



**Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association**

**2009 Annual Report**

**April 2010**

## Introduction

In 2009 VUWSA focused on creating a sustainable and accountable Association, driven by the eight constitutional goals of the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association (VUWSA). These goals form the basis of our core business.

Much of the work performed by the Executive concentrated on rebuilding a neglected Association and putting in place strategies in order to best place VUWSA in the future. In particular, VUWSA has focused on the following:

1. An operating separation between governance and management
2. Strong internal structures and procedures
3. Positive working relationships and partnership structures between students and the University
4. A broad range of quality activities, and enhanced support for clubs and representative groups
5. Participatory democracy and strengthened representative systems.

These factors have already had clear benefits for VUWSA. It is pleasing that the 2010 Executive is committed to advancing these aspects of the Association's work plan along with other worthwhile endeavors, strengthening the Association and enhancing the value that we provide to our members.

In solidarity and service,

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**Jasmine Freemantle**

2009 VUWSA President

On behalf of the 2009 VUWSA Executive

January 2010

## Mission Statement and Goals

1. That VUWSA is a student controlled association promoting the interests and participation of its members and representing their views.
2. That VUWSA's democratic structure is characterised by
  - i. a defined constituency
  - ii. a variety of levels of participation
  - iii. an informed decision making process
  - iv. delegation of responsibility
  - v. elected representatives who are accountable to the members for their actions and decisions
3. That within this structure and in promoting these interests, VUWSA recognise the Maori as Tangata Whenua of Aotearoa, act in accordance with Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi and acknowledge Ngai Taurira o te Kura Wananga o te Ika as official representatives of Maori students on campus.

The Association has eight organisations goals which define its areas of activity:

### **Goal 1. Education: Student Support**

*To secure and maintain state income, welfare and employment support for students.*

### **Goal 2. Education: University**

*To ensure the University provides equity and quality in assessment, teaching, conditions and course access supported by sufficient resources.*

### **Goal 3. Education: Equity**

*To promote equity for disadvantaged members in access to and within the University.*

### **Goal 4. Services**

*To control the Student Union Complex and provide quality, cost-effective (consumer) services for members.*

### **Goal 5. Activities**

*To provide or assist sporting, social and cultural activities, for and by members; primarily through clubs.*

**Goal 6. Public Issues**

*To promote discussion and action as appropriate, on issues concerning students as citizens.*

**Goal 7. Finance**

*To maximise the benefits to members by minimising fees or user chargers through internal efficiency and non-member revenue.*

**Goal 8. Accountability**

*To ensure that the structures and procedures of the Association result in effective and efficient communication, management and accountability.*

# President's Report – Jasmine Freemantle

## Education: Student Support

### Welfare-Oriented Representation

VUWSA has provided consistent student representation on the University's Student Hardship Committee, which receives and grants funds to students in financial difficulty. VUWSA issued a written submission on Inland Revenue's *Making it easier for borrowers to repay their student loans: A government discussion document*, which proposed changes to student loan repayments. VUWSA expressed strong opposition to the proposed changes to the student loan repayment scheme, particularly the proposal that a borrower's repayment obligation be set on a pay-period dependent threshold. VUWSA also submitted on the Ministry of Education's draft *Tertiary Education Strategy 2010-2015*, and made other relevant submissions.

### Welfare Campaigns

VUWSA was involved in a number of welfare related campaigns and actions. These included the reinstatement of the Training Incentive Allowance (TIA), and the promotion of employment rights. VUWSA representatives supported the introduction of grand-parenting international student fees during fee setting. VUWSA provided frequent media comment concerning the inadequacies of the student allowance and loan schemes, and the increasing difficulties that students and graduates have finding and retaining appropriate employment. The Association also addressed these and other related topics via weekly interviews on the VBC 88.3FM and regular *Salient* columns (see 'student media', below).

### Student Workers

Paid employment in order to live is a reality for over 90% of students at Victoria. As with other part time and casual workers, students face difficulties securing appropriate employment that can be juggled alongside other commitments, and an inability to access their rights. VUWSA hosted Students as Workers Week, in order to inform students about their rights in the workplace, and about the importance of workers collectively organising through trade unionism. Students as Workers Week incorporated a range of thematic events and actions including but not limited to a Union Visibility Day, forums and film screenings, and a May Day action. A number of groups affiliated to VUWSA and other relevant organisations were involved in the Week, such as Vic Labour, the Tertiary Education Union (TEU), and the Postgraduate Students' Association (PGSA). VUWSA delegates attended a Youth Job Summit organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs, and have begun plans for an awareness raising and information project in consultation with the Service and Food Workers' Union. VUWSA continues to help support students in employment through our involvement with, and partial funding of, Student Job Search (SJS).

## Education: University

### Class Representatives

Class Representatives provide an important conduit between students, teaching staff and VUWSA. In 2009 VUWSA launched an improved Class Representatives Training Programme and produced a new, more relevant *Class Representative Handbook*. VUWSA's Education Team also produced regular Class Representative Newsletters, to keep Class Representatives and students informed on important issues and events affecting students. In the latter part of 2009 VUWSA commenced arrangements to expand the role of Class Representatives and to further strengthen the system. This is being done in conjunction with the Office of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) (AVC (Academic)).

### **Student Representation**

Student representative systems were significantly strengthened, such as by the reintroduction of regular internal preparatory/caucus meetings between the Education Team and student representatives on University boards and committees, and between VUWSA and University representatives. VUWSA also prioritised liaison and joint projects with Ngai Tauira and other student groups such as STUDiO (Architecture and Design students) so as to encourage new student representative initiatives (particularly student-led ones) and to ensure the most appropriate consultation possible. In August, VUWSA worked with the University to help coordinate student representatives who were interviewed by the Academic Audit Panel. VUWSA representatives served on dozens of University bodies, ranging from Academic Board and Faculty Boards, to the Managed Enrolment Working Party, the Teaching and Learning Strategy Group, and the Equity Strategy Group.

### **Reviews and Consultation**

VUWSA participated in a number of University policy consultation processes. Amongst others, VUWSA delivered written submissions on the Intellectual Property Policy, the Use of Te Reo Maori for Assessment Policy (a joint submission with Ngai Tauira), the Assessing the Need for Urgent Action under the Student Conduct Statute Procedure, and the School of Design Programme Review. The Association also presented written submissions on the University's draft Equity Strategy and the draft Learning and Teaching Strategy. VUWSA liaised with the AVC (Academic) and with the University Teaching Development Centre (UTDC) regarding VUWSA's support for the release of UTDC course evaluation data.

### **Building Productive Relationships**

VUWSA built productive relationships with a number of University-based parties. For instance, VUWSA collaborated with Disability Services to host Disability Awareness Day, and have been supported by Disability Services in the reformation of Can-Do, VUWSA's Representative Group for disabled students. VUWSA also collaborated on joint projects with the TEU, including the formation of a united front of students and staff in opposition to University restructuring and cutbacks. The student-driven and staff supported boycott of a Criminology lecture was a good example of this.

### **Education Action Group**

During the first half of the year the Education Action Group (EAG) held regular meetings, providing a valuable forum for students to meet and discuss and act upon relevant education-related campaigns. Unfortunately, enthusiasm waned during the latter part of the year, meetings and other events being less frequent and attendance lower.

## **New Zealand School of Music**

VUWSA engaged in regular dialogue with Massey at Wellington Students' Association (MAWSA) regarding improved representation for New Zealand School of Music (NZSM) students. VUWSA negotiated and signed off an agreement between VUWSA and MAWSA concerning the repayment to MAWSA of historic NZSM student levies, and a joint VUWSA-MAWSA Representative Group for Music students was officially formed at the VUWSA Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in September.

## **Postgraduate Students' Association**

VUWSA developed a strong working relationship with the PGSA, facilitated by regular meetings between the two organisations. In particular, VUWSA actively supported the PGSA in hosting the highly successful inaugural New Zealand Postgraduate Conference held at Victoria from 20-21 November, an exciting new initiative that VUWSA looks forward to supporting in 2010 and beyond.

## **Student Fees Forum**

In September the Chancellor Tim Beaglehole and VUWSA jointly hosted a Student Fees Forum, in order to communicate the issues considered by Council when setting student fees. The forum provided an opportunity for Victoria students to be addressed by the university concerning the forthcoming setting for domestic fees for the 2010 academic year, and to ask questions as appropriate. The last Student Fees Forum had been held in 2006.

## **Student Services and Amenities Levy Advisory Committee**

At the University Council's special fee setting meeting on 21 September a new student services levy was created. This levy represented an increase in charges to students of nearly \$300 (94%) and was opposed by student representatives for that reason. However, following the introduction of the levy, a negotiating team comprising representatives from the University and VUWSA was established to negotiate an agreement to provide for joint oversight over the areas funded by the new levy and how the levy will be spent. These areas include Student Services, Student Computing and services provided through the Student Union Building, including the Recreation Centre. The Student Services and Amenities Levy Advisory Committee (SAALAC) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was formally signed off on 11 December.

## **Education: Equity**

### **Food Bank Service**

The VUWSA Food bank Service was completely overhauled, including the development and implementation of a new application form, the establishment of regular service delivery hours, a new database, and the provision of trained personnel to operate the Service. For the last few years the Food bank has been funded largely by VUWSA, with a contribution by the University negotiated yearly. This arrangement makes it difficult for VUWSA (particularly given the current recession environment) to budget for Food bank expenditure; it also does not adequately recognise the significant amount of labour involved in operating the Service. Initial cost accounting investigations

of the Service, along with possible non-member revenue avenues that could help support the Service were considered, to be furthered in 2010.

### **Free Bread Service and Stress-Free Study Week**

VUWSA continued to deliver our ever-popular Free Bread Service; the extension of this Service is under investigation. The Vice-President (Welfare) coordinated VUWSA's bi annual a Stress-Free Study Week at the end of the first trimester, and another such Week during the second trimester study week.

### **Building Partnerships**

In addition to joint projects with University service providers such as Disability Services (cited above) VUWSA has also maintained partnerships with other providers, such as Student Health in the delivery of the Free Flu Shots for Students project held during the first half of the year. 500 students took advantage of this successful partnership.

### **Ngai Tauira**

VUWSA built a strong working relationship with Ngai Tauira, VUWSA's parallel Maori students' association. This relationship was aided by regular VUWSA-Ngai Tauira joint Executive meetings (four), and fortnightly meetings between the VUWSA President and Ngai Tauira's Tumuaki (President). A number of joint projects were discussed and explored – the development of a VUWSA Tikanga Policy being one currently in progress. The Association has facilitated both governance and operational functions of Ngai Tauira. This included, for instance, hosting joint meetings with bodies such as the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA), and providing advice concerning the establishment and implementation of Ngai Tauira's Executive honoraria payment system. In September, a VUWSA representative attended Te Huinga Tauira, hosted at Lincoln University, as part of the Ngai Tauira delegation. Ngai Tauira representatives attended all NZUSA Conferences as part of the VUWSA delegation. VUWSA has also developed a supportive, forward-thinking relationship with Te Mana Akonga (TMA), NZUSA's parallel national Maori students' association.

### **Women Students**

The Women's Group was made an official VUWSA Representative Group at Association's Initial General Meeting (IGM) in March. VUWSA worked closely with the Women's Group, drafting their constitution and providing expertise in event management, presenting workshops, and other areas. Among other activities and actions (some of which appear elsewhere in this report) VUWSA has supported Women's Group in holding regular meetings and ongoing events throughout the year, in addition to hosting a successful Women's Fest.

### **Queer Students**

The National UniQ Conference was hosted at Victoria, supported by the Association. At this Conference VUWSA representatives presented a workshop which led to the creation of a new national UniQ coordinator role. VUWSA also established and implemented a Queer Mentoring Programme in order to help create a supportive educational environment on campus for queer students, and was involved in the drafting of a NZUSA national survey of queer students in tertiary

education.

### **Pacific Students**

In August, a Pacific student representative attended the NZUSA Conference as part of the VUWSA delegation. This was the first time that VUWSA has had a Pacific delegate amongst our numbers. The Association has consistently (and successfully) rallied for increased representation of Pacific students and their interests at both a campus and national level.

### **Sexual Harassment Awareness and Support**

As part of a strategy to promote a safer campus, sexual harassment awareness and/or contact training was introduced for all VUWSA personnel. The Association also implemented a corresponding internal Sexual Harassment Policy. Sexual harassment contact personnel were on duty at all evening Orientation events.

### **Services**

#### **Campus Hub Redevelopment Project**

Amongst the most important achievements of the year was finalising plans and the multi-year commitment of funds to the Campus Hub Redevelopment Project. The Campus Hub represents a fantastic project that will transform the centre of the University's Kelburn campus. Students voted to contribute \$12 million over 15 years to help bring it to fruition. As a result of this contribution, students and their representatives were able to have significant input into the design of every part of the plans. The project includes the creation of generous student-centred spaces in the heart of the campus as part of a redevelopment of the library and the spilling of learning spaces into the current quad; a new sheltered outdoor space larger than the current quad; a new clubs space with a suite of meeting rooms, a clubs lounge, storage spaces and rooms for club executives to work out of; and a completely redeveloped Student Union Hall, which will become a 1100 to 1200-person concert venue, and house a new cafeteria and bar.

#### **Joint Student Union Board**

The Association and the VUWSA Trust (VUWSAT) worked to implement the Association's goal of ensuring control over the Student Union Complex (SUC). This is done through the Joint Student Union Board (JSUB) and making certain that it is effective in controlling the SUC. In 2009, the work of the JSUB has involved a number of projects and initiatives: the development of a University Retail Strategy, oversight of which is agreed to lie with JSUB, and consultation surrounding an upgrade of the Boyd Wilson Field. The JSUB also agreed to a number of policies governing student use of spaces, including the quad, and rules regarding the consumption of alcohol at student events. The policies had been source of tension between the University and VUWSA for some time but have now been resolved to mutual satisfaction. The JSUB oversaw aspects of the Campus Hub project that affect the SUC, a task that will consume much of its attention in 2010.

#### **VUWSA-Student Union Relations**

The Association established a mutually beneficial working relationship with the Student Union. This

relationship was usefully fostered by the initiation of weekly meetings throughout 2009 between VUWSA and the SUC Manager. In early 2009 a VUWSA-Student Union Bar Committee was formed, which has been instrumental in the design and implementation of regular events at the Mount Street Bar this year, in addition to providing a useful bridge between VUWSA and the Student Union more generally.

### **Boyd-Wilson Field Upgrade**

In 2008 VUWSA took a proposal to the VUWSAT to fund a review of the Boyd Wilson Field Complex, which includes changing rooms and an indoor training venue. 2009 saw the opening of new changing rooms and a rebuilt indoor arena, with an artificial surface, replacing the sawdust gym. This has been extremely successful in increasing student use of the facility. In 2009 VUWSAT also commissioned a review of a proposal to provide drainage and resurfacing of the Boyd Wilson Field with a fourth-generation artificial surface. This surface will allow significantly increased use by student groups, regardless of the climatic conditions. The review showed that the physical features of the site meant that a natural grass surface could not sustain the use students wish to make of the field, no matter how much was spent on drainage. Following this review, VUWSA engaged in extensive consultation with student clubs who do and would use the field, and surveyed a random and significant sample of students in general. This consultation showed a high level of support for an on-campus sports field in line with the proposal, with charges for regular users and timetabled free time for casual use. The VUWSAT then agreed to contribute funds to develop the field. It will open in May 2010. The contribution is through a grant of \$500,000 and a further contribution of \$500,000 which will be recovered over ten years from charges on regular users.

### **Car Parks, Lockers and Bus Tickets**

Car parks, lockers and free bus tickets (along with discounted printing and other services daily utilised by students) remained important Association services during 2009. Following earlier trends, bus tickets between the Kelburn and Pipitea campuses remained the most popular. VUWSA also provided free bus tickets to students travelling between Kelburn and Karori, Kelburn and Vivian Street (Te Aro campus), and Kelburn and Massey University at Wellington (for NZSM students).

### **Handbook Diary, Wall Planner and Eco Bags**

VUWSA published 12,000 of its ever-popular Association diaries, and 10,000 Association wall planners (an increase on the previous year, due to popular demand). Three thousand 'first year' packs-crammed with important information, giveaways and goodies-were also distributed, primarily to those living in Halls of Residence.

### **Campus Angels Service**

Campus Angels is a walk-home evening service for students, by students. The Service was founded by Women's Group members in 2001, in order to help facilitate a positive, safe environment at and in the vicinity of the University. Campus Angels Service has been maintained at the Kelburn and Pipitea campuses, and has also been successfully introduced at Te Aro due to student demand.

## VUWSA Offices

VUWSA organised the establishment of a Te Aro campus space, making that office our fourth in Wellington. This office was established in order to increase the support and service provision that VUWSA offers to students based at that campus. VUWSA also has offices at the Pipitea and Karori campuses (primarily staffed by part-time administrators), with most personnel continuing to operate from our central office at Kelburn.

## Student Media

*Salient*, the official publication of the Association, is funded by VUWSA but maintains editorial independence. *Salient* published 25 issues in 2009, including one issue published exclusively online. Approximately 131,000 copies of *Salient* were printed over the year; the initial print run being 6000 per issues, with some variations throughout the year. For example, the Eco Issue had a print run of 3000, and the final issues of the year had print runs of 5000. *Salient's* website traffic experienced a steady increase, with a spike in visitors following the Online Issue (Issue 11). This also resulted in an increase in regular visitors to the site, generally on a Monday when the magazine comes out. *Salient* experimented with different paper stock towards the end of the year, with one issue printed in glossy and one in newsprint. It was felt that there were few benefits to glossy print, and it was found that it was difficult to do puzzles on and the design was not as effective. While money was saved printing on newsprint, it was not as durable and it was perceived by students to be of a lower standard. *Salient* decided that the original paper stock was most suitable in terms of cost and design.

Meetings/interviews were held every week of production between *Salient* representatives (generally the Publications Editor and News Editor) and me, which provided a regular forum to inform *Salient* personnel of VUWSA's activities and to provide a 'heads up' on issues of importance to students. There was a weekly President's column in which the core business and associated activities of the Association was reported to members, alongside a rotating Vice-President column and a third column to which all other Executive members contributed. VUWSA liaised and collaborated with *Salient* to produce a number of themed issues this year, to coincide with specific themed weeks organised by the Association. Amongst others, themed issues have been produced to coincide with Women's Fest, Environment Week, Pride Week, and Students as Workers Week.

*Salient* rounded off the year on a high note, scooping up the Fairfax New Zealand award for the best student publication at the Aotearoa Student Press Association awards. The Te Ao Marama Issue, produced in conjunction with Ngai Taura, won the print media award at the Maori Language Awards.

The student radio station, VBC 88.3FM also had a positive year, and a strong and productive relationship was built between VUWSA and the station. In addition to the important role that the VBC 88.3FM now plays in VUWSA's activities calendar (discussed below), 2009 saw the establishment of the Victoria Broadcasting Trust (to manage and oversee the running of the station) and the signing off of its accompanying Deed, relocation of the station's transmitter from the Student Union Building to Cotton (to facilitate greater broadcasting coverage), the provision of swipe card access for all station volunteers, and the establishment of broadcasting in some campus social spaces such as the Mount Street Bar. A VUWSA-VBC Trust Relationship Agreement was also drafted in the latter part of the year, intended to be ratified in early 2010. The Association's goals

and activities benefited from regular promotion and discussion, such as via weekly President's interviews on the station's Breakfast Show, and five weekly themed one-hour long shows (Campaigns, Clubs, Activities, Women's, and Queer) hosted by VUWSA personnel.

2009 was also an important year for student media in terms of the Campus Hub Redevelopment Project: VUWSA and the Trust worked alongside the University and student media partners to coordinate and finalise a student media centre, to be completed in the first half of 2010. The formation of the Victoria Student Media Group at the VUWSA AGM is another important move in the creation of an environment that helps foster and build student media at Victoria.

## **Activities**

### **Refocusing Activities**

The Association's social and activities programme was heavily refocused in 2009, primarily characterised by a move away from a few large gigs toward a diverse schedule of quality, cost-effective events which cater to a wide variety of student audiences. Partners such as the Student Union and the VBC 88.3FM have played an important role in facilitating and participating in some of these events, as have student clubs and Representative Groups. A selection of these events is profiled below.

### **Orientation**

The objective of Orientation 2009 was to create a two week student-driven festival which orientated members to both the University and to Wellington. In order to best achieve this, a partnership with the VBC 88.3FM was formed, with which VUWSA co-hosted four evening Orientation events. The Association also organised events in collaboration with Ngai Taura, and with MAWSA (for NZSM students). Orientation 2009 included events at all four University campuses, five Clubs Days (more than ever before), and a host of on and off campus events. Orientation 2009 required the smallest monetary investment this century, but arguably reaped the highest returns.

### **Reorientation**

Reorientation operated on the same basis as Orientation, but on a much smaller scale. I would recommend that the Association think seriously about the purpose of Reorientation, and consider scaling the festival down further – from a full week of activities, to Clubs Days and several events.

### **University Games**

Our sporting clubs did Victoria proud at University Games, bringing home the coveted University Games Shield for the third time in four years. This is a particularly notable achievement, not least due to the difficult circumstances under which the VUWSA Team operated. These circumstances were largely due to our inability to secure accommodation based in close proximity to the sporting events, in part because of unfortunate media coverage surrounding the VUWSA Team at the 2008 Games, and in part because of the uncooperative attitude of the University Sport New Zealand (USNZ).

## **Snow Games**

Held in Wanaka, 11 competitors competing in 25 events. Victoria students placed third overall, winning one gold and two bronze medals.

## **Blues Awards**

Victoria's athletes and sports administrators were honoured at the 2009 Victoria University Blues Awards held in early October. Victor Vito (Wellington Lion, Super 14 Hurricane and Junior All Black) received the Sportsperson of the Year award, presented by rugby league legend Ruben Wiki. There were 25 awards recipients in total.

## **Team Victoria**

A Team Victoria MoU was signed between VUWSA and the University in 2006. This MoU outlines its purpose as follows:

*"A. Victoria University and VUWSA (the Parties)" recognise that they have a shared interest in fostering and maintaining a strong identity and sense of belonging across the University community.*

*B. The Parties wish to work together to develop a partnership ("The Partnership") to establish and promote the Team Victoria brand amongst student clubs and their supporters, students, alumni and staff; and to facilitate enhanced social, cultural, sporting and recreational opportunities.*

*C. The Parties wish to formalise their collaborative arrangement and record their understandings and intentions in relation to the joint objectives of the Parties concerning the Partnership."*

Unfortunately, over the past few years, very little had happened with respect to this MoU. In 2009 VUWSA formally committed to review and re-establish Team Victoria, and worked with the University to establish a higher-level governance committee to oversee the project. The inaugural meeting of this committee was scheduled for early January 2010.

## **University Sport New Zealand**

Relations were tense between VUWSA and USNZ. Throughout 2009 the Association was instrumental in highlighting the inadequacies of USNZ (notably its management, priorities, and decision making), and our belief that the benefits of VUWSA's membership of the national organisation are currently difficult to distinguish. Tension came to a head in mid 2009, when the USNZ President Warren Poh refused to return the University Games Shield to the Association after VUWSA loaned it for display at the national Blues Awards. The Association will continue to engage in attempts at meaningful dialogue with USNZ; and we are hopeful that the organisation takes VUWSA's feedback on board and makes positive moves forward henceforth.

## **Pulp Culture Expo**

The Pulp Culture Expo was a new VUWSA initiative aiming to advance less well-known, (in the nicest way, 'geeky') clubs on campus. The Union Hall was utilised to host stalls promoting the Games Club,

Anime, Sci-Fi, VICIT and the Engineering Society, amongst others. Pulsar Max, JB Hi-Fi, Wargames Supplies, Arty Bees Books (to sell and give away Sci-Fi books), and Sidhe Interactive (to run computer games competitions) offered their wares at special discount rates. Other stalls were held by Asia Art Solution, Made in Nippon, geeky jewellery and zine producers, and Verboom badges. Red Bull supplied free product, and The VBC 88.3FM provided themed sounds throughout the day. A Student Representative Council (SRC) meeting topped off the event with a resolution annotating the Association with its own official superhero.

### **Révolution in Colours**

Held in the Union Hall in November, Revolution in Colours was another new VUWSA initiative held in order to help clubs increase exposure and to motivate participation amongst their members. The dance production involved Dance with Me, B-boys and Vic Poppers dance clubs, the Malaysian Students' Association, Latin American and Spanish Clubs' dance group VivaLatinaDance, Cabaret Crew, the Capoeira Club and off-campus dance group Ethical Act. Students from Victoria's Theatre programme and from the Wellington Performing Arts Centre provided their services as stage and lighting volunteers at the sold-out performance.

### **Clubs Networking Events**

Clubs networking events were held in order to increase inter-club communication and collaboration, after a VUWSA Clubs Team survey found that these were facets clubs wanted to build on. Clubs wanted to have more contact with other clubs of a similar nature, especially Christian and environmental clubs. The Association worked with Joel Carpenter (who runs campus-based radio station Human FM and the University's Chaplaincy) to set up inter-Christian clubs events, S.O.S., about four of which were held. VUWSA also organised Hook Up – networking events for environmental clubs – held in the Geology post-graduate common room. Much inter-club brainstorming and discussion took place at these events. Inter-club projects were initiated, and a forum created for clubs to provide further feedback and ideas to the Association.

### **SUBmerge**

Hosted to celebrate the richness of cultural clubs' activities, this was yet another new VUWSA project, in this instance facilitated in conjunction with partners from the VBC 88.3FM, the Student Union, and *Salient*. SUBmerge involved a large number of student cultural clubs, and took place throughout the Student Union Building. Some clubs utilised the opportunity to fundraise by selling food on the deck, other clubs partook in campaigning activities, while VICIT and the Games Club set up shop in the meeting rooms. Live music provided entertainment at the bar, alongside second hand market stalls. Meanwhile, a Design and Architecture students' expo was held on level two of the building, and a film screening (introduced by the director) held on the floor below in the recently upgraded Memorial Theatre Foyer. SUBmerge provided a great opportunity for clubs to fundraise and gain exposure, opportunities that is normally few and far between at the end of the second trimester.

### **Selected Club Highlights**

While Amnesty on Campus hosted a range of events and actions supporting the theme "Kids in Camouflage - Keeping kids out of Conflict" during Freedom Week, the Weir House Residents

Association and Beta Omega Chi respectively served up the 2009 Weir House Ball at the Westpac Stadium and an end-of-year party for students - "Blow Out 09" - at the Garden Club. Dramatic offerings were provided during 2009 by the Shakespeare Club with their production of *Henry VI*, the French Club (*Les Fourberies de Scapin*), and the German Club (*The Sorrows of Old Goethe*). Sporting clubs also excelled. The Flying Disc Club sent a team to compete at the Australian University Games where they won the second tier competition, the Handball Club provided ten national representatives, and the Cricket Club was promoted to the top club competition in Wellington. Also, the Old Boys University rugby – which features All Black Conrad Smith and Black Fern Claire Rowat – Men's Premier Team won the Hardham Cup. Meanwhile, the Debating Society reached the final of the Australasian Debating Championships, won the prestigious Joynt Scroll, and sent six students to the 2009 World Universities Debating Championship.

### **Club Publications**

In addition to publishing updated 2009 editions of both the *A to Z of Clubs* and the *Clubs Handbook* - the former providing information and contact details about VUWSA's 90-odd clubs and the latter comprising a 'how to' guide for club management – VUWSA also established publication of a regular *Club Zine*, in conjunction with the Student Union. Issued every three weeks, the aim of the *Club Zine* was to profile various clubs and their activities, in order to provide a forum for clubs to promote themselves and for students to find out about groups and events that might otherwise slip under the radar. The zine also included general VUWSA and Student Union information and entertaining articles, as well as major club event reviews. It had lots of photos and a small but catchy design, and was distributed at VUWSA and Student Union reception, the University library, club meeting rooms, and the Quad.

### **Public Issues**

#### **Promoting and Engaging in Discussion and Action**

VUWSA undertook the promotion of discussion and action as appropriate on issues concerning students as citizens via a variety of avenues, including media releases, liaison and interviews; participation in rallies and marches; meetings, forums, and other actions. The Association made an active effort to establish and maintain approachability, encouraging students and other interested parties to highlight and activate on issues that they felt were important. Alongside issues ranging from employment to the environment, the Association actively opposed the tertiary education user-pays model, including speaking out against fee increases and the user-pays education system.

### **Environmental Issues**

VUWSA coordinated a successful Environment Week, incorporating partners and affiliates, including on and off campus environmental groups. For instance, Students for a Sustainable Planet contributed with a "Meatless Mondays" campaign, offering vegetarian alternatives and raising awareness of the affects of meat consumption on the environment. In September, an environment themed SRC meeting was held in result of student requests, where the following resolutions were endorsed:

*"That VUWSA signs on to the Greenpeace 'Sign On' campaign in support of a 40% emissions reduction target below 1990 levels by 2020 for New Zealand. This is to play our part in*

*reducing the global atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration back to a safe 350ppm. To underline student support for urgent action to avert dangerous climate change, we ask that VUWSA put out a media release stating our support for the Sign On and 350 campaigns, as well as write a letter to this effect to Climate Change Issues Minister Nick Smith, and Prime Minister John Key.”*

AND

*“That VUWSA support the principles of fair trade and commit to increasing availability and awareness with the goal of being a fair trade certified University. This involves:*

*- VUWSA becoming a fair trade workplace*

*- Lobbying the University Council to pass a resolution to support the principle of fair trade and to work towards meeting the five goals for Fair Trade Universities.”*

Amongst other moves (all above cited aspects of the resolutions were subsequently met by VUWSA), the Association arranged a meeting between Just Action representatives and the Vice-Chancellor, in order to address the latter resolution.

Other environmental activities in 2009 included the establishment of a student-led community garden on University land in Aro Valley, Gecko’s fundraising concert to support climate refugees in New Zealand, and a climate change march. VUWSA also made a submission to the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the Climate Change Response (Moderated Emissions Trading) Amendment Bill.

### **Halls of Residence**

At the beginning of the year the relationship between VUWSA (and at least some) Halls of residence providers experienced some strain, a hangover from the previous year’s VUWSA administration. Tension between the Association and the Halls, though not necessarily a new phenomenon, was heightened in result of the actions taken by students surrounding conditions at Unicom in the later half of 2008. While the Association advocates for a high standard of student housing (both in regard to Halls of Residence and private establishments), in 2009 VUWSA prioritised engagement in constructive dialogue with Halls in order to best achieve positive outcomes for residents. For instance, VUWSA attended several productive meetings with the Village Director of uStay (formerly known as UniComm). It appears that uStay have made significant steps to address the issues raised by residents last year (such as the creation of new support staff members), which VUWSA applauds.

I encourage future President’s to build and maintain such positive relationships with Halls, and also encourage them to partake in the Civic Welcome as I did in late February: this is a fantastic opportunity to address more than 1000 students staying at Halls of Residence on behalf of the Association.

### **Membership of the New Zealand Union of Students’ Associations**

VUWSA has strongly promoted its Association goals and represented our members via regular liaison with NZUSA Federation Office, NZUSA Federation Executive (FedEx), and at NZUSA national

conferences. Additionally, VUWSA liaised with other member associations throughout the year on numerous projects, and participated in training sessions organised by NZUSA, such as Campaigns Training, Council Representative Training, and Fee Setting Training. VUWSA delegates were sent to all three NZUSA conferences; a Chief Delegate at each being the Tumuaki of Ngai Taura. VUWSA hosted the January Conference; July Conference was hosted by the Auckland University Students' Association (AUSA), and August Conference was hosted by the Lincoln University Students' Association (LUSA). Appropriate caucusing and consultation took place prior to each conference, and conference happenings were reported back to members via methods such as *Salient* and the VBC 88.3FM.

### **Thursdays in Black**

Thursdays in Black is an international campaign demanding a world without rape and violence in our community. The Association has facilitated the Thursdays in Black campaign since the mid 1990s, in conjunction with NZUSA. During much of the previous decade, the Association's involvement in the campaign was largely focused on and limited to gender. In 2009, VUWSA attempted to remarket Thursdays in Black as a campaign more akin to its roots: i.e. as a campaign which focuses on ways that individuals can challenge attitudes that cause rape and violence, and reinforces at both a personal and public level that there is something wrong with a world that will allow the human rights of women, men and children to be abused and threatened.

Merchandise and information stalls have been regularly held in conjunction with SRC meetings, in order to raise awareness and increase support, in addition to selling Thursdays in Black merchandise at our Kelburn Office. VUWSA hosted a Thursdays in Black Day of Action event on 1 October at the San Francisco Bathhouse. It featured acts Stephen Jackson, Ruski, Force Fields and Full Moon Fiasco. The night raised \$275 for Wellington Rape Crisis.

### **Body Image Campaign**

In September the Women's Rights Officer ran a campaign promoting healthy body image. The idea was simple – to show women that despite all the media promoting unrealistic body ideals, and despite all the negative influences from society, it is still possible to retain hope and not succumb to eating disorders. The campaign was made up of pictures from the website [www.postsecret.com](http://www.postsecret.com) where people send in their secrets on the back of postcards. All relevant postcards were selected and then split into 'bad' ("I feel best when I'm hungry"), 'good' ("I saw a 500lb woman at the gym and wanted her to know that she had the most beautiful body there"), and 'hopeful' ("This could be an almost perfect day. Enjoy it") then layered on top of each other. It was a visual representation of the fact that despite all of the 'bad' aspects of body image, there would always be a 'good' one and although there were less good and hopeful postcards, they overpowered the 'bad' ones. The postcards were displayed in the Quad, and are now housed at Women's Space.

### **Reclaim the Night**

Reclaim the Night planning commenced under the direction of the VUWSA Women's Coordinator in June, and was organised by a collective involving women from organisations such as the Wellington Sexual Abuse Network and writers from [www.thehandmirror.blogspot.com](http://www.thehandmirror.blogspot.com). The march was open to all self-identified women and their children which caused a lot of contention among certain groups. An after party was held at Dixon Street's Garden Bar, featuring acts Palace This!, Rachael Wright,

Mahinarangi Maika, Edwardine Tanaki, and kthxbye. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about rape and violence towards women in the streets of Wellington.

### **Education (Freedom of Association) Amendment Bill**

Roger Douglas' Education (Freedom of Association) Amendment Bill was drawn from the ballot in August, and passed its first reading the following month. A Student Membership Committee, comprising members from the VUWSA Executive, Ngai Taura, Representative Groups, student clubs, *Salient* and the VBC 88.3FM was formed that same month, in order to oversee the Association's campaign concerning the Bill. VUWSA was also pleased to co-host a public debate with the Debating Society on the Bill. The Bill is before the Education and Science Select Committee, with public submissions open until 31 March 2010.

The Association's current policy on student membership results from a 1999 referendum where Victoria students voted overwhelmingly in favour of universal student membership.

### **Building Relationships with Students at an International Level**

The Association actively built relationships with students at an international level. In addition to correspondence with numerous student groups globally, relationships included a visit from a University of the South Pacific Council representative (hosted at the VUWSA), and a meeting between myself and representatives of the All Nepal National Free Students' Union (hosted in Kathmandu, Nepal). In June I also visited Victoria University's offshore campus, in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. This was the first time that a representative of the Association had visited that campus. VUWSA was also in contact with the Nepal Student Union concerning their planned deputation to New Zealand next year, and organised for delegates from the National University of Singapore Students' Union (NUSSU) to visit VUWSA in early January 2010.

## **Finance**

### **Efficiency and Transparency**

The development and extension of VUWSA's internal financial and business practices progressed dramatically during 2009. In order to appropriately manage this important area of VUWSA's strategy and operations, an Audit and Finance Committee was founded, and weekly Accounts Team meetings were established. These forums aided in the Association in identifying and addressing areas for improvement.

### **Financial advice and support**

The Association provided support to representative groups in preparing and submitting budgets, along with advice to clubs, general meetings, and to the Executive.

### **Non-member revenue**

Investigative planning is currently underway in order to maximise non-member revenue. Non-member revenue (though small) has been gained this year from a variety of sources, such as the

University and external business interests.

## **Accountability**

### **Change Processes**

In January the Association was in the midst of a change process, instigated by members of the former Executive in mid 2008. In early 2009 the committee overseeing this process was disbanded, and a more appropriate group, the VUWSA Change Committee, was formed. The Executive worked hard to turn around what they considered to be inappropriate and unsatisfactory conclusions drawn by the original committee. The following were produced and implemented: a 120 Day Plan (in order to address issues of significance requiring action at VUWSA), terms of reference for an Audit and Finance Committee (mentioned above), terms of reference for a Performance Management Committee, and an Association Manager job description. The full time staff position of Association Coordinator was disestablished, and a new staff role of Association Manager introduced. The Association Manager commenced work on 6 July. The introduction of the Association Manager stands as one of the biggest changes to VUWSA's internal operations to take place in decades. The Association Manager role was established in order to provide a clear distinction between the Association's governance and management; this is a distinction which until 2009 was non-existent. The Association Manager reports formally to the VUWSA Performance Management Committee; this Committee is also responsible for overseeing all future Association change processes.

Additionally, the Association disestablished the former Education Office (and the accompanying Education Coordinator position), and created an Advocacy Office comprising both Education and Welfare divisions. New Advocacy Office staff positions introduced included a Welfare Advocacy Organiser (WAO), an Education Advocacy Organiser (EAO), and a Representative Groups Administrator (RGA). These positions were created in order to help build and maintain strong welfare services and student representation.

In the latter part of the year, the Association's Performance Management Committee disestablished a number of full time VUWSA staff positions, including the Campus Activities Coordinator (CAC), Clubs Development Officer (CDO), Advertising and Sponsorship Manager, and WAO. In their place, the following positions (mostly part-time) were created: Clubs and Events Manager, Sales and Advertising Manager, Student Advocate, and Welfare Organiser. A roving administrator position was also created. These structural changes were made in order to help facilitate a closer focus on the core business of the Association.

### **Communications and Marketing**

VUWSA has attempted to increase our communication with students via a variety of different mechanisms, some of which are recorded elsewhere in this report (such as SRC meetings, Class Representative Newsletters, regular columns in *Salient*, and shows on the VBC 88.3FM). The Association has founded a new general Facebook group, as well as specific Facebook groups for particular areas of VUWSA's representative and service delivery facets. MyVictoria pages have also been created. Additionally, VUWSA has built a new website, in order to communicate more effectively with Victoria students and other interested parties. A new logo was also designed and launched. VUWSA is involved in ongoing discussions with the University concerning proposed student communications strategies.

## **Student Representative Council**

The Association reintroduced regular SRC meetings in order to ensure public accountability of the Association and provide an opportunity for the student body to debate the issues of the day. A wide variety of topics were addressed at these meetings, such as food on campus, Fair Trade, Anzac Day, and labour laws. SRC's were held every week during the first trimester and by agreement of the Executive, fortnightly after then. Arguably VUWSA's most successful SRC took place at the Law School Common Room in late March, on the topic of the University's Alcohol Policy. Jointly organised by VUWSA and the Victoria University of Wellington Law Students' Society (VUWLSS), the SRC attracted approximately 150 students. Two resolutions were unanimously passed, being:

*"That the University should carry out a full review of their alcohol policy.*

*AND*

*That the University should not seek to make a profit from student run events like barbecues or talks."*

## **Stop Lecture Meetings**

Stop lecture meetings were introduced in the 1990s, whereby student representatives poll lecture theatres on the student view on particular issues, as an efficient and effective way of ensuring popular support for decisions pending or to efficiency gauge student opinion on a given issue. The Association held a series of stop lecture meetings on the topics of potential domestic fee increases and government funding, which helped inform media comment and arguments surrounding fee setting.

## **Internal Policies**

VUWSA's internal policies and procedures have been reviewed, with a number of new policies being approved and implemented. These include new policies on the following: Annual Leave Holidays, Code of Conduct, Confidentiality, Credit Card, Fraud and Theft Prevention, Intellectual Property, Leave without Pay, Petty Cash, Sexual Harassment, Sick Leave, and Taxi Voucher Usage.

## **Planning and Reporting**

The Association was guided throughout the year by our *2009 Strategic and Operational Plan*, based around the organisation's eight official priority goals. Executive members were obliged to submit regular (either weekly or fortnightly) reports which outlined our activities during the period, along with brief monthly and more in-depth quarterly reports against the *Strategic and Operational Plan*. A *Strategic Plan, 2010-2014*, was also drafted.

## **Publications Committee**

For the first time in many years, the Publications Committee held regular meetings, every fortnight during term time. The Committee also instigated regular financial reporting mechanisms, a basic accountability measure which though simple was unfortunately often lacking in past years.

## **VUWSA Trust**

The VUWSAT provided significantly help concerning structural change and transition during the year, alongside supporting the Association through continuity and experience, especially with respect to financial systems and relationships with the University. The VUWSAT helped considerably with the latter, especially with getting student oversight over Student Services and Amenities. The Trust also began looking to make additional contributions to improve facilities on campus. Special thanks to VUWSAT Chair Alistair Shaw and Trustee Dan Ormond for their continual support throughout 2009.

## **Vice President (Education) Report – Freya Eng**

**No report was received from the 2009 Vice President (Education) despite many requests.**

## **Vice-President (Welfare) Report – Seamus Brady**

2009 was a very strong year for the welfare portfolio at VUWSA. I thoroughly enjoyed my time and the work myself and other did. The following is not all encompassing, but highlight some key areas of the portfolio.

### **Food Bank**

2009 a very successful year for the service. More students accessed the service in 2009 than they have in at least three years. Overall, an estimated 730 parcels were given out to approximately 574 students.

The average weekly income of a student using the service was \$142, the average Student Loan Living Costs payment was \$104, the average Student Allowance was \$133 and the average weekly rent was \$135.

Doing the basics well such as maintaining well advertised and consistent opening hours, having a core group of trained personnel on hand and regularly ordering stock enabled the service to perform well and made it more accessible and responsive to student needs.

The establishment of a Google-based database in the second half of the year has seen up-to-date data and other information being immediately accessible and administration burdens of the service significantly reduced. Combined with the new application form used in 2009 VUWSA is now better able to understand the students who use the service.

With these systems in place and continued attention paid to the delivery of the service, and the cost of living continuing to increase, 2010 should see an increase in the number of students using the VUWSA food bank service.

There was one very unfortunate event in 2009 that must be noted. A former Executive member lost a newly created database of food bank information early in the year. An apology was printed in *Salient* on behalf of VUWSA and given to Student Finance after the Executive member refused to take responsibly. Tighter Security measures are now in place to ensure that this is not possible anymore and the privacy of those using the service is maintained.

### **Free Bread**

The twice weekly free bread service continued to prove an extremely popular initiative. At the end of each Wednesday and Friday all stock is usually taken. This has seen VUWSA begin to approach other suppliers in the hope of adding an extra day's availability or extending the service to the Te Aro campus.

### **Student Services**

A strong relationship between VUWSA and Student Finance was established and maintained throughout the year. This saw the two services often working in tandem complementing each other well.

A strong and positive relationship between VUWSA and Student Health was fostered, and I think can be built on by continuing efforts.

### **Hardship Committee**

I provided consistent student representation on the weekly Hardship Committee for the first time in at least two years. This saw a strong relationship being established between VUWSA and Student Finance which saw many students benefit through our services working in tandem.

### **Students As Workers Week**

This was a successful week covering many issues and involving many different people and groups. Debates were had with union officials, left and right MPs, students, international issues were discussed and events were well attended.

### **Peer Advocacy**

The Queer Mentoring Programme was established by the Queer Officer Nathan Cooper in order to help create a supportive educational environment on campus for queer students, and was involved in the drafting of a NZUSA national survey of queer students in tertiary education.

A wider Peer Advocacy Service was planned, but was never fully established. This is something VUWSA, specifically the Welfare Team and Student Advocate should investigate further.

### **Influenza Vaccination Campaign**

The annual VUWSA funded Influenza Campaign and Free Flu Shot Clinic was held between April 1st and 3rd. It was a huge success that saw 450 students vaccinated against the current strain of the flu over the three days.

2009 saw the Welfare budget for the free flu shots increase from \$1500 to \$5000. This was done for two main reasons; firstly an unrealistic demand set in 2008; secondly it was considered a better use of student money than some other initiatives.

- 67% were female students
- 32% attended the clinic on the Wednesday
- 27% attended the clinic on the Thursday
- 41% attended the clinic on the Friday
- 34% were first year students
- 26% were second students
- 22% were third year students
- 18% were post graduate students

### **Stress Free Study Weeks**

Another highlight of my year, I coordinated the annual Stress-Free Study Weeks at the end of the first and second trimester. Setting up for breakfasts Kelburn and Pipitea with items not usually found in a student flat, feedback from students was overwhelming positive with the need to two extra trips to Moore Wilsons to keep up with demand. The addition of the free Red Bull for two days in the second study week was a much welcome relief and added a lot to the overall service.

A huge effort was put in by Caitlin Dunham, Freya Eng, Kassie Hartendorp and Craig Carey and other members of the Executive pulling the weeks off.

Also In the first trimester we also held a Mid-Night Feast at the Te Aro campus during the study week. We were unfortunately unable to repeat it in the second trimester due to a fire and end of year exhibitions. Something for the future could be extending the breakfasts to Te Aro and a greater focus on gaining sponsorship for the food

### **Representative Groups**

2009 was a successful year for welfare-orientated Representative Groups. With the introduction of a 10 hour per week Representative Groups Administrator, much of the basic, yet time consuming day to day administrative side of these groups was focused and saw new life breathed into many previously inactive groups and extra support to existing groups.

Standout moments of 2009 include the revival of the Mature Students' Network as an extremely active growing group on campus, and UniQ, who kicked off the year with a visit from Amanda Palmer of the Dresden Dolls and an IGM that filled both Meeting Rooms One and Two. Thanks to Freya for acting on my idea to invite her up and being her walking buddy up to campus.

The Women's Group was made an official VUWSA Representative Group at Association's Initial General Meeting (IGM) in March. Attention needs to be paid to the disability focused Can-Do. It elected a new Executive mid-year but didn't gain traction like many other groups did. This group has a lot of potential.

Moves towards the end of the year have also seen the re-establishment of the Pasifika Students' Council, after many years of inactivity into what is now a very active and large Representative Group.

### **Campus Angels**

I coordinated the Campus Angels Service in 2009 and focused on the promotion and growth of the service. A new poster campaign was implemented and proper signage was finally invested in. A committed group of Campus Angels maintained the service at the Kelburn and Pipitea campuses, and its importance to students saw it successfully introduced at Te Aro campus due to student demand and recent increases in inner-city incidents. Te Aro proved to be very well used with excellent feedback received. Because of this the service will continue into 2010 at Te Aro.

## **Acting-Vice President (Administration) Report – Max Hardy**

*N.B Max was co-opted into the position of Vice-President (Administration) in September 2009*

In 2009 I was appointed by the Executive based on a promise to improve VUWSA's accountability, efficiency, management and general administration. We made very substantial improvements in 2009.

I set myself five goals:

- Working towards diversifying VUWSA's revenue streams, so that a significant levy decrease would be viable in the future without compromising service delivery.
- Ensuring efficiency of spending, cutting administrative costs where possible and re-prioritising spending where necessary.
- Improving VUWSA's day to day financial management, to ensure that expenditure and income is transparent to students and the Executive and can be controlled efficiently.
- Improving VUWSA's budgeting process.
- An environmentally sustainable and responsible Association.

I am proud of our achievements across all five goals, but inevitably work continues in all five.

### **Diversifying revenue**

Naturally, the majority of the Association's income continues to come from student levies. Precious little work has been done over the past few years in diversifying our revenue. In the long-term I believe VUWSA should be receiving the majority of its income from sources other than student levies. This will allow us to reduce the student levy or increase our capability to provide more services, depending on what students vote for. I believe a levy decrease, or freeze, could be justified in the future, if the current arrangement continues.

In 2009 a number of non-levy revenue opportunities were identified and work was begun in assessing the feasibility of a few. It was decided that the VUWSA Trust was the most appropriate organisation to fulfil this function. Results should be visible during 2010.

### **Improving efficiency**

One of VUWSA's greatest strengths is that it is run very efficiently. Many hours of volunteer labour, thousands of dollars of donated goods, public scrutiny and an ethos that demands that things are done as cheaply as possible, means that VUWSA is able to provide great value for money.

However, as with any organisation, there is certainly some inefficiency at VUWSA. I do not use the term in order to justify any cuts to services. Rather, it is the constant struggle of the executive of any organisation to ensure that money continues to be spent where it should be.

In 2009 VUWSA made some very positive steps to ensuring that VUWSA's money was spent well.

The VUWSA change process resulted in a better, student-focused organisation run more efficiently. Some savings were made in terms of salaries, but the focus of the change was on better service delivery.

In 2009 I stated that I believed that some substantial savings could be made to our overhead costs. These included computing expenses which were too high for an organisation of our size (although the number was particularly high in 2008 and 2009 because of a server upgrade). The introduction of an Association Manager has had a very positive impact on our ability to control these costs, as should better accounting practices. Computing costs will see substantial savings in 2010, as should most other overheads of the Association.

The net cost of *Salient* also appears to be too high for 2009, compared with student media at other Associations. In the 2010 budget, expenditure savings were made in agreement with the 2010 Editor. Work was put into increasing our advertising revenue through better sales structures, and the effect should be felt in 2010. In the long-term *Salient* appears to be moving towards greater sustainability and this is heartening.

Of course increasing efficiency can also include expanding existing services, or offering new ones. It is pleasing to see, for example, that VUWSA was able to provide an increased amount of food bank parcels this year when the need has increased.

Executive members are encouraged to think of new and creative ways to serve students. Of course, new services that cost money should be considered, especially if cuts can be made in non-priority areas. VUWSA is open to new ideas.

### **Improving VUWSA's day to day financial management**

This was an absolute priority. The Association's expenditure must be accountable and transparent to the Executive and to students. The Executive must have the information it requires to make strategic financial decisions.

A lot of work was done in 2009. The introduction of the Association Manager was an incredibly important step forward. A full financial policy was drafted in 2009 by the Finance and Audit Committee, and should come into effect in 2010.

A monthly accounts review system was developed, which will review profit and loss and balance sheet against budget, and review debtors and creditors, with reporting on steps being taken on any accounts over 30 days. The monthly review also confirms that till, payroll, GST and bank reconciliations and other regular checks have been done.

The Executive in 2010 should therefore be able to manage debtors, understand variances on budget and secure our organisation against fraud. This should allow the Executive to make strategic financial decisions with confidence.

New financial policies regarding the expenditure of the Association's funds and the committing of the Association to contracts, were also developed for implementation in 2010.

### **Budget 2010**

Another absolute priority in 2009 was the reformatting of the budget for 2010. The 2009 budget

was very poorly structured. It did not lend itself to student, Executive or staff understanding and a number of things were under very inappropriate headings.

The 2010 budget is better formatted and a revised budgeting process lent itself to better more strategic, less haphazard, decision-making.

In 2009 I stated that I felt that students should be consulted on the draft budget, as part of an annual consultation. This was never organised for 2009, however, I hope this can be done in 2010.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any questions or comments. I am very willing to hear your ideas and alternative viewpoints.

Sincerely,

Max Hardy  
Vice-President (Administration)

# Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON STUDENTS ASSOCIATION INC  
 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
 AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Note	Group 2009 \$	Group 2008 \$	Parent 2009 \$	Parent 2008 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Cash & Bank		688,185	359,887	688,185	359,887
Accounts Receivable		191,925	94,130	191,925	94,130
Prepaid Expenses		11,681	20,708	11,681	20,708
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		891,792	474,725	891,792	474,725
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>					
Team Vic Ltd					
100 Authorised & Issued Ordinary Shares of \$1	18	-	-	-	100
Club Loans	17	19,015	17,815	19,015	17,815
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		19,015	17,815	19,015	17,915
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	2	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		62,736	18,586	62,736	18,586
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		81,751	36,401	81,751	36,501
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		<b>973,544</b>	<b>511,127</b>	<b>973,544</b>	<b>511,227</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Accounts Payable		242,118	125,118	242,118	125,118
Funds held on behalf of Clubs		45,126	63,487	45,126	63,487
Accrued Expenses		80,699	29,475	80,699	29,475
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		367,943	218,080	367,943	218,080
Accumulated Funds		605,501	293,047	605,601	293,147
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		605,501	293,047	605,601	293,147
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS EMPLOYED</b>		<b>973,444</b>	<b>511,127</b>	<b>973,544</b>	<b>511,227</b>
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## 2008 VUWSA General Election Results

<b>President:</b>	Jasmine Freemantle*	895
	Sonny Thomas	762
	William Wu	658
	Sean Connors	342
<b>Vice-President (Education)</b>	Freya Eng *	1,783
	No Confidence	819
<b>Vice-President (Welfare)</b>	Seamus Brady *	1,661
	Robert Latimer	885
<b>Vice-President (Administration):</b>	Alexander Neilson *	1,831
	No Confidence	784
<b>International Officer</b>	Nana Wu *	1,665
	Pengbo Jiang	856
<b>Queer Officer</b>	Nathan Cooper *	1,798
	No Confidence	781
<b>Environmental Officer</b>	Georgina Hart *	2,034
	No Confidence	549
<b>5x General Executive</b>	Sam Oldham *	1,414
	Marika Pratley *	1,346
	Tim Wang *	1,295
	Mariya Kupriyenko *	1,138
	Robert Latimer *	1,128
	Kurt Sharpe	1,082
	Anthony Naylor	1,004
	Tomasi io Mocevakaca	993
	Bernard Stewart	969
<b>Council Rep</b>	Jordan King *	1,045
	Kieran Barbalich	886
	Robert Latimer	614
<b>Publications Committee Rep</b>	Conrad Reyners *	1,977
	No Confidence	604

The Women's Rights Officer and Second Publications Committee Rep positions filled a by-election that saw Kassie Hartendorp and Flora Wassilieff elected to their respective roles.

\*Elected

## 2009 VUWSA Executive

<b>President:</b>	Jasmine Freemantle
<b>Vice-President (Education)</b>	Freya Eng
<b>Vice-President (Welfare)</b>	Seamus Brady
<b>Vice-President (Administration):</b>	Alexander Neilson (to July) Max Hardy (from September)
<b>International Officer</b>	Nana Wu
<b>Queer Officer</b>	Nathan Cooper
<b>Environmental Officer</b>	Georgina Hart (to July)
<b>Women's Rights Officer</b>	Kassie Hartendorp (to August) Caitlin Dunham (from September)
<b>Campaigns Officer</b>	Sam Oldham (to September) Bridie Hood (from September)
<b>Activities Officer</b>	Marika Pratley (to March)
<b>Education Officer</b>	Tim Wang (to September)
<b>Clubs Officer</b>	Mariya Kupriyenko
<b>Welfare Officer</b>	Robert Latimer (to August) Craig Carey (from August)

## VUWSA Trust Members

### Executive Trustees

Alistair Shaw (Chairperson)  
David Guerin (Trust Representative on the Joint Student Union Board)

Lee Patton

### Non-Executive Trustees

Nanette Cormack

Dan Ormond

Karen Price

### VUWSA Executive Representatives

Graeme Whimp

Jasmine Freemantle

Alexander Neilson (to July)

Max Hardy (from September)

## Association Staff

Association Coordinator

Julie McKiernan (to July)

Association Manager

Mark Maguire (from July)

Welfare Advocate

Seann Paurini

Education Organiser

Louise Wallace

Representative Groups Administrator

Urszula Pruchniewska

Campus Activities Coordinator

Chris McLaughlin

Advertising and Sponsorship Manager

Jon McQueen

Clubs Development Officer

Brent Hayward

Officer Administrator

Carey Clements

Jude Kindley

Sandy Lowe

Women's Coordinator

Kim Dobson

Campaigns Coordinator

Nabila Ahmed

## Student Representatives

While the following is not an exhaustive list of every student representative it highlights some of the key bodies student were represented on 2009. VUWSA appreciated their time and hard work greatly.

<b>University Council</b>	Jasmine Freemantle Jordan King
<b>Academic Board</b>	Jasmine Freemantle Freya Eng Stuart Martin William Wu Pania Lee
<b>Academic Committee</b>	Stuart Martin
<b>Faculty of Commerce and Administration</b>	Jade Neale Lachie McLaren Miriam Cribb Mary Hobbs Grace Trolove
<b>Faculty of Education</b>	Matthew Williams
<b>Faculty of Engineering</b>	Alexander Kane Patrick Hindmarsh Karan Batta
<b>Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences</b>	Stuart Martin Craig Carey
<b>Faculty of Law</b>	Polly Higbee Nick Chapman
<b>Timetable Committee</b>	Jasmine Freemantle
<b>Hardship Committee</b>	Seamus Brady
<b>Joint Student Union Board</b>	Jasmine Freemantle
<b>Students were also represented on the</b>	

**following bodies through VUWSA  
supported representatives:**

**FHSS Academic Committee**

**Science Faculty Committee**

**Education Academic Committee**

**Education Assessment Committee**

**Information and Technology Advisory  
Group**

**Library and Information Services Group**

**AUSSE Board**

**Learning and Teaching Strategy Group**

**Hundreds of Class Representative**

**Faculty of Science**

**Faculty of Architecture and Design**

## Student Media

VUWSA funds and supports the two outlets of student media on campus. While there are a core group of paid students, there are also countless hundreds of students who volunteer their time, services and skills make sure the best result is achieved.

Salient dominated the Aotearoa Student Press Association Awards, winning 6, including Best Publication. The VBC 88.3FM firmly established itself as the true student radio in Wellington, ending the vacuum since the demise of Radio Active on campus in the 1990s and became a key player in VUWSA activities such as Orientation.

### Salient

Editor	Jackson Wood
News Editor	Michael Oliver
Designer	Rory Harden
Feature Writers	Sarah Robson Nina Fowler
Arts Editor	Fiona McNamara Uther Dean
Chief Sub-Editor	Michael Langdon

### VBC 88.3FM

Managing Co-Directors	Doug Tereu Matthew Davis Kristen Patterson
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## Affiliate Organisations

VUWSA is a member of, and funds a number of national representative, sporting and support organisations for students. In 2009 they included:

### **New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA)**

Co-Presidents

Jordan King

Sophia Blair

Researcher

Karen Price

Office Administrator

Karen Palmigiano

### **University Sport New Zealand (USNZ)**

President

Warren Poh

Vice President

Paul Chong

Constituent Representative Member

Alex Sorensen

TMA Representative

Pene Delaney

Board Member

Edwin Darlow

Board Member

Andrew James

Co-opted Board Member

Rod Grove

### **Student Job Search**

Information not available at time of publication

## Affiliated Clubs and Societies

In 2008 VUWSA recognised over 80 affiliated cultural and sporting clubs. These clubs enjoyed the use of the Student Union Complex, subsidised travel costs, entry into national tournaments, and eligible for funding via the Cultural Council and the Sports Council, as well the assistance of the Clubs Development Officer.

### Cultural Clubs

AIESec at Victoria  
Adventist Student Association of NZ  
The Good Food Club  
Greens@Vic  
VUW Fiji Students' Association  
Games Club  
Christian Union  
Christian Club  
Buddhists for World Peace  
Amnesty on Campus  
German Club  
Geological Society  
A1 Food and Beverage Tasting Club  
Gecko  
International Christian Fellowship  
Italian Club  
VicLabour  
Latin American and Spanish Club  
Law Students International  
Malaysian Students Organisation  
Music and Artists' Social Club  
Muslim Students of VUW  
Physics Club, Victoria  
Student Christian Movement  
Toastmasters  
Thai Students' Association @ VUW NZ  
Tongan Students' Association  
United Nations Youth Association  
Vacant Land  
Vic Improv Theatre Games Club  
Victoria SIFE  
Vietnamese Students Association  
Writers' Group  
Young Nationals on Campus

### Sporting Clubs

VUW Aikido Club  
VUW Badminton Club  
Basketball  
VUW Boxing Gym  
VUW Canoe Club  
VUW Cricket Club  
Victoria Debating Society  
VUW Flying Disc Club  
VUW Association Football Club  
VUW Hockey Club  
VUW Jitsu Club  
Goju Ryu Karate  
VUW Rembuden Kendo Club  
VUW Netball Club  
VUW Rowing  
Rugby League Club  
Snow Sports Club  
VUW Taekwondo-Do  
International Tae Kwon Do  
VUW Tramping Club  
Victoria Volleyball  
Handball  
Table Tennis  
Victoria Surfriders  
Sailing Club  
VUW Bike Club

## **Representative Groups**

VUWSA believes that the student population at Victoria University is diverse and that VUWSA needs to have a representative structure that reflects and celebrates that diversity.

VUWSA also believes that decisions about students' collective interests are best made as close as possible to the students concerned and that VUWSA needs to have a representative structure that enables such decisions to be made.

Therefore VUWSA recognises and supports various groups on campus that represent various interests.

In 2009 the following Representative Groups were recognised, supported and funded:

### **The Post-Graduate Students' Association**

Representing all post-graduate students

### **UniQ**

For gay, lesbian, transsexual, transgender and intersexed students

### **Law Students' Society**

For Victoria University Law students

### **STUDiO**

For students in the Faculty of Architecture and Design

### **VicCom**

For Commerce and Administration students

### **The Women's Group**

For self identifying women on campus

### **New Zealand School of Music Group**

For students in the School of Geography, Environmental and Earth Sciences

### **Victoria Student Media**

For students studying media, involved with student media

**VicEarth**

For students in the School of Geography, Environmental and Earth Sciences

**The Mature Students' Network**

For mature students at Victoria University

**International Students' Council**

For international students

**Pasifika Students' Council**

For Pasifika students

**Can-Do**

For students with an impairment or disability

**Crèche Parents Committee**

For students users of the University crèche