

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

GUPSA

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Connect the future

foreword



a big thank you

I'm proud to present you with GUPSA's first annual report. As a team we have been working hard to represent the interests of postgraduate students at Griffith University and provide a growing variety of services and activities across campuses. In this report we not only look back but we also have a glimpse into the future. As you will read, significantly increased funding for the year 2014 means that we can do even more to contribute to the best possible postgraduate student experience. I wish to take this opportunity to thank the university executive and particularly our patron, Vice-Chancellor Ian O'Connor, for their strong and ongoing support. And finally, a big thank you to all postgraduate students who shared in our success. It's an honour to be your president and I look forward to being at your service for the next 12 months.

Niels Kraaier, GUPSA President
niels@gupsa.org.au

our partners

GUPSA represents Griffith University HDR and Coursework postgraduate students enrolled at Logan, Mt Gravatt, Nathan, and Southbank campuses. Postgraduates enrolled at the Gold Coast are represented by the Gold Coast Association of Postgraduates (GCAP). We closely liaise with GCAP on issues affecting all Griffith University postgraduates, and the GCAP President is ex officio, a non-voting member of the GUPSA committee.

GUPSA also partners with the Griffith University Student Representative Council (SRC), which covers undergraduate students at the Brisbane and Logan campuses. Together, we provide joint services, such as the legal advice service, for both postgraduate and undergraduate students.

GUPSA has close relationships with other elements of Griffith University; in particular, Griffith Graduate Research School (GGRS), postgraduate International Student Advisors, and Campus

Life Student Associations and Clubs. We also organise postgraduate student representatives on various University committees; the postgraduate representative on the University Council is ex officio, a non-voting member of the GUPSA committee.

Outside of the University, GUPSA has been a long-time member of the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA), the peak body that represents 33 postgraduate associations and the National Indigenous Postgraduate Association Aboriginal Association (NIPAAAC). CAPA is the national voice on postgraduate issues to government and industry. Through our affiliation with CAPA, we are also associated with the Council of International Students Australia (CISA), the national peak student representative body for international students studying at the postgraduate, undergraduate, private college, TAFE, ELICOS, and foundation level.



the year in brief

overview

With GUPSA having received substantial funding and resources during 2012 for the first time in a number of years, 2013 was a year of careful experimentation as we rebuilt our profile of activities and services. Another recent development was our full committee, two-thirds of whom had only joined in 2013. Because of their relative inexperience, the committee members approached their tasks with caution and patience, and gradually developed confidence in their roles. The numerous members who intend to continue in 2014 look forward to sharing their knowledge with the incoming members. Since GUPSA is a platform for fostering and supporting Griffith University's postgraduate student community and its professional development, the committee members prioritised ensuring that its events and activities were professionally executed, even if they took longer to coordinate.

Nevertheless, 2013 saw GUPSA hold a wide range of events and services. We re-established our presence throughout our Griffith catchment, particularly at QCA, QCGU, and the Southbank campus as a whole, as well as expanding activities at both Logan and Mt Gravatt. For the first time in a number of years, GUPSA also organised a number

of events specifically for international students, such as immigration seminars, movie nights and dinners. One important development was GUPSA's partnering with the SRC to provide a legal advice service to all postgraduate students. Another significant achievement was the revival of the GUPSA editing service – which had run until 2006 – albeit as (currently) a part-time service. This service is aimed for both native English and ESL postgraduate students, and offers assistance in perfecting written submissions for dissertations, exegeses, and journal articles.

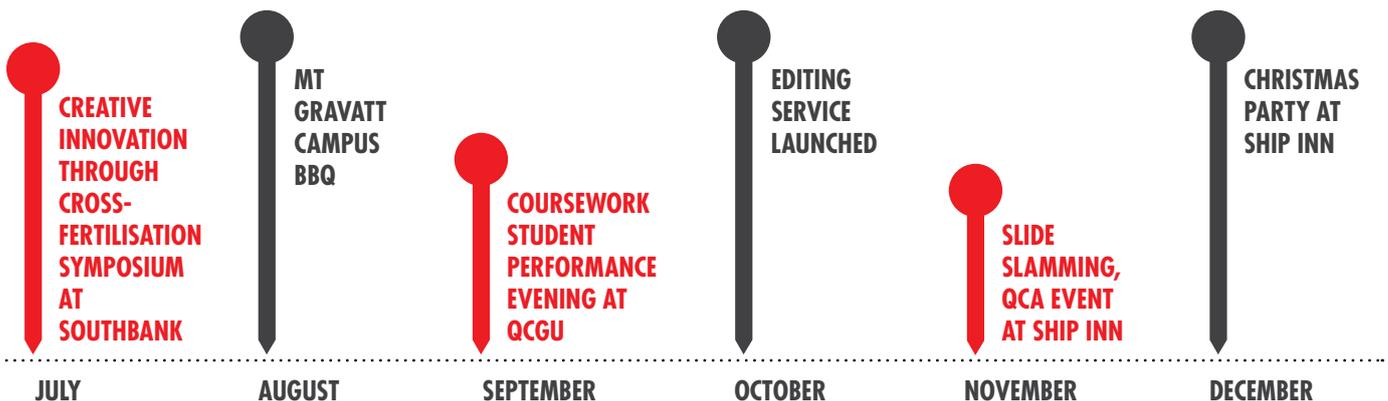
While all of the events and services listed above cater to both Coursework and HDR students, GUPSA also began to provide some Coursework-specific services, such as making printing credit available, and took on a greater advocacy and support role for Coursework students than before. Jason McNeil, Vice President (Coursework), was elected as the Coursework student representative on the University Academic Committee. Overall, 2013 was a challenging yet rewarding year of renewal, discovery, and community-building for GUPSA, and we look forward to the challenges and rewards of the year ahead!

highlights



expenditures

CAPA AFFILIATION	\$10,340
CHRISTMAS PARTY	\$9,872
UNIBAR SOCIAL EVENTS	\$9,371
END OF SECOND SEMESTER PARTY	\$5,743
RECEPTION WITH VICE CHANCELLOR	\$5,502
EDITING SERVICE (STARTED IN OCTOBER 2013)	\$4,362
CREATIVE INNOVATION THROUGH CROSS-FERTILISATION SYMPOSIUM	\$3,529
GUPSA T-SHIRTS	\$2,724
COURSEWORK STUDENT PRINT CREDIT	\$2,320
SLIDE SLAMMING (QUEENSLAND COLLEGE OF ART)	\$1,976
LEGAL SERVICE	\$1,725
CAPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE	\$1,645
CISA ANNUAL CONFERENCE	\$1,555
LOGAN POSTGRADUATE LUNCHES	\$1,061
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FILM EVENINGS	\$910
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCURSION TO LONE PINE	\$705
MT GRAVATT BBQ	\$658
COURSEWORK STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVENING AT QCGU	\$439



our mission

The Griffith University Postgraduate Students Association (GUPSA) is an independent organisation that proudly represents postgraduate students enrolled at the Logan, Mt Gravatt, Nathan, Queensland College of Art (QCA), and Queensland Conservatorium (QCGU) campuses. We are funded by Griffith University from monies raised by the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF). We look after the interests of both Higher Degree Research (HDR) and Coursework students, and provide a range of services, including:

REPRESENTATION

RESEARCHING

LOBBYING

NETWORKING

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

At **GUPSA**, we aim to...

- Identify and service the common needs and interests of postgraduates at Griffith University;
- Represent postgraduates as a special interest group in the University and the community generally, both through direct representation within the University and affiliations with organisations that seek to articulate this objective;
- Provide communication between postgraduates across faculties through information-sharing and activities of social, cultural, intellectual, and professional interest.

GUPSA's 2013 Team

President – Niels Kraaier

Vice President (Coursework) – Jason McNeil

Vice President (Research) – Md. Zahirul Islam

Treasurer – Min Jun Kim

Honours Students Officer – Rumaisa Bilal (until July)

Honours Students Officer – Mohammed Hayat (from August)

Indigenous Students Officer – Jonathan Fabila

International Students Officer (shared)
– Josette Niyomwungere (until July)

International Students Officer (shared)
– Katrine Sonnenschein

Logan Campus Coordinator – Tanvir Ahmed

Mt Gravatt Campus Coordinator – Mahbuba Sani

Nathan Campus Coordinator
– Eduardo Jordan Pérez

QCGU Coordinator – Paul Jung

QCA Coordinator (shared) – Lynden Stone

QCA Coordinator (shared) – Sara Manser

Queer Students Officer – Samad Naushahi

Support Officer – Michael Carden

Editor in Residence – Evie Franzidis

We thank all our committee members for their contribution in 2013. In particular, we thank and farewell Rumaisa and Josette, who left the committee in 2013, and Min, Jonathan, Paul, Lynden, and Sara, who are standing down at the 2014 AGM due to the completion of their studies.

a look ahead

overview

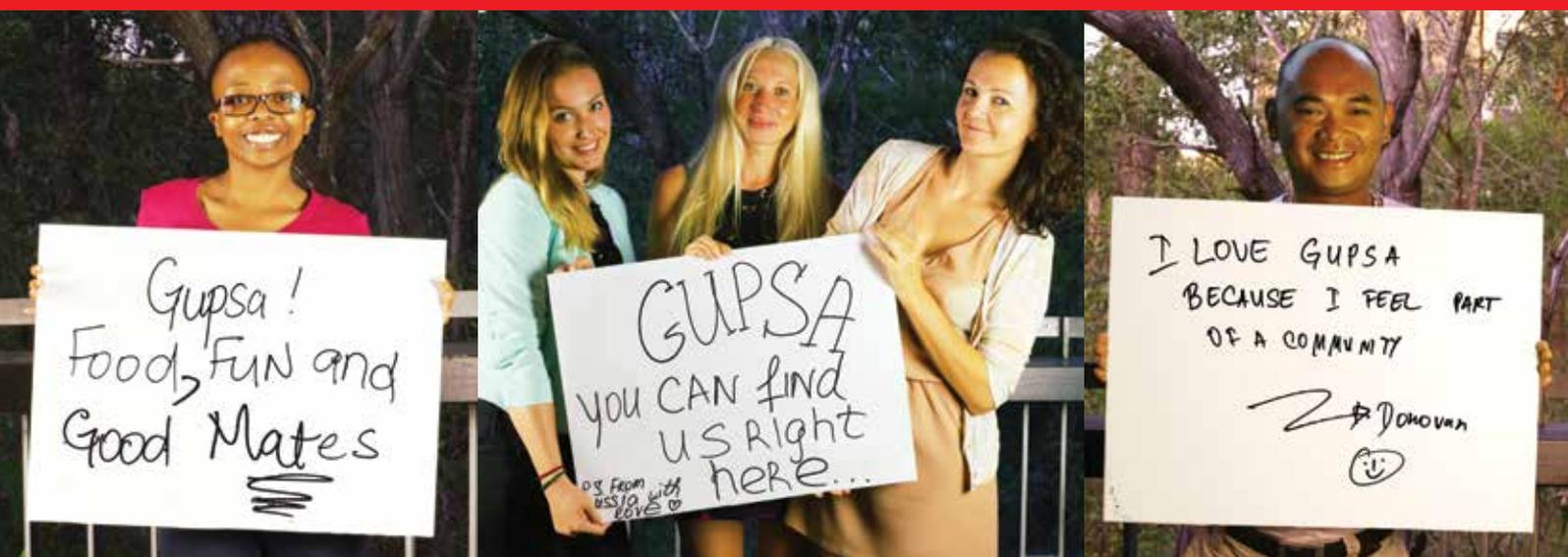
While 2013 was a year of cautious trial and error in rebuilding GUPSA's profile, the events and services we delivered have raised our postgraduate students' expectations regarding what GUPSA will deliver in 2014. Our achievements have also been rewarded with increased funding from SSAF, which will assist us in fulfilling our constituency's high hopes. Furthermore, it's expected that most of GUPSA's committee members will continue in their roles in 2014, which will add continuity, confidence and experience to the committee. Whereas 2013 was about rebuilding a base, 2014 will be about expanding, with 2015 a year for consolidating. Most of the expansion in 2014 will involve implementing any outstanding plans from 2013, as well as continuing and upgrading what we have already achieved. For example, our editing service will expand to include editing and writing workshops in 2014. Further, we will introduce some exciting initiatives that have resulted from the input of postgraduate students themselves.

GUPSA looks forward to delivering improved support and activities for its Coursework and HDR postgraduate students in 2014. We plan to hold more events and activities on the different

campuses we cover. Moreover, we encourage postgraduate students to arrange events and activities themselves, and will offer them funding and logistical support for these initiatives. We also intend to develop a scholarships/bursaries programme for all postgraduate students. We will continue our partnerships with the SRC, relevant University elements and national student organisations (such as CAPA and CISA) to maintain services, such as legal advice, and to conduct activities and promotions on a range of issues, including equity, health and wellbeing, and supervision.

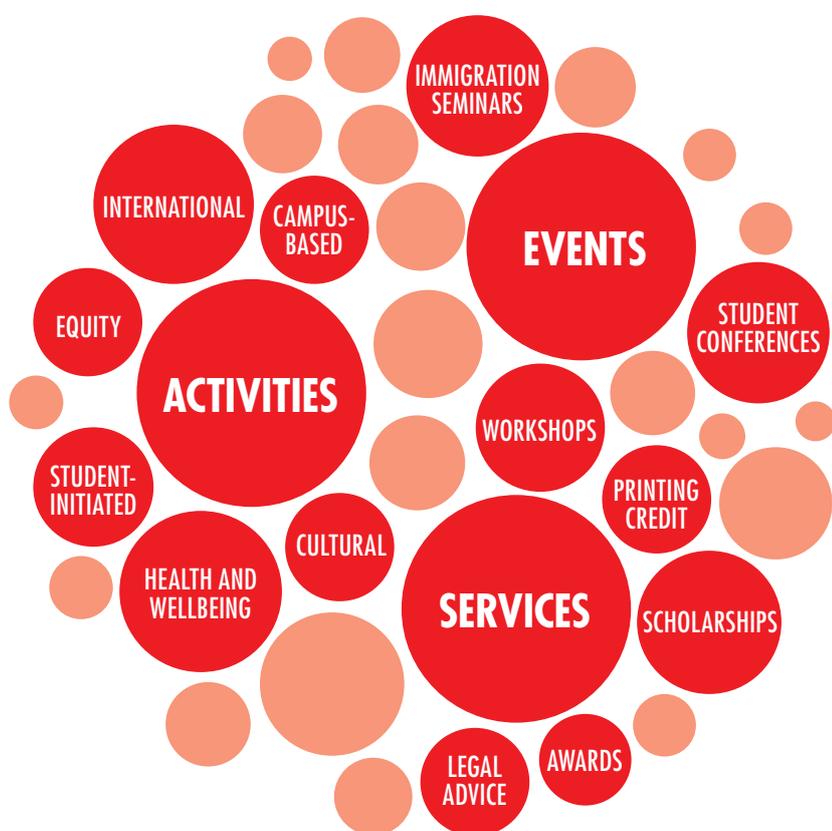
Importantly, Eduardo Jordan Pérez, a member of the GUPSA committee, is the national secretary for CAPA in 2014, which means there will be even closer links between the two organisations. CAPA itself has also been rebuilding and plans to be much more active in 2014, coordinating national projects and promotions in collaboration with its affiliates on a range of postgraduate issues. With many innovative events and activities planned, 2014 promises to be an exciting year in which GUPSA will expand and strengthen the bonds between the members of its postgraduate student community.

what does **GUPSA** do for you?



planning

GUPSA has a number of exciting plans for 2014 across all of our participating campuses (Logan, Mt Gravatt, Nathan, QCA, and QCGU). We welcome postgraduate student input on new and existing activities and events. In particular, we look forward to working with and supporting approved postgraduate student initiatives. Please contact Michael Carden (m.carden@griffith.edu.au) for more information. Some of the activities, events, and services planned for 2014 are as follows:



EVENTS:

- IMMIGRATION SEMINARS
- RECEPTION WITH VICE CHANCELLOR
- STUDENT CONFERENCES
- SUPERVISION WEEK

SERVICES:

- LEGAL ADVICE SERVICE
- PRINTING CREDIT FOR COURSEWORK STUDENTS
- SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS
- WRITING AND EDITING WORKSHOPS

ACTIVITIES:

- CULTURAL ACTIVITIES
- EQUITY ACTIVITIES
- FUNDING STUDENT-INITIATED ACTIVITIES
- HEALTH AND WELLBEING ACTIVITIES
- INCREASED INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ACTIVITIES
- MORE CAMPUS-BASED ACTIVITIES

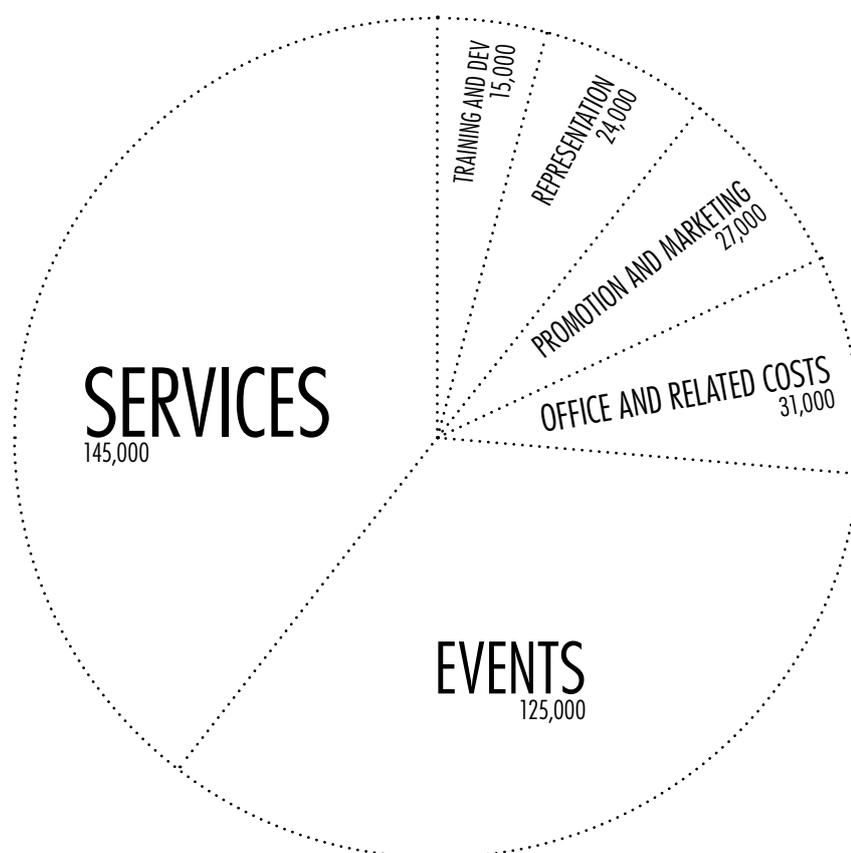


budget estimate

As an organisation that aims to provide a multifaceted, supportive and enriching environment for a significant part of Griffith University's postgraduate student cohort, GUPSA is dedicated to allocating money for particular events, services, etc. The anticipated expenditure figures for 2014 are outlined in descending order below.

TOTAL
367

HAVE
YOUR
SAY





As international students GUPSA gave us an opportunity to savor the multicultural aspects of an Australian university life. We had a chance to explore the national parks, enjoy classical music and of course get to know other students in friendly and relaxed social gatherings. Most of these were offered either free of charge or at a concession. Thank You GUPSA for making our experience here a worthwhile and enjoyable one!



I am so privileged to join GUPSA. Before coming to Griffith I learnt a lot about GUPSA. The reason was I met a lot of people who have the same interests as me and I believe this will take me a long way in terms of knowledge and skills sharing!



GUPSA has played an important role in my HDR student life over the last year. Foremost has been the social role the organisation has played in terms of running events that have enabled students from across the university to meet and get to know one another informally. This informality and connectivity has in turn extended to the formal sphere. Students having met then chat about academic courses and offerings from Griffith and this linking has become an important factor in identifying being a Griffith student but also having a support network of people you know and can turn to for support and advice. The second and important role is in the other services that the Association offers. Being on campus does not allow one to access expertise outside the university. Advice on legal and academic matters is key to students being able to remain on campus and study. I can only thank the group for their support and listening skills in hearing what it is that students need and acting on it.

I'm very grateful to GUPSA for hosting this function. I'm happy to be part of this occasion because of the fact that: i) It enables me to meet other post-graduate students from different cultures and countries
ii) Creating networks
iii) Sharing of thoughts and ideas,
iv) AND of course establishing relationships
A GREAT THANK YOU TO GUPSA!



our team



contacts

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If you're on Facebook, keep up-to-date with all the latest post-graduate information at:

 facebook.com/joinGUPSA

 facebook.com/groups/joinGUPSA

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For more information, visit us on the web and follow our blog:

www.gupsa.org.au

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