

The Guild started off the year with our hallmark event, an amazing O'Day on James Oval with over 140 clubs in attendance. Here, we provided Platinum Tickets which gave all commencing students \$10 worth to join a club or attend a club event. From the first week setting foot on campus, we wanted students to feel a part of the social life of our university, from clubs celebrating their 90th anniversary like Uni Camp for Kids to newly affiliated clubs within months of starting. O'Day finished off with O'Day Afters, packing out the Tavern with students to see South Summit, and Semester 1 had begun!

It was a busy semester for students looking for something to do - we had theme weeks from Guild departments, the UDub Snow Machine end of semester party (helped tremendously by the newly installed air conditioning in the Tavern!), events from over 165 different clubs, and our first ever Lunar New Year to fill their time. In week 4, we had our biggest PROSH in recent memory, with over 1000 students storming the Perth streets to raise \$30,000 for Perth Homeless Support Group and On My Feet, two fantastic charities.

We've rolled out the new Guild app, improving services for our students and also providing a free coffee on download for Guild members. Our Guild services helped provide 4000 free exam dinners, free nappies in parent rooms and pregnancy tests at the pharmacy, free donuts, sausage sizzles, free chips and pizza at the Tavern, and Chupa-Chups of course.

The major focus for the Guild this year has been supporting students through the current cost-of-living crisis. We've seen volatile fuel prices and cost of everyday essentials leave many students, full time and part time both, struggling to balance work, budgets, and university life. This year, we've working with UWA and the Financial Wellbeing Collective to provide a range of workshops for students to learn holistic financial strategies for their life. Outside of this, we've released two new grants, both means-tested to have the highest impact on the students who need it the most.

Firstly, the Unpaid Placement Grant offers \$300 to students experiencing financial difficulties as a result of a mandatory unpaid placement. The financial barrier of placements presents a massive equity problem within many fields, so a small bit of help that the Guild could offer UWA students was welcome. On a positive note, the Guild was excited to see the expansion of the Commonwealth Prac Payment scheme to many more allied health areas this year. This follows consistent advocacy from universities across WA and Australia, but stills leaves many fields out, including Optometry, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, and Medicine.

Secondly, in partnership with the Development and Alumni Relations team, we released the Smartrider Grant, allowing for a \$50 top up on a public transport card. When fuel prices increased, many students reported genuine troubles with the costs associated with attending university. The public transport grant encouraged students to travel sustainably to university, and helped students manage a difficult and costly period. A special thank you to our Fiona Allan and her team who helped set this up, and of course to our alumni whose generosity makes initiatives like this possible.

Of course, we continued to give out free, no-questions-asked, easy access food items through the Guild Food Pantry, now relocated in the Guild Student Centre. The Pantry is one of the most popular Guild services, supplied through donations (which are open all year round!! Simply bring non-perishables to the Guild Student Centre). It's a direct way for those who can to give back to students, and for two months out of the year, it also helps to reduce the cost of parking fines! With the Food for Fines program expanded to March and August in 2026, students can donate food items instead of paying the fine, saving them \$10 and assisting an essential service.

As we've come into Semester 2, we've completed a 3-year long review and update of our Guild Regulations and Election Regulations, strengthening our governance for the Guild. Another multi-year guild project was also closed off with the launch of the lengthily-worded 'Request to Resolve a Minor Academic Issue' form. This provides students with a simpler way to elevate issues to UWA that traditionally have gone unfixed, like assessment marks not being returned within the specified deadlines or scheduled classes clashing with PROSH and Common Lunch Hour.

As a proactive measure to create a culture of safety for our students, we've launched free drink spike testing kits in the UWA Tavern. Our bar staff are trained on their usage, meaning that a student who suspects they've been spiked can check for evidence quickly and receive treatment if needed.

The final, most exciting new development, is the approval of funds and beginning of planning for the next stage in the Guild Masterplan: the North Wing redevelopment, which will see a new lift for increased accessibility, additional club rooms, and a more cohesive and connected Guild precinct. It's still in the early stages, so it will be something to pass on to next year's team, but it will mark some major improvements to the student spaces of our UWA campus.

This has been a non-stop and thoroughly enjoyable journey thus far, with all too little left to get all the things I wanted to done! And of course, to all of our different student leaders on the 113th Guild Council, thank you for the amazing job that you've done and the work that's yet to be done. Seeing our students gladly volunteer their time and effort to make the Guild run is a pleasure and a privilege.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ollie B'.

Ollie Barrett
113th Guild President