



## USU's PRESIDENT REPORT:

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We've had a busy month at the USU. I'll start by explicitly saying that we're committed to fostering supportive, encouraging, safe, and inclusive cultures and communities. In line with this, we've extended the provision of free period products to all bathrooms in USU buildings to ensure anyone who menstruates can access them. I'm grateful to the student representatives in the USU, SRC, and SUPRA who collaborated to deliver Pride and Consent Week in mid-September. Discretionary grants were provided to USU clubs to participate in this week, which involved celebrating diversity, encouraging meaningful conversations, and increasing the visibility of diverse genders and sexualities.

To platform student musicians and cement the return of live music to campus, the USU has brought back Battle of the Bands, formerly known as the Sydney Uni Band Comp. The winners will play the USU's *Someday Soon* music festival. This inaugural event will take place at Manning House on October 15 with a mix of local and headliner artists, including Lastlings, Holy Holy, Middle Kids, and Hermitude.

From September 15 to October 14, the USU's Verge Gallery is hosting the exhibition *That Which Endures* by Thea Anamara Perkins. In the words of the artist, "This series is a celebration of the civil rights movement led by First Nations people in Australia." The USU is fortunate to be the only student organisation in Australia with its own art gallery, and I encourage you to visit this and subsequent Verge Gallery exhibitions. Located nearby is the wonderful Sydney College of the Arts Student Society's BackSpace Gallery, which the USU supports.

For the first time since 2019, the USU hosted International Fest. This celebration of cultural diversity provided a platform for students to showcase their cultures and learn about others. It was powered by club-run food stalls, activities, and performances, which were funded by the USU. We've been further amplifying diverse perspectives through the inaugural USU speaker series. This has so far seen 2021 Australian of the Year Grace Tame and Kurdish-Iranian writer Behrouz Boochani speak to USU members.

Cole Scott-Curwood  
President