



## EXECUTIVE HALF YEAR REPORT

Phone 04 463 6719  
Fax 04 463 6990  
Email [kelburn@vuwsa.org.nz](mailto:kelburn@vuwsa.org.nz)

NAME	Nathaniel Manning
POSITION	Engagement VP
REPORT PERIOD	1 <sup>st</sup> January – 30 June, 2017
HOURS WORKED	598.5
HOURS REQUIRED	520

### Priority Goals:

#### Constitutional Goal 5

*Activities: To support sporting, social and cultural activities for and by students; primarily through Clubs and Representative Groups.*

As the Engagement VP, this goal is usually the one that is prioritised in my position, and this year has been no different. As the leader of the Engagement Team, I've worked closely with the Events Manager, as well as the rest of the Engagement Team and executive, to create and support a vibrant and diverse range of events on campus and in wider Wellington. A few examples of these have been laid out below.

### Orientation

Thanks to the hard work of our Events team, OWeek 2017 was the biggest we've had in recent years. Along with assisting in the organisation of many events, I played a key role in other areas.

Expanding on our initiative from last year to provide cheese toasties at the Toga Party, this year we provided food at all our night time OWeek events, and a chill out zone within the atrium. With tickets sold out and The Hunter Lounge reaching capacity, the atrium provided a

much needed get away that provided students with a safe space, and free food to encourage sobriety. As well as being key for student safety, I also set up the atrium area with lighting, furniture, games, and music, to create a vibrant and ambient chill out zone that didn't feel "clinical" or "stuffy".

I also took the lead as volunteer coordinator to organise and train volunteers for Orientation, including both the day time and night events. We had approximately 35 volunteers over those two weeks, and without the enormous effort they put in, VUWSA would not have been able to collect membership data, which is key to many of our operations. As well as that, our volunteers helped create a safe and welcoming environment to new students at our evening events, from welcoming them at the doors, to giving out free cheese toasties.

Another highlight of Orientation was our stage at Newtown Festival, and alongside with it our free interhall bus. I stayed on the bus for the majority of the day, helping manage the crowds of students. Unfortunately, the bus proved more popular this year than ever, and many students had to be turned away at the door.

Other highlights I was involved in included the Pipitea and Te Aro expos, the latter of which included live DJs, and the Pasifika Sounz gig in the Hub.

As this was my third Orientation as an exec member, I contributed to our Orientation report and review, as well as already writing up extensive hand over notes for my successor.



*Left: With Guy Williams at NSO's Comedy Night. Right: The VUWSA exec pre-Toga Party.*

### **Wellington Pride Parade**

Having previously organised a joint VUWSA and UniQ presence at Out in the Park, this year Wellington held its inaugural Pride Parade. I coordinated with UniQ, as well as on the day with UniQ Massey and MAWSA, to be the flag bearers leading the parade through the streets of Wellington. The 50 metre long flag which we all carried had travelled around the

world before arriving in Wellington, and was created by the surviving partners of victims of the HIV/AIDs epidemic. The flag contained a huge amount of *mana*, and it was an honour, as the future of our communities, to have been the ones invited to carry it.



*L: With members of the exec after the Wellington Pride Parade. R: VUWSA with UniQ VUW, UniQ Massey, MAWSA and Jono from NZUSA, after carrying the 50 metre long Pride Flag!*

### **Arts Week**

Now in its second year, after being founded by our engagement team last year, May saw the return of our annual Arts Week, to celebrate arts and culture at Vic. While this was a Mali lead event, due to me being occupied in the lead up by General Election activities, I assisted during the week at the majority of the events, especially in regards to any AV requirements. Personal highlights for this week included the DJ workshop, and Adam Art Gallery Tour.

### **Constitutional Goal 6**

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

This year, the events side of my role took a backseat after OWeek to coordinating our General Election Campaign. While the campaign doesn't officially launch until trimester 2, I have spent the last few months working with the campaign team at Victoria, and attending meetings at NZUSA. The result of this is going to be the largest grass roots campaign we've ever seen on campus, with the aim of having 100s of volunteers talking to fellow students, encouraging them to be enrolled and being active participants in our political processes.

Ultimately, we are aiming to have 100% of students vote on September 23rd, and with the right campaign, we believe this to be possible.

While unfortunately all I can report on at the moment is the processes and meetings we've had to organise the campaign, there should be a much more in depth update in my next quarterly report.

# #GENERATION VOTE

Trimester 1 also saw our first election-related event. In May, we held The Great Debate: Tertiary Education Edition. The first in a series of debates we are planning to hold, we invited the tertiary education spokespeople from our five largest parties on campus to discuss tertiary issues. The turn out from the audience was awesome, with between 300-400 in attendance. Despite some organizational hiccups in the lead up to the events due to it falling the day after budget day, the event came together perfectly on the day, and served as a good soft-launch to our General Election plans for the year.



*Rory poses with spokespeople from Labour, Maori, Greens, National and NZ First. Also super stoked with how well the banner walls I sussed turned out!*

A key date on the political calendar once again was Budget Day. I worked alongside Hannah and Rory to produce VUWSA's budget response, and send out a press release. While it can be difficult for our releases to be picked up on Budget day (due to the hundreds of others simultaneously going out), it is still important to make sure that the voices of our students are heard on one of the most important days of the political year.

I have also helped in VUWSA's fairer fares campaign, including attending our oral submission at the regional council, where we presented the submissions of 1600 students, ratepayers and supporters, all supporting a 50% discount on public transport for tertiary students. This was a really important and widely supported campaign, which while it's had its roots going back five years, had a massive push during last year's local body election. We came close to getting it over the line in 2016, but being one vote short, we continued our campaign into 2017.

Finally, I have also been involved in workshops with the Police, University security, Wellington City Council and Te Aro School concerning the Boyd Wilson Walkway. A plan to redevelop the space, and revitalise it as a community walkway that will be more safe and more welcoming came out of these workshops, and a session was organized with residents of Te Puni and Te Aro School on creating a mural that encompasses the local community. VUWSA has historically vocalized concerns about the walkway, and campaigned for increased safety, and this new development is a good step in furthering the security of the space.



*Left: Me hanging with the much more talented Te Aro students, workshopping mural ideas.*

*Right: With Sue, Headmaster of Te Aro, and Clive from VUW Security, after an initial meeting.*

## **Constitutional Goal 8**

*Accountability: To ensure accountability to, and representation of, members.*

I haven't done much towards this goal outside of the day-to-day representation as a student, and sitting on a number of committees, which I've listed further below.

As well attending exec committees, and submitting regular work reports which both ensure accountability as an exec meeting, I also represent student in a number of internal and external committees. Those are;

- Fortnightly VP Meetings:

Every fortnight, Rory and the three VPs sit down and discuss how our teams are doing, how the organisation is going, as well as supporting Rory in his role as President.

- Policy Committee:

- o I am a member of VUWSA's Policy Committee, which ensure all of VUWSA's internal policies are reviewed and up to date, to ensure that VUWSA is efficient and transparent in its operations.

- Vic Info Ihonui Oversight Working Group

o I sit as a student representative on the Vic Info Ihonui (VII) Oversight Working Group. VII is usually a student's first point of contact for the majority of Victoria services, and encompasses the Library, ITS, 0800 Victoria, and the main Hunter front desks, and VII desks around campus.

- Clubs Sponsorship Panel

- o I sit along with the Clubs and Activities Officer, President, and management from Recreation and Campus Services on the Club Sponsorship Panel. The Panel reads through applications from clubs, sports teams and individuals seeking funding from the SSL for various events or projects. This ensures that allocation of club funding is transparent and the decision making has strong student input.

- VUWSA and Student Academic Services monthly meetings

- The President and VPs have monthly meetings with SAS, which is a valuable opportunity for us to update them on what VUWSA has been doing, what opportunities there are in the future, and to learn about some of the decision making that happens at the University.

- Blues Awards Planning group

- I've been part of the working group responsible for organising the Blues Awards, and Supreme Club and Golds Awards, which works closely with Recreation to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our greatest sports people, cultural achievers, and clubs.

**Other Goals:**

**Constitutional Goal 2 – Student Support:** *To advocate for adequate financial support, income and welfare for students in order to remove barriers to education.*

While many of the work that I've mentioned above can cross over and go toward this constitutional job, such as helping out in our Orientation Safe Room, the main project I've helped out on the meets this goal is for Stress Free Study Week.

This year, I've been the organiser of VUWSA's SPCA visits to each of our three campuses. These puppy and kittens visits are often a highlight of many students' weeks, and play an important part in alleviating stress before exams. With over 200 students turning up to the Kelburn session, they were overly successful, but we are now putting plans in place to mitigate such large turn outs for the next SFSW.

**General Tasks and Initiatives**

Many of the General tasks and initiatives that I've been involved in have included;

- Stress Free Study Week, serving breakfasts and lunches on campus
- Writing Salient columns to communicate the going ons in the exec
- Social Media - Before Hannah came into the role at the beginning of the year, I kept the VUWSA Facebook page up to date, and continued to share posts throughout the year. Also have been active on Snapchat and Instagram, especially over Orientation, and Twitter during other events such as debates and General Meetings.
- IGM - I took the lead in setting up for our IGM on the day, as well as wearing my AV hat once again.
- Exec Induction - as well as organising the booking for our retreat, I also helped produce many of the documents used in the executive induction, and creating annual plan for the engagement team.
- I also attended the NZUSA National Conference in Auckland at the beginning of the year, and have attended a number of NZUSA National Exec meetings.

- Finally, as well as the many events in which I promote VUWSA to current students, I also attended two information evenings/open days to introduce VUWSA and our services to prospective students.



*At NZUSA's National Conference, with student associations from all over NZ.*

## **Summary**

Overall, this has been a good start to the year. The beginning of the year is always a little messy for the Engagement team, due to Orientation, but we were able to establish ourselves as a team and do some awesome groundwork on an annual plan, all whilst pulling off the biggest Orientation we've ever had in my three years on VUWSA. Despite my events work taking a back seat to the general election, I've continued to maintain a strong working relationship with Mali, our Events Manager, and we have continued to be an effective team.

The other biggest strength would be in campaign planning. Having originally come onto VUWSA as the campaigns officer, and worked on a number of campaigns during my time here, taking on the role of campaign manager for our general election campaign has been a lot of work.

Admittedly, two of my biggest weaknesses remain to be time management and communication, however I don't think this has for the most part had a negative impact on the work that I've achieved this year. As we come into the second half of the year, these are two issues I'll need to continually stay on top of for two main reasons - our election campaign will be launched, and we will have a new Events Manager. Overall though, the groundwork that



has been put in place for the first half of the year means that the second half will continue to be a success.



*Me peacing out (before the onslaught of teenagers arrive at one of VUW's open evenings)*