



2025-2026

ANNUAL

REPORT

CONNECTING STUDENTS,
CREATING BELONGING.

CoastRs Incorporated
ABN - 47 919 544 221

CoastRs
STUDENT ASSOCIATION



WE ARE COASTRS

Your Student Association

CoastRs Student Association is the representative student-body organisation for students at Southern Cross University's Gold Coast campus. Our membership is open to all students enrolled internally at Gold Coast or studying externally.

Our aim is to make your university experience as engaging, enjoyable and memorable as it can be by creating an inclusive and supportive community.



hello@coastrs.com.au



(07) 55 893 072



[/CoastrsSCU](https://CoastrsSCU)



[@coastrs_scu](https://www.instagram.com/coastrs_scu)



coastrs.com.au



Building A 1:20

This service has been funded by the Student Services and Amenities Fee.



OUR SERVICES



Printing & Binding

We offer printing services at subsidised prices.



Free Food

We stock the kitchen in the student lounge every week with snacks and provide weekly lunch vouchers.



Social events

We hold various fun social events both on and off-campus throughout the year.



Parents Room

Located on the ground floor of Building B, our Parents Room contains a baby change table and supplies.



First Aid Rebates

We offer a rebate for your First Aid & CPR courses.



Support Services

There are a range of support services available for students. Please check in with us for further info.



Clubs & Societies

Meet like minded students with a variety of clubs and societies available to join!



Health & Wellness

We offer a range of free wellness activities each term, including weekly yoga sessions.



Locker Hire

Store your personal belongings safely. There are a range of different lockers around the campus available for hire.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

வணக்கம் and G'day, fellow CoastRs members!

It is with an enormous amount of pride, gratitude, and perhaps a little disbelief at how quickly the year has flown, that I sit down to write this, my first President's Report for CoastRs Student Association.

Many of you will know me from the committee in my previous role as Vice President of Welfare, where I wrote about CoastRs as a place that had transformed my university experience. I meant every word then, and stepping into the President's role has only deepened that conviction. CoastRs is not just a student association. It is a community. It is a home away from home. And being entrusted to lead it this year has been one of the greatest privileges of my time at Southern Cross University.

When I joined the committee back in 2024, it was out of a simple desire to give back, to contribute to the kind of environment that had supported me as a PhD student navigating research life at the Gold Coast campus. As a postgraduate student, it is easy to feel isolated. You spend hours buried in data, literature, and lab work, and the rhythm of academic life can sometimes feel like a solo endeavour. CoastRs was, and continues to be, the antidote to that. It reminded me, and I hope it reminds every student who walks through our doors or picks up a free/subsidised lunch or stumbles into a candle-making workshop, that university life is so much more than assessments and deadlines.

I am proud to say that 2025-2026 has been a year, as usual, where CoastRs has delivered on its mission, Connecting Students, Creating Belonging, in the most tangible and meaningful ways.

This year, we welcomed over 900 new members across five terms. That number is not just a statistic. Each of those members is a student who signed up because they saw something in CoastRs worth joining and watching that grow has been nothing short of extraordinary.

Our calendar was as rich and varied as ever. From Welcome Weeks packed with free food and giveaways, to creative workshops, Stress Less Weeks, Campus Connection Days, and Healthy Harvest Markets, there was always something happening on campus that gave students a reason to connect with each other.

CoastRs showed up for every student, from every background, at every moment that mattered.

Our international students also had memorable experiences this year, with dedicated events that helped them feel connected and at home on campus. That sense of belonging, for every student, remains at the heart of what we do.

Behind every event, every morning tea, every food drop and free voucher, is a team of staff who make it all possible. Kendal, Elise, Bianca, Tanaya, and Andi, I cannot thank you enough. You have moved mountains this year. When the wellness room was converted to a gym, you found solutions. When orientation threw last-minute curveballs, you problem-solved on the spot. When the storage situation became unworkable, you pivoted without fuss. Your professionalism, creativity, and genuine care for students is the engine that keeps CoastRs running, and I do not take it for granted for a single moment.

I also want to acknowledge the CoastRs Committee, every person who gave their time, energy, and ideas to this association in 2025-2026. To those who stepped down after graduating, Meiyi, Joshua, Anuradha, and Gabriella, thank you. You have left this committee better than you found it. And to our newer members, David, Linhuan, Michael, and Rahul, welcome. The best is still ahead.

As we head into the rest of 2026, there is plenty to look forward to. The Annual Gala on 22 August, a subsidised movie ticket initiative for students, a Term events calendar shaped by student feedback, the momentum is real, and it is exciting.

In Tamil, we say "யாதும் ஊரேயாவரும் கேளிர்" - every place is my home; every person is my kin. These ancient words capture exactly what CoastRs strives to be. Every student who walks onto this campus, whether from down the road or the other side of the world, deserves to feel that this is their place and these are their people. That has been the quiet purpose behind everything we have done this year, and it will continue to guide everything we do in the year ahead.

I want to simply say: thank you. To everyone who made 2025-2026 what it was, staff, committee, volunteers, and members, this report belongs to all of you.

-Banujan

COASTRS INCORPORATED

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Hello CoastRs members, my name is Jess Chadburn and I am the Secretary of the Student Association.

I have been part of the committee for several years now, previously holding roles in Engagement and as President before stepping into the Secretary position. This journey has given me a broad perspective on how our association operates and continues to grow.

In my role as Secretary, I have supported the ongoing work of the committee while also having the opportunity to see first-hand the dedication of our staff and student volunteers. Their effort and enthusiasm are what drive the success of everything CoastRs delivers.

Over the past year, the Student Association has continued to support a large and diverse student community. This has been evident through a wide range of events and initiatives aimed at promoting wellbeing, connection, and engagement across campus.

From a governance perspective, the committee has remained committed to meeting regularly, making informed decisions, and contributing to the development of new ideas and opportunities. Our relationship with the University has also continued to strengthen, with a shared focus on improving awareness and access to SSAF-funded services, and ensuring student voices are heard and represented.

I would like to sincerely thank our staff, volunteers, and fellow committee members for their continued support and contributions. Your work has played an important role in the success of this year.

I look forward to continuing this progress and supporting a positive and inclusive experience for students in the year ahead.

-Jessica

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

My name is Gabriella Wayne, and I am proud to serve as Secretary of the CoastRs Student Association.

The years 2025 and 2026 have been defined by creativity, collaboration, and meaningful student engagement across all areas of CoastRs operations. Throughout this period, CoastRs has continued to strengthen its role in supporting student wellbeing, fostering community connection, and delivering accessible, student-focused initiatives across campus.

CoastRs proudly supported approximately 10,000 students across 2025 and beginning of 2026, with strong participation in events, programs, catering services, and student support initiatives.

Our calendar featured a diverse range of activities designed to promote inclusion, wellbeing, and social connection. Popular initiatives included candle-making and essential oil workshops, the Snack Trolley, and Stress Less Week, all of which contributed to creating a welcoming, engaging, and supportive student experience both on campus.

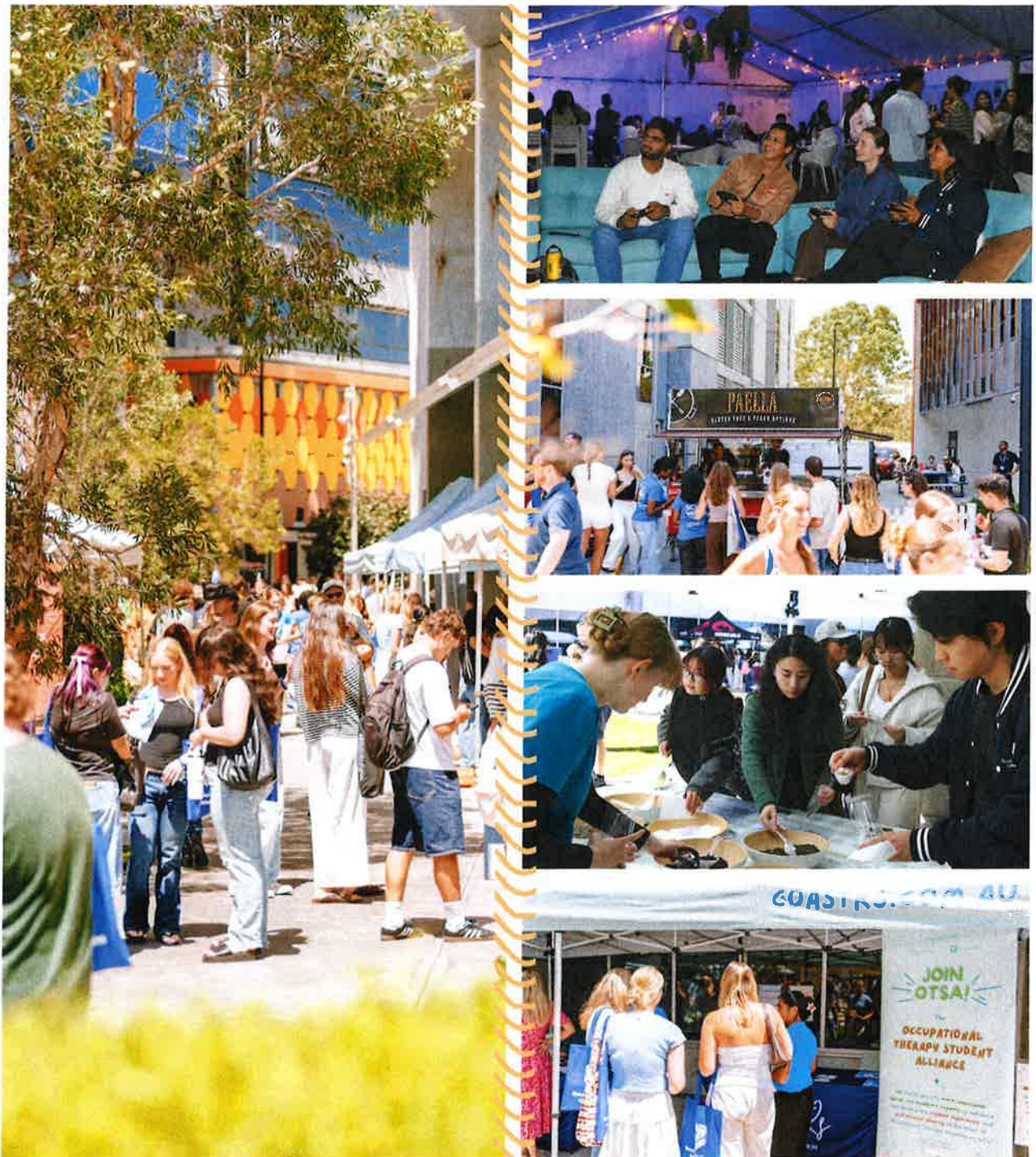
Behind the scenes, the CoastRs Committee met to fulfil its governance responsibilities, endorse key operational decisions, and support the development of new initiatives aimed at enhancing student life. Collaboration between CoastRs and the University also continued to strengthen, reinforcing our shared commitment to ensuring students are aware of and can confidently access SSAF-funded services, programs, and opportunities.

This progress would not have been possible without the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and committee members. Their ongoing commitment, enthusiasm, and passion have played a significant role in making 2025/2026 highly successful years for CoastRs and the broader student community.

As I conclude my time with CoastRs in 2026, I do so with great appreciation for the experiences and achievements we have shared. While I am saddened to be leaving, I am confident that the Committee and staff will continue to build on this momentum by expanding opportunities for student involvement, strengthening student representation, and delivering programs that positively impact the student experience for years to come.

-Gabriella

A year in review



COASTRS INCORPORATED

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT WELFARE

Starting a Master's degree in a new country is one of those experiences that sounds exciting from a distance and then hits you all at once when you actually arrive. You don't know anyone. You don't quite know where anything is. And between orientation sessions and assessments commencing within the first few weeks, it's easy to feel like you're just passing through rather than actually belonging somewhere.

CoastRs changed that for me, faster than I expected. Before I'd even properly settled in, the name was already familiar- noticeboards, university emails, newsletters. It was everywhere, in the best possible way, and that kind of visibility quietly tells a new student that someone here is actively trying to make this place feel like theirs.

What struck me most wasn't any single event or initiative- it was the intention behind all of it. The committee genuinely works to make sure that students, especially those who are new and still finding their footing, have real reasons to show up, connect, and feel like part of something. That kind of effort is easy to take for granted until you're on the receiving end of it and realise how much it actually matters.

I joined the committee because I wanted to contribute to that - to be part of building the kind of community that makes someone else's first few months feel a little less overwhelming and a lot more like home. I've only just begun, but even in a short time, I can see how much care goes into the work that CoastRs does, often quietly, and often without nearly enough credit.

To anyone who hasn't yet plugged in, I'd genuinely encourage you to. And to the committee members who've been holding this together long before I arrived: thank you. What you do matters more than you probably realise.



COASTRS INCORPORATED

CONNECTION AND COMMUNITY

The Student Association, CoastRs, remains committed to ensuring student voices are heard and valued. Throughout 2025, we sought feedback from students through surveys, consultations, and conversations, enabling us to continually refine our programs, services, and events to better meet the needs of our student community. This collaborative approach has helped strengthen student engagement and enhance the support available on campus.

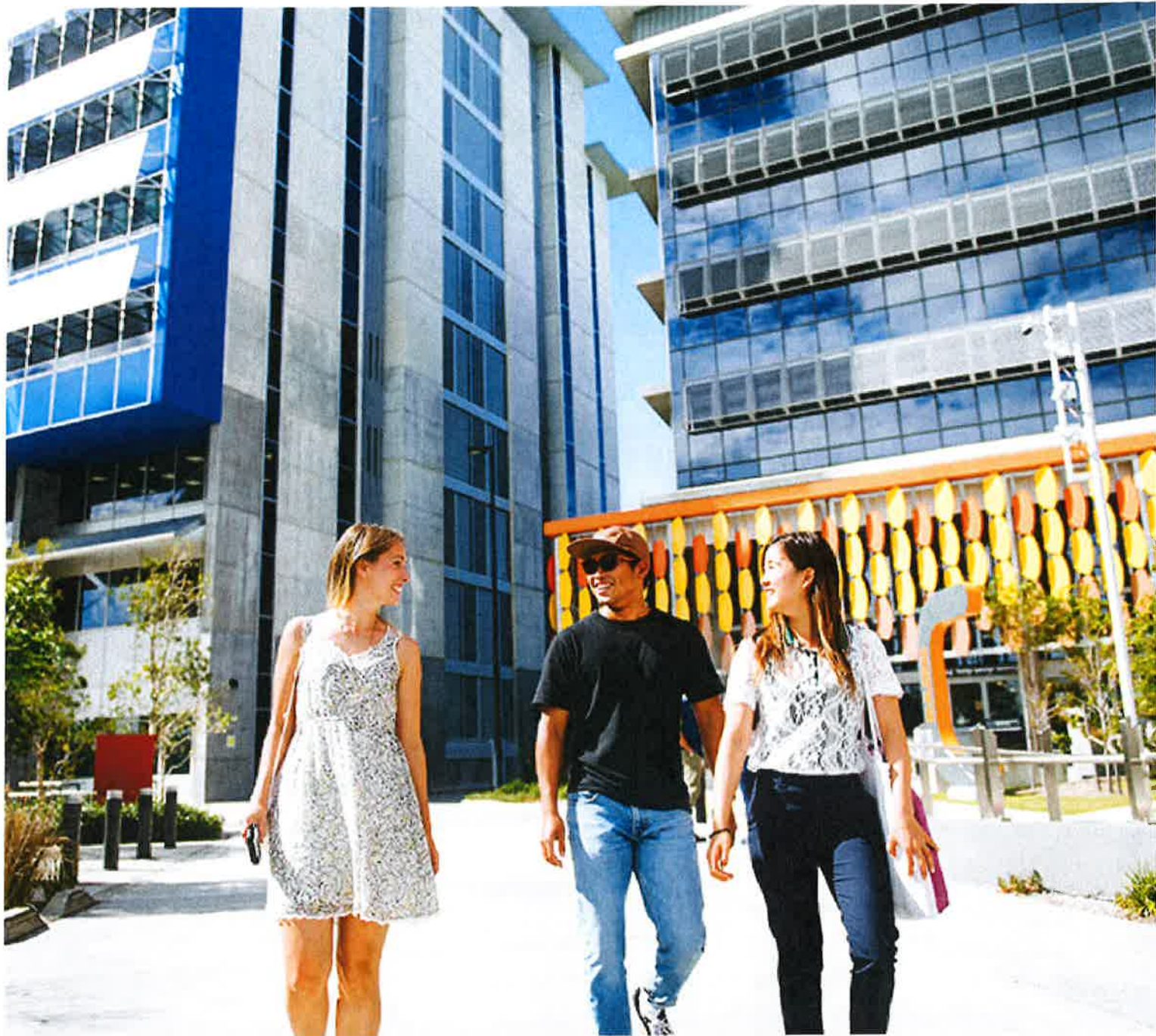
Through a range of initiatives, activities, and advocacy efforts delivered throughout the year, CoastRs contributed to a vibrant, inclusive, and welcoming campus culture where students could connect, grow, and succeed both academically and socially.

These achievements would not have been possible without the dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment of our student committee representatives and volunteers. Their contributions have played a vital role in creating a supportive and engaging environment for students on the Gold Coast campus.

We sincerely thank our 2025 committee members:

- Banujan Kuhaneswaran – President
- Jessica Thompson – Secretary
- Gabriella Wayne – Treasurer
- Rahul Wadha – Vice President, Welfare
- David Penaloza Aponte – Vice President, Advocacy
- Junling Feng – Vice President, Engagement
- Linhuan Lyu – Rainbow Alliance Representative
- Ravi Poudel – International Representative
- Anuradha Colombage – General/Indigenous Representative

We also extend our sincere appreciation to those committee members whose terms conclude this year. Thank you for your dedication, leadership, and service to the student community. Your efforts have made a meaningful and lasting contribution to campus life, and we wish you all the very best in your future pursuits.



CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Joining a club, society, or community sport/recreation group is a great way to meet new people and explore interests beyond your academic life at Southern Cross University. To get involved, reach out to a club or society representative—or contact CoastRs if you're interested in starting your own on the Gold Coast campus or online.

A list of affiliated clubs and societies for 2025 is provided below.



CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

The Student Creative Writing Club is a student-led community that brings together aspiring writers to share ideas, develop their craft, and foster creativity in a supportive environment.

SCU ENVIRO CLUB

The SCU Enviro Club is a student-run community focused on sustainability, environmental education, and creating a greener future.



SCU MIDWIFERY SOCIETY

The SCU Midwifery Society is a student-led community that supports and connects midwifery students through professional development, networking opportunities, and peer engagement.



[/SCUMidwiferySociety_](https://www.facebook.com/SCUMidwiferySociety_)





 [/SCUNursingSociety/](https://www.facebook.com/SCUNursingSociety/)

NURSING SOCIETY

The Nursing Society aims to support and mentor students by providing resource sharing, academic and social events, training and further education opportunities relevant to enhance learning and clinical placement requirements and help develop teamwork and leadership skills for students.

SPEECH PATHOLOGY CLUB

SCUSPA is a student led club for the purpose of networking, advocacy and collaboration across the speech pathology cohorts, other allied health students, clinicians, and the community. Join the club now.



 [/goldcoastcampus/](https://www.facebook.com/goldcoastcampus/)



 [/SCURainbowAllianceGC](https://www.facebook.com/SCURainbowAllianceGC)

 [/rainbow_alliance_scu_students](https://www.instagram.com/rainbow_alliance_scu_students)

RAINBOW ALLIANCE CLUB

Rainbow Alliance is a LGBTQI+ student and allies social group who is an affiliated club under CoastRs Student Association. This group is an inclusive community that represents all LGBTQI+ students at Southern Cross University. The club hosts social events regularly with the aim to help connect the LGBTQI+ community, promote social inclusion and help support one another.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CLUB

The International Student Club is dedicated to fostering diversity at SCU. This club strives to create a friendly environment which entertains, educates, and challenges their members.

 [/CoastRs.Intl.scu](https://www.facebook.com/CoastRs.Intl.scu)

The mission of the International Student Club is to promote intercultural communication and understanding among all students, as well as to provide academic and social assistance to members. They focus on International Students issues and concerns, but never forget that they are mostly a social club.



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CLUB (OTSA)

OTSA is the Occupational Therapy Student Alliance. It is made up of 1st to 4th year Occupational Therapy students at SCU Gold Coast. The club aims to support and mentor fellow Bachelor of Occupational Therapy students through shared experiences, resource sharing, social and academic events and much more.



 [/otsa.scu](https://www.facebook.com/otsa.scu)

SCU Student



Engineering Society

ENGINEERING STUDENT CLUB

The Student Engineering Society is a place for all engineering students to connect, access academic resources, engage in peer-to-peer networking and networking opportunities with active professional engineers through Engineers Australia seminars and events.

Once you have signed up to the club, you can also connect with members of the SES group on their [discord server](#).



SCU CHRISTIAN CLUB

Southern Cross Christian Students is a student club at Southern Cross University full of people who want to follow Jesus and make Him known at uni.

We welcome everyone to come and be part of our activities and encourage all Christians studying at Southern Cross Uni to join us.



 [/sccs.gc.scu](https://www.facebook.com/sccs.gc.scu)

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