



UWA STUDENT GUILD
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Guild President's Report

Introduction

As President of the 112th UWA Student Guild, I am proud to reflect on the progress made in the first half of 2025. The Guild continues to be a central part of student life at UWA, advocating for students, delivering vital welfare services, and nurturing the vibrant culture that makes our University unique.

This year has been defined by a strong focus on cost-of-living support, infrastructure renewal, and student representation. The completion of Phase One of the Guild Masterplan, the renovation of the Tavern, and a suite of successful student-led projects have ensured that the Guild remains at the forefront of improving the UWA student experience.

Guild Operations and Infrastructure

Guild Masterplan

One of the most significant milestones this year has been the completion of Phase One of the Guild Masterplan. This long-term project is designed to modernise the Guild Precinct and deliver a campus hub that is welcoming, accessible, and future-focused.

The first stage focused on the refurbishment of Guild Village and the courtyard near the Refectory, transforming these areas into more open, functional, and student-friendly spaces. UWA Students are already reporting that the Precinct feels more inviting and better suited to everyday use, study, and social connection.

The Guild Masterplan remains ongoing. Importantly, funding has been secured for accessibility upgrades, with planning now underway for the installation of a lift in Cameron Hall, a key step in making our campus more accessible. The completion of Phase One marks an exciting new chapter for student spaces at UWA, with more improvements to follow in coming years.

Tavern Renovations

The UWA Tavern, a cornerstone of campus culture, has undergone extensive interior renovations in its 50th anniversary year. The refurbishment has delivered updated spaces and modern facilities that enhance the Tavern's role as both a vibrant social hub and a cultural landmark for generations of UWA students.

The revitalised Tav has already hosted a wide range of events, including the first Guild Battle of the Bands to mark its anniversary, as well as a Guild alumni gathering and student-run



festivals. These celebrations have reinforced the Tavern's central place in student life, connecting past and present students and building momentum for future campus traditions.

Regulation Overhaul

This project focuses on ensuring that Guild governance is modern, transparent, and reflective of best practice in student representation. The review aims to simplify existing regulations, reduce unnecessary complexity, and create a clearer framework for both student leaders and staff. By strengthening internal processes and accountability, the Guild will be better placed to deliver advocacy and services that respond to the evolving needs of students.

Clubs, Culture and Engagement

The Guild has continued to nurture campus culture, ensuring students feel connected, welcomed, and engaged in University life. Our work this year has focused on breaking down financial barriers to participation, reinvigorating campus traditions, and ensuring that clubs and societies remain at the heart of the UWA experience.

Golden Ticket Program

Launched at the beginning of 2025, the Golden Ticket program provided every first-year student with a free club membership. The initiative was designed to encourage participation in UWA's clubs and societies, which are the lifeblood of campus culture.

So far, more than 2,000 tickets have been redeemed, meaning thousands of students, who might otherwise have hesitated due to financial pressures, have now been able to engage with student life and club culture. The result has been stronger first-year integration into the UWA community, higher attendance at club events, and a deeper sense of belonging among new students. Feedback from both students and club committees has been overwhelmingly positive, and the Guild intends to continue and expand the program in future years.

Expanding Club Engagement

To provide more opportunities for students to get involved, the Guild reintroduced a second O-Day in Semester Two, which attracted over one hundred clubs and societies. This mid-year showcase gave students who missed out in Semester One, or who wanted to try something new, another chance to explore UWA life.

The Guild has also made it easier for clubs to access funding through reforms to the grants system, reducing red tape and ensuring that more events can take place. This has empowered clubs to be more ambitious in their programming and to reach a wider range of students.

Celebrating the Tavern's 50th Anniversary

The UWA Tavern marked its 50th anniversary in 2025, cementing its role as a cornerstone of campus culture. The Guild hosted special alumni events, anniversary promotions, and the first-ever Battle of the Bands, bringing together students and graduates to celebrate the Tav's enduring place in student life. These celebrations showcased the Tavern's evolution into a modern, inclusive space while paying tribute to its history as a hub of music, culture, and connection.



Revitalising Campus Life

Alongside these major initiatives, the Guild has continued to support a diverse range of events and traditions that make UWA's campus life distinctive. Weekly Tav Wednesdays, department-led theme weeks, and large-scale student-run festivals have created a lively and inclusive atmosphere. These events do more than provide entertainment — they build networks, foster leadership, and ensure that every student finds their place in the UWA community.

Cost-of-Living Initiatives

The cost-of-living crisis remains one of the greatest pressures on students, and the Guild has taken major steps this year to provide meaningful relief. In partnership with the University, we secured \$100,000 dedicated to cost-of-living projects, enabling new programs and expanded welfare initiatives.

Alongside this funding, the Guild itself has scaled up its core welfare services. The Food Pantry has expanded in size and capacity, supporting hundreds of students each semester as demand reaches record levels. The emergency loans scheme has also been strengthened, offering timely support to students facing unexpected financial difficulties. Together, these programs form a stronger safety net for students struggling to make ends meet.

Additional initiatives rolled out this year include:

- **Essential Product Packs:** Over 1,000 free hygiene and toiletry packs distributed across campus.
- **Free and Discounted Meals:** More than 4,000 free dinners and 900 discounted breakfasts provided during exams, giving students vital relief during periods of high stress.
- **Food for Fines:** Set to launch in September, this program will allow students to pay off parking fines with food donations, directly benefiting the Food Pantry.
- **Free Pregnancy Tests & Nappies:** Practical support now available at the Guild Pharmacy and in parents' rooms across campus.
- **Free Period Products:** For the first time, sanitary care is available in all five UWA libraries.

Together, these measures reflect both an expansion of existing services and the creation of innovative new initiatives. They demonstrate the Guild's commitment to ensuring that financial hardship does not prevent students from fully participating in university life.

Assessment Reform

A landmark achievement this year has been the successful implementation of the two-day penalty waiver for all assignments. The Guild worked collaboratively with the University to introduce this reform, recognising that students juggle multiple responsibilities and that unexpected challenges often disrupt academic life. This policy provides students with greater flexibility and fairness, reducing stress and supporting academic success.



Sustainability

Guild Op Shop

The Guild Op Shop has been an incredibly successful student-run initiative, raising nearly \$10,000 this year. Beyond its financial contribution, the Op Shop provides students with affordable access to clothing and household goods while promoting a circular economy. It has also become a hub for volunteer engagement and student creativity, reinforcing the Guild's role in practical sustainability.

Second-Hand Bookshop

The Guild Second-Hand Bookshop has continued to thrive, generating close to \$15,000 for charity. By offering affordable books and resources, it not only reduces financial pressures on students but also advances waste reduction goals.

Sustainable Club Award

To further embed sustainability into student life, the Guild has launched a Sustainable Club Award. This initiative encourages clubs and societies to adopt environmentally conscious practices in their events and operations, promoting long-term cultural change across campus.

Interclub Campus Clean-Up

The Guild coordinated an interclub clean-up event at UWA, which brought together students from multiple clubs to collect 224 kilograms of rubbish from around campus. The clean-up not only improved the physical environment but also demonstrated the power of collective action in building a more sustainable community.

Keep Cup Library

This year also saw the launch of a Keep Cup Library, an initiative designed to reduce single-use waste on campus. By providing reusable cups for students to borrow and return, the program is helping to shift behaviour toward more sustainable daily habits.

Advocacy and Representation

Club Freedom Fest

One of the major advocacy issues this year has been the University's restrictions on lecture theatre announcements, which significantly reduced the ability of clubs to connect with their peers. In response, the Guild organised the Club Freedom Fest, a peaceful demonstration that highlighted the importance of student voice and campus culture.

As a result of this campaign, partial exemptions have been granted, allowing some announcements to continue. The Guild remains committed to achieving a full reversal of the policy, recognising that communication between clubs and students is essential to a thriving campus community.

Affordable Parking for Postgraduate Students

In transport advocacy, the Guild successfully secured half-price parking at the Claremont campus for postgraduate students. This change addresses a long-standing inequity faced by students who travel between multiple campuses and often juggle significant financial and academic commitments. By reducing this cost burden, the Guild has made UWA more affordable and accessible for postgraduates, reinforcing our commitment to practical cost-of-living relief.



UWA Ferry Stop

Another significant milestone in Guild advocacy has been the State Government's decision to establish a ferry stop at UWA. The Guild's consistent lobbying contributed to this outcome, which will provide students with a sustainable, accessible, and affordable transport option.

The Guild is now working as a key stakeholder in the consultation process, ensuring that the ferry service is designed to meet student needs while protecting the safety and accessibility of the Matilda Bay foreshore.

Conclusion

The first half of 2025 has been marked by major achievements in student welfare, sustainability, advocacy, and infrastructure. From the completion of Phase One of the Guild Masterplan to record-breaking results from the Op Shop and Second-Hand Bookshop, the Guild has demonstrated its ability to deliver for students both in practical support and in cultural leadership.

As we look ahead to the remainder of the year, the 112th Guild Council focus will be on consolidating these gains, expanding cost-of-living support, and continuing to ensure that UWA remains a place where students are heard, supported, and able to thrive.



Nikhita Talluri
112th Guild President

