



President's March Memo

March has been a busy month as students settle into classes and going to Courtyard to procrastinate. The mid-semester break is approaching but so are midterms.

1. Board Nominations

Just a reminder again that nomination to run for board have opened and all students are strongly encouraged to apply.

<https://www.usu.edu.au/Get-Involved/Student-Board-Elections.aspx>



2. Christchurch Vigil

In the wake of the horrific terrorist attack in Christchurch, a vigil was organised by Muslims Down Under, the Sydney University Red Cross Society, the SRC and the USU this month. The USU stands firmly with the families of the victims and the Muslim community in this troubling time. We acknowledge that racism and discrimination against one's religion has no place in our society or our campus. Thanks to Decheng, our ethnocultural officer, for speaking on behalf of the USU at this event.

We would also like to remind students that the USU provides various support to ethnocultural and multi-faith students including various ethnocultural and religious clubs as well as an autonomous ethnocultural space in Manning.

3. How to Life: Spark Joy

This month we welcomed Sally Flower to kick off our How to Life series for 2019. Sally is Australia's first KonMari Method trained organiser, and is passionate about changing the way we purchase, minimising her



environmental footprint and helping others to do the same. If you missed out, check out the online recording here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABKBxFpQWhc&t=10s&fbclid=IwAR3p7y1n2lmw3c_LnOLwLKN4Dy-ibIqhx10RFN883rLXYe7dOCp76LsthP0.

4. Market Day Glitter Bar

Market day was also a huge success with our V-team out promoting free USU membership and a variety of stalls setting up along Eastern Avenue. For those of you who might not have seen the glitter bar, we will be hosting free glitter face painting at every market day and also at some festivals. The Glitter Bar is a great way for students to meet and chat with student board directors whilst getting free glitter!

5. Easter's Debating Contingent

Congratulations to all the debaters who made the Easter's contingent! Easter's is Australia's top intervarsity University competition for debating and the USU has a proud history of performing incredibly well. Congratulations to Emily Kim who has been selected as the contingent captain, as well as a historical USU1 team that consists entirely of people of colour! This year the tournament will be in Sydney, to be hosted by UNSW.

6. USUAF

The USUAF AGM was held this week to elect the new Executive. Thanks to the outgoing President Damian Furlong for all his hard work and enthusiasm and congratulations to the new President Alisha Aitken-Radburn. One of the USU's top priorities this year is to better engage our incredible alumni.

7. Popfest

This year we plan to introduce Popfest as an evolution of Verge Festival. Having noticed the dwindling attendance at Verge Festival, the USU aspires to keep all our festivals relevant and in line with changing cultures. We have consulted with past Verge directors, the Verge gallery and are continuing consultations with student representatives from the SCA.

PopFest will be a celebration of pop-culture, art and self expression. It will feature multi-genre content from across the spectrum, including; gaming demos, cosplay competitions, creative workshops, art installations, merchandise from local vendors and showcasing of student, local and international talent. A major focus of PopFest will include art, but be a much broader range of artistic expression. There will be an art market celebrating a range of artistic styles, including fine art, comic, 3D works and even manga.

8. International Opal Card Concession

The USU sent a letter to the Premier, transport minister, opposition leader and shadow transport minister with regards to international student opal concession prior to the State election. Whilst the state election has concluded, the USU firmly supports the rights of international students to

concession prices. We received signatures from UNSW, UTS, UWS, UWO, Macquarie and Newcastle.

9. Upcoming C&S Forum

In light of changes made to the 2019 C&S program, we will be hosting a C&S Forum on the 10th of April to engage and consult with all C&S members.

All members are welcome to attend and we would strongly encourage C&S Executives to come along. Given the vast amount of material that we aim to cover in the forum, please note that all questions are to be sent through this form prior to the event:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfNgXldt8nkKXsNNQSTpzPTNMjMb-hMw45MeWcnxRckszgLfw/viewform?usp=send_form.