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NAME	Anya Maule
POSITION	Wellbeing and Sustainability Officer
REPORT PERIOD	1 st January – 30 June, 2015
HOURS WORKED	410.75
HOURS REQUIRED	254.25

Priority Goals:

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

a) Stress Free Study Week (SFSW)

i) I assisted in the implementation of this popular VUWSA event, which sees thousands of free breakfasts and lunches handed out to students, as well as other activities aimed at helping students unwind during the stressful week leading up to exams. I helped organise and facilitate hosting the Kitten Inn charity with kittens into The Bubble wellbeing space for the first time, which proved a popular success, and we hope to continue this arrangement in subsequent SFSWs.



ii) We also aimed to make SFSW a zero waste event. An ambitious goal, I organised and managed the temporary implementation of loaned WCC compost bins at each campus for organic waste - all food scraps, bowls, cups, napkins, and utensils were fully compostable. We diverted 118kgs of compost, which would have otherwise ended up in the landfill. There were many comments from students saying they appreciated this, and that it should be a permanent feature at VUWSA.

b) VUW Organic Food Co-op



i) Following on from the hard work of 2015 Wellbeing & Sustainability Officer, Rory Lenihan-Ikin, I have continued to work closely with Gecko, the campus environmental group, facilitating and expanding this initiative which sees delicious, organic bulk foods and other eco-friendly products available for sale to students at affordable (cost) prices on campus. We have this year, successfully managed to increase the frequency of packouts to a monthly set day, time and room, a consistency benefiting students and other members. We have also just successfully applied new equipment funding, such as scales and buckets, which will allow us to increase the number of products we make available for sale, and also our membership.

c) **The Living Wage movement**



i) A living wage has been proven to be an effective way of improving the living conditions of workers, thus lifting morale and freeing up more time for other things. Everyone deserves the dignity to work and afford to pay for the basics of living. This is particularly relevant to students, who often live in hardship, even when working alongside full-time study.

ii) Having attended the national training conference last year, I became involved with the Living Wage @ Vic group, and now sit on the Wellington Local Board.

iii) My involvement has consisted of:

- 1) Attending regular meetings of both the Vic group and the Local Board
- 2) Helping to organise the upcoming event on campus aimed at students.

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. Submissions

i. I have worked with Welfare Vice President, Rory Lenihan-Ikin, on several submissions, including:

1) The Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill, which advocates for



better standards on rental properties, ideally a Rental Warrant of Fitness, as a significant proportion of renters in Wellington are students.

2) Wellington City Council's Annual Plan wherel focussed mainly on the sustainability side of things, discussing why the Council needs to take a lead on implementing a comprehensive low carbon plan, as the environmental impacts of pollution, etc. affect all citizens, but the effects will be felt

by the younger generation, many of which are currently students.

3) Assisted Campaigns Officer, Alive Lyall, writing a submission on the Emissions Trading Scheme Review.

3. **Goal 9 - Sustainability:** To recognise the needs of current and future generations by promoting sustainable lifestyles while ensuring the sustainable operation of the Association and University members.

- a. **Bicycle Fixup day** - I worked with the WCC organising and promoting a bicycle repair day



on campus. This event was aimed at encouraging a more active and green mode of transport. Around 45 bicycles were fixed by Bicycle Junction and Mechanical Tempest. They are looking at doing another fixup in the springtime.

- b. **Stress Free Study Week** – This was the first time implementing compost bins. As above.



- c. **Environmental Committee** - I sit on the University's Environmental Committee along with Welfare Vice President, Rory Lenihan-Ikin. It has been a slow start to the year since the university's Environmental Manager, Andrew Wilks, has been on paternity leave, but the appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor (Sustainability) is an exciting new step. I have been working with the Environmental Manager and third parties in an attempt to make progress on the implementation of more recycling stations around campus, as well as the reinstatement of glass recycling.

- d. **Inter-hall Energy Challenge** – I'm currently working with third-year students to facilitate the energy saving competition between university halls initiated last year.
- e. **Fair Trade University** – I'm working with another third-year student initiating the process of the University becoming Fair Trade accredited.
- f. **Student garden** – I'm currently leading the proposal to implement a student vegetable garden on campus, where students can come along and do some gardening. This involves applying for funding from the Wellington City Council for equipment, etc. If the proposal is approved, I will also organise student gardening workshops.

Other Goals

1. **Goal 5 - Activities:** To support sport, social and cultural activities for members and students, particularly through Clubs.
 - a. **OWeek**
 - i. I assisted the Engagement Team with New Students Orientation Week and helped at events, in the safe room, driving students home in the safety van, handing out food and water, and, generally, making sure students had a good, safe time.

General Tasks and Initiatives

- I attended the NZUSA conference at the start of the year.
- I assisted members of the VUW NZ Sign Language Club with a video project aimed at raising awareness of resources for the deaf community during New Zealand Sign Language Week.
- I attended several workshops and seminars, such as the disability and inclusion seminar.
- Strategic Plan – I attended regular meetings, developing VUWSA's strategic plan.

- I attended the hui for the Thursdays in Black campaign to raise awareness against sexual violence.



Representation

VUWSA Executive meetings – I have attended all executive meetings this year and contributed to the debate and decision-making where appropriate.

Environmental Committee meetings – as above.

Welfare Team meetings – I have participated in weekly team meetings organised by Welfare Vice President, Rory Lenihan-Ikin, and discussed ideas and plans with Equity Officer, Chrissy Brown.

Executive Reporting Committee – I attended regular ERC meetings to scrutinise and approve VUWSA executive work reports.

Strengths

- Commitment/passion – I am very committed to VUWSA and to students, particularly where their wellbeing is concerned.

- Approachable – I consider myself friendly and able to engage with a wide variety of students from different backgrounds.

Weaknesses

- Time management – I sometimes take on more than I can handle, which leads to not being able to finish things, or not producing the full, desired result.
- Vocalisation – Sometimes if I feel uncertain about a topic, I won't feel confident to speak out and talk about it, and might tend to just go with the flow. I also don't always know when to ask for help, which can lead to being overwhelmed.

Overall Rating

I thoroughly enjoy working at VUWSA; it's an amazing team, and I'm learning new and important skills and knowledge. In the second half of the year, I will aim to focus my time on a few key projects, such as the Inter-hall Energy Challenge, the Food Co-operative, the student garden – really putting effort into those.