

Go clubbing *“The lifeblood of uni social life”*

Your first day of uni can be an overwhelming experience; hundreds of strangers loitering around uni, looking desperately at the maps scattered around campus trying desperately to find their classrooms. During the fabled O-Weeks you will be inundated with DJ's playing on campus, beers flowing and promotional goodies thrust upon you all before you step into a classroom. This is not high school version 2.0. Welcome to the university life, where on-campus pubs are valid study areas, and a pot and parma legitimate 'brain food'.

Apart from this bombardment of the senses, often during

O-Week societies and clubs will roll out stalls en masse to try and court you into becoming a member. For an upfront fee of around \$15 you will be presented with a laminated card and often a showbag with more promotional freebies. But why should you join a club and what is the point?

Clubs and societies are very much the lifeblood of uni social life. They are entirely student-run and are a great social forum to embed yourself in the uni life. But with so many dozens of groups to join, surely joining six groups at \$15 a pop is not a wise investment for a cash-strapped first-year.

But for \$30, you can join two clubs, and if done right can make uni life an



experience, rather than a series of two-hour lectures and awkward 'get-to-know-you' tutorials. The best advice is to be smart about who throw your hard-earned at.

Firstly and obviously, join a club from your faculty. Unless your entire year enrolled in the same course as you, chances are you see a select few familiar faces around campus. By joining a Science, Commerce or Arts society for example you will get to know those who are studying similar courses to you before the dreaded first tutorial where invariably the tutor will force you through an hour of meet and greets with fellow classmates. Clubs are a great icebreaker for new

students to meet fellow first-years and a great support structure for group assignments and general help.

The second club you should join is 'the' club. Every uni has one- the biggest club and society with the most members and therefore most money to work with; not only to throw awesome parties (which often have a 'member-only' discount) but it's a great way to meet people outside your faculty (as well as attend the best parties of the year). Some examples include the MMSS (Marketing) Club at Monash or the Commerce Society at Melbourne, who are renowned for their parties and social scene.

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