Dear colleague,

Welcome to the first New Academic Street Staff Update for 2015.

In late 2015 work will start on RMIT’s New Academic Street (NAS) project, which will transform the heart of the City campus with a new student hall, an overhaul of the Swanston Library and the creation extraordinary urban spaces filled with natural light.

Last year we shared the New Academic Street vision and the plans in place to ensure the campus continues to deliver services to students while the project is underway.

Over the long break we delivered several key early projects and also commenced many others, which are getting the campus ready for the main building project.

This update will let you know what’s happening on campus, what’s coming up and where to go to find out more information. It has been drafted to help you answer questions from students, other members of staff and visitors.

www.rmit.edu.au/nas
Works completed over the break
— A new stairway entrance has been built outside Building 8, which enables direct pedestrian access from Swanston Street to level 3 (open early March).
— An escalator upgrade in Building 8 will be completed by early March. The new escalators will operate in a way similar to those in the Swanston Academic Building and enable efficient people movement through Building 8.
— The new student computer lab in Building 28, level 3 will open in early March. It will be open 24/7 and provide about 100 computers for student use.

New temporary café – Alumni Courtyard Food Market
— The Building 8 café on level 4 is closed and the new Alumni Courtyard Food Market opens from 20 February.
— Three new food ‘pop-ups’ have been installed in the Alumni Courtyard – Rice & Dice (Asian fusion), Jailbird (healthy wraps), Moo Moo (all types of burgers) and a Nomad coffee cart is serving freshly brewed coffee and donuts (look out for the signage in Bowen Street).
— A marquee is being fitted with tables and chairs, planter boxes, bean bags and sofas, so it is going to be a terrific student space.
— In Building 8 on level 4, RUSU Real Foods is still trading and a new Nomad coffee store has opened up next door.
— STREAT is trading in Building 10 on level 4.
— A new coffee kiosk, Little Bang Espresso, is also operating in the Building 8 student lounge on level 8.

Semester 1 – works underway
— There are hoardings outside some buildings in Bowen Street.
— There are pre-works underway to create new temporary and permanent homes for facilities that are currently located in the New Academic Street construction zone.
— Some works are minor fit-outs, others are larger-scale. The main works are:
  — Building 14 – new Applied Science Labs being built on level 5 (hoarding outside B14)
  — Building 5 – new TV studios being built on level 3; the new Ngarara Willim Centre is being built on level 1 (hoarding outside B5)
  — Building 6 – new art sound studios and community radio station Syn Media on level 1 (internal works only)
  — Building 7 – new Applied Science Soils Lab on level 1 (hoarding outside Building 7)
  — Building 11 – upgrade Old Melbourne Gaol building housing Students Group staff (hoarding outside Building 11).
— If you work near these buildings you will be informed about potential noise and other impacts via Property Services’ Works Notices and regular Neighbourhood Meetings.
**Semester 1 – student impacts**

- The Hub will stay where it is, in Building 12 on level 4 for now (it will move to the site of the old café in Building 8 on level 4 in late 2015).
- The old Linktopia store (located at Building 10 level 4 concourse) is being transformed into a pop-up Job Shop for students to support students’ employability.
- The old FujiXerox print centre (located at Building 10 level 4 concourse) is being transformed into a pop-up Maths drop-in learning support centre by the SLC.
- RMIT Link staff have moved to Building 94, level 3.
- Student facing engagement (clubs, collectives and societies) will be centred around the RMIT City Fitness Centre on Building 8, level 3 and the Campus Store located at 17-25 Little LaTrobe Street.
- Alternative spaces for student clubs, collectives and societies have been identified supporting the continuation of RMIT’s vibrant campus life.

**Semester 2 – student impacts**

- As part of the New Academic Street project, the Swanston Library will be completely refurbished to provide more than 40 per cent more quiet and collaborative study spaces.
- To build the new facilities, while keeping the Library functioning, the Library will be upgraded in three phases over two years.
- While this upgrade is underway the Swanston Library floor space will be reduced by up to 50 per cent and this will start in Semester 2.
- We will be working with students, staff in the Library and academic staff to prepare them for the change and work with them during the upgrade.

For queries please visit the website at [www.rmit.edu.au/nas](http://www.rmit.edu.au/nas) or send an email to [nas@rmit.edu.au](mailto:nas@rmit.edu.au)