

LEADERSHIP

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

PROGRAM

**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 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 2021.

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

Special thanks to our sponsors:



**STUDENT LIFE
& LEADERSHIP**



**ALUMNI
RELATIONS**



**RAJ KANNAN
FAMILY**

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

START TIME	PROGRAM COMPONENT	PRESENTER
6:00 PM	Welcome	Will Penrose (MC) , 2020 Outgoing VU Student Union President
	Acknowledgement of Country	Karen Jackson , Associate Provost Indigenous (Interim)
	Official Welcome	Peter Dawkins , Vice Chancellor & President
	Introduction	Naomi Dempsey , Acting Deputy Provost Academic and Students (Interim) & Associate Provost Students
8:05 PM	Moondani Balluk Aboriginal Student Award	Karen Jackson , Associate Provost Indigenous (Interim)
	Individual Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student as Staff• VU Spirit Awards:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- International Student- Undergraduate Student- Postgraduate Student- Victoria University Polytechnic Student• Volunteer of the Year	Naomi Dempsey , Acting Deputy Provost Academic and Students (Interim) & Associate Provost Students
	Team Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Best Club Promotion 2020• Best New Club 2020• Club of the Year 2020	Leon Kerr , Director Student Services
	Special Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VU Innovation• 2020 Outstanding Student – Presented by Alumni Relations	Gaye Hamilton , Chancellor
8:10 PM	Raj Kannan Leadership Scholarship	Mr. Raj Kannan
	Thank You and Closing Remarks	Naomi Dempsey , Acting Deputy Provost Academic and Students (Interim) & Associate Provost Students
8:10 PM	Event concludes	

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

Student 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

- ◆ Alana Richardson, College of Sport & Exercise Science
- ◆ Alice Growden, College of Law & Justice
- ◆ Cynthia Thomaz, VU Business School
- ◆ Zamira Rahman, College of Law & Justice

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 Award:

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

Sponsored by Student Life & Leadership.

Prize: \$300

Finalists

International Student

- ◆ **Ashfaq Lukman**, College of Engineering & Science
- ◆ **Chau Tran**, College of Engineering & Science
- ◆ **Cynthia Thomaz**, VU Business School
- ◆ **Toolsika Rawoah**, College of Arts & Education
- ◆ **Vishwa Mehta**, VU Business School
- ◆ **Zamira Rahman**, College of Law & Justice

Undergraduate Student

- ◆ **Aayushi Patel**, College of Law & Justice
- ◆ **Ashfaq Lukman**, College of Engineering & Science
- ◆ **Chau Tran**, College of Engineering & Science
- ◆ **Emma Lees**, College of Arts & Education
- ◆ **Mohammed Parvees**, College of Engineering & Science

Postgraduate Student

- ◆ **Shanie Landen**, College of Sport & Exercise Science
- ◆ **Vishwa Mehta**, VU Business School

Victoria University Polytechnic Student

- ◆ **Andrew Leniart**, Certificate IV in Professional Writing & Editing

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:

- ◆ Ashfaq Lukman, College of Engineering & Science
- ◆ Lauren McCormack, College of Arts & Education
- ◆ Thelma Gouveia do Nascimento, College of Health & Biomedicine
- ◆ Toolsika Rawoah, College of Arts & Education



TEAM AWARDS

Best New Club 2020

Established in 2018, the Best New Club award recognises the outstanding achievements of a Student Group that was established this year and has benefited its members and the wider VU community.

Sponsored by Student Life & Leadership.

Prize: \$600

Finalists:

VU Multicultural Club

- ◆ Clarissa Teixeira do Nascimento
- ◆ Cynthia Caroline Thomaz
- ◆ Etevise Moananu
- ◆ Ruby Mae Baker
- ◆ Thelma Gouveia do Nascimento
- ◆ Vishwa Mehta

VU Psychology Society

- ◆ Gabriel de Sena Collier
- ◆ Maxim Zervos
- ◆ Rachel Sherlock
- ◆ Sheri Applebee
- ◆ Thong Thai Diep Tran

VU STEM Club

- ◆ Cedar Blazely
- ◆ Fawmi Chaminda Jayakumara
- ◆ Isabella Davis-Allen
- ◆ Kimleng Lay
- ◆ Maryam Al Hadhrami
- ◆ Mevan Fernando
- ◆ My-linh Bolin
- ◆ Rekha Nair
- ◆ Sreng Malis Ou

Best Club Promotion 2020

Established in 2019, the Best Club Promotion Award recognises the most creative and successful Student Group promotional activity.

Sponsored by Student Life & Leadership.

Prize: \$200

Finalists:

VU Auslan Society

- ◆ Cassandra Augello
- ◆ Emma Lees
- ◆ Te Rata Williams
- ◆ Thelma Gouveia do Nascimento

VU STEM Club

- ◆ Cedar Blazely
- ◆ Fawmi Chaminda Jayakumara
- ◆ Isabella Davis-Allen
- ◆ Kimleng Lay
- ◆ Maryam Al Hadhrami
- ◆ Mevan Fernando
- ◆ My-linh Bolin
- ◆ Rekha Nair
- ◆ Sreng Malis Ou

Club of the Year 2020

Established in 2018, the Club of the Year Award recognises outstanding student groups for their achievements and success in meeting their Clubs mission.

Sponsored by Student Life & Leadership.

Prize: \$600

Finalists:

VU Auslan Society

- ◆ Cassandra Augello
- ◆ Emma Lees
- ◆ Te Rata Williams
- ◆ Thelma Gouveia do Nascimento

VU STEM Club

- ◆ Cedar Blazely
- ◆ Fawmi Chaminda Jayakumara
- ◆ Isabella Davis-Allen
- ◆ Kimleng Lay
- ◆ Maryam Al Hadhrami
- ◆ Mevan Fernando
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VU Multicultural Club

- ◆ Clarissa Teixeira do Nascimento
- ◆ Cynthia Caroline Thomaz
- ◆ Etevisse Moananu
- ◆ Ruby Mae Baker
- ◆ Thelma Gouveia do Nascimento
- ◆ Vishwa Mehta

SPECIAL AWARDS

VU Innovation Award

This award recognises an individual or group of current students for their innovative contribution to the VU community.

Sponsored by Student Life & Leadership.

Prize: \$300 (individual), \$600 (team)

Finalists:

Global Guide Program

- ◆ Imogen Hair

Plastics Solutions Project

- ◆ Aisha Elkhier
- ◆ Andrea Hempshall
- ◆ Bryce Cochrane
- ◆ Daniel Jaap
- ◆ Frankie Stagno
- ◆ Grady Bergan
- ◆ Sarah Arrowsmith
- ◆ Sarah Plant
- ◆ Sipass Khan
- ◆ Tyson Lock

Stem Sisters

- ◆ Neelam Yadav
- ◆ Pooja Ganger
- ◆ Ruwangi Fernando
- ◆ Sudha Subramani

VU Space School

- ◆ Ali Haider Ebadullah Saleh
- ◆ Mohammed Parvees
- ◆ Nardo Wai
- ◆ Shanith Sayakkarage

2020 Outstanding Student Presented by Alumni Relations

The VU Alumni community includes 254,000 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: \$300

Finalists:

- ◆ **Arnab Ghosh Roy**, College of Law & Justice
- ◆ **Candice Chalmers**, College of Arts & Education
- ◆ **Janhavi Mistry**, College of Health & Biomedicine
- ◆ **Marina Witedja**, College of Arts & Education

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:

- ◆ **Aayushi Patel**, College of Law & Justice
- ◆ **Temi Oladiji**, College of Law & Justice
- ◆ **Thelma Gouveia do Nascimento**, College of Health & Biomedicine
- ◆ **Toolsika Rawoah**, College of Arts & Education





**THANK
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