



NAME	Connor MacLeod
POSITION	Clubs and Activities Officer
REPORT PERIOD	1 st January – 30 June, 2017
HOURS REQUIRED (PER WEEK)	10
HOURS WORKED	288.5
HOURS REQUIRED	260

Kia ora e te whanau!

My name is Connor MacLeod and I am your Clubs and Activities Officer for 2018. Hailing from Wellington, I spent my first two years studying at UoA before seeing the light and coming to Victoria. Over my five years of undergrad I have ended up majoring in Accounting, Information Systems, Art History and Sociology. Why that combo? I don't know either. I'm just trying to get it done. Although taking less papers because of VUWSA does go against that thought process.

I have a proud history within clubs. Coming back to Wellington and realizing that I had no friends, I thought I'd join Victoria University Rowing Club. I immediately made two of my best friends (and current flatmates) and life got a buttload better. I got elected onto the exec because I was drunk at the AGM and the next year became President. I saw some issues with how clubs were handled at uni and wanted to pass on my amazing experience of being a part of the best club on campus to every student; so I ran for VUWSA.

Here is a little poem for you for taking the time to read my report.

There once was a man named Connor
Whose name only rhymed with honour
He loves clubs
And getting dubs
And on nights out, the occasional doner.

If you would like a limerick, please hit me up on activities@vuwsa.org.nz

Constitutional Goal

My specified constitutional goal is number 5; “Goal 5 - Activities: To support sporting, social and cultural activities for and by members and students, particularly through Clubs.”

Priority Goals:

- Create an active and inclusive clubs community on campus

The Clubs Administration Review

This year my main focus has been to get clubs to be administered by VUWSA. I believe that to build a thriving clubs community, we need to have it run by an organisation that cares about the development and wellbeing of that community, not just the one that wants to see that forms are filled out. This was my main campaign policy and I have worked my absolute hardest to make sure that it happens within the year.

This process is a full year one, with lots of admin and as of 30th June, it has not been completed. On Monday the 25th of June, there was a special Joint Student Union Board Meeting whose purpose was solely relating to the Clubs Review. It was attended by representatives from VUWSA, Vic Rec and some clubs leaders. At this meeting, it was decided that a survey of clubs would be carried out on the 6th -17th August.

Getting to this decision has taken a bit of work. My flatmates have told me that I love admin but this review has taken even me to the edge.

Aside from meetings with Vic Rec, which will be covered later in the report, the largest focus was the trip to visit OUSA and UCSA on 20-25 April. Both Otago and Canterbury’s student unions run their clubs and (funnily enough) have a thriving clubs community. I travelled with Marlon to find the correlation.

After Marlon and I spent the day participating in the core of student engagement and day to rest, we met with many clubs to find their thoughts on who should run clubs administration. We had the amazing help of Caitlin, the OUSA President, to set these up, as well as some personal connections with the Commerce Society and the Hockey Club. The questions were regarding the services, levels of funding, and what should be improved.

We travelled to Christchurch to do the same with UCSA. During this time, I wrote a report about the clubs and their responses which I can send to anyone who would like to read it. The report formed the basis of the reason behind the clubs review.

Apart from the travel and the report, my work around the clubs review has been talking to clubs about the review to ensure that they actually want the change! Fingers crossed. It's a long road ahead and I'd love to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has helped me, OUSA, USCA and Vic Rec!



Figure 1: Marlon and I with Clubs Leaders in Otago

Clubs Forum and the Clubs Council

The first clubs forum was held on the 20th of March. Only a few clubs turned up, symptomatic of the lack of engagement with clubs in the past. It was either that or that clubs were confused between the forum and Vic Rec's information evening the next week which they were unwilling to combine with ours. Here clubs were consulted about the potential change to administration and we received the mandate from clubs to start the review process. A key part of the forum was the election of club representatives to sit on the clubs council. Luckily we had ten amazing people put up their hands and the council was formed. Their details are on the VUWSA website.

The clubs council is a committee of VUWSA which informs our clubs policies. It is always an interesting time and this year was no different. The focus of the clubs council has been getting information about issue from clubs so we can work on them. Some examples have been issues

around postering, lockers and communication around booking, on top of the review. The issues that are raised are taken away and the Team at Vic Rec come together to solve them.

The clubs council is also going through a constitutional review to include principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and remove the need for 5 sports clubs and 5 cultural clubs to sit on the council, as this has not been followed in the past.

Sponsorship Panel

Clubs Council involvement on the sponsorship panel has also been a success, with Lars from PolSoc coming along with the know-how and other members learning how it works for their first time. I've attended the meeting, acting as chair. The sponsorship panel is a very important body, because ultimately a lot of the clubs rely it for funding. The university takes the student representatives on it quite seriously, and I think I've done a good job so far.

The funding, however, has run out. This is poor and has been a result of a lack of criteria. Changing this will be a focus on the coming semester.

Club Support and Engagement

The core of my role is ensuring that the clubs community is and positive and inclusive environment. Whilst this sometimes takes the form of replying to emails about how to get funding or set up a club, a lot of it is problem solving for clubs or taking issues to Vic Rec and working through them together. Throughout the year I have worked with many clubs leaders



Figure 2: Shout out to PolSoc's life member Jack Donovan

and helped solve issues within the clubs which needed mediation. Although it only takes a small amount of time, I feel like attending events and showing support often has the biggest impact in my role as it shows that we are here for clubs. Wholesome. Love you all.

Victoria Recreation

A pillar of my role as Clubs and Activities Officer has been my weekly meetings with Vic Rec. The staff there are absolutely lovely and I have strong personal relationships with them. With Peter, Asti and Raewyn, I have learnt a lot and have (hopefully) made the clubs community a better place.

Hall Visits

I helped to organized hall visits to first year halls of residence which were attended by myself, the President, and other members of the executive. It was good fun getting that valuable one on one time with first year students who often go under the radar when it comes to VUWSA's engagement with them.

Other Goals:

- Financial stability
- Helping out VUWSA exec

The Clubs and Activities Role

The above report focused on the clubs side of my role. I have found that the 'activities' part can mean doing absolutely anything for absolutely anyone. Because of this, I seem to have put my hand up to help out on every event. Its kept me on my busy but if it helps someone, then its always worth it.

General Tasks and Initiatives

O-Week

O-Week was a massive start to the year. At the time I took the activity part literally and attended absolutely everything. O'week was absolutely nuts and I loved it to bits. Dancing to Chase and Status and Peking Duk had to be massive highlights. The low points were definitely being vomited on by a guy twice my



Figure 3 Caught enjoying some duf duf

size. I'm 6'4" so that's saying something. I guess those are the perks of when you're one of the

few people with a driver's license. A lot of time was spent in the safe room or roaming the concert to ensure that people were safe. The safe room could be pretty intense but it was always so rewarding. Nothing made me feel like more of a grinch than seeing the light and hope inside the eyes of the first years. It was either seeing that or saucers for pupils so I chose the former.

Newtown Festival was also an awesome day, got to chill on the bus and ensure people got picked up as well as getting to know the staff bit more. V fun day. 10/10 would do again.

Clubs Week

Clubs Week was as busy as I could have ever been. I spent all three days walking around the clubs, giving my spiel and seeing what we could do together. Rinse and repeat x 180. It was awesome to see the range of clubs that have sprouted up at Vic and to see the passion behind every one of them.

Stress Free Study Week

Stress Free Study Week was great time. Lucky I had less papers to sit so I could dedicate some time to the students. Once again, as the only driver, I had to do a bit of driving around, picking up bins and dropping off supplies, but it all went well in the end! Thank you to Beth and the awesome welfare team who put it all together as well as our awesome staff.

NZUSA

If I were a character in a Netflix series, NZUSA would be a minor plotline. Not the focus but still has a bit of drama. We attended the conference and it was awesome to meet the student association members from around the country. From there it ticked away into the background until the allegations came out. I feel I helped to create frameworks for decision making during this time. Due to my involvement in this, I volunteered to be the Finance officer for NZUSA in the reform project team, where I am in charge of renegotiating contracts and a bit more xero admin.



Figure 4 NZUSA national executive

Audit and Finance and Revenue and Venture Subcommittees

Being the commerce student and audit intern that I am, I have sat on the commercial subcommittees for VUWSA. Absolutely great times looking over our finances and ensuring that we are on track financially. Hopefully we can use these to make money and prove more services that don't increase the Student Services Levy.

Class Rep Filming

Living up to my years in the Wellington Performing Arts Academy, I cameo'd in the VUWSA class rep videos. My one line and the push up that I did will not be lived down thanks to the flatmates. Shout out to them as well.

Salient Radio

I have been a frequent guest of Beth and Ella on Salient radio. Absolutely wonderful time talking absolute nonsense with them and it even got me a date. Love those two to bits.

Alcohol Policy

I have been working with Sarah August from Red Frogs and Peter from Vic Rec to create an alcohol guideline for clubs to use to have safe parties! I look forward to formalizing it in the coming semester.



Figure 5 An insight onto Ella and Beth

Summary

The past half year has been one of the best times of my life. I have loved helping out clubs, have seen my own club (VURC) have the most successful season in a decade and have met the most amazing people.

I'd like to thank everyone who has made the time so amazing (that includes you if you've taken the time to actually read this).

Love you all and I thoroughly look forward to the next semester. It should be massive with the clubs survey coming out but I think we can change the clubs culture for the better.