

**VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY**

UNIQUELY
YOU



VU Student Excellence Awards

20 May 2026

Acknowledgement of Country

Victoria University (VU) acknowledges the Elders, families and forebearers of the Boonwurrung, Woiwurrung (Wurundjeri) and Wathaurung (Wadawurrung) who are the custodians of University land and have been for many centuries.

We acknowledge that the land on which we stand is the place of age-old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal, and that the Kulin people's living culture had, and has, a unique role in the life of this region. 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.



A message from the Vice-Chancellor and President

My personal congratulations to all of the 2026
Victoria University (VU) Student Excellence Award recipients.

You have worked incredibly hard, and this Award recognises
your outstanding achievements. It signifies your resilience,
determination, and resourcefulness – and how you have
excelled during your VU journey.

I am deeply proud of your commitment to your studies
and the important contributions you have made to the
VU community, and you should be equally proud to be
recognised by your Colleges.

Our dedicated staff have supported your success along the
way. They are innovative in their practice, leaders in their
disciplines, and play a crucial role in guiding you through
university towards career success.

You are the next generation of thinkers, leaders and
entrepreneurs – and this Award highlights all the wonderful
places you will go.

Congratulations to each of you for receiving a
2026 VU Student Excellence Award.

Well done!

Adam



Professor Adam Shoemaker

VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT
BAHonsQU(Canada), PhDANU



Order of Proceedings

Time	Program Component
6:00pm	Canapés, Networking & Registration
6:45pm	Official Welcome Acknowledgement of Country Beverley O'Connor (Master of Ceremony)
6:50pm	Vice-Chancellor's Welcome Professor Adam Shoemaker
6:55pm	Presentation Industry and Partner Awards (including the Booth Medal) <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Teaching, learning and education◆ Health, Nursing and Allied Health◆ Law & Justice◆ Business, Information Technology and Data◆ Science and Engineering◆ Booth Medal In Memoriam Awards Distinction Awards Award Recipient Speeches
8:30pm	Close of Formal Proceedings Canapés & Networking
9:30pm	Event Concludes



Industry and Partner Awards



Teaching, learning and education

- ◆ Award for Outstanding Graduate in Early Childhood Teaching

Cassie Jay Bonney

- ◆ Award for Outstanding Graduate in the Early Childhood Education Discipline

Iyanthi Wijayachandra

- ◆ Award for Outstanding Graduate in Education Studies

Belinda Gail Fairleigh

- ◆ The Michael Hamerston Award for Outstanding Preservice Teacher in English Pedagogy in the Master of Teaching (Secondary Education Victorian Association for the Teaching of English

Ryan Downey

- ◆ History Teachers' Association of Victoria (HTAV) Award

Manh Phuc Doan

- ◆ The Amirah Inglis Award for Outstanding European History Student

Roseline Buenaventura

- ◆ Bank First Award for Outstanding Student in Year One - Bachelor of Education (P-12)

Jessica Riches

- ◆ Bank First Award for Outstanding Student in Year Two - Bachelor of Education (P-12)

Kumi Kushizaki

- ◆ Bank First Award for Outstanding Student in Year Three - Bachelor of Education (P-12)

Harrison Beer

- ◆ Bank First Award for Outstanding Student in Year Four - Bachelor of Education (P-12)

Joskun Celebioglu

- ◆ Bank First Award for Outstanding Achievement in Pursuing Education Career Pathways

Sihasma Viraji Mudalige

Health, Nursing and Allied Health

- ◆ Laerdal Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in Nursing and Midwifery

Kirstyn Eadie

- ◆ Bank First Award for Outstanding Student in Year One - Bachelor of Midwifery / Bachelor of Nursing

Natalie Delmonte

- ◆ Bank First Award for Outstanding Student in Year Two - Bachelor of Midwifery / Bachelor of Nursing

Speed Snyman

- ◆ Bank First Award for Outstanding Student in Year Three - Bachelor of Midwifery / Bachelor of Nursing

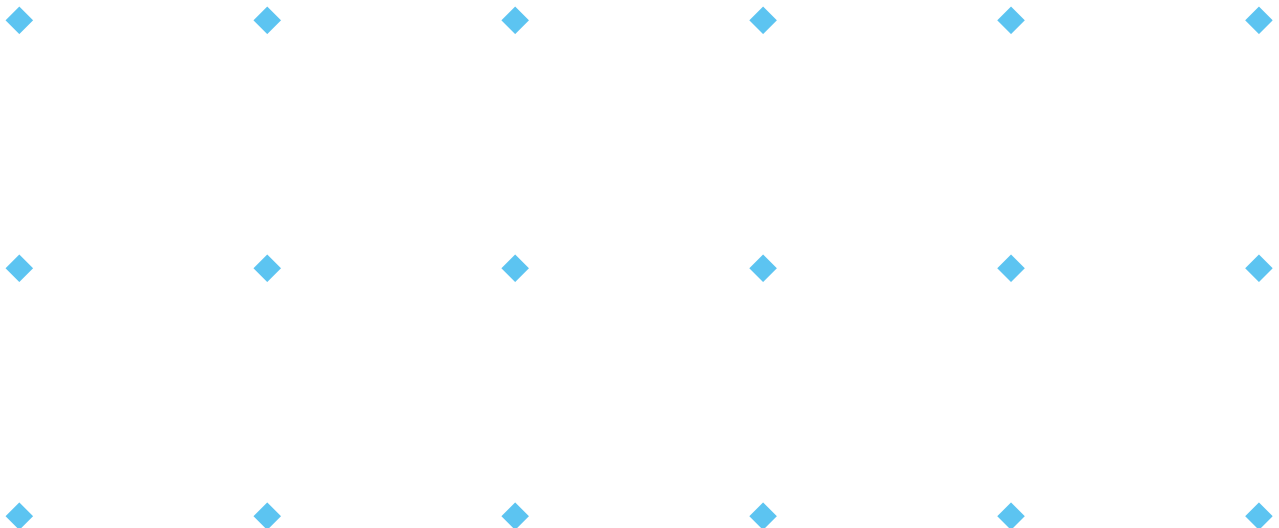
Hue Wah So

- ◆ Osteopathy Australia Award for Outstanding Bachelor Graduate in Osteopathy

Lamees Bou Karroum

- ◆ Osteopathy Australia Award for Outstanding Master Graduate in Osteopathy

Laura Goodridge



Creative Industries and Community Impact

- ◆ Award for Outstanding Graduate in Arts

Michelle Saffin

- ◆ Award for Outstanding Graduate in Music

Norah Anastasia Ziino

- ◆ Blackmagic Design Award for Outstanding Graduate in Screen Media

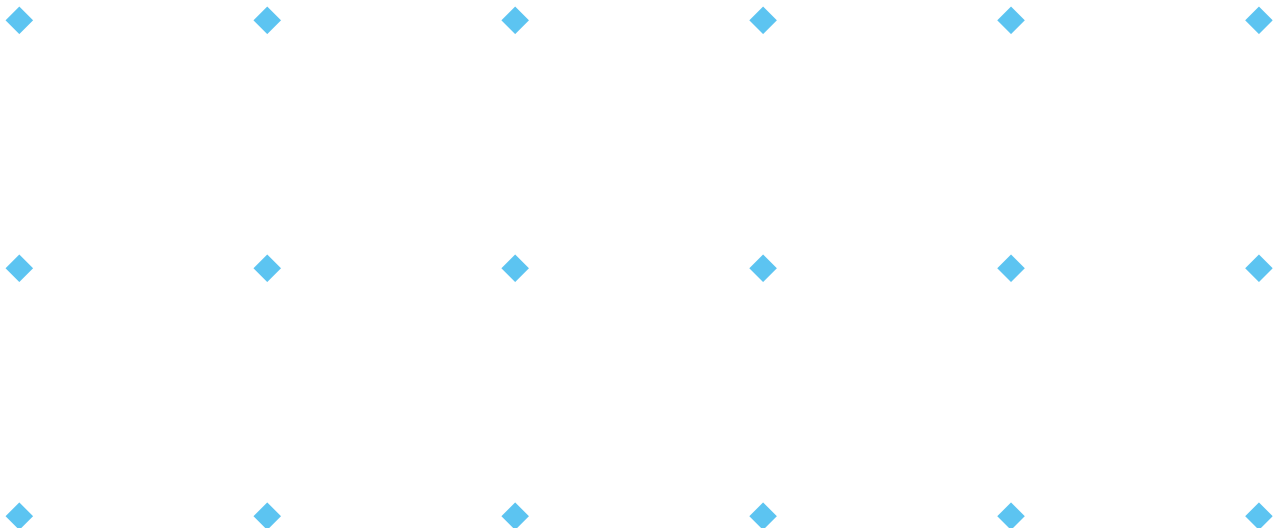
Alanna Etienne

- ◆ Award for Outstanding Graduate in Community Development

Patrick Psaila

- ◆ Award for Outstanding Graduate in the Youth Work Discipline

Sia Viraji Keane



Business

- ◆ SAP Award for Outstanding Student in Enterprise Resource Planning

Priyanka Bansal

- ◆ Australian HR Institute Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Human Resource Management

Mithma Fonseka

- ◆ Belgravia Leisure Award for Outstanding Student in Sport Management

Aryan Gujral

- ◆ Belgravia Leisure Award for Outstanding Student in Career Development

Madison Grace Rowe

- ◆ The Rumpf Award for Outstanding Student in Bachelor of Business (Management)

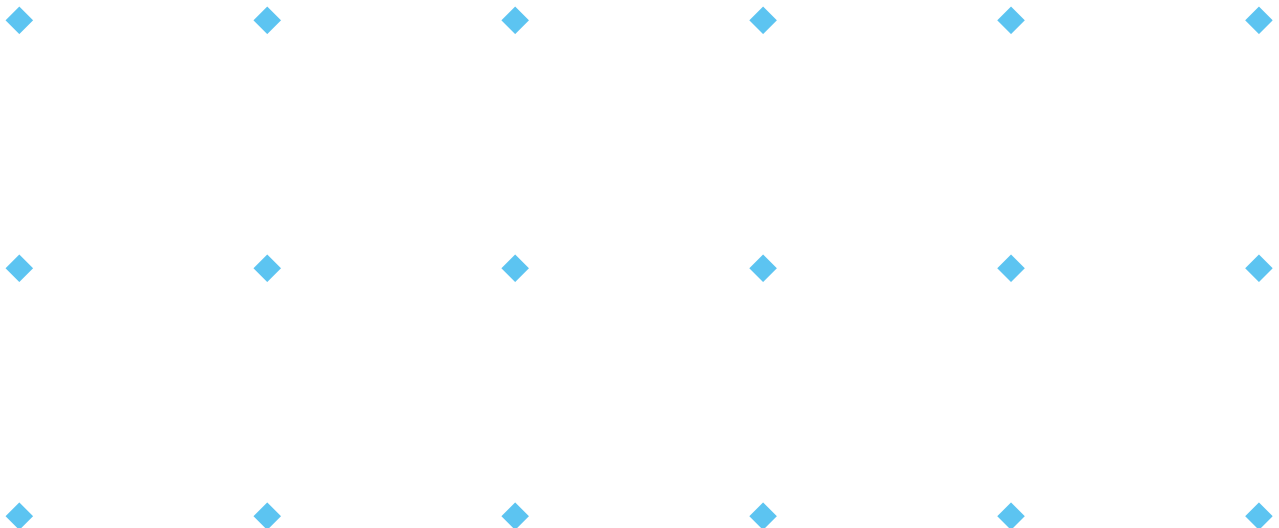
Marcellia Veronika Jonathan

- ◆ The Rumpf Award for Outstanding Postgraduate Student in Master of Business, Management Course

Yassmina Chalkhani

- ◆ Institute of Managers and Leaders Award for Outstanding Student in Master of Business Administration

I Putu Yoga Asmara



Information Technology and Data

- ◆ Westpac Enterprise Platform Engineering Futures Prize

Jingyu Li

- ◆ Australian Computer Society Award for Outstanding Graduate in Information Technology Bachelor of Information Technology (Professional) (NBIP)

Michelle Nguyen

- ◆ Australian Computer Society Award for Outstanding Graduate in Information Technology Bachelor of Information Technology (NBIT) - Web and Mobile Application Development Major (NMAWMD)

Tsz Leung

- ◆ Australian Computer Society Award for Outstanding Graduate in Information Technology Bachelor of Information Technology (NBIT) - Network and System Computing Major (NMANSC)

Lujin Saad S Alghamdi

- ◆ Australian Computer Society Award for Outstanding Graduate in Information Technology Bachelor of Cyber Security (NBCS)

Joeben Buena

- ◆ Australian Computer Society Award for Outstanding Graduate in Information Technology Bachelor of Data Science (NBDS)

Emilie Lun Leung

- ◆ Australian Computer Society Award for Outstanding Graduate in Information Technology Master of Applied Information Technology (NMIT)

Julia Xu



Science and Engineering

- ◆ Chadwick Geotechnics Award for Outstanding Student in Geotechnical Engineering

Leah Baeau Theresa Bell

- ◆ The Footscray Technical College Engineering Graduates of 1959-60 Engineering Award for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Rishik Tiwari

- ◆ Steel Reinforcement Institute of Australia Award for Outstanding Student in Structures Units

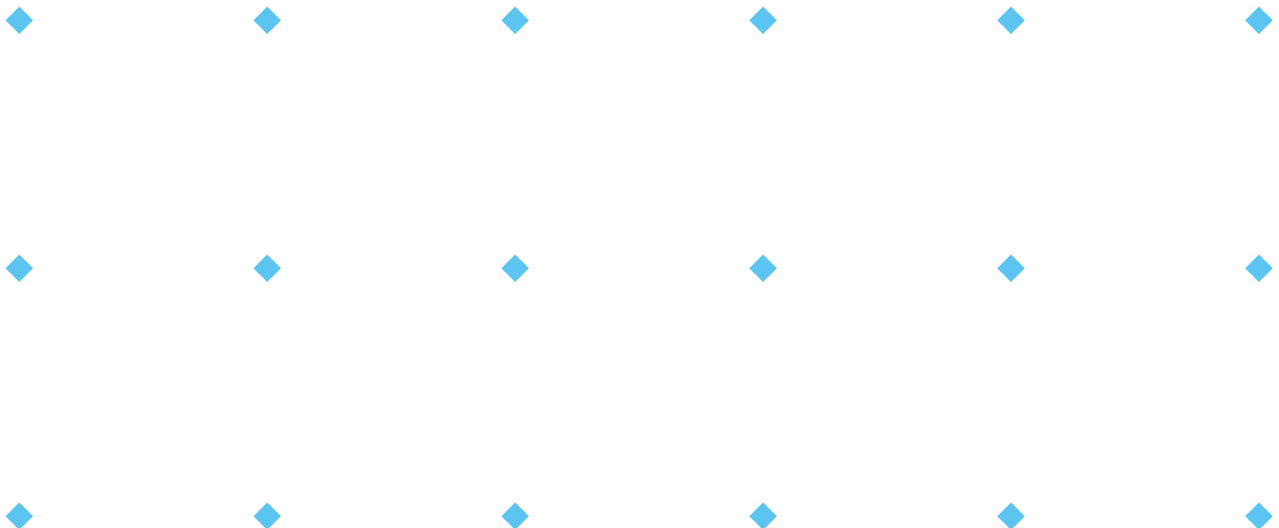
Danica Todorovic

- ◆ Australian Steel Institute Undergraduate Steel Design Award

Taran Singh

- ◆ Victoria Investments & Properties Award for Outstanding 2nd Year Student in the Bachelor of Science

Arashdeep Kaur



Law & Justice

- ◆ Thomson-Reuters Program Citation for Outstanding Student in Civil Procedure

Kaitlyn Louise Vogel

- ◆ Thomson-Reuters Program Citation for Outstanding Student in Privacy & Media Law

Adna Subasic

- ◆ Thomson-Reuters Program Citation for Outstanding Student in Corporations Law

Kira Lucas

- ◆ Thomson-Reuters Program Citation for Outstanding Student in Family Law in Society

Weiqian Wang

- ◆ Award for Outstanding Student in Migration Law

Sophia Mansoor Khan

- ◆ Award for Outstanding Graduate in the Criminal Justice Discipline

Deakin Joseph Mikesic

- ◆ College of Law Award for Outstanding Student in Laws

Trilby Oakes

- ◆ Marco Man and Associates Award for Outstanding Student in Bachelor of Legal Services

Dajana Krsteska

- ◆ Leo Cussen Centre for Law Award for Outstanding Honours Student

Tania Ziino

- ◆ Law Institute of Victoria Award for Ethics and Professional Integrity

Siobhan Daly

- ◆ African Australia Legal Network Award

Esset Kahsay

- ◆ Moondani Balluk Award for Outstanding Indigenous Student

Lili Louise Neenan

Law & Justice

◆ The Booth Medal

Michaela Egan

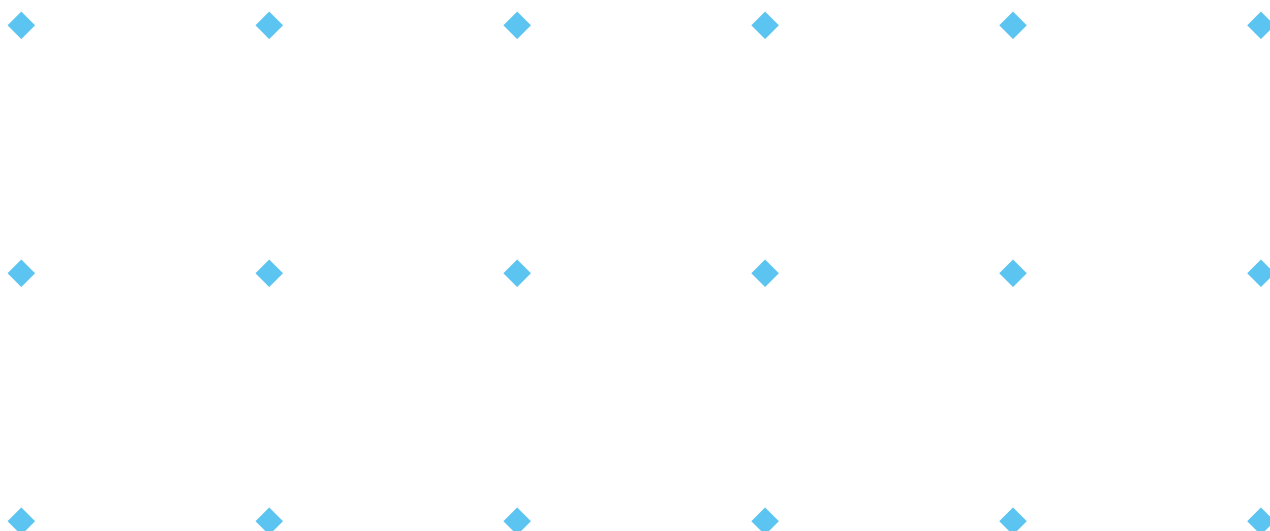
The Booth Medal recognises an outstanding first-year student in the Bachelor of Laws.

Established more than two decades ago by Victoria University alumnus Paul Booth, the medal was created to acknowledge his family, particularly his father, Professor David Booth, who dedicated much of his academic career to Victoria University and its predecessor institutions.

Professor Booth spent 27 years in the higher education sector at VU, serving in roles from Lecturer through to Professor.

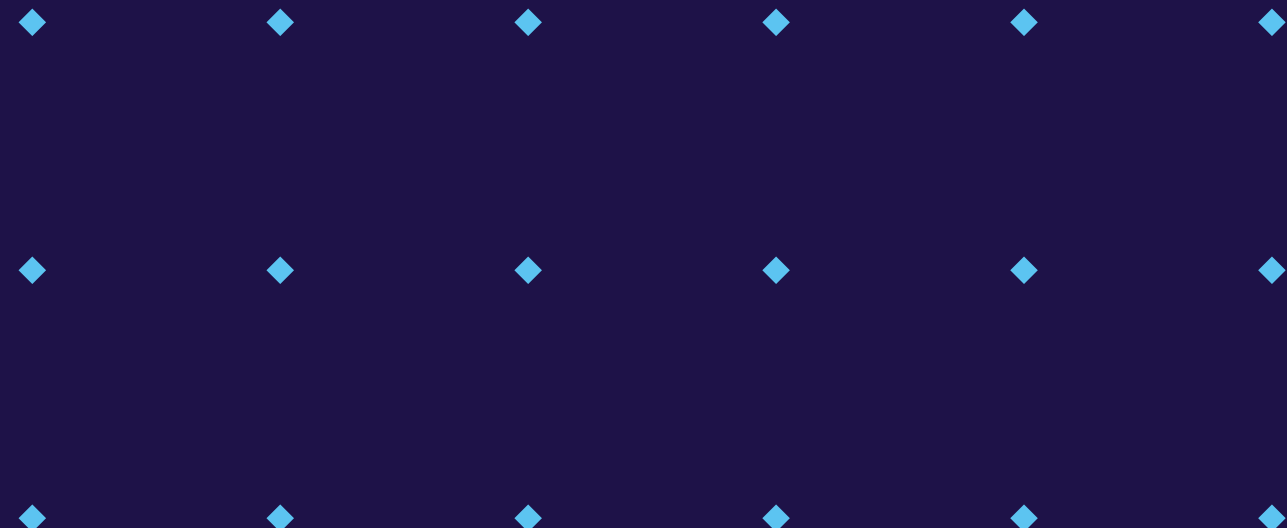
Through the Booth Medal, Paul Booth honours his father's contribution to the University while fostering a sense of excellence, connection and community among emerging law students. The award not only recognises achievement and potential at a formative stage of study, but also creates an enduring link between recipients, alumni and the University.

The University is deeply grateful to Paul Booth for his continued generosity and commitment to supporting student achievement and opportunity through this award.





In Memoriam Awards



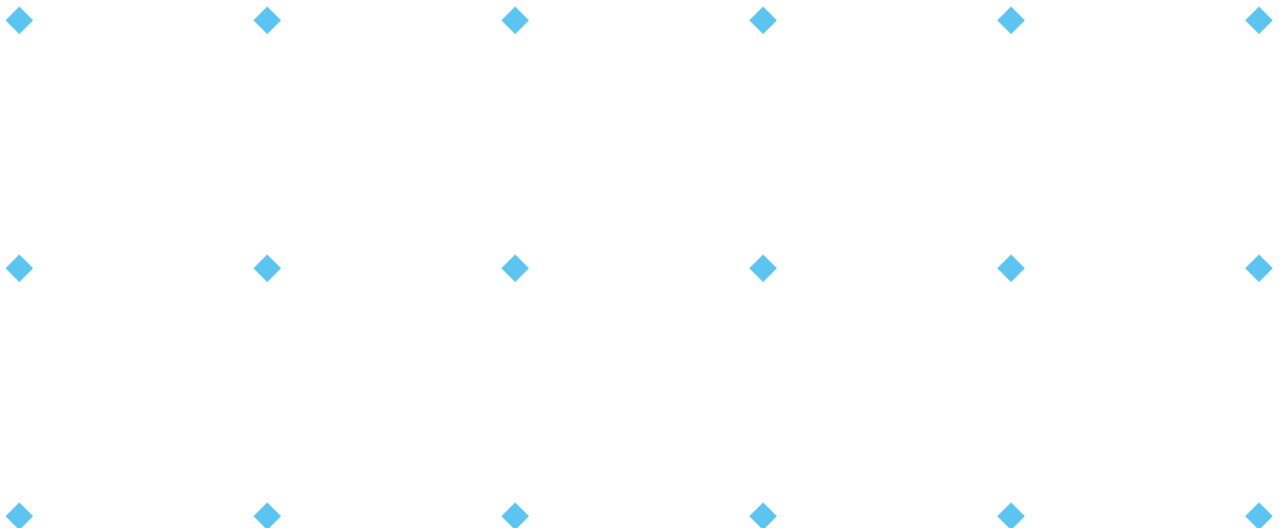
- ◆ The Bank First Art Pearl Award

Daniella Ahmet

- ◆ The Bank First Art Pearl Award

Naima Anjum Ahmed

The Bank First Art Pearl Awards are presented in honour of Art Pearl, and recognise the highest achieving students in the Bachelor of Education Studies as assessed by meritorious academic performance; social justice qualities; and readiness to engage in Masters' level studies.



- ◆ My-Linh Dao Award for Outstanding Academic Performance in Bachelor of Business (Accounting)

Tze Yang Khern

- ◆ My-Linh Dao Award for Outstanding Academic Performance in Master of Professional Accounting

Arush Sanjesh Kumar

The My-Linh Dao awards honour the remarkable legacy of My-Linh Dao, a young woman whose life reflects courage, compassion, and determination.

Fleeing Vietnam by boat, My-Linh arrived in Australia as a refugee in 1979 with no English, yet through extraordinary dedication she achieved top results in her HSC and earned a place in the University of Melbourne’s School of Medicine. Though her life was tragically cut short, My-Linh was known for her kind heart, her strong community spirit, and her unwavering commitment to excellence.

VU alumna Quynh Dao supports two awards in honour of her sister’s legacy.



My-Linh Dao



- ◆ Jane Shou Award for Outstanding Student in Master of Business Analytics

Maria Ardhiani

- ◆ Jane Shou Award for Work Integrated Learning Outstanding Achievement

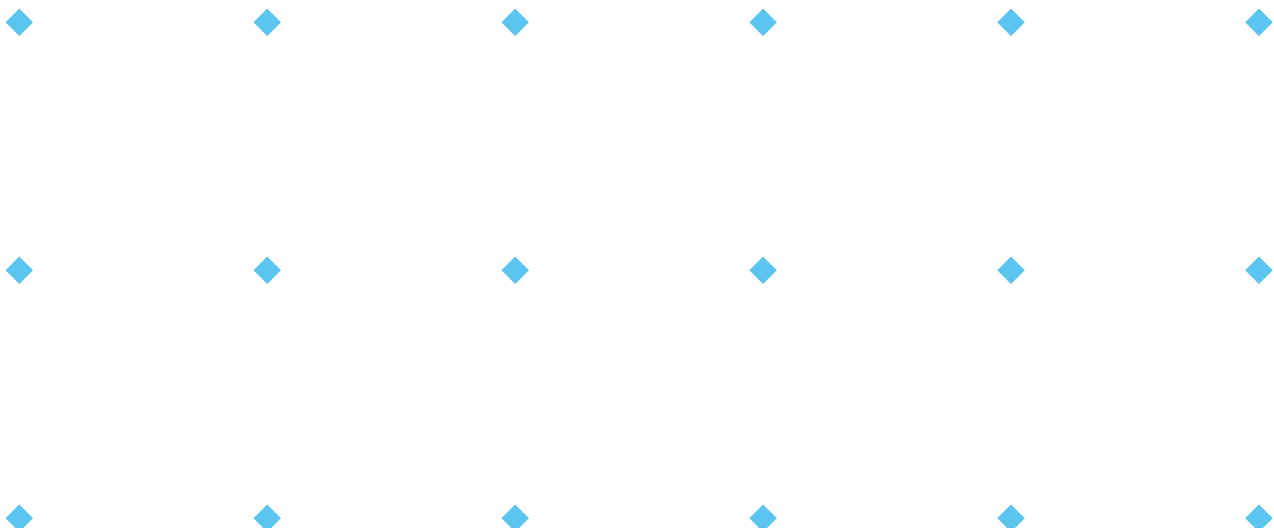
Anh Do

These awards honour the legacy of Ms Jane Shou, an outstanding Victoria University graduate and staff member who made a lasting contribution to teaching and student success in Information Systems.

Born in Shanghai, Jane came to Australia as an international student in 1987 and completed her Master of Computer Science at Victoria University before joining as academic staff. She was deeply committed to supporting international students and inspiring excellence in their studies.

Following her passing in 1995 at the age of 34, the Shou family, colleagues, and friends established this memorial scholarship in her honour.

The awards recognise excellence and leadership in student learning and engagement, and are presented annually. These awards continue Jane’s legacy of academic excellence, leadership, and support for future generations of students.



◆ Dr Jim Rangelov Award for Outstanding Student in Criminology

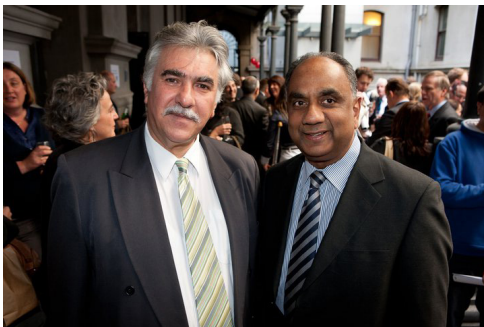
Jennifer Carroll Bianca Bell

The Dr Jim Rangelov Award for Outstanding Student in Criminology honours the legacy of a deeply respected educator, legal practitioner, and champion of access to justice.

Dr Rangelov dedicated his career to teaching at Victoria University and RMIT, while also practicing as a solicitor and later at the Bar. He was a founder of the Law Institute’s Pro Bono Scheme, reflecting his strong commitment to fairness and community.

Known for his innovative teaching and his genuine care for students, Jim was admired not only for his professional achievements, but for the lasting impact he had on those he taught and mentored.

This award recognizes a student who reflects his passion for learning, his integrity, and his commitment to making a difference through the study of criminology.



Dr Jim Rangelov & Magistrate Kumar



- ◆ John B. Koschade Award for Professional Excellence in the Built Environment

Benjamin Freeman

- ◆ John B. Koschade Award for Professional Excellence in Civil Engineering

Rabin Shrestha

These awards honour the legacy of Mr John Koschade, a respected consulting civil engineer and Fellow of the Institute of Engineers of Australia, who made a significant contribution to civil engineering practice and education at Victoria University.

Following his passing in 1995, a bequest established an endowment fund, reflecting John’s commitment to professional excellence and supporting the next generation of engineers.

The endowment supports two annual awards recognising outstanding second-year students. These awards continue John’s legacy by celebrating academic achievement and professional excellence in engineering.



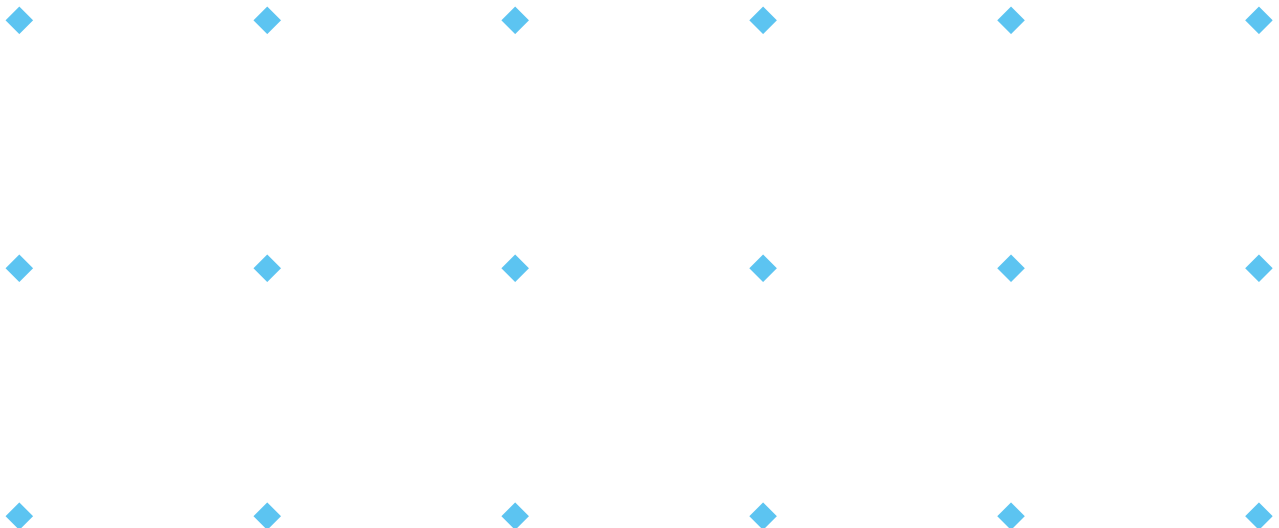
◆ The Alexander Oh Equity Award

Kate Benesovsky

The Alexander Oh Equity Award honours the legacy of Alex Oh, a Victoria University law alumnus and Senior Associate at Acrolex, who was widely recognised as an exceptional legal talent and a passionate advocate for equity.

As a mature-age, gay, Asian student, Alex faced and overcame significant personal and structural challenges to complete his law studies. He was known not only for his academic excellence and professional promise, but for his commitment to improving access and opportunity for others.

Supported by Acrolex, this award assists VU law students who have faced equity barriers related to their LGBTQIA+ identity, age, or cultural background, and reflects Alex’s belief that talent should never be limited by circumstance.



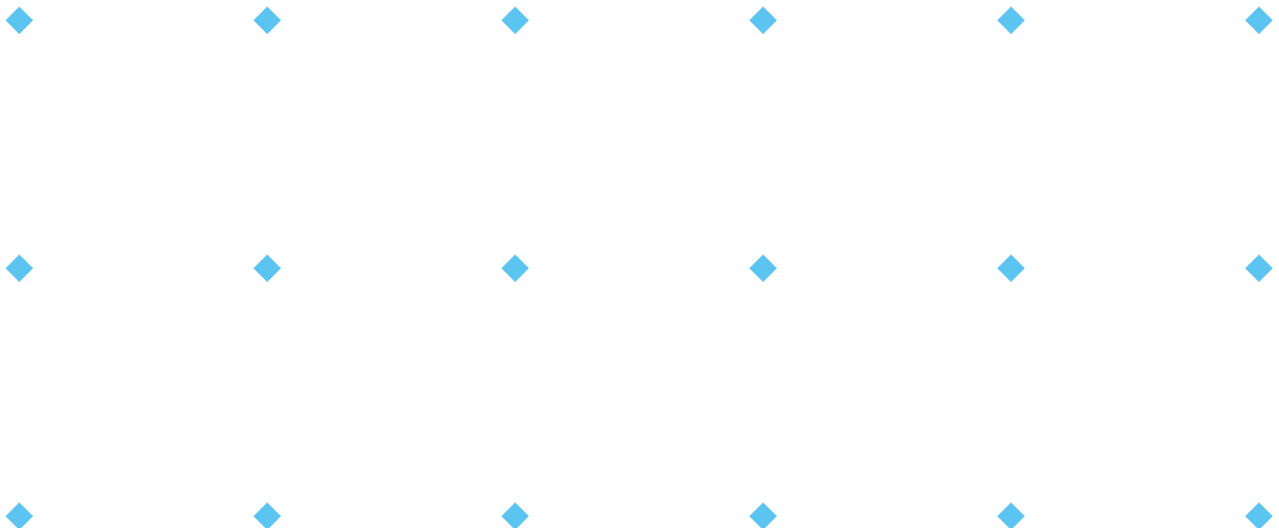
◆ Karen-Leigh Edward Medal

Natalie Delmonte

The Karen-Leigh Edward Medal honours the life and legacy of Karen-Leigh Edward, former Head of Nursing and Midwifery at Victoria University, and a deeply respected leader in the nursing profession.

Karen-Leigh believed nursing was, above all, about people - caring for students, supporting colleagues, and delivering compassionate, high-quality care to communities.

Established by the Edward family following her passing, the Medal recognises outstanding first-year nursing students who demonstrate academic excellence, professionalism and a commitment to person-centred care. It is a living legacy that ensures Karen-Leigh’s values continue to shape future generations of nurses.



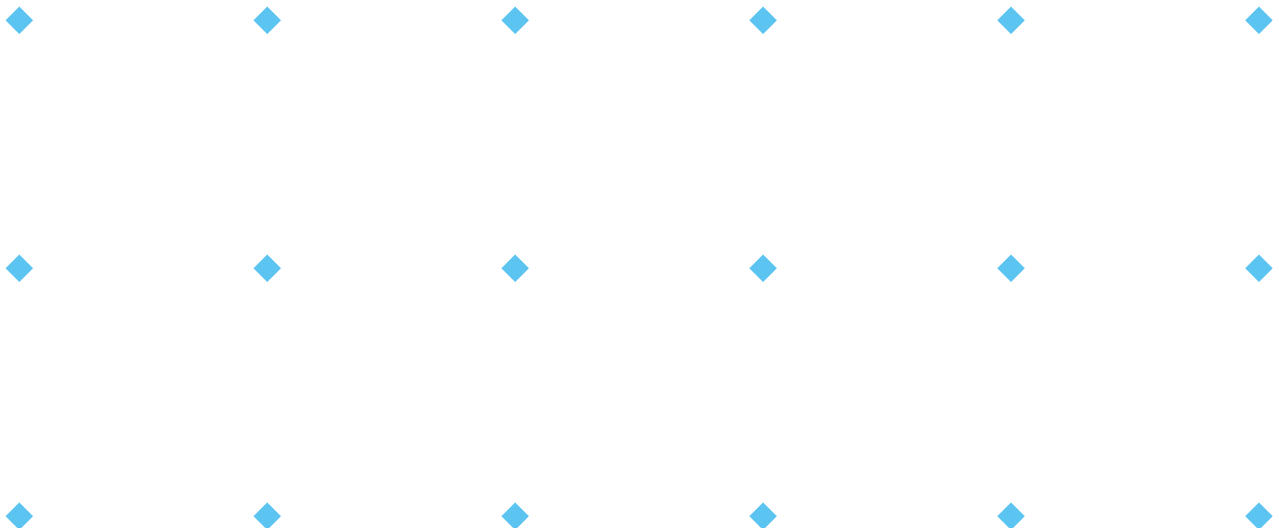
◆ Muna Rahman Nursing Award

Akhil Akhil

The Muna Rahman Nursing Award was created in loving memory of Muna Azeezama Rahman through the generosity of her parents, Dr Abdul and Mrs Samsad Rahman.

A Victoria University alumna, Muna’s life reflected curiosity, compassion and a deep interest in health and community wellbeing. Following her passing at the age of 25, her family established this award in celebration of her life and values.

The award mirrors the Rahman family’s longstanding commitment to education and equity, including their work establishing educational facilities such as the Muna College of Nursing in India. It supports nursing students who demonstrate both academic promise and financial need, ensuring Muna’s legacy continues through opportunity and care.



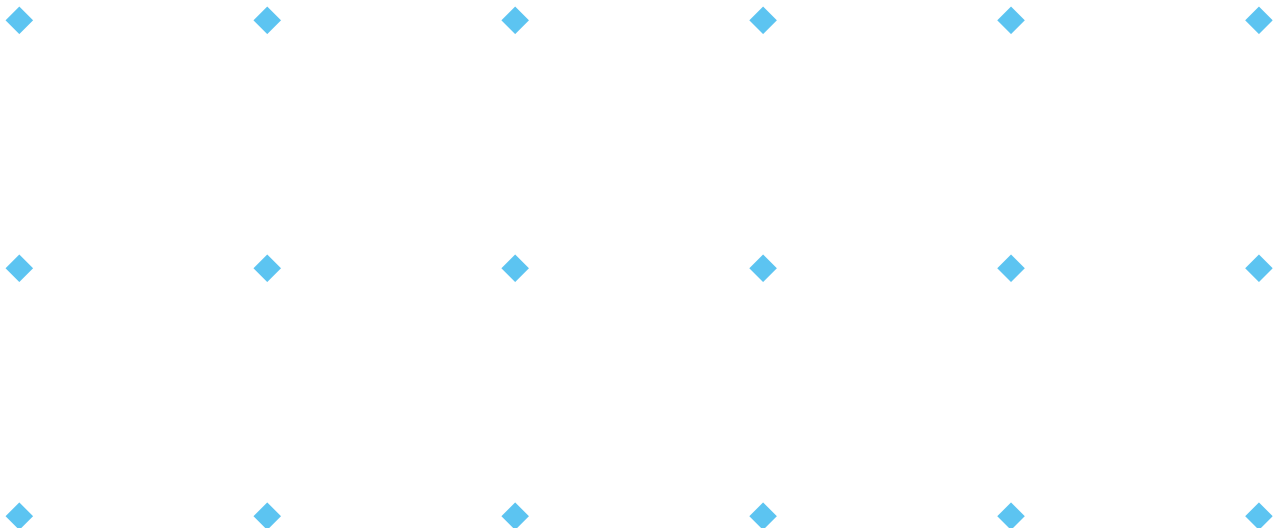
◆ Roger Dunn Prize

Annalise Knight

The Roger Dunn Prize celebrates the legacy of an influential Australian storyteller whose work helped shape the nation’s television industry.

An AWGIE Award-winning scriptwriter, Roger Dunn began his career in editing and copywriting before joining Crawford Productions in the early days of Australian TV drama. He contributed to iconic programs including *The Sullivans*, *A Country Practice*, *Blue Heelers* and *Neighbours*, helping bring authentic Australian stories and voices to the screen.

Deeply committed to his craft, Roger was also passionate about mentoring emerging talent. Established in his memory, this prize honours students who carry forward his dedication, creativity, and commitment to strengthening the future of Australia’s screen industry.





Scholarships

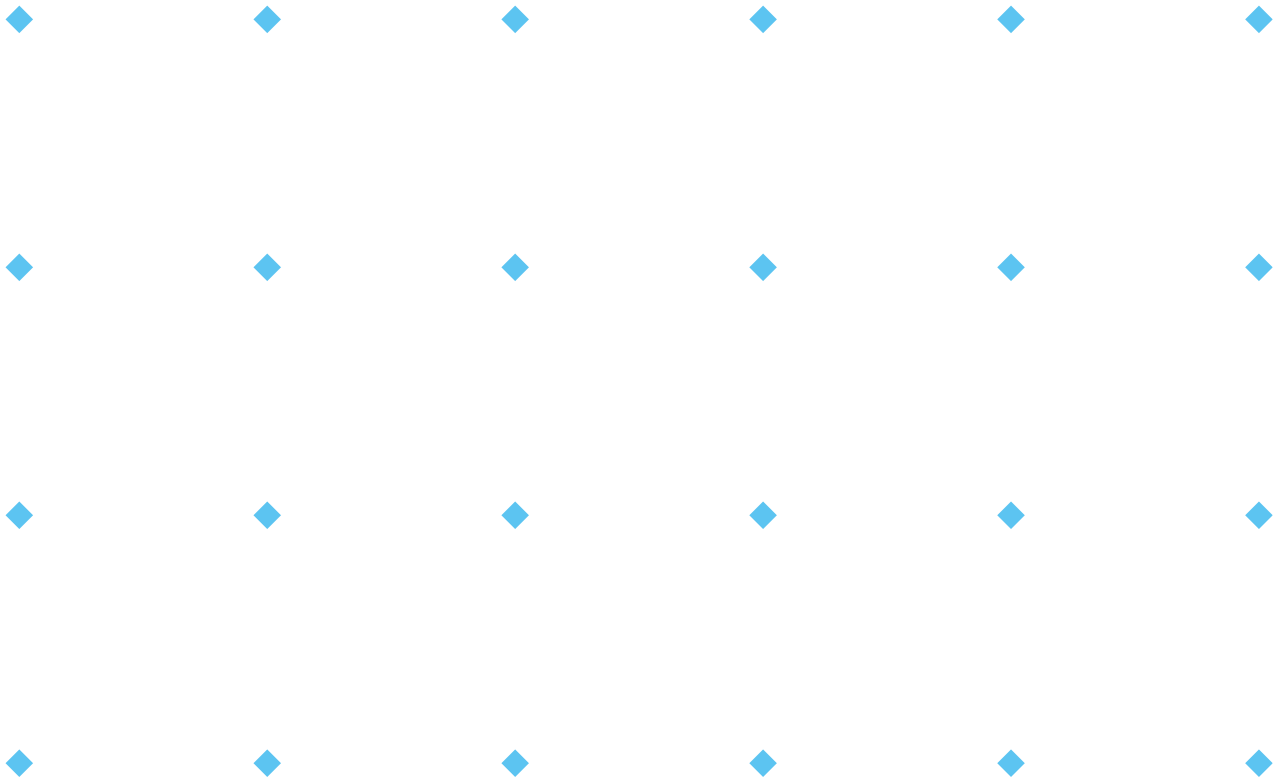


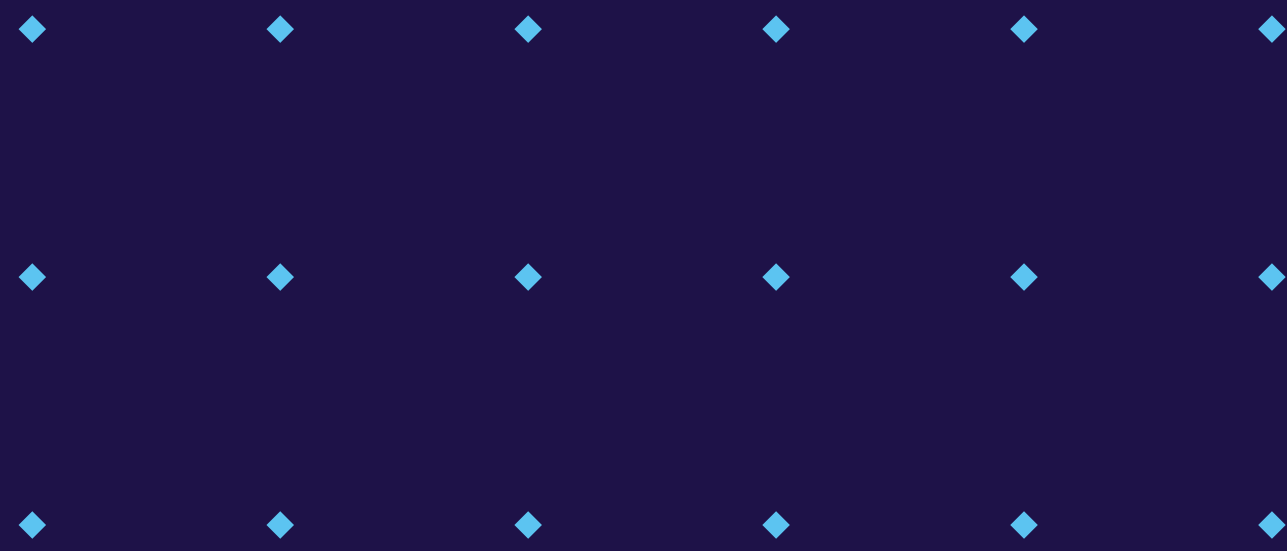
- ◆ Rowe Scientific Scholarship

Jack Bell-Andrews

- ◆ Bogong Scholarship

Calum Leavesley-Gordon





Distinction Awards



TAFE Excellence Award



Suzanna Klisanin

Suzanna Klisanin is a Diploma of Remedial Massage student whose journey reflects resilience, determination, and a strong commitment to helping others. As a mature-age student, Suzanna made the courageous decision to transition from hospitality into the health industry to pursue her passion for remedial massage therapy.

Throughout her studies, Suzanna has demonstrated focus and perseverance, successfully balancing personal challenges with the demanding requirements of her course - while always maintaining a consistently positive attitude and a strong commitment to her clinical training. Respected by peers and staff alike, she is recognised for her empathy, professionalism, and supportive nature within the learning environment.

Suzanna's dedication and life experience have shaped her into a compassionate and highly capable emerging health professional. Her journey is not only one of academic achievement, but of courage, purpose and impact.



Industry Placement Excellence Award



William Ha

William Ha is recognised for his outstanding achievement and growth during his industry placement while completing the Certificate I in Work Education at Victoria University. Undertaking a placement at Footscray Park Aquatic & Fitness Centre, William consistently demonstrated enthusiasm, reliability, and a strong willingness to learn.

Throughout his placement, William built confidence and independence while developing strong relationships with staff and customers in a busy public environment. His positive attitude, professionalism, and ability to adapt quickly to new tasks earned the trust and respect of his colleagues and supervisors. William's placement performance was so impressive that he was offered ongoing employment at the conclusion of the program, highlighting his hard work, resilience, and capability.



Freemasons Foundation Victoria Award for Outstanding First Year Student in the College of Sport, Health and Engineering



Rebecca Frankland

Rebecca Frankland is a Dual Degree Midwifery and Nursing student at Victoria University who has demonstrated outstanding academic commitment, professionalism, and determination throughout her studies. Entering university through the Early Entry program, Rebecca has consistently achieved strong academic results while actively engaging in both individual and collaborative learning opportunities.

Alongside her studies, Rebecca has demonstrated initiative and leadership through managing two small businesses and completing additional counselling studies to further support her passion for healthcare and helping others. Her dedication and achievements led to her acceptance into a fellowship program through Western Health during her first year of study. Rebecca hopes to build a meaningful career providing compassionate, high-quality care and making a positive difference in the lives of others.



Freemasons Foundation Victoria Award for Outstanding First Year Student in the College of Arts, Business, Law, Education and IT



Alisa Petricevic

Alisa Petricevic is a dedicated Bachelor of Cyber Security student at Victoria University, recognised for her strong academic performance and active contribution to collaborative learning environments. Passionate about cybersecurity and digital governance, she aspires to help organisations create safer, more secure, and more inclusive digital spaces.

Living with a disability while studying in a traditionally male-dominated field has strengthened Alisa's resilience, organisation, and determination. She is a strong advocate for diversity and greater representation for women in technology and remains committed to contributing positively to the VU community. In the future, Alisa hopes to further support student engagement through involvement with the VU Women in IT Club and other meaningful initiatives.



Dean's Scholar Undergraduate

College of Sport, Health & Engineering



Dharinder Sohal

Dharinder Sohal is a graduate student in Building Surveying at Victoria University, recognised for his outstanding academic performance and collaborative leadership approach. Achieving a perfect cumulative GPA of 7.0 during his undergraduate studies, he has consistently demonstrated a commitment to high-quality academic and professional standards.

Passionate about creating inclusive and supportive learning environments, Dharinder actively encourages collaboration among peers and values the importance of shared knowledge and community contribution. He credits his success to the support of his family, teachers, and fellow students, whose encouragement has shaped his academic journey. Dharinder remains committed to lifelong learning and aspires to make a meaningful contribution to the built environment sector through leadership, professionalism, and collaboration.



Dean's Scholar Postgraduate

College of Sport, Health & Engineering



David Herbert

David Herbert is an experienced high-performance basketball coach and graduate of Victoria University's Master of Sport and Exercise Science, specialising in Performance Analytics. His academic achievement has been recognised through the Dean's Scholar Award, reflecting his commitment to excellence and professional development.

With more than 25 years of coaching experience across elite sporting environments, David has held leadership roles with Basketball Australia, including Head Coach of the Australian Under-19 Women's Team, guiding athletes to success on the international stage. He is also the founder of "Hooping with Herbie", a coaching and player development business focused on athlete performance and coach education.

His academic work in performance analytics complements his practical experience, allowing him to integrate data-driven decision making into high-performance environments.



Dean's Scholar Undergraduate

College of Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT



Tania Ziino

Tania Ziino is recognised not only as a Dean's Scholar at Victoria University, but also a winner of the Supreme Court Prize, reflecting both her academic excellence and determination to pursue a lifelong ambition of studying law.

After leaving school before completing Year 12, Tania built a successful career in administration before returning to university as a mature-age student. Initially enrolling in a Bachelor of Business, she later transferred into the Bachelor of Laws (Honours), where she excelled academically and found renewed confidence in pursuing her goals.

Now completing Practical Legal Training and undertaking placement within a family law firm, Tania aims to build a meaningful career in family law and eventually establish her own practice. Her story is a powerful reminder that it is never too late to redefine your future.



Dean's Scholar Postgraduate

College of Arts, Business, Law, Education & IT



Sachakhantey Eam

Sachakhantey Eam is a Dean's Scholar and Master of Professional Accounting student whose journey into higher education reflects resilience, adaptability, and a strong commitment to community impact. Transitioning into accounting after an extensive professional career and entrepreneurial experience, she excelled academically and quickly established herself as one of the program's highest-performing students.

Beyond her academic achievements, Sachakhantey has made a meaningful contribution to student life through leadership, peer support, and community engagement. She has served as an Event Assistant with VU Student Life and Leadership and Vice President of the VU Outdoor Adventure Club, helping foster belonging and student connection. In 2023, she also founded the charitable initiative "Smile of Samraong Otre" in Cambodia, supporting educational opportunities for primary school students in rural communities.





Thank you to our Donors





Dr Peter Rumpf

The Edward Family

**Family and Friends
of Jane Shou**

**The Footscray Technical
College Engineering
Graduates of 1959-60**



George Pappas AO



**Dr Jim Rangelov
Memorial**

**John B Koschade
Awards**

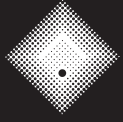


Paul Booth

**Quynh Dao in memory of
her sister My-Linh Dao**

The Rahman Family





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