



President's November Memo

November marks the conclusion of the 2018 academic year. The wonderful staff at the USU will be working on several important projects for 2019. We are anticipating an exciting year ahead!

1. C&S Programs for 2019

The USU is very excited to be launching a series of new initiatives for 2019 including a *Twice-Loved Markets* which will follow the concept of Glebe Markets. The Markets will be hosted at the end of each semester and provide an opportunity for students to sell previously owned clothing and items whilst raising awareness for consumer sustainability. It will also be a unique opportunity for international students to sell any items they have prior to returning overseas.

2. USU Make A Difference (USU MAD)

At November's Board meeting, the USU's new philanthropy and charity initiative **MAD** was revealed. **MAD** will be the new USU charity and fundraising program aimed at developing a culture of philanthropy through engaging a purpose driven generation. The **MAD** program will be integrated across several existing USU events, spaces, and programs while also culminating in an end of year event. Thanks to Jodi (Head of Programs) and the Programs staff for all their hard work in designing this exciting new program.

3. Ethical Investment

Over the last few months, the USU has made a historical decision to ethically invest a proportion of our reserves. At the November meeting, the Board approved the movement of our current cash reserves into the **Australian Ethical Shares Fund**. The Fund is *fossil fuel free* and follows a comprehensive ethical charter that the Board found consistent with the values of the USU. For more information on the Fund, see: <https://www.australianethical.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/AESCT-Australian-Shares-Monthly-Report-July-2018.pdf>. Thanks to Claudia, our Treasurer, for all her hard work in spurring this historical move.

4. Incubate Space Launch

This month we launched our new Incubate Hub, a space dedicated to our startup programs and innovations department. We welcomed special guests including the University of Sydney Chancellor, Belinda Hutchinson. Thanks to the University for their generous support in resourcing the design and construction of the space located on Level 4 of the Wentworth building.





5. Limited Edition Snow Globes

This month we sold 500 units of the Limited Edition Jacaranda snow globes. The snow globes sold out within a couple of days. No fear if you missed out on one – the traditional snow globes have been restocked and can be found for sale at UniMart and Footbridge.

6. 2019 USU Welcome Festival

In line with recommendations from the Broderick Report, all University orientation activities will now be known as *Welcome Week*. Taking this into consideration, the USU's *OWeek* will now be called *USU Welcome Festival*. The student coordinators are working hard on confirming all night time activities, as well as developing 'hubs' for clubs and societies stalls, making the event easier for new students to navigate.

7. \$6 Meals after 6pm

This year we started the \$6 Meal after 6pm to provide healthy, affordable options for students studying late at University. Since October, we have seen the expansion of the initiative to Fisher Coffee Cart. These meals are now offered at three locations across campus - Courtyard, ABS Cafe and Fisher Coffee. These meals have proved to be popular, selling on average over 120 meals each night over the past few months.

8. Congratulations to Incubate

A big congratulations to Incubate for winning the Startup Accelerator of the Year at the StartCon Australasian Awards! Incubate was the only university accelerator in the running against commercial competitors. To our understanding, Incubate is also the only University accelerator that is powered by a non-for-profit which demonstrates what passionate people can achieve with limited resources and a vision that drives the work of dedicated students and staff.

9. Happy Holidays

I wish all students enjoy the Christmas, Festivities & New Year break! The USU is incredibly excited for 2019 as we continue to grow Australia's oldest student union to become more inclusive, diverse and strong.

