

2021 SCIENCE UNION

THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



**BEST
FACULTY
SOCIETY
APPLICATION**



COMMITMENT

TO THE GUILD & EDUCATION COUNCIL:

Science Union is **truly appreciative** of our position on the **2021 Education Council**. We actively participate in all Education Council meetings and endeavours as we are dedicated to **improving the educational experience** of all science students at UWA. This is reflected in our ongoing attendance and comprehensive reports. We **actively contribute** to discussions, seek, and **provide feedback** and engage in all Education Council ventures, specifically, but not limited to:

- Raising awareness for and attending the **"Defend our Education"** protest, in collaboration with the Education Council and the National Union of Students.
- Supporting, assisting, and promoting the **campaign Against the Cuts movement**
- Sharing and co-hosting the **Vigil for Tharni** in collaboration with several other community organisations and FACSOCs.
- Upskilling over 20 members of the Science Union committee at **Student Leadership Training** ensuring our events are planned and executed to the highest level.

Science Union endeavour to work closely with the Guild and have collaborated with many departments. We actively ensure our events align with the **themed Guild weeks**:

- **Education Week:** "How to Survive First Year," workshop, instead of only running study nights at the end of semester, to encourage new students to learn how to study from the beginning of their degree, not only in the weeks leading up their exam.
- **Access Week:** Accessible Science Workshop
- **Welfare Week:** Men's Mental Health Workshop
- **Volunteer Week:** Ronald McDonald's 'Loving from the Oven'
- **Women's Week:** Women & Non-Binary Person's in Science Breakfast
- **Enviro Week:** Clean-up Mosman Park excursion and Tote Bag Decorating Stall at Enviro Fest

Our interactive stall on **O-day** and at both **club carnivals** amounted to 650 students signing up to be financial members of Science Union. We created an online membership signup link to allow offshore students and anyone who could not attend to reap the membership benefits.

We often work and collaborate with the **Guild Volunteering department**, not only to get our committee member's **volunteering hours recognised on their transcript**, but also to encourage all science students to attend volunteering events. Our workshop on teaching low socio-economic primary school students about concussions and the importance of wearing a helmet is a notable example of this partnership.

Science Union also co-hosted the **Student Leaders Summit** of 2021 in collaboration with the UWA Student Guild and several other faculty societies.

In 2021, we have strengthened our relationship with the **International Students Department (ISD)**, not only in co-hosting their events but also running our own events catered toward international students.

Our continued excellent attendance at **SOC PAC meetings** to maintain relationships with other clubs and the **societies and public affairs councils**.

CLUBS & FACULTY SOCIETIES:

One of Science Union's core strengths is our ability work well in a **collaborative manner**. We work closely with many other FACSOCs and clubs to **promote inclusivity and diverse engagement** at UWA, here are some examples:

- **Badminton tournament**, run with the **University Engineering Club (UEC)**
- **Microsoft on Campus** mini-series, run in collaboration with **Microsoft Protégé**, the Economics and Commerce Society (**ECOMS**), **Maths Union**, **Venture**, the **UWA Consulting Society**, **Coders for Causes**, **180 Degrees Consulting WA**, **UEC** and the **Finance Association of WA**. Provided students the opportunity to learn about internship opportunities and graduate roles through the design thinking workshop and networking evening.
- Our continued support of **Relay for Life** and their events, such as the **Biggest Morning Tea**
- **"Get that Med Degree!"** in collaboration with **WAMSSConnect**, a discussion workshop for students who are aiming towards medical studies. This event educated attendees on the different pathways to studying a postgraduate medicine course.
- **SafeTALK**, run with the Health Students Society (**HSS**) and Architecture, Landscape & Visual Art (**ALVA**)
- **Sporting tournament**, aimed at engaging previously unengaged international students, in collaboration with Malaysian Cultural Society (**MCS**) and the Singaporean Student Society (**SSS**).
- Annual **"Wings for Life"** hot wing eating competition to raise funds for Relay for Life, in collaboration with **Leisure** and **UEC**
- **TEDxUWA's Symbiosis** salon event which involved presentations and discussions with leading science industry leaders
- Co-hosting the **Red Aware Week Charity Movie Night** with the Western Australia Medical Students Society (**WAMSS**), **HSS** & **Guild Pride Department**

As well as supplying our large social media base access to a diverse range of events not run by Science Union, provided by many other clubs, such as **ThrivED's** textbook authoring opportunity, the Science Communication Society's (**SCS**) networking evening and the **WA Forest Alliance's** documentary screening event.

We also pride ourselves on our continuous collaboration and relationship with other **STEM specific clubs**. We continue to support our subsidiary science clubs in our shared vision to **represent and support students from all STEM fields**. These relationships are facilitated through our continued use of the **Science Club's Forum**, which this year was extended to welcome Optometry Students of WA (**OSWA**) and **WAMSS**, examples include:

- **How To Run an Event**, this initiative was intended for committee members of Science Union and its subsidiary clubs. We ran through important concepts and skills of being a leader at university and hosting successful events, this included: **EMPs, RMPs** and applying for **SPGs**.
- **Nutrition Seminar**, in collaboration with Physical Education Students Association (**PESA**)
- Several **industry networking nights** in collaboration with many discipline specific science clubs: Psychology Society (**PSYSOC**), Students of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (**SNAGS**) and Molecular Sciences Society (**CHeMnBio**)
- Numerous successful study nights with discipline-specific science clubs
- **Online study session**, run in collaboration with **SNAGS** for **ENVT1104**, during their scheduled lab time during a snap lockdown, to encourage participation and increased engagement
- Our annual **National Science Week Festival** involved experiments from several science clubs, DJs from the Electronic Music Appreciation Society (**EMAS**) and allowed UWA students to participate in and celebrate National Science Week.
- This year we organised and hosted a **STEM Challenge**, also in collaboration with multiple discipline specific science clubs. This event was the first of its kind and was an excellent chance for UWA students to engage with the community and **inspire younger students**. 70 upper school students from several local and regional schools participated in varying science challenges.
- We also have an upcoming collaboration with **SCS** on their cross-campus scavenger hunt.

UNIVERSITY RUN SERVICES:

Science Union's ability to work collaboratively extends past working with other students, as reflected in our involvement and promotion of **various university run services**, for example:

- In collaboration with the **science student office** and several other STEM clubs, we held an interactive stall for approximately 120 high school students where they created their own lava lamps, as well as providing them the opportunity to interact with university students and learn what it's like to be a university student.
- Ran an informative stall at the **strategic recruitment event** for prospective students, career advisors, parents, principals, and teachers.
- Co-hosted several seminars with the **Careers and Employability centre**, displaying various career pathways available to STEM students.
- **Panel discussion** at both orientation weeks showcasing the **student experience** and helping new students feel welcome and supported as they start at UWA.
- Showing prospective students, the **wonders of science** through providing interactive VR headsets at our stall on **Open Day**.

As Science Union represents all students studying science at UWA, we pursue a strong relationship with the Barry J Marshall (**BJM**) Library and its staff. We engage in **frequent meetings** with the head librarian of BJM to:

- Advertise our events and initiatives there, ensuring as many science students as possible are updated and informed of relevant information outside of our **regular channels of communication** (social media, newsletter). Including students who are not Science Union financial members, such as, promotional material for the **campaign against cuts to Molecular Sciences**.
- Host successful events within the study rooms of BJM. This is integral in informing students of the available spaces and study rooms in BJM which are not often utilised, despite this library being **central for science students** and **science specific resources** being readily available.

Science Union actively engages in **PROSH** and **PROSHlympics** every year. This year Science Union's PROSH turnout was huge, consisting of a diverse range of science students new to UWA. Our team for PROSHlympics consisted of first years who had attended our first-year camp and stayed involved in the UWA club culture. This is a testament to the **inclusivity of Science Union** and the events we run.

In fundraising money for Relay for Life, we participated in the **Relay for Life Biggest Morning Tea**, ensuring vegan and gluten free snacks were available for purchase. In addition, Science Union hosts other fundraising events such as **Wings for Life**, a **raffle**, and several challenges involving funny and simple **online initiatives**. As of September 6th, Science Union currently has 25 people signed up to attend Relay for Life and has **raised over \$800**.

We consistently attend the **Welfare Council meetings**, actively contribute to the discussion and raise **constructive feedback**. Through the Welfare Council we are involved in the **'Wellbeans' initiative** that looks to tackle the excessive drinking culture at some university events. Several of our committee members will be attending the 'Wellbeans' training and will be using this training to **improve Science Union events** and as all other events they attend.

We **attend and actively participated** in discussions surrounding the future of **UWA's mental health framework**. We provided valuable feedback and ideas, such as: The creation of a unit which teaches **mindfulness** to students when they begin their UWA journey, how to ensure students have easier access to the current services UWA and the Guild provide (The Living Room and Student Assist). Science Union has since ensured the details of both services are easily available, through our website and in future, our first-year handbook. We also have an **ongoing relationship with campus management** to provide committee members with 24/7 access to the Science Union clubroom.

REPRESENTATION & POSITIVE EDUCATION OUTCOMES

REPRESENTING SCIENCE STUDENTS:

Science Union strive to give students the **best educational experience** and are **committed to student representation**, both in person and online.

- We seek out opportunities to **organise and collaborate** on educational events that will benefit not only students studying **popular degrees**, but also students that need assistance with **niche units**. This is evident in the array of successful study nights we run every semester, where tutors are sourced from **experienced students** who have completed the unit to a high degree. Unit coordinators attend to provide **invaluable insight** to the assessment outlines and learning outcomes. Our study nights are run in collaboration with the **degree specific club** for each unit to encourage maximum attendance.
- Our education events also focus on **upskilling study techniques** and teaching **crucial programs** needed for science degrees such as, **Python, Microsoft Excel, R studio** and other unit specific programs.
- A new event we introduced this year was our **postgraduate science student workshop**. This event was in collaboration with **BJM library** and informed students how to maximise the services available from the library. The BJM head librarian presented a workshop during the event sharing study techniques **specific for postgraduate coursework and research**.

Our representation of students goes further than the face value of providing educational opportunities:

- Through sitting on multiple education committees, including the **Board of Human and Life Sciences, Student Consultative Committee** meetings and the **Education Council**. We also partake in individual meetings with **school representatives** and library staff.
- We are concerned with facilitating an **open communicative channel** between students and the university to improve the education and representation of science students. Thus, we have come up with different ways to **generate feedback** from UWA students. Through distributing our anonymous **QR code** in our poster board in Guild village and around BJM that links to our feedback form. This was used to **rectify issues**; anything from maintenance of buildings to grievances with units and was integral in us **advocating for and representing students** directly with their own feedback.
- We also facilitate open conversation with **class representatives** implemented by the Education Council, in many science units. We emailed the representatives with our feedback forms and ensured they had all the Science Union contact details.
- Science Union are also strong advocates of the **Defend Our Education Protests** and the **Campaign Against the Cuts**, with an in person and social media presence to **update students** on assist those impacted.
- Science Union functions as both an **advocate** for all science students and as **communicative body** to relay information back to science students, one way in which we do this is through our **monthly newsletter**. This is sent out to **all 700 of our members**.

As science encompasses a diverse range of disciplines. To ensure that student cohorts of all the science majors are represented, Science Union has continued to welcome a **representative from each school** under the Faculty of Science into a position on our **Education Sub-Committee**.

POSITIVE EDUCATION OUTCOMES FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS:

This year we endeavoured to **increase our engagement** with first year students in an **educational and social capacity** and we recognise that in our current climate we need to utilise all resources both in person and online. We have run numerous events and initiatives throughout the year with the aim to enable students to have a **smooth transition** from high school into their first year of university. Some examples of these events and initiatives include:

- Consistently utilising the **UWA app** as our first-year representatives informed us this was a popular online platform amongst new students.
- **First Year Handbook**: Each year Science Union publishes a guidebook featuring relevant information about Science Union, our degree-specific subsidiary clubs, an introduction to the Guild and their various departments. This includes insight into the **UWA Medical Centre** and the multiple **university support services** available for students. Physical copies of the handbook were handed out at ODAY and a QR code was created to allow an **environmentally conscious and more widely available**, online version. This year, the guidebook covered the most varied ranges of services and proved useful to first-year students and returning students alike.
- **How To Survive First Year Question Panel**, where first year students were welcome to attend in person or online, a panel hosted by a diverse range of experienced science students.
- **Essential skills workshop** run by our Orientation Director, which covered the **psychology of studying**, referencing, essay writing and lab report writing skills.

FACULTY & SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS: :

- We pushed for a **direct representation of science students** at the Board of Human & Life Sciences by attending these meetings throughout the year. We ensured all agenda points were raised and discussed with the relevant science discipline specific clubs in **pre-board meetings** and through utilising the **Science club forum**. This allowed specific unit changes to certain degrees and majors be discussed with adequate **student consultation** before being passed at the board level.
- Being involved in and contributing to the **Student Consultative Committee** meetings resulted in **positive education outcomes** at several levels. Through working with campus management Science Union ensured that the female and universal toilets in the physics building became as **equally accessible** as the male toilets. We also raised the issue that assignments should have a universal submission time and that in-person assessments should only be conducted during formally timetable periods, these were passed onto the **Assessment Working Party** for consideration.

EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS TO BENEFIT STUDENTS:

- In 2021 Science Union presented a majorly improved **prospectus** featuring well-defined **sponsorship packages** and an in-depth catalogue of what Science Union does for its members, as well as the possible benefits to prospective new partners. We developed several new partnerships, as well as redefining existing partnerships in a way that will better **benefit students**:
- We partnered with local businesses: **Varsity Bar Nedlands, Grill'd Claremont, and The Hampden Hotel**. Benefits from these partnerships included **student priced drinks and meals, safe venues** for our events and **monetary sponsorship**. We received \$100 from Grill'd and their local matters jar and are currently in ongoing conversation to create a **student deal** for our members.
- Our continued partnership with **Fraser's GAMSAT** saw us run an array of **free online and in-person events**, providing our members with valuable GAMSAT resources and information on how to apply for medicine. This relationship ensured students were exposed to **extremely qualified speakers** for our medical sciences industry evening.
- A new partnership with **Linear Clinical Research** saw us promote their **clinical trial opportunities** to students on a pay by post basis as well as educating students on the history of medical trials and upcoming opportunities for science students. This is a partnership we intend to continue to grow and expand in coming years.
- In collaboration with **Sea Shepherd, Protect Ningaloo, and the Town of Cambridge** we hosted a **beach clean-up** event, where attendees had the opportunity to speak to volunteers within each of the organisations and form connections.
- We reinforced former relationships with companies such as **ChemCentre** and **Deep Blue Psychology** through inviting them to speak at our **industry evenings**, so students were able to grow their network and apply for graduate work. In 2021, our industry nights were the most successful they ever have been, each seeing upwards of 60 attendees. This was a testament to our **innovative response** to low attendance rates in the past, through collaborating with **degree specific subsidiary clubs** and consistently contacting unit coordinators to **share amongst their networks** and students.
- A new relationship, forged this year, is with **Friends of Mosman Park**, a tree planting and area clean-up **volunteer organisation**, this partnership opens new opportunities for students to give back to their local area, for example, our tree planting morning which will occur on 17th September.
- Our new partnership with **St Catherine's College** presents us with an opportunity to reach out to previously unengaged students, specifically **international science students**. Every St Catherine's resident will receive a **free Science Union membership** and thus cheaper entry to all our events. In return we will be hosting one of largest events of the year, our second semester **quiz night at St Catherine's College**.
- Our networking evening, aimed to **build relationships** between the professional and university world. This year, we ran the event so both **undergraduates and postgraduate students** could gain **interpersonal networking skills** through the incorporation of a 'network bingo.' This event provided an opportunity to explore employment opportunities, through our online **LinkedIn presence**, we have encouraged students to utilise LinkedIn as a professional outlet for their future connections. Our keynote speakers included, **Nobel prize recipient Dr Barry J Marshall** and **Former Chief Scientist of WA and Neuroscientist Professor Lyn Beazley** as well as several special guests from a **range of STEM fields**. They inspired students with an understanding that there are many opportunities available in the field of science, to stay motivated, to stay inspired and to follow their dreams.



WELLBEING:

We make a conscious effort to allow for the **principle of equity** to guide our event planning and execution processes. We have achieved this through **consistent consultation** with our Equity and Diversity subcommittee as well as with the Guild's **autonomous departments**, ensuring to employ their suggestions and input. Every position in our Equity & Diversity subcommittee was filled this year.

The **representative positions** include: These positions are all extremely valuable and utilised in ensuring all Science Union events are planned with **proper consultation and representation**. This has increased the overall **diversity of our target audience** and **improved the accessibility and inclusivity** of our events. These consultations were not only applied to new initiatives but also to those that have been repeated, staple events in our calendar, such as the expansion of collaborative bodies involved in **SafeTALK** and the **Women & Non-Binary Persons in Science Breakfast**.

- Access rep
- Environment rep
- Pride rep
- International rep
- Indigenous rep
- Women's rep
- Faith rep

PHYSICAL HEALTH:

Science Union acknowledges that student **well-being is a holistic entity** and extremely important. In wake of Covid-19, we gained a new appreciation for the **social and health benefits** of team sports initiatives and events. Science Union has made a conscious effort to encourage student participation in physical activity. Thus, endeavour to host a range of physical health and well-being centred events:

- In collaboration with **PESA**, we ran a **Nutrition Seminar**. Students were presented with four speakers, each sharing a variety of knowledge about **nutrition, diet culture**, myths & facts surrounding the topic and how they can implement changes to **positively impact their physical health**.
- Consistently having the largest student turnout and participation rate every week at **Interfaculty Sports**. Facilitated through our **inclusive online platform** for students to find and create their own social sport teams. Our **sports representatives** also attend and engage in all meetings organised by the **Guild sports department**.
- Our **collaborative badminton tournament with UEC** over the summer break saw over 50 attendees.
- Our upcoming **captain ball event** on the 23rd of September, in collaboration with **SSS** and **MCS**, will be the first of its kind and will engage many **previously unengaged international student groups** as captain ball is a popular sport in Malaysia and Singapore.
- Another future collaboration with **PESA** will be a **Beach Sports Day**, later in semester to offer a stress-free activity during the exam study period.

OFFSHORE ENGAGEMENT:

Considering the effects of COVID-19 on the student population, we've made a conscious effort to ensure that **international students**, and others whose **studies have been moved online**, are still given the opportunity to interact within the Science Union and wider **UWA community**. One of our priorities this year has been to **maintain engagement with remote-learning students**, to **reduce potential feelings of disconnect** from community due to physical isolation:

- Creating the option for students to purchase their **Science Union memberships online** has enabled offshore students to continue engaging with and benefiting from the Science Union community, even in a remote capacity.
- Events that we were able to **live stream** were broadcast over our Facebook Page or Zoom. This allowed for anyone who could not attend in person to receive the same information and benefits that domestic students were afforded.
- Using our Instagram and Facebook to **celebrate contributions made to science** by individuals from all different backgrounds. We've found this to be particularly effective during the Guild themed weeks, such as Pride Week & Multi-Cultural Week, where we can celebrate scientific achievements made by individuals belonging to various communities and from a **diverse range of backgrounds**.
- During **Multi-Cultural Week** there are several posts set to go up on each day celebrating scientific achievements from individuals who identify with a range of cultural backgrounds. Small initiatives like this allow students to see themselves **represented in the field of science** and allow for other students to recognise and respect those achievements.

MENTAL HEALTH:

As well as encouraging students to care for their physical health, we have also run events that focus on **mental wellbeing**:

- This year we introduced a **men's mental health workshop**, run with the not-for-profit charity, **Man Up** and **UEC**. This initiative was designed to encourage male-identifying students to speak up with one another about their mental health and **start a discussion**. The student feedback from the event was very encouraging and affirming that this event will be run again.
- We are also collaborating with **ALVA, HSS & the Guild Access Department** to run our annual **SafeTALK** event on the 14th of September: a 3-hour **accredited suicide-prevention and awareness course**. Where students can learn how to approach the topic of suicide, when they have concerns for a friend and how to direct those friends to the proper channels so they can get the help they need. This course has been **incredibly successful and engaging** in the past and we look forward to running it again.

LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY:

Science Union pride ourselves on creating an **inclusive and dynamic space** for all science students to feel welcome in. Our committee is very diverse, with many committee members identifying as LGBTQIA+. This cause is one very close to our hearts as members of the community, and this is reflected in the **support we offer the LGBTQIA+ community**, and particularly those who study and work in the science field:

- Our Pride Representative was included in the **'Queer FACSOC Representative's Group UWA'**, allowing for **communication and consultation** between clubs and among **UWA's LGBTQIA+ community**.
- Through **fundraising a significant amount** of money for various LGBTQIA+ charities: \$200 for both the **Forcibly Displaced People Network** and \$200 for **Perth Inner City Youth Services** through ticket sales for our Semester 1 & 2 pubcrawls. Additionally, our **End of Semester Pride Party**, raised a total of **\$2217.50 for Minus18**, an Australian LGBTQIA+ charity.
- **Pride Party** was our biggest event of the year, it celebrated a **cornerstone in queer culture** with the **Art of Drag** being the focal point for the event. Through the hiring of a **professional drag queen, Liberty Genre**, and lots of hard work and research behind the scenes to transform our five amateur student performers we were able to capture the **essence of Pride** and **celebrate the Queer community** in a new, and inclusive way and was well-received by attendees, participating charities, and performers alike. The entire Science Union committee are exceptionally proud of this event.
- This year we expanded our staple **Women in Science celebratory breakfast** to include celebrating those who are **non-binary**. We collaborated with the **Guild Pride Department** to find speakers for this event, which allowed us to source speakers and guests who identified within the **LGBTQIA+ community**. This event had an increased the **representation of queer-identifying students** at this event, as well as the presence of professionals who also identify within the LGBTQIA+ community.

ACCESSIBILITY:

Following the **Student Leadership Training**, as a committee it was decided that we should implement changes to make our **content and events more accessible** to students living with disabilities:

- The ability to buy tickets for and attend events in a remote capacity online has not only allowed for remote-student engagement but also engagement with students whose circumstances make coming to campus difficult.
- Changes made to our graphics to ensure **proper contrast and accessible font**, venue selections being made such that **events are wheelchair accessible**, including an **accessibility accommodations option in ticket sales** and event sign ups (so that alternative accommodations can be made when necessary).
- Our new event, **Accessible Science Workshop** collaboration with the **Guild Access Department**. This was an event specifically marketed and created for **students of all ability levels**; university, high school and primary school kids were welcome. There was a very high level of participation from attendees, and it **facilitated social interactions** through fun and engaging science activities.

WOMEN IN SCIENCE:

- Our **Women & Non-Binary People in Science Celebratory Breakfast** was a collaborative effort from the **Guild Pride department**, and the **Women's department**. Science Union were blessed to host a number of amazing people at this event; among our speakers and special guests this year we had people who started their career as **international students** in Australia, **people living with disability**, **people who identified as LGBTQIA+**, women who were **working mothers**, **people of colour**, people who were **first generation university students**, **non-binary persons working in the field of science**, and these are just some of the many identities and roles these powerful people have assumed throughout their lives.
- Our **Women's Representative**, was included on the **Women's Council**, as organised by the Guild and was an **active and engaged** member of this committee.
- We also made efforts to support other clubs' initiatives, by sharing events hosted by **Women in Engineering** and **Mathematical Sciences** to our social media, as well as recognising past Science Union members and **women in STEM** on **international women's day**.



INTEGRATION:

Science Union's social portfolio worked towards both **maintaining engagement** with our current audience, ensuring all events continue to serve the interests of the community we have built throughout so many years. We also sought to facilitate the **engagement of a much wider and diverse audience**, and to **engage previously unengaged students**.



- Science Union's **orientation camp** is a valuable opportunity for first year students of all studies to meet their new peers and to **form networks** with students from **all year levels**. First year students are placed into groups, called "families" and each group is led by two older students, "parents", who assist the students and ensure they have someone they can trust and talk to about anything. These families create **long lasting connections** well beyond the duration of camp.
- Camp is entirely **student run** and encourages students from **all disciplines** to develop their **team building** and **leadership skills** in a relaxed, safe, and enjoyable environment. Members of several clubs staff the event, giving them the opportunity to promote their own clubs, events, and initiatives to students outside of their faculty. This always **increased first-year engagement** as students are exposed to a range of UWA clubs and their cultures and are encouraged to attend any events or join clubs they are interested in.
- To introduce first years to the **vibrant campus culture at UWA**, Science Union usually hosts an annual "**welcome back sundowner**" during the first week of semester. This is an **all ages, free and socially low barrier event** which allows new students to meet each other and older students.
- Our **free picnic** at the beginning of the semester was successful in ensuring we remained accessible to students who were still underage and could not attend camp.
- Consistently utilising the **UWA app** as it became apparent to us that an **innovative change to our communication strategy** was needed.
- Hosting the "**How to Survive First Year Question Panel**", where first year students were welcome to attend, interact and ask questions about anything from how to apply for special consideration to where the best lunch is on campus.

All our events this year focussed on engaging not only first year students but **students in every year of their studies and from an array of backgrounds**:

- Through sharing the **ISD x Institute of Engineering & Technology (IET) speed friending event** and encouraging science students to attend and meet new people.
- Hosting our "**Ramen & Pyjamas**" **online quiz night**, led by our **international representative** and in **collaboration with ISD** - this event ran very successfully and was the **largest and most engaging** international students focussed event Science Union has ever hosted.
- We reinvented the 'typical' pubcrawl, through removing the focus from alcohol and creating an **interactive game** throughout the evening, which follows the theme of the event. This also encouraged students to reach out of their social circles and **engage with new and different students** in a fun and safe environment. This allowed students to **form friendships** and relationships **regardless of their year, degree, or background**.
- Science Union's most prestigious event of the year, our **annual ball** will be occurring on the 24th of September at **Boola Bardip, the WA museum**. This event encourages hundreds of people from **all disciplines at UWA** to celebrate their year and the **achievements of Science Union**. Tickets this year sold out in a record three hours, with many ticket holders comprised of non-science students, and non UWA students, which demonstrates our ability to engage with many people even beyond UWA.



INNOVATION:

Science is an infinitely changing and expansive field, thus Science Union are a constantly **innovative and adapting** Faculty Society. We consistently make significant attempts to **maintain and improve inclusivity** and **cater to the changing needs** of all students at UWA. We have achieved this through our new events, improvements to our existing events, utilising the UWA app and our subcommittee structures:

NEW METHODS & MEDIUMS FOR COMMUNICATING TO STUDENTS:

In 2021 it has become apparent that the communication pathways known and used by clubs and FACSOCs have diminished due to the **changing culture** of social media. Previously, Facebook was the primary form of communication, however this year we have endeavoured to **utilise the UWA app** as it is **extremely effective in engaging new students** who are excluded from the UWA club scene. It became second nature to upload events on both Facebook and the UWA app, as well as use our noticeboard in central Guild village. At the conclusion of events, we often ask for feedback from attendees and where they heard about the event. It was extremely fulfilling to see that several new and unknown students attended Science Union initiatives and made lifelong friends and memories through finding our events in these **new and innovative ways**.

RECONSIDERING, REVISING OR ALTERING COMMITTEE STRUCTURES TO THE BENEFIT OF STUDENTS:

Every year Science Union **revises and alters** our constitution and committee structure. Through small changes we have made large differences to the **effectiveness and inclusivity** of our committee:

- The addition of **defined roles** within the **industries subcommittee** to ensure members were staying **motivated and engaged**, these included: **newsletter officers, events officers, and company representatives**.
- The addition of the **international representative** into all portfolios (welfare, social, education and externals) to ensure **adequate representation and consultation** to **increase the engagement of international students**.
- Ensuring subcommittee members were involved in as many bonding activities to ensure they develop a **sense of identity** and cohesion within their role.
- Providing free shirts for subcommittee members as well as committee members to **reduce the barrier** between the positions.
- The creation of one large **'family'** group chat, inclusive of all subcommittee and committee members.
- Ensuring our 2021 Science Union jumpers were available for anyone to order.

TAKING INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO FINANCES AND/OR SPONSORSHIP:

Upon the appointment of our **sponsorship officer** in December 2020, the Science Union prospectus and sponsorship packages were **updated and improved**. These documents were then sent to a range of **potential sponsors**, science related and other. We also **refurbished and improved** our LinkedIn presence to encourage maximum sponsorships and finances. This resulted in us gaining financial sponsorship from a range of new companies, including **Fraser's GAMSAT, Linear Clinical Research** and **AusWHO**. This year Science Union have also taken innovative approaches to finances through **investing in long term items**, such as a custom made, Science Union branded marquee, a portable speaker, and a tea & coffee urn. All these investments have **benefited a range of students** who attend our events or are available for hire to smaller, **discipline specific science clubs** who cannot afford or attain their own.

We have also developed a **fair and equitable refund policy**. This refund policy was created in the wake of COVID-19 and will be used going forward to ensure the **viability of events** and preservation **of the student experience**

INCLUSIVE & INNOVATIVE EVENTS:

This application is a testament to the work and effort that Science Union consistently pours into running and creating **brand new, ground-breaking, and innovative events**. From our **"How To Study Workshop"** created after recognising that students are not taught how to study, only what to study, to our **men's mental health workshop**, run to combat the growing number of issues men face in society today of being unable to open up, all the way through to running a 250-person celebration of **LGBTQIA+ individuals** and **raising over \$2000** in the meantime. We have **renewed and improved** each event we have hosted this year in response to the **changing needs of students**, having events available online, interactive social media posts, running more alcohol-free social events, consulting many autonomous guild departments on events such as our Women & Non-Binary People in Science Breakfast to name a few.



On behalf of the entire Science Union community, our committee members, our subcommittee members and the executive team, thank you for taking the time to read and consider our application.

**Kate Stewart
2021 Science Union President**