



EXECUTIVE HALF-YEAR REPORT



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| NAME | Grace Carr |
| POSITION | Campaigns Officer |

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| REPORT PERIOD | Jan 1 st – July 12 th |
| HOURS WORKED | 323 |
| HOURS REQUIRED | 280 |

Introduction

Being Campaigns Officer for 2020 has been an absolute wild ride but I could not have asked for a better group of people to survive and work through the year with. I came in youthful and hopeful and I feel, now writing this, jaded and tired. But that's ok, we have done some cool work and I feel like I have grown so much, developed some much-needed skills, and have gained insight into an organization where I feel I can make change that I believe in.

This year had a rocky start due to lack of handover etc. But we got there in the end so the first half of my year has mostly involved a LOT of emails, a lot of meetings, a lot of vision planning and research and many laughs 😊

Constitutional Requirements

Goal 1: Education Quality: To ensure that the University provides the best teaching and learning, research opportunities, assessment and training to students.

Goal 6: Public Issues: To be the critic and conscience of the University and society, by promoting discussion and action on issues concerning students.

Fundraiser for the Australian Bushfires Retreat

At the start of the year Australia was impacted by dreadful bushfires. VUWSA as an organisation along with other groups and people such as Tamatha Paul set up a fundraiser. We ended up fundraising almost \$10,000, which was split across three causes (First Nations Fire Relief, WIRES Wildlife Rescue, and Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal). I coordinated the finances of the event (including equipment, petty cash, eftpos, and total numbers). Was a nice introduction into VUWSA!!

Retreat



Retreat was our first opportunity for proper team bonding and planning and boy oh boy did we BOND! It was decided that I got to lead the general election campaign which was super cool and the engagement team got to sit down and properly plan for it!! Additionally, I got to establish myself as head chef of the group and planned + cooked dinner and lunch + made yummo cookies!!

O-Week

O-Week was really just a TIME! I've actually never been to an O-Week event before so this was really interesting for me! My first night was toga night which, to be frank, was really a wild night. Most of the time was spent looking after people who got a bit too intoxicated, roaming the floors while boppin to BENEE to make sure people were being safe and following the rules. Was fun but also exhausting!!

Residential Tenancies Act

Something that really was important to me this year was to be a strong voice for students on housing issues (one of the BIGGEST issues student face). The RTA was an important piece of legislation to secure the rights of renters but proved very contentious with landowners facing off against renters in an ideological battle of what role housing plays 😊😊 We ran a submission party to get students to submit on the bill and got over 50 submissions (and awful flatting stories). Michael Turnbull (Welfare VP) and I also wrote the VUWSA submission on the legislation then did an oral submission on the Act.



COVID-19

- **WSVA**
 - I was the menstrual leader for my ward and helped to streamline the process for getting menstrual products to people throughout lockdown
- **Hall Rent Strike**

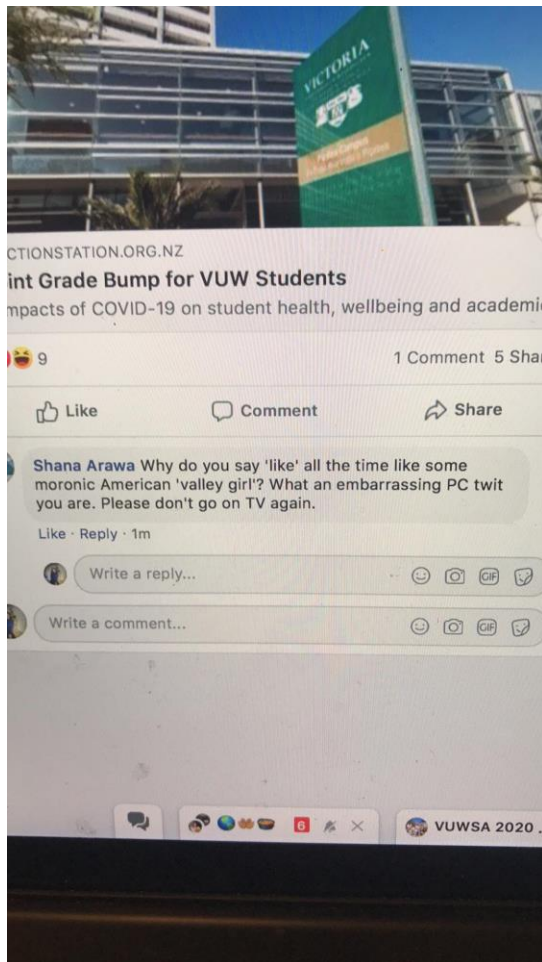
- I helped to coordinate the response of VUWSA for the hall rent strike, and helped the leader of the hall rent strike in their campaign.



- **Grade Bump**

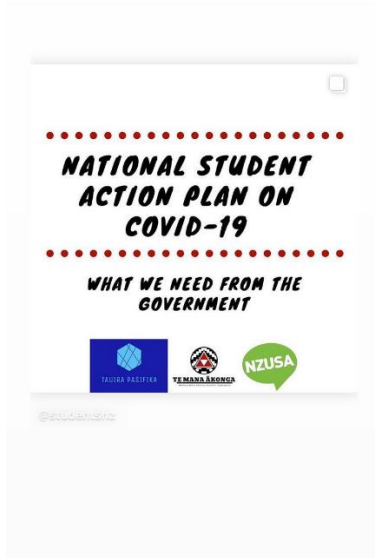
- I worked with Taylah to help coordinate the response of VUWSA to the issue of grade bump and parity between universities. When the University refused to give students a grade bump (despite universities such as Auckland and Otago doing so), coupled with the University's inability to communicate effectively with students, rightfully caused an uproar. After the trimester 1 we had, it was the least university could do (and they didn't 😊). I liased with the organisers – Lachlan Craig and Ella Childs – to work out a plan, communications, and strategy. We set up a petition that got 7000 signatures, and was on the news! The university did not listen to its students sadly, but in the end we did get some form of parity.

However, it is fair to say the university demonstrated poor communication, poor collaboration, and little respect for the student body during this.



- **NZUSA**

- I worked with NZUSA on a couple of things throughout COVID-19. The first was a student skill share, which unfortunately didn't get to pop off due to other factors, but it was a great idea if we just had more time. The second was about their campaign around student financial welfare. I coordinated and communicated between VUWSA and NZUSA to help provide support for this campaign.



General Election



One of my main goals this year was around the upcoming GENERAL ELECTION!!! 😊 We have been working on this since retreat. At retreat, we decided that this campaign would be a two-

pronged campaign – one based on enrolling people to vote, and the other based on issues that we'd like students to think about when deciding who to vote for. We also brainstormed ideas of enrolling students that worked outside of the traditional bounds. This included: enrolling people at the weekend vegetable markets, enrolling people at gigs, and having enrollment parties.

We began our activations during O-Week, where we held sausage sizzles and asked students what issues they were most concerned about. In March, we then had our consulting potluck where we brought together the rep groups and talked about what change we'd like to see in the world, and how that would be influencing our choices of who to vote for in the 2020 General Elections. From these, we wrote up our policy demands, of what issues were important to students. These focused on four categories: mental health, cost of living and poverty, housing, and climate change.

The exec also debated whether it was important to take a stance on the two referendums that would be voted on this year. While VUWSA had already decided to take a stance on the Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill, the issue of taking a stance on the End of Life Choice Act was more contentious. In the end, we decided to provide resources and educate, but not necessarily promote our vote for a certain way.

We also decided that it would be useful to connect with a number of groups to see how we could all work together in increasing the youth vote. These groups included the Electoral Commission, and NZUSA. We also contacted MAWSA, the student association at Massey Wellington to see if there was potential for collaborations there.

We also secured \$25,000 worth of funding from the VUWSA trust for this campaign! Thank you to Ralph, our Treasurer-Secretary for helping us with our proposal to get this funding. We plan

to use this funding to kick things off with enrolment drives, panel debates and discussions in Trimester 2, in order to carry out this campaign!

Planning 4 Growth

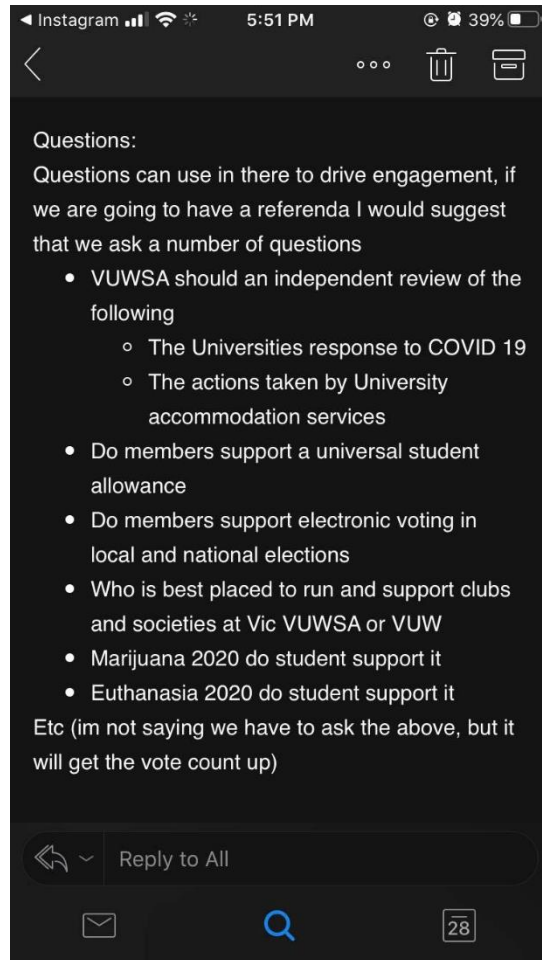
Since around March I have had Planning 4 Growth in the back of my mind and have been planning for it since. Planning 4 Growth is the Wellington City Council's 30-year plan that deals most with zoning in order to adapt to future growth. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 the submission process had been postponed a few times, but this meant more time for us to consult with the community and encourage submissions. Yet again, this is another contentious piece of legislation! It promotes removing red tape around developing new housing, and removing heritage status from some buildings and areas. This is important as one of the main issues we face in Wellington is a lack of housing, and shitty old housing, so this spatial plan would make a large difference in our lives. I have met up with some groups and have been planning submission parties and campaign strategy since March. 😊

SFSW

Stress Free Study Week (SFSW) looked a little different this year, due to the university replacing exams with assessments, and to COVID health and safety precautions, we decided to only have fruit, cereal, coffee and tea available on a serve yourself basis during SFSW. Engagement was still high, which was good!

Other Stuff????

- **Referendum**
 - We ran a referendum to find out where students stood on issues such as Universal Education Income etc



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- **Support local campaign**

- I helped Ralph to form his campaign for Support Local 😊 Giving advice where needed etc.

- **Fast Forward**

- I helped Sophie and Parminder form their Fast Forward campaign – providing insight into strategy etc. 😊

