



## 2024 Graduate: Ruby Kelly-Guthrie

Bachelor of Youth Work and Youth Studies graduate, Ruby Kelly-Guthrie, is a proud Wemba Wemba, Yorta Yorta and Mutthi Mutthi woman from Swan Hill in Victoria.

### **Journey to RMIT**

Coming into RMIT, Ruby knew that social services was something she was passionate about. Ruby completed a Certificate in Community Services in secondary school, which confirmed this.

However, it was Ruby's basketball coach who influenced her decision to pursue further study in youth work, having observed Ruby's caring nature and strong leadership potential within her team. "He told me that he could see me working with young people," she said.

Ruby moved to Naarm/Melbourne to begin her degree at the start of 2022. Ruby continues to foster many meaningful relationships within the RMIT community. This spans students, academic staff, and the entire Ngarara Willim community.

### **Greatest Achievement at RMIT**

"My most cherished memories come from the people who I have met along the way, especially some of the mob who have been a big part of my being able to stay connected to culture and community whilst living away from the country."

Ruby's ability to cultivate connection and stand for what she believes in contributed to her success in the role of 'Indigenous Officer' within RMIT's student union, RUSU.

"During my time at RMIT, I have had many memorable experiences and achieved many great things. I have been part of the Indigenous National side and had the opportunity to represent and advocate for Indigenous students by taking on the Indigenous Officer role."

### The Impact of her Degree

For Ruby, graduating her degree comes as an enormous achievement, not only for herself, but also for her family and community back home.

“I have completed something I never thought possible,” she said.

Ruby hopes that her success at RMIT stands as a positive example for Indigenous people who wish to attend university. “I have achieved a goal for myself—to show other mob that it is possible for us to go to uni and achieve academic excellence.”

### Plans for the Future

Moving forward, Ruby plans to continue her work in the social services sector and is soon to begin a 12-month graduate program which will allow her to rotate throughout various departments within the field.

Ruby hopes to one day work in case management for young mob. “It’s essential that they are given opportunities and support to succeed in what they want to do in life. I will be one of those people who ensures that this can be done, and that a cycle can be broken.”

“The support, love and care I have been shown is indescribable. I have been blessed and so grateful to have made lifelong friends and family who I will forever have on my journey ahead.”

