Diversity Week Report :: 2013

Be Yourself

Diversity Week

9-13 September 2013
BACKGROUND

In 2013, UMSU took the reins of organising the grants and events for Diversity Week from the University of Melbourne for the first time.

With the assistance of a $10,000 grant from HEPPP (the Higher Education Participation Partnerships Program) and a keen team of staff and student representatives, we embarked on a week of yummy international food and movie screenings galore, as well as amazing events such as a gender diversity skills workshop for medical students, fair trade stalls, craft events, social anxiety workshops, trivia nights and the MU0SS Festival of Nations.

What follows is a small report on the numbers of the week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Balloons</th>
<th>1000</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of times the Diversity Week program was downloaded off the website</td>
<td>452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Instagram photos</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of events</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approximate number of attendees</td>
<td>6070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of campuses</td>
<td>4 (VCA, Parkville, Wangaratta, Burnley)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of clubs involved</td>
<td>24</td>
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Number of emails between umsuadmin and the grant awardees

Containers of nachos eaten at the Sapphires movie night

Percentage of HEPPP Grant given directly to students for events

Number of mediums Diversity Week advertised in

Total Facebook reach for the week

Facebook likes

Number of Instagram likes

Number of emails sent to students

Number of website hits
Seven Women Fair Trade Stall – the launch – MUCDC

We will set up a stall in union house/north court, selling fair trade products from Seven Women (Nepal) and Sogeri (PNG), as well as discussing fair trade with staff and student visitors. Fair trade is a valuable tool for the empowerment of marginalised people not only in economic spaces, but socially, culturally, and politically; we therefore consider fair trade, particularly in the sale of culturally specific products, a key aspect in the pursuit of viable and just diversity at the nexus of economic and sociocultural practices. We will be selling products provided by the students of Sogeri National High School, and by Seven Women, NFP group who facilitate fair trade exchanges between Australia and a group of women in Nepal.

Gender Diversity Skills for health professionals and allied health – MD Queer

A gender diversity clinical skills workshop ran by MD Queer in association with Transgender Victoria and The Zoe Belle Gender Centre. This workshop will focus on respectful and inclusive clinical practice when encountering gender diverse patients.

Greek in a week – MunGA

Yia sas! As the Melbourne Uni Greek Association, during Diversity Week, we invite all students to experience firsthand our Greek culture. MunGA will be offering a variety of traditional Greek foods and tasty sweets to enrich tastebuds such as baklava, koulourakia, lamb and chicken skewers. Our cuisine is one that should be experienced by all!! The iconic frappe, reminiscent of deck chairs and Greece’s crystal clear beaches, will make an appearance. Also, not to be missed are “How to” lessons in traditional Greek dancing and introductions! Opa!!

Spotlight on events

Here are a few of the events that occurred during the week:

- Seven Women Fair Trade Stall – the launch – MUCDC
- Gender Diversity Skills for health professionals and allied health – MD Queer
- Greek in a week – MunGA
- Types of Diversity Represented
- Diversity Week Report :: 2013
It’s ok to be an introvert!

This seminar took an interesting look at the neurobiology underlying introversion, and implications for social interaction styles, learning styles, energy levels, noise tolerance and many other aspects of everyday life. It aimed to dispel common myths about this personality trait, including confusion between introversion and shyness. Positive aspects of introversion were explored, along with practical strategies for valuing introversion in a largely extroverted culture.

Presented by Jodie Valpied (PhD Candidate, Psychological Sciences; Research Academic, Department of General Practice)

Celebrating Women in Physics: Physics Students Society

We intend to invite undergraduates and high school students to meet with accomplished women in Physics, to encourage a consideration in taking upon a career in this field. Our emphasis will be on not just commemorating historical women in the field, but imparting the idea that it is the responsibility of the students themselves to be the next leading figure in Physics to right the imbalance.

Promoting the idea that the thirst for knowledge knows no gender, and that one should pursue their dreams regardless of what they identify with.

Be Yourself through craft

Our club’s event is to create a hand knitted quilt to be raffled off where all the money collected from the raffle will be donated to the Royal Children’s hospital. In addition to this major project we will also get people involved in making personalised felt bears that can be made into pins or key rings. The quilt allows members of the community to create their own knitted square, where they are able to express themselves through their choice of colour, pattern and design. Once enough squares are complete they will be sewed together where every individual in this project will be able to contribute in helping the community. The felt bears invite people to design and create their own personalised key ring or broach.

RUOK Day Brekkie

To celebrate #ruokday #ddiversityweek13 the University of Melbourne Safer Community Program and UMSU Welfare Dept held a free breakfast for students and staff on R U OK Day in North Court.

R U OK? Day is dedicated to reminding us to regularly check in with those we care about by asking “R U OK?” A simple conversation could change a life.

Wheelchair Accessible Tour of Campus

You can -access- most of the university in a wheelchair, but it requires a lot of extra time, detours and inconveniences. Whether or not you’re a chair-user, this tour will show off some of the interesting parts of the campus, Tin Alley to Grattan Street, using the routes you would use in a chair. The tour will finish up at Tsubu with a bar tab for participants, so we can talk about the surprising challenges, how areas might be made more accessible, and make new friends.

A lot of events conducted by subjects and organisations in the university are not accessible. I’ve had launches conducted up narrow stairs and even the performance aspect of a script subject. “Be yourself” brings some people under scrutiny and into the spotlight more than others. This event will educate students who can casually take the stairs, of how much time it adds on to take accessible routes, and celebrate the students who do so every day, in the course of being themselves.

Festival of Nations (FoNs)

Festival of Nations is a 2 day food and entertainment Carnival, run by the Melbourne University Overseas Student Service (MUOSS) Department of UMSU. Encompassing student clubs and cultural groups, it brings international food stalls and performances to North and South Court at Union House.

Number of FoNs stalls in 2011: 18
Number of FoNs stalls in 2012: 17
Number of FoNs stalls in 2013: 20
Number of FoNs attendees in 2013: 3500
Number of FoNs attendees in 2012: 2500
Number of years FoNs has run: 24
Number of cultures represented at FoNs: 16

3500
2500
24
16
Number of Games at FoNs

5 games each day

No. of people for set up

approximately

16 MUGSS office bearers and 15 volunteers

No. of people staffing the food stalls

100

No. of performers

13 performances across both days with an Aboriginal performance as part of the Opening Ceremony

RECOMMENDATIONS

Moving the date of Diversity Week so it sits with the MUGSS Night Market early in Semester 1

The timing of Diversity Week in Semester Two is right in the middle of a very busy period for both the University and UMSU. UMSU has Stress Less Week, Rad Sex and Consent Week, Enviro Week, Election week and more, plus students are starting to get concerned about exams and mid semester tests.

Moving Diversity Week to Semester 1 would ensure that the week acts as an information provider as well as an amazing event – it would coax new students into the activities offered and provide another forum to promote services to students right after O-Week. It would also act as an excellent transition activity, and would be better timed for community and sponsor engagement.
Contact

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