



**EXECUTIVE HALF YEAR REPORT**

NAME	Stephanie Gregor
POSITION	Wellbeing and Sustainability Officer
REPORT PERIOD	1 January – 30 June 2014
TOTAL WEEKS WORKED	26
HOURS WORKED	341.75

**Reporting on Priority Goals:**

**1. Goal 2**

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

**(a) Fairer Fares** – This has been one of the main things I have been working on this year. Fairer Fares is a campaign to get tertiary fares on public transport in Wellington, which would help remove a major barrier to education. I have been helping out President Sonya Clark and Welfare Vice President (WVP) Rick Zwaan with



writing and presenting submissions, attending hearings and committees, meeting with councillors and building a giant cardboard bus.

**(b) Stress Free Study Week** – I helped out with Stress Free Study Week by serving food to students, and stayed

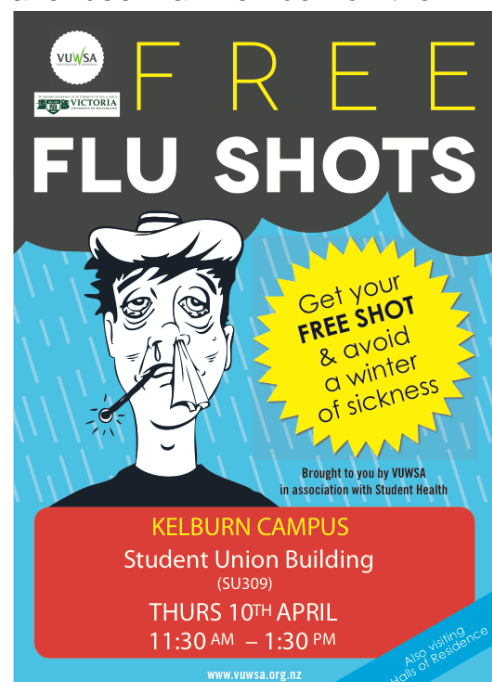


late most nights to help repack the boxes for the next day. I also drove between satellite campuses on one of the days to pick up the food and equipment that had been used there and bring it back to Kelburn for restocking. I also organised in collaboration with a staff member at the university and the SPCA to have puppies, rabbits and guinea pigs at Te Aro and Kelburn campuses to de-stress students.



1 - Source: Victoria University of Wellington

- (c) **Rental WoFs** – I have been working with WVP Rick Zwaan and Wellington City Council to implement Rental WoFs, which would ensure that rental properties (which many students live in) reach an adequate standard of heating, insulation and ventilation, among other things. This involved presenting to WCC about the merits of mandatory Rental WoFs and liaising with council officers about implementation and including student flats in an extended pilot programme, and reading and writing comments on the Rental WoF report.
- (d) **Living Wage Campaign** – I have been supporting VUWSA’s involvement with this campaign by attending the Living Wage VUW meetings with WVP Rick Zwaan and Equity Officer Madeleine Ashton-Martyn. This campaign will ensure that students who are employed by the university will have their financial burden lessened.
- (e) **Student Wellbeing Group** – I have been a member of the Student Wellbeing Group, which is a group of students from VUWSA and the wider student population who work together to promote student wellbeing throughout the university. We put on Student Wellbeing Week which encouraged students to focus on ways to improve and maintain their wellbeing. During this week we offered fruit and hot drinks, as well as the opportunity for students to write down ways they could improve their own wellbeing.
- (f) **Flu Shots** – I helped WVP Rick Zwaan and Equity Officer



Madeleine Ashton-Martyn in the administering of Flu Shots. We gave out forms to be filled in before the nurses gave the injections and ensured that people stayed for 20 minutes afterwards so the nurses could look after them in case of side-effects.

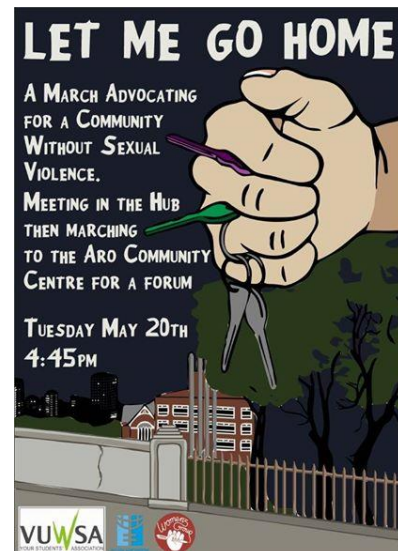
- (g) **Save the 18** – With WVP Rick Zwaan I worked on the Save the 18 campaign as a part of submissions on the Wellington Regional Draft Public Transport Plan, which proposed to get rid of the 18 bus route. This bus route is a key route for many students because it connects four Wellington campuses as well as the heavily student populated suburbs of Newtown and Mt Cook. This campaign involved meeting with councillors and council officers, as well as writing and presenting the submission opposing the proposal and helping Rick with rejigging the Fairer Fares website to allow students to have their say on the proposed cut.
- (h) **Campaigns Committee** – I have been sitting on the VUWSA Campaigns Committee which plans the campaign VUWSA will run for this year's general election. A major focus of this committee is ensuring adequate student support.

## 2. Goal 6

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

- (a) **Student Wellbeing Group** – This group promotes discussion on wellbeing related issues concerning students.

- (b) **Let Me Go Home March** – This march, organised by Equity Officer Madeleine Ashton-Martyn, Women's Group and Youth for UN Women was held in protest against sexual violence in the community. I helped out on the day with preparing the Aro Hall for the influx of people at the end of the march, and cleaning up afterwards. I also printed and cut out fliers for this event.



- (c) **Fairer Fares** – This promoted discussion about public transport and the affordability of living in Wellington within both the student community and the public in general.

- (d) **Divestment Campaign** – I have been part of a newly emerged group aiming to encourage Victoria University of Wellington to divest

from fossil fuels. It is still in its early stages but aims to grow a discussion about the importance of supporting companies which aren't involved in the fossil fuel industry as a way to combat climate change and many other issues.

**(e) Save the 18** – This promoted discussion in the student community and wider public about the importance of students to the city, and how to encourage students to stay and remain a vital part of the fabric of Wellington.

**(f) Campaigns Committee** – This is promoting discussion about issues which affect students, with particular attention being paid to those issues which can be affected by central government policies.

### 3. Goal 9

**Sustainability: To recognise the needs of current and future generations by promoting sustainable lifestyles and actions to members while ensuring the sustainable operation of the Association and University members.**

**(a) Divestment Campaign** – This campaign group aims to encourage discussion within the Victoria community about the importance of not contributing to the fossil fuel industry as a way to safeguard the future of the climate. This is trying to promote sustainable operation of the university more widely.

**(b) Fairer Fares** – Reliable, affordable public transport is a vital part of ensuring that sustainable lifestyles and actions are possible for students.

**(c) Environmental Committee** – Along with WVP Rick Zwaan I sit on the University Environmental Committee. This means that I'm able to contribute to the strategic direction of the university in terms of sustainability.

## Reporting on Other Goals

### 1. Goal 5

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

**(a) Generation Zero** – I have been involved in discussions with climate change organisation Generation Zero which resulted in them joining as a Club. I also assisted them and **Gecko** with their O-Week Stalls.



2. **Goal 8**

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

**(a) Submitting regular work reports** – I have submitted timely and comprehensive work reports which allow members to see what I have been doing and how I have been tracking.

**(b) Sitting on ERC** – I often sit on the Executive Reporting Committee which approves the work reports of all members of the organisation and allows members to

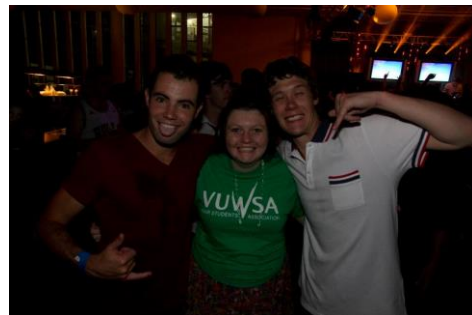
**General Tasks and Initiatives**

1. **Budget development** – I've helped develop VUWSA's 2014 budget by critically analysing cost centres when presented to the executive.

2. **Executive Welfare** – Supporting other members of the executive in a professional and personal capacity.

3. **Annual Plan Development**

4. **Orientation Week** – I helped out with Orientation Week by manning barbeques, talking with students and engaging them with VUWSA. I also spent a lot of time helping at the evening events. I also helped prepare for Orientation by packing O-Week Bags.



5. **Fair Trade My Vic** – Along with WVP Rick Zwaan I have met with the people running Fair Trade My Vic to encourage Victoria to become a fair trade university.

6. **Unpacking Workroom** – When we first moved in to our new offices at the beginning of the year I helped with the move and settling in to the new space.

7. **IGM** – I helped organise, pack up and pack down the IGM. I also acted as an egress officer.



8. **Writing Executive Column for Salient** – I did this in Salient's environment issue.

### Representation

1. **VUWSA Executive** – I have attended every VUWSA Executive meeting and am an active contributor on issues I feel strongly about.
2. **ERC** – I regularly sit on the ERC and help keep all other members of the executive accountable for their work.
3. **Environment Committee** – I sit on the Environment Committee with WVP Rick Zwaan and contribute to the strategic direction of the university in terms of sustainability.
4. **Living Wage VUW** – This campaign will ensure that students who are employed by the university will have their financial burden lessened.
5. **Divestment Campaign** – This campaign group aims to encourage discussion within the Victoria community about the importance of not contributing to the fossil fuel industry as a way to safeguard the future of the climate
6. **NZUSA Conference** – I attended the conference at the start of the year
7. **Campaign Committee** – This is promoting discussion about issues which affect students, with particular attention being paid to those issues which can be affected by central government policies.
8. **Welfare Team Meetings** – Welfare VP Rick Zwaan, Equity Officer Madeleine Ashton-Martyn and I meet regularly to discuss what we are all working on and ways in which we can support each other.

### Strengths

1. **Team Player** – I have been good at working within the VUWSA Executive Team and the Welfare Team. I understand that everybody needs to work together to make something happen, and that at times this means doing the hard yards for little immediate reward. I have done a lot of behind the

scenes work on things such as the Fairer Fares Campaign which has allowed the team and the campaign to continue to be successful, without expectation of external acknowledgement.

2. **Hard worker** – I have worked hard at VUWSA events, and helped out wherever needed. This is also shown in my recorded surplus.
3. **Time Management** – I have been able to maintain my studies and social life as well as working on VUWSA. Although at times when VUWSA was particularly busy I would spend long hours at the office, I was able to catch up with my other friends in the small amount of time I had outside VUWSA.

### **Weaknesses**

1. **Initiative** – This is perhaps the flipside of being a team player. Working to support others and making sure existing initiatives relating to Wellbeing and Sustainability are executed well has meant that I spend little time working on my own new projects. The exception to this is probably the divestment campaign.
2. **Confidence** – At times when I am not completely sure of myself I may be unwilling to offer an opinion. Although this means that when I do offer an opinion it is generally well-reasoned and thoughtful, it means that at times when my contribution may be valuable I don't say anything. I will attempt to work at this over the next six months.

### **Overall Rating**

Overall I am happy with my contribution to VUWSA over the last six months. I have enjoyed working on initiatives related to both Wellbeing and Sustainability, which are two areas I have a great passion for. I have loved working closely with Rick and Maddy, and am thankful for the support I have received from both the Welfare Team and the Executive as a whole. I am proud of what I have achieved, and hope that the next six months are equally as rewarding.