **Steve Chandler** – Treasurer
- ◆ **Noah Anderson** – Vice President
- ◆ **Katja Hesse** – Vice Secretary
- ◆ **Poppy Llwellyn** – Vice Treasurer
- ◆ **Grace Braines** – Social Media Manager

WISE (Women in STEM Excellence)

- ◆ **Zohreh Rajabi** – President
- ◆ **Gagan Sharma** – Secretary
- ◆ **Rebecca Xiong** – Treasurer

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 2023 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



2023 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

- ◆ **Mikki Lilley** – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ **Smit Makwana** – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ **Shayla Nguyen** – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ **Elijah Cristiano** – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT

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 the Raj Kannan family.

Prize: \$5000

Finalists

- ◆ **Amin Eslami** – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ **Benjamin Peters** – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ **Chandra Altoff** – Sport, Health & Engineering
- ◆ **Joya Yadav** – Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT
- ◆ **Kirstyn Eadie** – Sport, Health & Engineering



TOP VOLLIES

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

Vollies	Hours
◆ Dimi Petkovic	180+
◆ Nix Pinferi	80+
◆ Victor Hong	80+
◆ Thanawat Nguyen	80+
◆ Liana Gainutdinova	70+
◆ Leah Bulu	60+
◆ Nhan Nguyen	60+
◆ Anthony Esperanza	60+
◆ Prabh Kaur	60+

2023 CLUB EXECES

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

VU Midwifery Society (VUMS)

- ◆ Hannan McLellan – President
- ◆ Riana Popczyk – Secretary
- ◆ Monika Nieves – Treasurer

VU Motorsport (VUM)

- ◆ Denver Gomez – President
- ◆ Ella Reade – Secretary
- ◆ Ewan Grierson – Treasurer
- ◆ Tom Griffiths – Vice President

International Youth & Students for Social Equality (IYSSE)

- ◆ Jason Wardle – President
- ◆ Sahr Andrews – Secretary
- ◆ Patrick O'Connor – Treasurer

Australian Christian Fellowship (ACF)

- ◆ Maw Ro Pohser – President
- ◆ Jessica Kitevski – Secretary
- ◆ Puti Xu Xu – Treasurer

EnactusVU

- ◆ Nardo Wai – President
- ◆ Lucinda Moje – Secretary
- ◆ Sharad Gopal Shrestha – Treasurer
- ◆ Elijah Cristiano – Vice President
- ◆ Smit Makwana –
Social Media Officer

VU Physiotherapy Association (VU PA)

- ◆ Jack Riddle – President
- ◆ Simrah Sharma – Secretary
- ◆ Ally Gray – Treasurer

Islamic Society of Victoria University (ISVU)

- ◆ Mazin Ragab – President
- ◆ Sumairah Mohamed Siraj –
Secretary
- ◆ Mahad Ali – Treasurer
- ◆ Houda Mawas – Vice President
- ◆ Wajiha Tabassum –
Social Media Officer
- ◆ Bello Bello – Da’awa Officer
- ◆ Syma Rani – Da’awa Officer
- ◆ Abdullah Arshad – Musalah Officer
- ◆ Marha Salleh – Musalah Officer
- ◆ Sema Abdul Kader – Events Director

Planet UNI

- ◆ Celine Leong – President
- ◆ Clarisa Wiggins – Secretary
- ◆ Fei Fiona – Treasurer

VU Queer Collective

- ◆ Atlas Bailey – President
- ◆ Elijah Cristiano – Secretary
- ◆ Fox Bail – Treasurer
- ◆ Oscar Donahue – Vice President

VU Student Osteopath Members Association (VU SOMA)

- ◆ Al Smith – President
- ◆ Matt O’Connor – Secretary
- ◆ Jesse Wiedemann – Treasurer

Women in Science and Engineering (WISE)

- ◆ Zohreh Rajabi – President
- ◆ Gagan Sharma – Secretary
- ◆ Rebecca Xiong – Treasurer

VU Indian Club (VUIC)

- ◆ Riya Sharma – President
- ◆ Sanskriti Kaul – Secretary
- ◆ Noor Kaur – Treasurer
- ◆ Tisha Parmar – Activities Officer
- ◆ Arya Baddam – Social Media Officer

Pasifika Island Association VU

- ◆ Maggie Sand – President
- ◆ Naomi Fuimaono – Secretary
- ◆ Daisy Rose Sipiti – Treasurer

VU Outdoor Adventure Club (VUOAC)

- ◆ Alexander Stokes – President
- ◆ Xavier Stinziani – Secretary
- ◆ Steve Chandler – Treasurer
- ◆ Noah Anderson – Vice President
- ◆ Katja Hesse – Vice Secretary
- ◆ Poppy Llwellyn – Vice Treasurer
- ◆ Grace Braines –
Social Media Manager

Built Environment Student Society (BESS)

- ◆ Lauren Unger – President
- ◆ Ashuza Mulashe – Secretary
- ◆ Kaleb Bartlett – Treasurer

VU Arts and Crafters Society (VUACS)

- ◆ Adam Friend – President
- ◆ Jenni Lianto – Secretary
- ◆ Elena Setiawan – Treasurer

VU Student Nursing Association

- ◆ Maddie Sutcliffe – President
- ◆ Jessica Charleston – Secretary
- ◆ Teaghan Wilton – Treasurer

VU Music Society

- ◆ Mary Stoicevska – President
- ◆ Lexi Braun – Secretary
- ◆ Kyle Payne – Treasurer

VU Speech Pathology Student Society (VUSPSS)

- ◆ Pram Ranganathan – President
- ◆ Michaela D'Abate – Secretary
- ◆ Maximillian McCamish – Treasurer

VU Education Society (VUEdSoc)

- ◆ Roscher Borom – President
- ◆ Trieu Dinh – Secretary
- ◆ Devika Chaudhary – Treasurer

VU Film and Screen Media Society (VUFMS)

- ◆ Eliana Jones – President
- ◆ Emilia Hanuska – Secretary
- ◆ Louise Hall – Treasurer
- ◆ Daniel Stalker –
Social Media Manager

VU Games Club

- ◆ Quan Duong – President
- ◆ Serena Penaia – Secretary
- ◆ Dimitria Petkovic – Treasurer
- ◆ Poppy Llwellyn – Vice-President
- ◆ Destiny Baldry –
Social Media Manager

VU Yoga Club

- ◆ Em McEniery – President
- ◆ Joya Yadav – Secretary
- ◆ Prabh Kaur – Treasurer
- ◆ Ali Naqvi – General Committee

VU Psychology Society

- ◆ Claire Ho – President
- ◆ Renae McElligott – Secretary
- ◆ Tuan Nguyen – Treasurer
- ◆ Amiera Al Sidek –
General Committee
- ◆ Chakshu Pudaruth –
General Committee

VU Rocketry Club

- ◆ Mac Granger – President
- ◆ Christiaan van der Craats –
Secretary
- ◆ Simeran Singh – Treasurer

THANK YOU TO OUR JUDGES

- ◆ **Aaron Fitzgerald** – Alumni, CEO Grill'd International
- ◆ **Annique Teycheney** – Careers Consultant, VU Employ
- ◆ **Bert Oraison** – Deputy Associate Dean Learning & Teaching (First Year College)
- ◆ **Brandy Cochrane** – Senior Chair, VU Pride Network
- ◆ **Breanne Elliott** – Team Leader, Student Advising, Service Centres & Student Advisory
- ◆ **Dincer Hasimoglu** – Designer, Student Communications
- ◆ **Emma Scott** – Associate Director, Event Services
- ◆ **Farriz Roslan** – Alumni, Student Advisor
- ◆ **Heather Marsh** – Senior Co-ordinator Inclusion & Engagement
- ◆ **Helen Tierney** – Raj Kannan family
- ◆ **Jaxon Benjamin** – Learning Hub Coordinator, Learning Hubs (City)
- ◆ **Jessica Harrington** – Community Engagement Coordinator, VU Sport
- ◆ **Kate Benesovsky** – 2023 Raj Kannan Leadership Scholarship recipient
- ◆ **Lesley Birch** – Manager, Researcher Professional Development
- ◆ **Loandy Jourdan** – Peer Mentoring, Training & Development Officer
- ◆ **Madeline Christofides** – Coordinator, Student Engagement & Events
- ◆ **Nick Carbonari** – Coordinator, Student Communication Campaigns

- ◆ **Rhiannon Madden** – Aboriginal Student Officer
- ◆ **Rob Worrell** – Student Mentor Program Co-ordinator
- ◆ **Rone Kaos** – Senior Enrolments Officer, Enrolments, Progress & Completions
- ◆ **Ryan Dao** – Student Engagement Officer, Vollies
- ◆ **Scott Murray** – Senior Manager, Employability & Success
- ◆ **Stacy Lynn** – Senior Development Coordinator Major Gifts, Advancement
- ◆ **Starr Reyes** – Alumni Relations Co-ordinator
- ◆ **Stephanie Folau** – Senior Student Engagement Officer, Clubs
- ◆ **Steve Gauci** – Executive Officer, Executive Services
- ◆ **Tessa Benson** – Manager, Service Centres & Student Advisory
- ◆ **Thinh Nguyen** – Associate Professor, First Year College
- ◆ **Tony Jovanovski** – Senior Counsellor, Student Wellbeing
- ◆ **Yvette Peterson** – Associate Director, Alumni & Development

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



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Student Life – Victoria University