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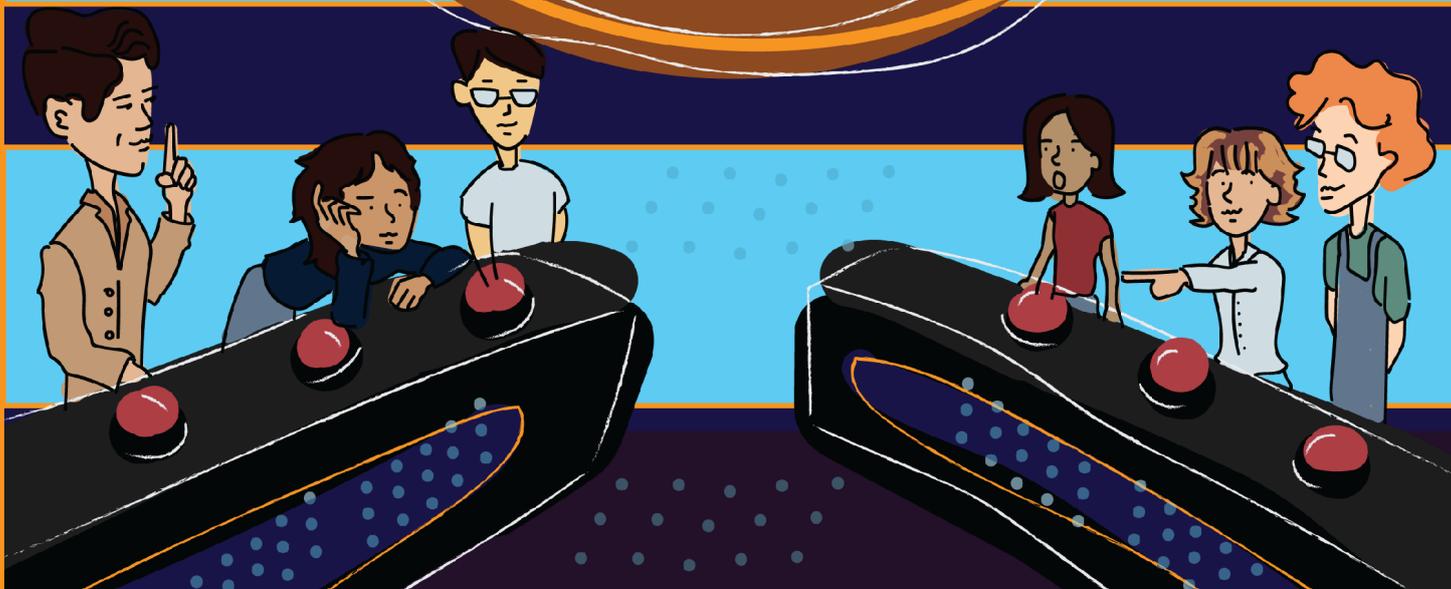
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ISSUE 18: POLITICS

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Politics Edition

"WHEN WE REVOLT IT'S NOT FOR A PARTICULAR CULTURE. WE REVOLT SIMPLY BECAUSE, FOR MANY REASONS, WE CAN NO LONGER BREATHE" - FRANZ FANON

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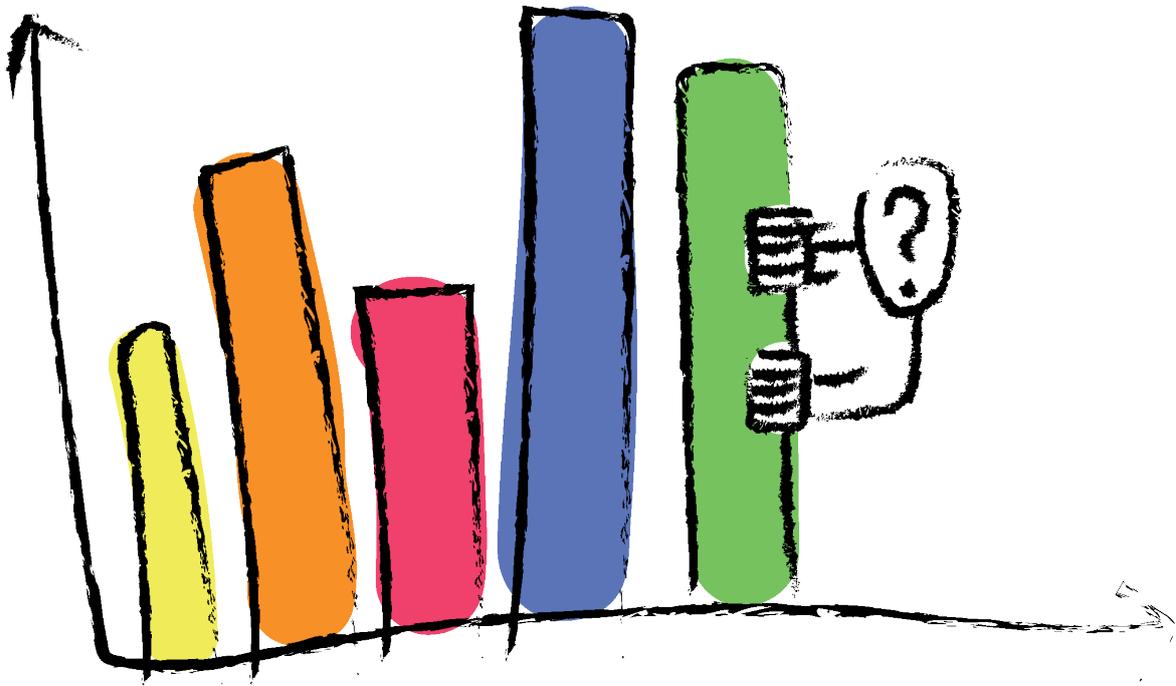
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**WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?
WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM
YOU! JUST SEND US AN EMAIL!**



Not to get too political but... 2024 is STILL COOKED



KIERAN PANUI AND KALA TAKEBE BURGESS



This week's issue touches on a subject people really either love talking of, or want to hear nothing about, politics.

Now, while Craccum this year has touched on political issues and events in every issue (we're just that good), we come to the period of the year when the AUSA executive elections are being held; the hyper-involved seize with excitement, and the apathetic simply flick the page. And that is a salient reality of politics: people either care deeply, or not at all.

Student politics is especially tricky, as the stakes seem reasonably low risk. No matter the outcome, AUSA house still sits opposite the library, Vice-Chancellor Freshwater still gets paid \$755,000.00 NZD~ (as of 2019), and Munchy's silver sliding doors remain open to us. Despite this, the 2025 AUSA elections actually do present a series of challenges for student voters, and if you're reading this, you probably should be concerned with the outcomes.

So let's do a little dive into this election, and why it's a little different this time around.

1. Large candidate count: This year's presidential election alone has a large candidate selection, not to mention the many other portfolios that have a high contender population. If any of our readers recall last year's presidential race, incumbent president Alan Shaker ran unopposed - solidifying an impressive second term in office, fourth term as an AUSA executive, and making him

one of the few presidents in UoA history to serve a tenure longer than a year. With his departure for the big wide world brings about a large leadership-sized hole in our student association, and five brave souls have put their name forward to claim the glory and start the mahi as UoA's next big cheese on the block.

2. AUSA funding agreement: 2024 will see the confirmation of a funding agreement between AUSA and UoA that will last for years to come, longer than the tenure of any student politician now running, and paramount to our student association's survival. Shads is in monetary and location troubles, along with 95 bFM and Craccum too. Our current student hub services are mediocre at best, AUSA is down to one advocate repping the entire student population, and club engagement seems disparate. When the leases are up for Shads, Craccum, and 95 bFM, it'll be a hell of a task to find new spaces and afford new fit-outs - it paints a pretty grim picture. It will be the responsibility of this incoming executive to balance these problems, just to name a few, and poorly defined leadership threatens the very existence of these UoA-staples.

3. AUSA public positions: A topical issue candidates are addressing is AUSA's public stances regarding pressing matters championed by the student populace. In essence, many are claiming AUSA should be more vocal on current affairs such as the Israel-Gaza conflict, Students for Fair Rent, Māori and Pasifika spaces, and course cuts. Curiously, this evokes the question of what

AUSA is supposed to be. This election will inform us on whether students believe the organisation should publicly align itself in the context of these issues, and how those decisions will be made.

Only time will tell the outcome of the elections with polls closing Friday 23rd of August. For those of you who have voted, excellent work on doing your civic duty! (we won't give you a medal, but AUSA will give you a nice little sticker that says you did something sometime). And for those of you who haven't voted, fair enough. Whether you're waiting till the politicking season winds down to cast your vote, or you don't care enough to fill in a form, that's your prerogative. However, I would be remiss if I didn't remind Auckland's students that your student association suffrage isn't a god given right, it's the right you bought with money probably stacked against your name until your forties. While it may not seem like this tedious process of vying for power grabs appeals to your sensibilities, having a student-led, for-student organisation that provides essential services like student support, advocacy, engagement, and welfare is a fundamental component of the university's function and experience.

In all facets of human life, politics reigns - it is after all the system of power's implementation.

With love and loathing,

Kieran

The Entanglement of the Establishment

Under the previous Labour government, most students would remember the sudden rise of bullying allegations within the party by former MP Dr Gaurav Sharma. Students who remember this will also remember how quickly the issue was resolved. Following Dr Sharma's whistleblowing, the Labour Party denied the allegations and stated that he had misrepresented various conversations. Dr Sharma was suspended following a Labour Party special caucus meeting in less than a week. He was suspended on the basis of "repeated breaches of trust". Evidence provided to mainstream media suggests that the special caucus was a "kangaroo court" and the outcome was predetermined. Two months later, Dr Sharma resigned and ran independently for his seat in a by-election. He did not win his seat back.

It should be noted that these accusations of bullying and harassment are not restricted to certain groups but are a series of systemic issues within the political world. In 2014, journalist Nicky Hager published his book *Dirty Politics*. It detailed a plethora of communication within the National Party, largely between blogger Cameron Slater and then Minister of Justice Judith Collins. Slater's father was a former President of the National Party. The book alleged a history of vilification and criticism of various prominent New Zealanders. It is believed the book's publication contributed to Collins' resignation from her role. An excerpt of Hager's book can be found in the QR code below.

1 A mock court or judgment, especially one hastily improvised or irregularly conducted. In this case, it is alleged that the meeting attendees had met the night prior and made decisions without informing Dr Sharma.



DR SHARMA ACCUSES PM ARDEN OF 'COVER-UP'



DR SHARMA REISGNS, TRIGGERING BY-ELECTION



DIRTY POLITICS

Young People and the World

More often than not, we are a product of our environment. Taken from the University of Auckland's graduate profiles website, students should be "conscientious", aiming to be "global citizens" that make the world a more "fair and better place". The question turns to whether this is now reflected in our environment. Given our vast community of 46,000 students, it's hard not to feel excited by the mixture and variety of people around us. Students bring rich experience into a melting pot of various backgrounds. We collaborate and work together to lay a foundation that supports each other and raises students to contribute to our society and communities.

Increasingly, young people are gaining a greater voice and influence in government decision-making. When considering climate change, a majority of adults in a survey of New Zealanders and Australians noted great support for 11-14-year-olds (62% in Australia and 59% in New Zealand) and 15-18-year-olds (79% in Australia and 80% in New Zealand) having opportunities to influence government decisions on the environment. Green party voters, members of environmental organisations and 18-30-year-olds were also more likely to support children's views being included than other population groups.

Against the slow progression of New Zealand's social and political conservatism, there is light at the end of the tunnel. On Monday, 12th August, a student, Leonardo Bolstad, of the University of Canterbury, was recently selected to attend the ECOSOC youth forum. Chosen from 6000 applicants, he was the only Kiwi amongst 500 youth. Although he represented New Zealand Youth on this international stage, he had attended independently, while New Zealand's official seat at the gathering remained empty.

Opportunities continue to grow for young people to move into decision-making bodies. Still, there is a large disparity of young people who remain alienated, apathetic, or uninformed about participating in their communities. There is still clearly work to be done. The question is, when will the so-called progressive generation move into action.



ARE YOUNG CLIMATE ACTIVISTS FINALLY BEING HEARD?



YOUTH NEEDED AT THE UN

A Student's Thoughts on Student Organisations

S is a student studying for a conjoint degree. This interview speaks to their interest and experience in public policy. S shares some of their experiences and thoughts on student and youth organisations within the university in light of the 'Politics' issue.

What's your background with your involvement in student organisations and clubs? Where did it start from? Since starting University, I had only really been a part of the youth politics space, joining a political party and working in its executive. Deciding it was time for me to seek out more diverse experiences, I expanded my horizon into other spaces.

What has your experience been like in university with these student organisations? As the youth organisations I had been a part of tend to be larger and well-funded, they were rather bureaucratic. But this was a bureaucracy governed by teenagers and people in their early 20s. I've mainly worked with young people who generally have not developed a sense of emotional maturity or an understanding of compromise or practicality within a team environment. Sometimes, this can cause issues when these peers are given great responsibility, and emotions and personal ego overtake reason.

New Ngā Taurira Marae on Campus

Although admittedly, the name says new, that's not quite the whole story. Ngā Taurira Marae ("meeting house"), formerly the Tūtahi Tonu Whareniui, was reopened and renamed after being moved from the University's former Epsom Campus. Last week on Saturday, 10th August, roughly 150 people gathered for the Marae's reopening. Tūtahi Tonu, the original marae, was believed to have been established in a vastly different social and political climate. Two weeks prior, a pōwhiri was held at Waipapa Marae that welcomed taonga ("treasures") also being moved up to the campus.

In 2023, Tūtahi Tonu closed at the Epsom campus on its 40th birthday. Before its move, refurbishings were made in preparation for its move to its new location, now in Building 113, between the Barracks Wall lawn and Old Government House. As part of the move, new carvings were also introduced to recognise the growing multiculturalism of the university.

Te Rina Triponel writes about the significance of the Marae and its design:

"[Katz] Maihi (a master carver) honoured the vision of Tarutaru Rankin, founder of the original Epsom Marae, Te Aka Matua ki Te Pou Hawaiki, by creating a space that welcomes all cultures.

To the right of the marae entrance stands a carving dedicated to wāhine and the transmission of generational knowledge, a recognition of the strong women leadership at the University of Auckland. To the left is a manaia, symbolising the pursuit of knowledge by students. At the back, a taniwha connects Māori and Asian cultures.

Original artworks and carvings by former students also adorn the whareniui, reflecting the diversity of the University, with influences from Tonga, Sāmoa, Tahiti, the Cook Islands, and Scotland. These were gifts from alumni who previously studied at the Faculty of Education and Social Work and found a home within Tūtahi Tonu."

You can find the full article on the new Marae via the QR code below.



ALAN WU



'A PLACE FOR ALL TO STAND'

What is your ideal situation with how student organisations should move forward? What do you think needs work? While it may be unfortunate to say this, once youth organisations expand beyond a certain size, they require more guidance. Youth organisations should have autonomy to allow them to innovate and for their members to gain organisational skills, but this must be closely monitored by a mentor to make sure it is kept within the bounds of consideration.

...My ideal situation of a student organisation is that it will provide an avenue through which youth can express themselves and their unique challenges. While they learn from working with others, the greatest thing that being a part of a youth organisation does is endowing youth with the wisdom of 'how to'. How to manifest their ideas and dreams into reality.

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FREE ENTRY

Oliver Cocker and Damien Sycamore

The interview that wasn't



OLIVER COCKER

A USA Politics Week. While there is an elephant in the room, it shall not be addressed until the first issue of the second half of the semester. So hold on until then.

What I instead want to talk to you about is a series of interviews that exist somewhere in the Craccum archive, in which yours indeed, among others, went after the top 'Auckland' politicians of the previous election.

Now, they never made it to air because they were of varying quality and length, with my interview of Damien Sycamore, the one I wish to focus on today, dragging on for well over an hour as he sat opposite me in the garden of Shadows drinking an eight dollar jug of Tui. But regardless of the trimmings, all the politicians; Muralidhar, Swarbrick, Sims, and Sycamore, tried to sell that they were the students' party.

Now, one of those names carries much more weight than the rest. Would you make the case that this entitles the Green Party to consider themselves the student party? Their advocacy for universal allowances and student rent controls certainly marks them as a group that focuses on wholly student issues. The others, National perhaps, will always argue that its policies are best for the economy and what is best for the economy is best for the people, including students, but how much you buy into that is a familial and personal choice.

Young Act on campus, following the failure of Young Nats to reapply for club status at the university, has grown considerably this year. Although some in the National party believe the failure to register is due to a concerted effort by the wider party to constrain its less conservative arm, at this point, that is mostly conjecture. Regardless, Act has enjoyed a boom it hasn't seen since Seymour endorsed the Meat Club six years ago, and you might see that as an endorsement of their policies

instead.

So, how do you react to The Opportunities Party? Just over two per cent of the vote, half what is needed to get a seat at the table, and its top contender for an electoral seat needed to win twice the votes he did. People will, of course, blame many things for this. A connection to Morgan and his cat-culling policies, or the belief that you can't vote for a party that will not make it into parliament.

Nonetheless, we knew they most likely weren't to succeed before the election was even held. I was faced with the prospect of interviewing their candidate for Auckland Central, Damien Sycamore. And my preparation went well. I listened to his podcast, read his statements, and even found some leftover Google reviews that his team hadn't scrubbed from the internet. His favourite coffee was a coconut caffè latte.

So come just after midday, I was sitting under light and in front of the camera, waiting for our interviewee to appear, when I glanced upon the CRACCUM draft of the following week by Sarah McKoy, who had attended a debate at the Townhall a few days previously. To my surprise, Sycamore was telling people not to vote for him.

Now. I was faced with a candidate who no one suspected would make it to government and did not appear to want to be there either. Any prepared question I had went out the window. And, as luck would have it, then he

arrived.

He was carrying the jug of Tui in with him, so while he was getting mic'd, I went to grab us two cups— despite my unpatriotic beer aversion— while I pondered what I would ask to make the interview engaging. When I sat down again, I cheated some more, and asked him to introduce himself to what I thought would be all of you as I stalled to come up with what to ask and say.

In the end, I did not come up with anything insightful. So I improvised. I just had a chat over a jug of beer with a man who was just there to make everyone aware of what he thought was the problem, the very root problem, of what the failings in this country were. And if the name Damien Sycamore has rung any bells up to this point, he was dubbed the 'housing guy' by RNZ and Newsroom.

A lack of homeownership, specifically, he told me, was the single most significant driver of everything. Poor health? Probably the environment in which you live. Poor education? Can you stay at the same school and get high-quality schooling in the area? Poor pay? Not enough money? That's because renting is becoming more expensive than homeownership. And everything flows down from there.

If you could cast your mind back one year, his solution that got some media coverage was a land tax on urban residential land to cover income tax breaks. It was an amalgamation of National's promise and Green's policy that delivered more money on average than either. Of course, to the average resident of Aotearoa, a new tax is terribly frightening. Never mind that we used to have a land tax or

One Māori Ward is Better than None!

Do we actually need Māori Wards?



BLAZE WEBSTER

that personal income brackets once reached almost all your income, and the population did well.

The idea was to free up housing, perhaps akin to Te Pāti Māori's vacant homes tax, and make the two million houses in this country available for everyone to live in. If prices didn't come down, of course, it would simply make the overall cost of owning a home in a city greater, which is a gamble for which I'm sure their projections accounted.

As we are, as students, mostly renters far from ownership, I must say that the concept of purchasing a house does often appear quite foreign. Sometimes, comparing the sixty thousand dollars a house was bought for when some of our parent's generation were in university to the eight hundred thousand dollars they go for now is just a touch infuriating. House prices generally increase by almost ten per cent each year. Should we expect the average Auckland house to cost more than four million by the time your first-year halls friend's child grows up? I dearly hope not.

Homeowners often have the power, and they wield the tools of politics to better themselves. That's not even to make comment on the overarching tenure system that land ownership is based on, and how it interplays with a modern Māori rights movement. But there is always light in the tunnel. People like Sycamore, like TOP, drag these ideas into the public conscience and at least force the people of tomorrow to think.

I have no illusions on the matter that any change will be slow. A sudden tax will not fix our woes, and neither will the alleviation of one. Any change must be systemic and it will be slow. But allegedly slow and steady wins the race, so you and I will see.

Otherwise, just move to Italy. I found numerous two-bedroom houses for less than the cost of renting at Carlaw for fifteen weeks. So if I don't return to address the elephant, you know where to find me.

On the 7th of August, a protest took place in Mangawhai, the Kaipara's only Māori Ward was disestablished in an open Council meeting, a decision that was fully enabled legislatively by the current National Government. To counter this incoming and seemingly evident decision, a "peaceful" and targeted protest was planned and held outside of a Council building. All council workers were told to work from home since the protest would have impacted their working environment, but yet the meeting went on...



vote' ideology. Yet, technically speaking, this decision to disestablish the Māori Ward was democratic and made by the previously elected Councillors. That said, local councils are now 'allowed' to get rid of any instated Māori Wards under the new Local Government Act amendments brought on by the National-ACT-NZ First Coalition. I would beg to differ whether a question arises if such a decision is based in local council or central government choice, but I will let you think on that...

What is a Māori Ward?

A Māori Ward serves to politically display proportionate and targeted voting rights for Māori and presents theoretically better representation for local iwi/hapū to have a greater voice 'at the table'. Moreover, Māori Wards (unlike the historically disproportionate "Māori Seats" in Parliament) are an attempt to incentivize more Māori to stand and vote in local elections for District/Regional Councils.

Kaipara has a Māori Ward?

Kaipara District Council has 9 Councillors, with the 9th being a "Māori" Councillor for the Te Moananui o Kaipara Māori Ward. The Māori Ward was established by the last Council and was one of the small number across the country. Kaipara's Māori ward is currently held by Pera Paniora, who fought to postpone the decision until iwi/hapū were consulted fully under the relevant legislative practices of the Local Government Act 2024.

Why should Kaipara keep its Māori Ward?

The obvious benefits of the Māori Ward stems from political proportionality; it was meant to give a mandate to a sole Māori Councillor to speak purely for the Māori of Kaipara, rather than needing to speak for 'everyone'. It was designed to aim at people who identify as Māori (and those who also traditionally may not vote!) to vote in local elections.

Why does Kaipara District Council want to get rid of the Māori Ward?

Kaipara District Council believes that this Ward does not help Māori directly and may be a waste of resources financially for the Council. A majority of Councillors also claim that they don't want to divide people purely by race and believe in a 'one person, one

But did the protest achieve anything?

Unfortunately, we all know that protests have no binding powers. Whilst it was a strong and visual attempt to capture the public, the Council was informed that the protest was against the removal of the Māori Ward, and it was no surprise it was ignored by most Councillors. The protest did start peacefully near the road, with chants, flag-waving, waiatas, and karakias, but soon turned inconvenient. As the meeting escalated towards the point of the decision, Councillor Paniora insisted on opening the blinds and door where the protestors were directly gathered, causing the meeting to be adjourned twice and even for a protestor to come into the meeting. Most importantly, it was a strong message that many are not happy.

The Māori Ward was inherently a good idea for encouraging voting in local elections and to increase the representation of Māori. It is sad to see the only Māori Ward disestablished in this way publically, however, there is no funding left for it, but likely has done its political duty and journey for the time being. In the meantime, I would hope that Kaipara District Council invests in the community sufficiently well as a trade-off of this removal, and encourages Māori in other ways, while representing Māori with the help of local iwis.

I mean, imagine if my position was removed? No more Māori representation in Craccum, but at least there would be more funding for the other editors. Hopefully there aren't any doors open though, there isn't even enough room for the staff let alone protestors. So, same thing, right?

ASSASSINATION

WHAT TO THINK ABOUT POLITICAL VIOLENCE?



REEMA ARSILAN

Assassination has been a hot topic for the past month, with the attempted assassination of Donald Trump and the successful assassination of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh. So what is an assassination? It's not just any old murder, but murder by sudden or secret attack, used to make a statement or for political reasons. History is full of these: Julius Caesar, Martin Luther King Jr., Archduke Franz Ferdinand, JFK, just to list off the first that spring to mind. So how do we regard assassination currently?

"Killing people is bad!" Well, duh. Obviously the best thing to do in most situations is to not kill people. The whole concept of democracy hinges on the idea of the losers' consent; peaceful disagreement doesn't become violent dissent because the loser steps aside willingly (and occasionally gracefully). The thing about losers' consent is that the loser has to actually consent, rather than, say, attempting an insurrection to remain in office. This hypothetical individual could erode democratic principles and create an environment where the rules and processes are completely disregarded. Despite this, assassinating a political figure, even when concerns are legitimate, degrades the system and undermines the public. Those guys who did in Julius Caesar did so to protect the Roman Republic, and just see how that worked out for them. This isn't to say democracy isn't flawed, you've only got to look at our prime minister to realise that much. But political violence risks spiralling into authoritarianism, and it's a dangerous precedent to set.

Is it any wonder, then, that leaders all around the world immediately condemned

the attempted assassination of former US President Donald Trump? Christopher Luxon expressed how disturbed he was by the idea of someone trying to kill a deeply unpopular and ignorant former businessman right wing politician, whose term caused immense harm to his country, for what I'm sure were noble and pure reasons. Luxon posted on Facebook that "No country should ever encounter such political violence."

The motivations behind Trump's shooter are still unclear. Trump was shot at a rally, and one audience member was killed, while Trump himself was shot through the upper ear. This shooting, while unsuccessful as an assassination attempt, has somehow still managed to turn the man into (paradoxically) a living martyr to his supporters. This can be noted by the mock ear bandages that a few of them started wearing to his rallies as though a crucifix to represent Christ on the cross.

So far, I've only discussed assassination in the context of within a country. But what about between countries, or a leader being assassinated by a different state? We saw this recently as well, with the killing of Ismail Haniyeh, the leader of the political wing of Hamas. Whatever you think of Hamas, which New Zealand has designated a terrorist group, or of the conflict as a whole, this should be considered a bad move. Haniyeh was killed by Israel while in the Iranian capital, Tehran, which is likely to result in Iranian retaliation, creating more regional conflict. Not only that, but Israel has now assassinated the man who was key to negotiations for a ceasefire, undermining peace efforts. UN Security Council members condemned the assassination, calling it a breach

of international and humanitarian law, although the US and the UK blamed Iran for destabilising the region, sentiment which our own leaders have echoed, although neither Luxon nor foreign minister Winston Peters had very much to say about the assassination at all. As usual, NZ is quick to condemn any action to do with the ongoing genocide in Gaza perpetrated by any actor in the region except for the one carrying it out.

There appears to be a double standard. An assassination attempt on Trump by a lone shooter is condemned swiftly and decisively by Luxon. "No country should ever encounter such political violence." The deliberately provocative assassination of a political figure of importance to peace negotiations in an already unstable region by another state, and silence. Of course, there hasn't been much condemning of the killing of civilians let alone the leaders of designated terrorist groups, regardless of legality or potential ramifications, so that's to be expected.

This disparity in response highlights a troubling inconsistency in the way political violence is addressed. While the assassination attempt on a Western leader is immediately and universally condemned, the targeted killing of a figure associated with a controversial or opposing entity receives less scrutiny or is even justified. This double standard not only reflects geopolitical biases but also raises questions about the sincerity and consistency of commitments to peace and the rule of law. So is assassination acceptable? I guess it depends who you are.

Your vote is like that one text you actually should respond to

MAHEK NAGAR

Your future self called—they really want you to vote.

You know that one text sitting in your notifications, the one you've been meaning to reply to but keep ignoring? It's from your friend who's organising a group hangout, and you know you should respond because if you don't, someone else will—and they'll probably pick a place you hate. Well, the AUSA elections are kind of like that text. The difference here? The stakes are your entire university experience.

Imagine if the people making decisions about your campus life were chosen without your input—that's exactly what happens when you skip out on voting. Whether it's the type of events held, the support services available, or even how much Wi-Fi you get to enjoy between classes, the AUSA has the power to fight for it all.

And just like that text, your vote is the tiny effort that could save you from a ton of future whining about crappy facilities—because, guess what? Complaining is so much easier when you didn't bother to vote in the first place. So, before you hit flip the page on this year's elections, let's talk about why taking a few minutes to vote could be the smartest move you make this semester.

Your Vote Today, Your Wi-Fi Tomorrow

The age-old story at this university. How often have you found yourself grumbling about slow Wi-Fi while trying to stream that lecture you missed? Or perhaps you've wondered why there aren't more quiet study spaces or why some student services seem underfunded.

The truth is, these issues don't just happen randomly. They're often the result of the advocating and negotiations made by people you elect (or don't elect) to represent you. For instance, remember when the AUSA successfully lobbied for a university-wide grade bump during COVID-19? Or when they managed to secure grants to support students financially when they are going through a hard time? Your vote has a direct influence on who will be responsible for these decisions.

If you care about reliable Wi-Fi, better study environments, or more funding for student services, voting is your chance to ensure these priorities are met.

Don't Let Your Campus Be a Plot Twist You Didn't See Coming.

Sure, 'Choose-Your-Own-Adventure' sounds

fun—until it's your campus life on the line and someone else is skimming the pages. Skip voting in the AUSA elections, and you might end up in the chapter

where tuition fees skyrocket, the library's always packed, your favourite club is axed, and student support services vanish just when you need them most. Why roll the dice on that plot twist?

Voting is your shot at making sure the story goes your way. Candidates are proposing everything from financial literacy workshops and more transparent communication channels to better mental health services and innovative on-campus events. There's a push to rebuild the relationship between AUSA and the student body, ensuring that the association delivers what students truly need.

Apathy Is So Last Season

And it never won anyone free pizza or better campus events.

The reality is, student elections often have low voter turnout, which means that each vote carries more weight than you might realise. When you skip voting, it's easy to think that your one vote won't make a difference. But just like that ignored text message, small actions can have big consequences.

When you vote, you're not just ticking a box—you're making sure that the things that matter to you have a fighting chance. Whether it's advocating for mental health services, pushing for sustainability initiatives, or ensuring that student events are inclusive and fun, your vote is a way to say, "This is what I care about, and I want my voice heard."

Voting in the AUSA elections is quick and straightforward. Just scan the links and QR codes scattered across campus and social media, and you can cast your vote from the comfort of your bed—or wherever you're scrolling on your phone.

The bottom line is this: if you don't vote, you're letting someone else make decisions that will affect your life. Do you really want to leave that up to chance? Just like how you wouldn't want someone else picking the restaurant for the group hangout without your input, you shouldn't let others decide the future of your campus.

Next time you're tempted to swipe away that election notification, remember—it's that one message you can't afford to leave on read.

The only wrong move? Not voting at all.

Poems

By Padriac O'Leary

In the deck of the night
With the banally wicked
And a drink for the pusillanimous
And smoke gently stoking me
Saccharine tunes drop
And i drown them out with music
And the people.
The beautiful white people
Get on my thungas
But then im here for Peter.

And the beautiful couple and so i
Envy them
Obviously
Yet i dont change for them
So why come?

Oh peter. And to look of course.

And the mist embraces all
Damply disinterested
And women play
And friends talk
And peter works.

And booze soothes as i think of dive
brothels and
Old love and so
And so
And so.

Lipids cause
Movement up
The chaos slope
And so
From soapy
Scum comes
Life

But how did
We get fat in the
First place?
For gods dice
Game can be
Endless and
Time is not

A reggae beat and
Wines heat and
The street gently
Pumps people corpuscles
And
Some clot around
Madness and some
Drip sheik the
Desperate commerce of
Beauty and
The cops ... rove white antibodies
Of quiet antagonism and some
Feed the bars organs
And organelles
And I sit proud
A thorn of steel and
Ink
Ocular of them and me
Removed yet oddly
Moved inside
A reggae beat and rice wines
Gentle heat.

ONE MAN DAMN

REASSESSING MULDOON

NATHAN WILSON

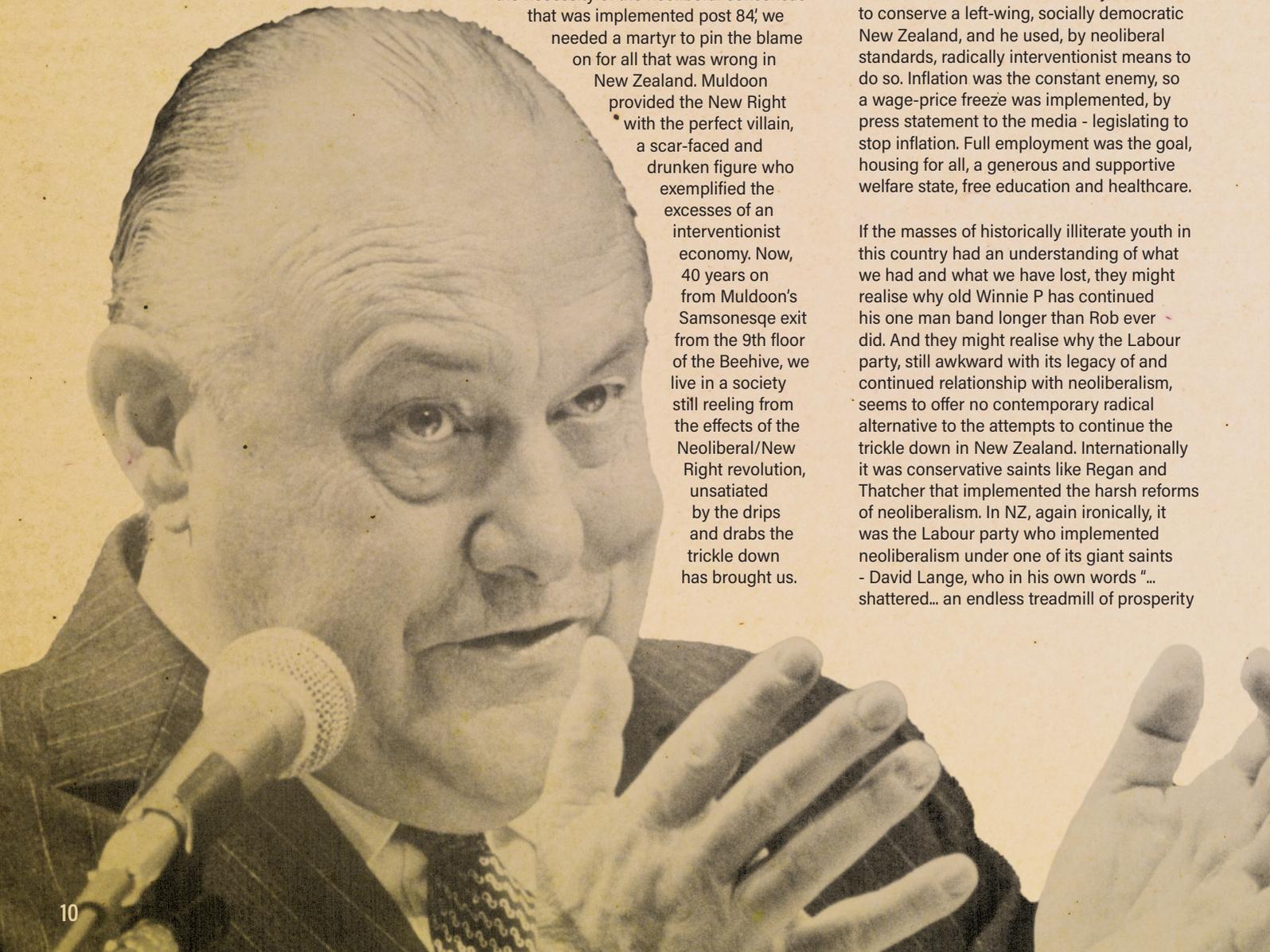
When I was in year 13, for my final drama assignment I stuffed a cushion up my shirt to contrive an appropriate belly and performed a monologue as Robert Muldoon, NZ's prime minister from 1975-1984. My history teacher lent me a copy of *His Way*, Barry Gustafson's comprehensive biography of Muldoon, which I never returned. This year, when I was rushing out the door to go on holiday for Matariki, I quickly grabbed some reading material from my bookshelf. I reached for this personally seminal book and began re-reading it. We were staying in Raurimu where I managed to pick up an appropriate sequel to Gustafson's biography. Written by Martin Hames, *Winston First* attacks Muldoon's prodigy as a self interested, egotistical politician who

instrumentalised a populist attitude that led to his downfall. Upon reading the author's bio I realised Hames was an advisor to Ruth Richardson during the time where she slashed away the remaining tatters of the welfare state. No wonder he found the charismatic Peters' such a threat. It seems Hames' biography of Peters is an attempt to do what they did to the legacy of Muldoon, taint the man who stands up for certain political ends as a self-serving demagogic figure, a threat to political or even constitutional stability, a dangerous one man band.

While Winston Peters seemingly never ending career might add some validity to such claims, in my mind, after reassessing Muldoon through Gustafson, it seems the historical verdict on Muldoon involves some scare mongering in itself. In order to shore up the necessity of the neoliberal consensus that was implemented post '84, we needed a martyr to pin the blame on for all that was wrong in New Zealand. Muldoon provided the New Right with the perfect villain, a scar-faced and drunken figure who exemplified the excesses of an interventionist economy. Now, 40 years on from Muldoon's Samsonesque exit from the 9th floor of the Beehive, we live in a society still reeling from the effects of the Neoliberal/New Right revolution, unsatiated by the drips and drabs the trickle down has brought us.

Clearly, from Muldoon's experience as *the* government, Muldoon was Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the welfare state was an immensely inefficient, expensive, and precarious egg in a spoon. His consistent and cautious tinkering with economic levers of control led Muldoon to claim he was the only person who knew what was good for the NZ economy, but it was his version of the economy. Gustafson's ultimate verdict on Muldoon was that he was in a way a victim of his generation. A generation of men who had seen the precipice of the Great Depression, supported the means of Keynesian interventionist economics that rescued us from the crisis, and the post-war affluence that furthered our egalitarian, social-democratic ideals. As a National party conservative, somewhat ironically by today's left/right wing dichotomy, that was what Muldoon wanted to conserve, in outcome. Essentially, he wanted to conserve a left-wing, socially democratic New Zealand, and he used, by neoliberal standards, radically interventionist means to do so. Inflation was the constant enemy, so a wage-price freeze was implemented, by press statement to the media - legislating to stop inflation. Full employment was the goal, housing for all, a generous and supportive welfare state, free education and healthcare.

If the masses of historically illiterate youth in this country had an understanding of what we had and what we have lost, they might realise why old Winnie P has continued his one man band longer than Rob ever did. And they might realise why the Labour party, still awkward with its legacy of and continued relationship with neoliberalism, seems to offer no contemporary radical alternative to the attempts to continue the trickle down in New Zealand. Internationally it was conservative saints like Regan and Thatcher that implemented the harsh reforms of neoliberalism. In NZ, again ironically, it was the Labour party who implemented neoliberalism under one of its giant saints - David Lange, who in his own words "... shattered... an endless treadmill of prosperity



and assurance."

When Labour roared into power in 1984, in hindsight it was not just the means, state intervention in the economy, that were on the chopping block - the ends were as well. The honourable social goals of the Labour movement, and postwar liberalism in general were swapped out for radically libertarian ends. All under the cover of crisis, the ends to our means went from being a socially just, egalitarian, collective and connected society, to simply being a society that facilitates economic growth - no matter the form. The government abandoned its admittedly paternalistic role to just simply, and somewhat impotently - a result of our price taker position in a globalised economy, provide the stable conditions for economic growth. The top priority is therefore profit, no matter who it is for, or how concentrated in the hands of the few it becomes.

Muldoon is remembered as a dictatorial, stubborn and generally contemporaneously irrelevant conservative, but when you scratch beneath the neoliberal demonising you find a principled, complex and contradictory figure. Yes, Muldoon was dictatorial ... in attempting to make the welfare state work for people. Yes, Muldoon was stubborn ... in refusing to dismantle policies that helped people. Yes, Muldoon and his policies are irrelevant ... to neoliberals. Aside from all the contention, Muldoon's historical condemnation was instrumental to the New Right's swapping of ends. All that interventionism and welfare-state-ism was to be associated with the villain of the scene - Muldoon. Meaning the affluent middle class would never return to the policies of the 'Rob Muldoon before he robs you' days. Today only the 'radical' Green party might propose a policy like carless days, which, like with any other minor 'we-are-all-in-this-together' encroachment on their 'freedoms', would probably just annoy the middle class, who have gotten so comfortable within the convenience economy and sugar coated 'freedom' of neoliberal consumerism. Typified by the 80's yuppies, who were to become the new beneficiaries of state policy, not through state intervention or provision, but through neoliberal omission and deregulation.

The form of postwar liberalism in New Zealand, Muldoon's hill to die on, also reinforced and brought with it wider cultural attitudes that were effectively lost when the 'greedies' from treasury took to trying out their trickle down textbooks on New Zealand society. While Muldoon certainly had, by today's standards, some socially conservative views, we should not reductively package him up as simply a problematic, ordinary bloke conservative. Muldoon has been so successfully banished to the naughty corner of history, we lazily align him with the conservative equals evil equation. Muldoon was possibly our last Prime Minister who not only displayed but fought for a genuine cultural, rather than political, bipartisanship. He didn't care what side of the tracks you came

from. Muldoon was a Pakeha, middle class, Auckland who had a close blokey relationship with criminal gangs, even getting on the piss with Wellington Black Power in their 'clubhouse' on one occasion. Today a middle class Aucklander would avert their gaze and glance down at their flat white at any sign of gangs! This is because we lullaby ourselves into an ommissive slumber with colloquial narratives about certain social groups that neoliberalism brought with it. Neoliberalism's hands off approach spawned some of the ugliest and ill informed colloquial attitudes about the poor and disenfranchised - somehow their poverty must be their fault for not being entrepreneurial enough? Homelessness is acceptably visible in a neoliberal society, an effective visual reminder of what awaits you if you do not take part in the 9-5, white picket fence, hamster wheel. How do we deal with gangs today? In an unfeeling dog whistle, we legislate, hoping to simply erase gang patches of discontent. It was not just the means that Muldoon favoured that were tainted by the neoliberal consensus, but also the attitudes of communal empathy and collectivity that were thrown out. Universal provision was swapped out for user pays, meaning things like security and assurance became things you could afford, not expect.

In 1984 NZ's New Right performed a sleight of hand reminiscent of the beginning of 1981's *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. A golden idol sits on a plinth, its exact weight holding in place an ancient self-destruct mechanism, it's removal triggering a complex series of traps. Indiana Jones quickly swaps out the idol for a bag of sand, and for a brief moment, everything seems alright until the altar awakens from its ancient slumber, setting off a plethora of traps and destruction. The golden glow of the true use of affluence - aspirational, collective, welfare state idealism was swapped for the paltry bag of sand that is our imported, pull your socks up, every man for himself, freedom through consumerism, individualism.

This swapping out of ends, has led to the arguably fractured and confused state of conservatism in New Zealand, paving the way for the chameleonic National party to play the confused middle, like a fiddle. Indeed, the current coalition government is a reflection of this confused conservatism. On one side of National you have the ageing Winnie P, who's party stands for whatever form of economic Muldoonism that can be trojaned past the walls of Treasury, mixed in with a now cringe-inducing form of boomer populism - necessary to get votes. It is a populism tainted with reactive bitterness, as Lange admitted in his valedictory "...people over 60 hate me". Their bitterness, a result of the betrayal of traditional party values that National and Labour undertook when they embraced neoliberalism. On the other side of National we have the ACT Party, with the effective and zealous David Seymour, who all believe the sleight of hand didn't go far enough, they want a second coming. Their mix of cold unfeeling neoliberal economics combined with an

attitude of colonial condescension reveals that the old guard of the party, namely Brash, Douglas and Prebble, still have the ear of their malleable frontman. Caught in the middle is the *once* honourable National Party.

Luxon's 6th National government gives truth to an accusation also levied against Muldoon - that National only governs to stay in power. Being in office is all that their pragmatics are for. While Muldoon's obvious populist pragmatism and expediency are easily critiqued, they were the means to a different end. National's continued commitment to political expediency, bereft of Muldoon's unchanging egalitarian principles, left us with reopened wounds from the race based politics of the 2005 election, a housing crisis when John Key left office, and when Luxon entered office, a whole raft of petty, knee-jerk, reactionary policies to put their money where their dog whistling mouths are. National's malleable 'principles', reveal that it is they who are actually unprincipled, they have no commitment to anything other than power. Power for their MPs in the form of incumbency, and power for their supporters in the form of reinforced economic privilege.

National knew the confused middle, especially the elusive ordinary bloke, would swing against Jacinda's somewhat sanctimonious Labour party, if National trotted out all the tired, baseless slogans of the National/Labour soundbite dichotomy. National's most successful strategy however, speaks to the change in ends that has occurred in NZ over the last 40 years. We had it with Key, and now with Luxon, the swinging middle class anoints the bloke who is wealthy enough to own mansions in Remuera and 7 rental properties, but casual enough to invite to a hypothetical barbeque. It is the arrogant and simplistic formula that businessman = good PM.

Muldoon understood this country is not a business, hence his vilification by those with business interests, self interests. At the unveiling of Keith Holyoake's statue, Muldoon chuckled and remarked to a journalist "They won't put up a statue to me, no one has that sense of humour". Forty years into our liaison with neoliberalism, a memorial to what Muldoon stood for is needed more than ever, not as a glorification of the man, but as an *admonishment*. An admonishment to his unsustainable one man damn style, but also as a warning against the culture of individualism that has overtaken New Zealand. Neoliberalism has us committed to the success of the economy, but people are the economy, and *all* people must be at the heart of policy.

<https://digitalnz.org/records/23034653/prime-minister-with-childrens-books-photograph-taken-by-phil-reid?from-story=503a95d21257577392001210>

<https://digitalnz.org/records/23040908/mickey-mouse-and-robert-muldoon>

<https://digitalnz.org/records/23057227/robert-muldoon-in-his-tamaki-electorate-drink-in-hand-during-the-election-n>

<https://digitalnz.org/records/36467238/at-hadfields-beach>

SHARED STEWARDSHIP, CO-GOVERNANCE AND A RESPECTFUL FUTURE



MIKE CROSS

In recent years, the topic of co-governance in New Zealand has become increasingly contentious, particularly as the country grapples with how best to honor the Treaty of Waitangi while ensuring equitable and inclusive governance.

As Pākehā, I strongly believe in the importance of co-governance and the creation of a system where decision-making power is shared between Māori and non-Māori to ensure that our nation's policies and practices reflect the values and needs of all its people. However, implementation of such a system requires careful consideration, particularly when it comes to environmental management and conservation.

New Zealand's commitment to environmental stewardship is increasingly interwoven with the recognition of Māori rights and knowledge.

One approach to co-governance I am passionate to see is the integration of a council of elders (Kaumātua) from various iwi into the Department of Conservation (DOC). This council would provide precious guidance, ensuring that decisions made about land, waterways, and ecosystems are informed by Māori knowledge systems (Mātauranga Māori) and the cultural values that have sustained these practices for centuries. This would enhance the cultural inclusivity of DOC and also lead to more holistic and sustainable environmental outcomes.

In addition to this, making rāhui legally binding is a vital step. Rāhui, a traditional Māori practice of temporarily restricting access to certain areas or resources to protect them, holds significant cultural and environmental importance. By enforcing rāhui with legal penalties for breaches, we can acknowledge and uphold the authority

of Māori customs, ensuring that these practices are respected and effective in contemporary New Zealand. I also propose that if fines and penalties are to be imposed for breaches of rāhui that the funds retrieved from such penalties be directly credited to the department of conservation to allow for furthering the national conservation agenda.

To further strengthen co-governance, integrating Māori Wardens into the infrastructure alongside DOC rangers offers a unique opportunity to blend traditional knowledge with modern conservation techniques. Māori Wardens have a long history of community service and possess deep cultural connections to the land. Their involvement in conservation efforts could enhance community engagement and ensure that conservation practices are culturally

inclusive, fostering a stronger sense of shared responsibility for New Zealand's natural heritage.

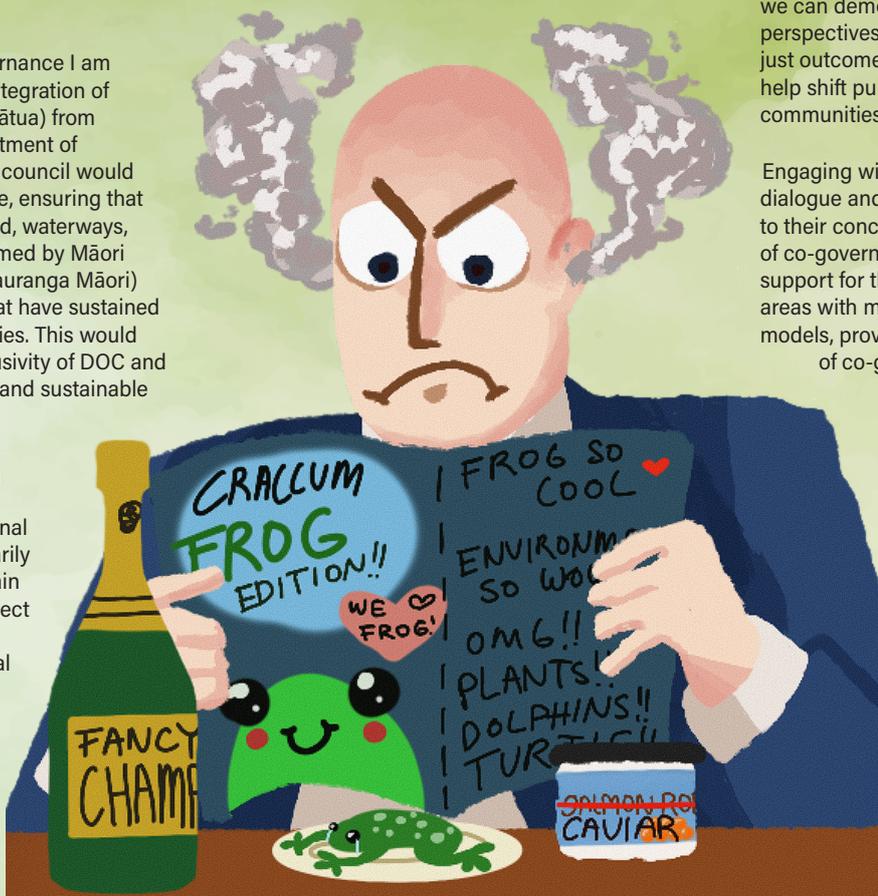
While these ideas represent meaningful steps towards co-governance, it is essential to acknowledge the challenges they may face, particularly in regions like the South Island, where Māori representation is lower, and mātauranga Māori is often misunderstood or dismissed as "native nonsense." Overcoming these perceptions requires a multifaceted approach.

Public education campaigns that highlight the value and success of mātauranga Māori in environmental management are crucial. By showcasing examples like the Whanganui River's legal personhood, a landmark decision that recognized the river's mauri (life force) and established a co-governance model, we can demonstrate how integrating Māori perspectives leads to more sustainable and just outcomes. Such success stories can help shift public perception, especially in communities that may be resistant to change.

Engaging with these communities through dialogue and consultation is vital. By listening to their concerns and explaining the benefits of co-governance, we can build broader support for these initiatives. Pilot programs in areas with more support could also serve as models, proving the viability and effectiveness of co-governance in practice.

BALANCING PREDATOR-FREE NEW ZEALAND WITH CULTURAL SENSITIVITY

New Zealand's ambitious goal of becoming predator-free by 2050 is another area where co-governance and cultural sensitivity must be balanced. While this initiative



is vital for protecting native species and ecosystems, it also raises cultural challenges, particularly concerning the status of kiore (Pacific rats) as taonga (treasured) species for certain iwi.

For some Māori, kiore are not just pests to be eradicated but hold cultural significance, linked to specific iwi histories and traditions. The wholesale eradication of kiore could be seen as a loss of cultural heritage, highlighting the need for a more nuanced approach to predator control.

To address this, it is essential to consult with affected iwi and hapū to develop region-specific strategies that respect the cultural significance of kiore while still working towards broader conservation goals. This might involve creating sanctuaries where kiore are protected, allowing for the coexistence of cultural preservation and ecological protection.

The political landscape in New Zealand has added new complexities to the issue of co-governance. The current government coalition, led by the National Party and supported by ACT and New Zealand First, has been actively working to reverse several co-governance initiatives established by the previous Labour government. This includes the repeal of the Māori Health Authority and the rollback of the Three Waters reform, which aimed to integrate iwi voices into the management of water resources. These actions have ignited significant debate, with critics arguing that they undermine the principles of partnership and shared decision-making enshrined in the Treaty of Waitangi.

As New Zealand navigates these challenges, it becomes increasingly crucial to integrate *mātauranga Māori* into all facets of governance and environmental management. This must be approached with a true understanding of these key concepts, ensuring that Māori knowledge systems are met with the honor and respect they deserve. This will prevent cultural practices from becoming tokenistic buzzwords and instead ensure their meaningful application. Achieving this requires not only changes in law and policy but also a broader cultural shift that values and respects Māori perspectives. The journey towards co-governance is complex and multifaceted, requiring a careful balance between honoring indigenous rights and addressing the concerns of all citizens.

By fostering inclusive dialogue, building on successful models like the Whanganui River's legal personhood, and developing flexible, culturally sensitive strategies for conservation, New Zealand can progress towards a governance model that truly embodies the partnership envisioned in the Treaty of Waitangi. This will ensure that our shared environment is protected and respected by all New Zealanders, now and for generations to come.

GREEN PARTY'S LACK OF CULTURAL COMPETENCE?

AN UNDERLYING ISSUE THAT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED



IATUA FELAGAI TAITO

Before I preface, this article will be an analysis of the situation that has happened recently. Context wise, I am a personal fan of the Green Party NZ as they boldly aim to reduce inequality, tackling climate change and protecting nature. However, as a Pacific person, many (not all) Pacific people tend to vote for the Labour party. However, in the recent election there has been a shift where the normal left wing votes were split and a lot went to the Green Party, as they have their resurgence. And we had the selfless leader Fa'anāna Efeso Collins and of-course Green Party's first Pasifika MP Teanau Tuiono which happened in 2020.

Despite some efforts for Pacific voices being in the Green Party caucus, there have been a few articles in and around 3 Pasifika Green Party members resigning from the party. Alofa Aiono, the partner of Dr. Elizabeth Kerekere a Green MP (who since has resigned) and Co-convenor of the Pasifika Greens Lived Experience Network, Green-endorsed Dunedin City Councillor Marie Laufiso and artist-curator Vasemaca Tavola. Essentially they wanted to leave due to the mistreatment of wāhine Māori MPs, young Pacific volunteers being mistreated and how Pasifika members were treated in Collins funeral. For instance, when the benevolent leader passed away the Green Party caucus did not call upon guidance from Aiono and the Pasifika Greens. Because within Samoan cultural protocol within a fa'alavelave it is a collective responsibility. So for the Green Party co-leaders not suggesting an invitation for Pasifika Greens to stand with them and be ultimately involved showed the lack of cultural competency.

"If a Māori MP had passed, there is no way that Te Rōpū Pounamu would be left out of and not central to the Party's response". Which is true, so why not consult Pasifika Greens Lived Experience Network for cultural ways to honour someone's life?.

This became very apparent as the three Pasifika Green Party members (Aiono, Laufiso and Tavola) expressed the reasoning of why they resigned and calling out the co-leaders Marama Davidson and at the time James Shaw now Chloë Swarbrick for the lack of cultural sensitivity and competency but also deeper nuanced issues like the "inflamed and weaponised media narratives, intentionally smearing Darleen's character, integrity and mana". As well as the "Pacific members [being] treated, particularly those who were new to the party" in relation to being treated poorly plus the racial notion of the "angry brown woman hurting the fragile white woman trope for the frenzied media coverage when in real time Elizabeth was routinely attacked and undermined by senior staff and some MPs during her term".

This was expressed in the Breaking Waves podcast with Hana Schimdt. In rebuttal Green Party co-leader Swarbrick expressed verbatim "In terms of the cultural competency part, we do everything that we can do and we do the best that we can do with what we have available". In which for me analysing this, is not good enough in 2024. I feel that answer reinstated the intentional and selective choice of wanting to be performative and as a result culturally incompetent because if you wanted to do the work you would've consulted the Pasifika members in your party in relation to Collins funeral, especially when handling Kerekere and Tana's predicaments and so the question arises, is it possible to garner more Pacific people to be involved in the Green Party?

If they want more inclusivity, there has to be a culturally strengthened approach that empowers and inspires young Pacific and Māori epistemology to be at the forefront of how to conduct culturally competent and mana-enhancing protocols moving forward from members in the Green Party caucus all the way down to the volunteers that help out at grassroots level.

How 2 go from student 2 politician



Advice disguised as an interview with 2 alumni MPs: Hon. Carmel Sepuloni (Kelston MP & Labour Deputy Leader) and Shanán Halbert (List MP, Spokesperson for Auckland & Rainbow Issues).



LEWIS MATHESON CREED

How would you describe the New Zealand Labour party in one word?

Shanán Halbert (SH) - Humble.

Carmel Sepuloni (CS) - Courageous.

What colours are you two feeling today? And, no, red is not a valid answer.

CS - Orange (I'm actually wearing orange and have a lot of media today so feeling on fire).

SH - Purple.

What was the last album you listened to?

CS - *Born & Raised* by Fiji. I was just reminiscing with my hubby listening to this one.

Favourite restaurants?

SH - Beau in Ponsonby for Friday drinks, Northcote Tavern for pub grub, Ghost Street Britomart for dumplings.

CS - Deco in Titirangi for breakfast and brunch, La Rosa in Glen Eden for Italian dinner. Blue Rose in Mt. Eden for pies!

You both grew up outside of Auckland, do you feel that shapes your opinion on Auckland's issues? Be honest, do you look down on us Jafas?

SH - I grew up in Napier and moved to Tāmaki Makaurau because I knew this was a place with opportunities. My closest cousins were here so I was really familiar with it. I thought Mai FM was the vibe because it was the urban Māori radio station that my Pakeha friends listened to. I loved that the city was rich in culture.

CS - I'm similar to Shan. I moved to Auckland to go to University. After growing up in a town of only 5000 people I was bursting to be urban and to experience all that meant. I also had aiga in Auckland so I didn't feel alone. I've never looked down on Auckland. I love our

city.

What's one good memory and one not-so-good memory of your time at UOA? More importantly, did you read Craccum?

CS - I met so many cool people. My programme was run between UoA and Auckland College of Education so I spanned two campuses. We were in cohorts and I'd chose to be in the Pasifika Whanau group. We had all our compulsory teaching classes together. They have remained friends for life. I was less comfortable at the UoA campus. I felt out of place and intimidated in tutorials, lectures and even spaces like the library. At the end of the day I was still a small town girl and it all felt so big. I regularly read Craccum!

SH - I loved my time in O'Rorke hall mixing with so many other students. I read Craccum weekly. Ben Thomas was the editor at the time, who now also works in Politics. No bad times!

You both studied a Bachelor of Education. In what ways do you feel your degree has transferable skills to politics?

SH - I studied a Bachelor Arts majoring in Education & Māori. I had so many inspiring lecturers: Linda & Graham Smith were outstanding. It has all been transferable because it's all about people and history. It taught me to research, write and problem solve so that's very helpful in this job.

CS - I did a bachelor of education and diploma of primary school teaching. So much of it was about reflection, critique, theory put into practice, facilitation of learning and engagement, the history of NZ educational policy, policy development and policy analysis, relationships and, of course, fundamentally caring about young people. All of this was and is transferable to politics

Aside from the appeal of bumping your salary up from 5 to 6 digits, what clicked in your head to take that leap into politics? Where were you at in your lives?

CS - I was political from a young age. The genesis of my political career goes back to the

80s and 90s political reforms that had a huge impact on my Whānau and community. Back then when I was working at UoA 2004-2008, I got really angry at the political division being stirred up by National - particularly Don Brash and his Orewa speech. I coincidentally met people in the labour party and joined up. And the rest is history.

SH - I started University at the same time Helen Clark became Prime Minister and Labour became government. The focus on addressing inequality raised my awareness and the attempt to 'close the gaps' motivated me. Nga Taura Māori was where I got into student politics alongside others who are now in Parliament and later in my working life I got involved in campaigning for Labour.

I've heard there is surprisingly more drama from within the parties, than between the parties. Is that true? If so, how do you navigate that?

SH - The only dramas these days are in the coalition. We've had to keep connected as a caucus and focus on our individual roles. There is a lot of work to do out in our communities.

CS - [Laughs] Sometimes but not in recent years. Opposition was tough after we lost the 2008 election. We went from leader to leader. There were different factions formed. The membership at one point became quite distanced from the caucus. I was out of politics for three years which helped me get some perspective and meant I was slightly removed from some of the shenanigans. When I got back in I was focused on making relationships a priority and helping to ensure a unified caucus. That remains a focus for me even now.

Both of you have had your successes but also terrible losses at elections. How do you deal with failure? Do you ever feel like quitting and giving up?

CS - When I didn't get back in at the 2011 election after losing the Waitākere seat on a judicial recount by 9 votes, I was surprisingly okay with it. I figured if I was going to lose

that it was a respectable way to lose and I've always been really optimistic. I knew another meaningful opportunity would present itself and it did. I spent three years as the CEO of a pacific mental health, disability and older persons support organisation. I loved it and learned so much. I was more equipped when I went back to parliament in 2014.

SH - I've come to realise that Politics isn't a straightforward journey or career option and I've had to build more resilience and confidence in myself to keep going. The job comes with some real highs, winning feels great. But the real tests of leadership are hard. Not being able to please everyone is hard. But if you believe in yourself and what you are doing then you know that you are in the right place. Both of my current roles as Spokesperson for Auckland and Rainbow are areas that need strong advocacy to hold the government to account.

On that note, what's it like being in opposition? Do you just get to sit back and relax now?

CS - No [laughs] No. I feel like sometimes it's busier but a different kind of busy. You have to hustle for media on issues that are important to you. Unlike in government you seldom get the first, or any word on issues. Being in opposition though and not a minister frees up more time to do local electorate stuff. I'm loving that at the moment. Kelston Boys are in the rugby semi-final against Auckland Grammar on Saturday and I'm looking forward to being there to cheer them on!

SH - I'm always busy. People are really struggling and we've got a job to do. I'm enjoying putting my voice to better transport and infrastructure in Tāmaki Makaurau, speaking up against anti Māori policy being rolled out and calling on the government to keep Rainbow Rangatahi safe in our communities.

[Arts editor's note: as an AGS Old Boy I have to respectfully cheer on the other side]

Carmel, you've had some stellar landslide victories in Kelston. What are in your opinion three essentials for a successful election campaign?

CS - Relationships with your constituents, schools, community groups and everyone formed and maintained over a three year period. It's not just about the election period. Energy for kaupapa and people. It's hard being up all the time but you kind of have to be when you are a politician - particularly during the campaign period. You need the ability to have fun while working hard. How could anyone do this if you couldn't find ways of enjoying yourself? I laugh a lot with my team.

In your opinion, what changes do you think need to be made by 2050 to future proof the city?

CS - Oh my god, where do we start? More frequent, reliable, accessible and affordable public transport. We need that second harbour crossing. I am a big supporter of bike lanes done well. Those things would be my starting point.

SH - I believe Tāmaki Makaurau can be better for students. It needs to be affordable, connected and inclusive. It can be a world class city that is proud of its indigenous Māori roots and all of its diversity that it brings. Most of all, it fulfils why many of us came here - for opportunity.

Carmel, I've heard you spend some time working in Egypt. I was in Cairo last summer during their election. What was your take on the country?

CS - It was an amazing time when I was there. It was the third round of Egypt's first democratic election. The first two rounds had been volatile. Because of the violence that had occurred during early rounds of voting, there were very few tourists there. Outside of the election observing I was doing, I got to see some amazing historical and renown sites - with far fewer other people at them. The actual election observation was humbling. I saw so many women accompanied by children. In lots of instances the women's literacy was poor and the children were supporting them with navigating the voting papers.

In what ways do you recommend getting a start with student politics if you're curious? What if you feel none of our parties exactly represents their political beliefs?

CS - You won't necessarily agree with one party's position on everything. It is the values of the party. What do they stand for? Who do they stand for? What is their track record in advocating for these issues and people? Then suss who you align best with. I was never involved in student politics but potentially if someone had asked me, I may have jumped in there.

SH - Let's have coffee. It's good to talk with people to find out if your values align. Get involved in a campaign for next year's local government elections.

How does one even get on a party list? And what do you think is the key to successfully climbing said list?

There is a process for people to nominate, and then of course a range of things that need to be included on the application. It's done transparently through the party channels. But it's not just about putting the nomination form in. You deliver a speech at a regional list conference. You need to be talking to membership to garner support. Once the list conferences are over a moderating committee meets and negotiates the list placing. I've

been the caucus rep twice on this - it is intense!

What's one thing you are both looking forward to in the future, outside of trying to win the next election of course?

CS - Always time with my grandchildren. I'm too young to be a stay at home nana though!

SH - I've just started Te Reo Māori lessons again after a 4 year break. Toitū Te Reo!

Lastly, why should our readers care about politics? Why should they even bother to enrol and vote?

SH - I've always believed that Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland was filled with opportunities. But for average people, life is getting more expensive under this government and hurting our most vulnerable. The policies that they have rolled out have targeted Māori and they will double down on this with the Treaty Principles bill. Our environment is a risk and addressing climate change isn't a priority. None of us are immune from these issues and it's up to all of us to push back.

CS - Because it's all your hands. If every young person thought they couldn't make a difference and decided to sit out of the democratic process then our democracy would be a failure. I'm already worried about the high number that choose not to engage. Politics impacts everyone's lives whether they choose to notice it or not. You can also impact politics. Get out there and be heard (so cheesy I know....im 47!).

Craccum wants to thank Carmel and Shanan for taking time out of their busy schedules to speak with us for this special politics issue. Remember to vote in the AUSA elections too!



Rest in Peace Tomgirl (2007-2024)

A.K.A. T, Push, Princess, Madam Butterfly, Choom, Meow, Bitch. My best friend and buddy forever. See you in your next life ~ Your Boy.

The Breadth of Your Experience

BAILEY LARKIN

Give it up - give all of it up.

The breadth of your experience.

Everything you have, everything you are, everything you've carved and cultivated.

Everything you've grown into, or been moulded into.

Give it up - give all of it up.

The breadth of your experience.

Know something. Know just enough. Know how to share that something.

Learn something. You could learn a craft.

Learn something that's meant to be fun.

And then give it up - give all of it up.

The breadth of your experience.

Time is a commodity. Talent is a commodity.

And Leisure is a commodity.

Hard work is the ultimate prize.

Just to give it up - give all of it up.

The breadth of your experience.

Be pretty for money.

Be funny for money.

.Be clever for money,

Be you for money.

And then give it up - give all of it up.

The breadth of your experience.

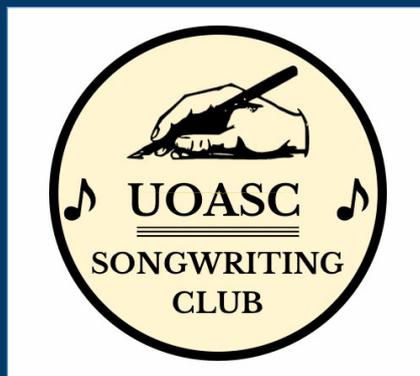
CLUBS COLUMN

CHECK OUT THESE THREE COOL CLUBS ON CAMPUS, COME BACK FOR NEW CLUBS EACH ISSUE.



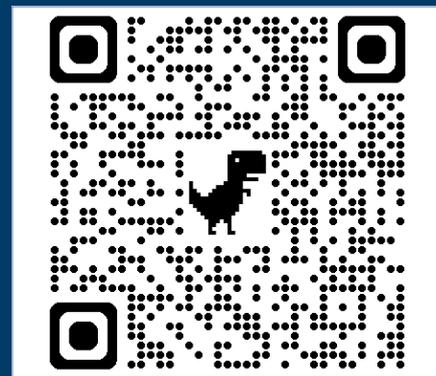
AUCKLAND WRITE CLUB

Want to hone your creative writing skills at uni? Don't want to sell your kidneys for an English degree? Come along to the Writer's Club! Meetings are on Monday nights, 5-7pm. Discord code is wSfmTJktsX. Discussions | Workshopping & Prompts | Critique | Not \$17,000 in fees



THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND'S SONGWRITING CLUB

The UOASC is the University of Auckland's new songwriting club aimed at supporting aspiring artists amongst UOA students! The UOASC creates a space for songwriters of any genre or instrument to collaborate, write and share anything and everything they've been working on, meeting twice a week to practise the art in varied themes!



NEW ZEALAND MEDICAL STUDENTS JOURNAL (NZMSJ)

Join the New Zealand Medical Students Journal (NZMSJ), the national student-run medical journal that publishes your work & offers mentorship through peer-review. Open to ALL medical & allied health students! Bi-annual issues & workshops to boost your research and CV. Check us out!!!



1. NIISA - Come Away from the House of Death [NZ]
2. Ocean Beach - Come Around [NZ]
3. Shooless - Lonely Playground [NZ]
4. Japes - Boys [NZ]
5. Michael Logie - You Can't Help Me [NZ]
6. Elliot & Vincent - Doberman [NZ]
7. Coast Arcade - Baited [NZ]
8. Grecco Romank - Sidetracked (ft. Our Carlson) [NZ]
9. LEAO - TAEAO [NZ]
10. Revulva - Beep Beep [NZ]



LISTEN
HERE TO THE
SPOTIFY
PLAYLIST



Text VOTE with your favourite song to 5395 or visit 95bfm.com/vote
The 95bFM Top Ten, every Wednesday from 7pm

NZIFFF

JANET PLANET (2023)

DIR. ANNIE BAKER

It might seem surprising that one of the most formally accomplished debuts in recent memory is the work of a playwright, but from my impression of Annie Baker's work, it seems that she writes around form. We often might think of a play's script as the main work, and the performance as the translation of it. This is the expected difficulty of playwrights becoming filmmakers, as the film can become too reliant on its screenplay and become 'uncinematic'. But this is only true for certain playwrights such as Aaron Sorkin and Martin McDonagh, who seem obsessed with their own cleverness—while they depend to some extent on the actors' delivery, their main priority is the snappiness and excitement of the words themselves, and the actors are directed to deliver the lines in the same way as every other character. This is why Sorkin and McDonagh have been heavily celebrated as screenwriters, since it's this immediacy that the screenwriting field values. However, both leave a lot to be desired as filmmakers. McDonagh often gestures at more 'cinematic' qualities but is still thinking of his films as translations of their screenplays, and watching *The Social Network* and *Molly's Game* back to back will make it immediately clear how much Sorkin needs a good director for his films to be watchable.

The reason why Baker makes such a strong move to film is that she doesn't think of the script as the 'main work' in this way. While Sorkin and McDonagh hype up their own language, Baker is invested in the failures of language. Characters often don't know what to say or how to communicate—they stumble around their words, they release a bunch of word salad, or they simply say nothing. The words themselves are rarely important. We see a lot of filmmakers do this, but the general public often associates theatre more with the Sorkin and McDonagh school, where dialogue is king. But it's actually quite common for a play script to devalue language in this way. When a playwright does this, they are not thinking of a script as a complete work, but instead as an opportunity space. How something is being said is much more important than what's being said, and the silences between dialogues are more important than the dialogues themselves. As a result, there are an overwhelming number of possibilities as to how the dialogue can be



delivered and staged. Even though theatre appears to be less of a formalist medium than film, playwrights tend to write around form in this way much more often than screenwriters do, especially since screenwriting theory is often based on how to sell a script and get it produced over how to write meaningful drama.

BECAUSE BAKER WRITES AROUND FORM, THERE'S A MUCH GREATER INVESTMENT IN HOW THE MATERIAL WILL BE PRODUCED THROUGH HER FRAMING AND CUTTING, RATHER THAN BEING 'ELEVATED' BY IT.

Baker also has a much greater grasp on an effective use of slowness than many contemporary filmmakers, who often aspire to slow pacing but aren't quite willing to let things run long enough to truly linger and breathe. Baker's long spaces between dialogue often draw our attention to the sounds and ambience of her settings, and the film lets us acclimate to them. Unfortunately, it doesn't surprise me too much to see that this film was buried by A24 in its US release.

By its premise alone the film seems to fit into a fairly marketable form of coming-of-age indie cinema—it follows the 11-year-old Lacy and her troubled co-dependent relationship with her mother, who deals with a series of failed relationships. But in execution, the film is much more mysterious and at times emotionally impenetrable—it didn't fully reach me until its outstanding final scenes. At first, Lacy clearly seems to be a precocious child, but as the film goes on we wonder if her un-childlike behaviour comes less from any inherent uniqueness and more from the fact that she has no friends her own age, so she simply imitates the adults around her in search of an identity that she hasn't been able to form. The problem is that the adults around her haven't formed one, either. As a result, the film avoids presenting an easy and closed definition of its characters and its story. It also avoids the easy dramatic ironies of films where the adult world is seen from a child's perspective. As with *Evil Does Not Exist*, I feel I'll have to see the film again to fully wrap my head around it, and hope that the rest of the film might emotionally 'click' as its final scenes do. Regardless, it's already won my interest in Baker's future work for both stage and screen.

- Madeline Smith



CROSSING (2024)

DIR. LEVAN AKIN

Crossing transcends its first impression as an 'important but depressing' film thanks to director Levan Akin's care in embedding his world and its characters with lively humanity. Mzia Arabuli, playing a retired Georgian aunt looking for her trans niece, and debut actress Deniz Dumanli, playing a people's lawyer of her trans community, help bring to life an outstanding story on building connections across different walks of life with an unapologetically queered lens.

Equal parts an enrapturing tear-jerker and a window into the marginalised queer community and the streets of Istanbul, *Crossing* reminded me and the rest of *The Civic's* audience that humanity in solidarity must come first on both an interpersonal level and a structural level. Istanbul locals and Georgian tourists merge tables and form fleeting relationships. Strangers exchange songs and memories in the precarious homes of trans women, unaccepted by conservative society but filled with acceptance and community solidarity. Aunts and childhood friends sail across the same water, wander along the same pathway, and breathe the same air as each other to form an unlikely connection. All to desperately find a trans niece and dear friend who left her abusive family house to find and help build a new queer thriving space to call home; to find family with her found family. From the lingering shots of the 'common people' along their journeys to the weddings, clubs, hostels, and cafés of Istanbul, Levan Akin humanises and builds solidarity in the viewer with racialised and oppressed peoples as lives that inherently matter.

With a bittersweet third act, *Crossing* emotionally engulfed me with sadness and fury directed at all the preventable suffering our most marginalised communities still face by existing and emerging actions of hateful violence. From Georgia to Aotearoa, across and beyond borders, queer lives matter, trans liberation matters, and no one is free until we are all free. Until we can all connect and reconnect to our community, our family, our home.

- Daniel Tang

NO OTHER LAND (2024)

DIR. BASEL ADRA, HAMDAN BALLAL, YUVAL ABRAHAM, RACHEL SZOR

Between the early rise to get to the screening, the shaky (but incredibly well shot) documentary footage and the confronting content, this film just made me sick for its entire runtime. What I admired most about this Palestinian-Israeli co-production can be summarised by its closing question: 'people watch something and feel touched, what then?' The film doesn't just leave you feeling sad and disturbed by dwelling on images of suffering and destruction—it was there, and it hit hard. But instead, the through-line which underpins the whole piece are the brave acts of continuous resistance. It makes you angrier and angrier by placing you right amongst the displaced villagers and activists as they fight against the demolition of Palestinian homes year after year. The immersive camerawork and nonstop rhythm makes it as though you were part of that proactive struggle—until suddenly it all became futile in October 2023.

After becoming so invested in an actual concrete course of action against injustice, that road just seemingly ends beneath your feet with no horizon in sight. And you just stand there, not knowing what to do. This, in my opinion, was the most effective way this film could have engaged viewers into asking themselves that 'what then?' It is in serving as a documentation and celebration of Palestinian perseverance, hope and courage which makes this film shine as a powerful call to action in this age of desensitisation. This is cinema at its highest level of functionality.

- Wang Hongtian



EVIL DOES NOT EXIST (2023)

DIR. RYUSUKE HAMAGUCHI

This is the latest from Ryusuke Hamaguchi, one of my favourite working filmmakers. Hamaguchi is known for his quiet dialogue-driven dramas that focus on the relationship between identity and performance. While his thematic and formal choices have remained consistent throughout his career, he's also a much more versatile filmmaker than he's given credit for, and has shown a willingness to consistently evolve his approach. That's especially evident here—after the breakout success of *Drive My Car*, he's gone for his biggest deviation yet. Hamaguchi typically focuses on the interiority of his characters, but here he's much more concerned with their environment, to the point that the extended opening of the film only appears to be interested in the characters relative to their relationship to nature. Rather than scenery serving as a backdrop to the characters' struggles, the characters simply become a part of the scenery. It's as if Hamaguchi feels a need to leave his conventional dramatics behind to give justice to his ecological focus here. As a result, Hamaguchi is the most confident he's ever been formally.

The film slowly develops more of a plot—this involves a talent agency's destructive plans to build a camping site, and the village's resistance to these plans. This may sound all too conventional, and the film's middle section (presenting an extended scene of the agency's disastrous town hall briefing) threatens to become too thematically simplistic. However, the final third presents a key perspective shift to the workers of the talent agency—this perspective shift humanises these characters, to the point that they are arguably more developed than any of the villagers. A scene of them conversing on the car ride on the way to the village brings Hamaguchi back to more familiar territory. The last third is somewhat reminiscent of Bill Forsyth's film *Local Hero*, another tale of a faceless corporate bureaucrat falling in love with the village that he's meant to be complicit in destroying, and finding his humanity in the process. But while Forsyth's film is loveable and optimistic, Hamaguchi's film is much less reassuring. The humanisation of these characters initially seems to affirm the sentiment of the film's title, but as it goes on we begin to wonder if their 'humanity' and their sympathetic qualities will really be enough to save them from the destruction that they'll inevitably become complicit in. This becomes a much more thematically complex film by the end, and I'm looking forward to revisiting it in the future to fully grapple with it. It may not be the best starting point for Hamaguchi's work, but it is far from the minor work that some critics labelled it as. It is a must-see for any admirer of his films.

- Madeline Smith

ROMEO & JULIET

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE UOA X AUT PRODUCTION TEAM

TICKETS FROM \$15, PERFORMANCES RUN FROM 21ST TO 24TH AUGUST AT THE PITT STREET THEATRE



LEWIS MATHESON CREED

Why Romeo & Juliet? What does your production bring to the table that hasn't already been done? What is the relevance of the play to the UOA student body?

After a friendship formed between AUT Performing Arts and Stray Theatre Company (UOA's resident theatre club), we decided to put on a joint production of Romeo & Juliet: the most famous love story ever told. Set in 1920s Aotearoa, our adaptation of the classic Shakespeare play follows the story of two rival theatre companies competing daily for the title of best performing arts club.

This play is intended to form an alliance across the Wellesley Street bridge between our two groups, that will encourage a long-lasting friendship between theatre lovers from UOA and AUT alike.

TELL US MORE ABOUT HOW YOU ADAPTED THE PLAY TO THE 1920S AOTEAROA SETTING. WAS MUCH HISTORICAL RESEARCH INVOLVED?

To immerse our audiences into the world of the play, our choice of costume, hair, makeup, set and props is vital. Therefore, we conducted extensive research to ensure everything is accurate to the 1920s era, so audiences are transported back in time. The Aotearoa setting resides mainly in the script. We have changed the story to be about two theatre clubs (AUTPA and Stray) taking on the names of Capulets and Montagues, adapting our modern lives of theatre at university into the 1920s glitz and glamour.

WHAT CAN THE AUDIENCE EXPECT IN TERMS OF SET DESIGN, COSTUMES, AND OVERALL ATMOSPHERE FOR THIS PRODUCTION?

Our production will have a classic, 1920s 'glitz and glamour' style. We are using rich colour choices and over-the-top hair and makeup

to imitate the atmosphere of a 1920s jazz bar. Expect to see shimmering dresses and suits, and lots of gold, red and purple.

script writers, directors and finally cast and crew were confirmed in April/May.

Since then, our team has been hard at work coordinating rehearsals and meetings to ensure the show runs as smoothly as possible. We can't wait for you to see the past six months of hard work come to life on stage next week!

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR OTHER CREATIVES WHO WANT TO TAKE THAT LEAP OF FAITH TO REALISE A PASSION PROJECT OF THEIRS?

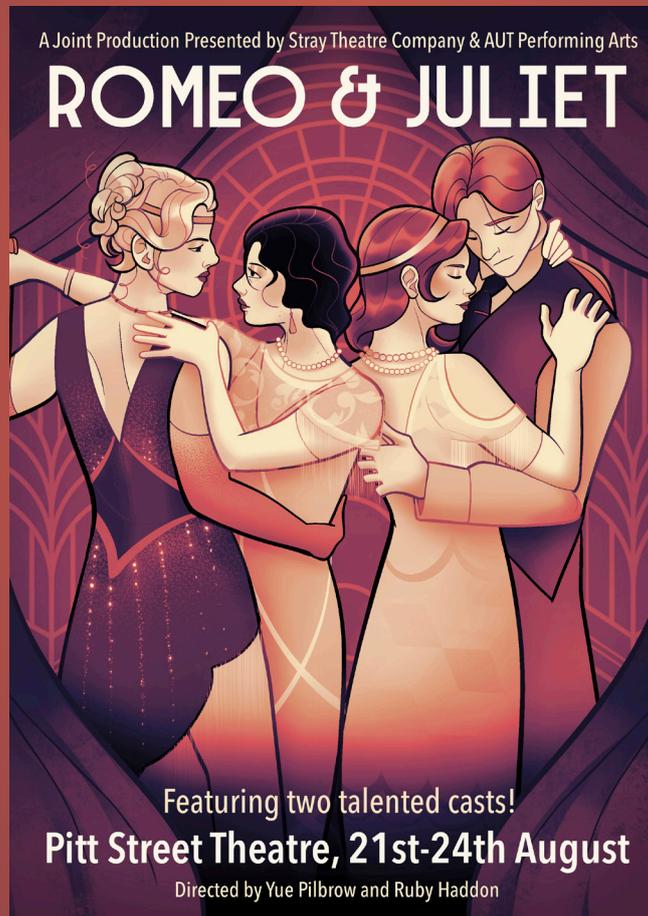
One thing we have learned from this experience is the importance of putting in the mahi, even when it's hard. It can be tough to keep a positive mindset when meetings go late and rehearsals take longer than expected, but it's all worth it when you see the final show on stage.

Make sure you don't underestimate the time and effort it takes to put on a show, and when things get tough, remember why you're doing it. Theatre is all about the people, and the relationships we have made throughout this process are amazing.

LASTLY, HOW CAN OUR READERS SUPPORT YOUR WORK? OR PERHAPS GET INVOLVED WITH FUTURE PRODUCTIONS?

Come to see the show! Theatre is best when it is shared, so buy your tickets at www.straytheatrecompany.com/tickets to come and support. Be ready for glitz, glamour, dancing, betrayal and, of course, romance.

If you want to participate in future productions, or just be around to support, keep an eye on our Instagram pages @straytheatre & @aut_performing_arts! We have two more Stray shows currently in rehearsals and another exciting AUTPA show coming up soon!



HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE INVOLVED WITH THE PRODUCTION? HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO COORDINATE SOMETHING ON THIS SCALE?

It absolutely takes a village to put a show this scale on stage. With the decision to double-cast half of the roles in the show, we have a total of forty-four people involved in the show, including twenty one cast members. This team has grown over time, from when the show concept was first discussed in February - leading to several meetings before producers,

UGLY.

WHO'S UGLY? DONALD TRUMP.



KALA TAKEBE BURGESS

Ugly is a strong word. It is certainly not a nice word. At the end of the day, beauty is subjective, and who am I to say one man looks UGLY? In this article, I am discussing 'Ugliness in the context of how Trump's actions make him uglier'. I will be referring to his moral shortcomings and negative qualities. Actions can influence the perception of looks in several ways.

I hope we all know that Trump is a convicted criminal. He has been accused of 88 different crimes. In May 2024, Trump was found guilty of 34 counts of falsifying business records in the hush money trial in Manhattan criminal court. Which made him a convicted felon. Trump is the first former president in US history to be convicted of a felony. How can someone with a brain actually vote for a convicted criminal? Like it just blows my mind. Not to mention his sexual abuse allegations against him. Not just one, but many women have spoken out about this. He denies any wrongdoings, but he is a liar, and how can

we trust, again, a convicted criminal? To prove this, the jury found Trump liable for sexual abuse and awarded the victim with \$5 Million. I firmly believe he is sexist. From the way he treats women around him to the things he promises to his believers about women's reproductive rights, he is undoubtedly misogynistic. His dishonest behaviour, exploitation, and unethical decisions lead to a negative judgement of his character, making him even uglier.

EW!!

His public behaviour and rhetoric are also a factor in his ugliness. He constantly puts down his opponents on their looks. He is constantly prioritizing personal gain over the well-being of others. Basically, I view him as a very self-serving and manipulative man. He is also a hypocrite. He acts in a way that contradicts his stated values/ beliefs. This unreliable behaviour contributes to a more negative perception.

EW!!

When the cameras are off, he will tell his wealthy friends, 'We will give you tax cuts.' promising billionaires for tax cuts. On the other hand, he wants to cut social security, Medicare, and other programs for children. This is his great big economic plan. He is definitely not for the people. What he promises his wealthy friends is definitely not implemented at his rallies.

Now, he is RACIST. He has a long history of racism. He, however, repeatedly claimed he's "the least racist person". But his history states otherwise. In his campaign trail over the years, he has repeatedly made explicitly racist remarks. He's been racist to pretty much every single race, of course, aside from his own. From calling Mexican immigrants criminals and rapists to proposing a ban on all Muslims entering the US, stereotyping a Black reporter,



Pandering to white supremacists, calling the coronavirus the "Chinese virus / kung flu", the list goes on. This is nothing new, though, because in the 1970's, the US Department of Justice sued him for racial discrimination. What a surprise. Again, his unacceptable and offensive behaviour contributes to him being viewed as ugly.

In essence, Trump's behaviours shaped his public image and how he is perceived by others. Behaviours that conflict with societal norms demonstrate a lack of empathy or show inconsistency in values.

Lastly, I just want to say that he is ugly and we should talk about it because he is orange and has very, very thin hair.



ILLUSTRATIONS: KALA TAKEBE BURGESS





What It's Like to Meet The President of India

A Leader Beyond Politics



KAAVYA GHOSHAL

Amidst racking my brains for what to write for this week's issue, my phone beeped. I opened it to an email—"Invitation for the Community Event on the occasion of the visit of Hon'ble President of India H.E. Smt. Droupadi Murmu".

I had to read it about four times to understand what it meant. One, that I had something to write about for politics week. Two, that I had absolutely no idea what to expect. Three ... I was going to be meeting the *President of India*.

Now, don't get me wrong. There are a lot of reasons to be excited about meeting a President. But meeting *this* President is exciting for different reasons. Let me tell you a few things about one of the most powerful women in Asia.

India used to be, and arguably still is, ruled by a caste system. At the top of the ladder existed the Brahmins, who were the priests and teachers. Following them were Kshatriyas (warriors), then landowners, known as Vaishyas, and then Sudras, who were the servants. At the very bottom of the barrel, we have the Dalits, the untouchables. The caste is considered to be the lowest of the low, those whom you deem unworthy to breathe the same air as you do.

Droupadi Murmu was born on June 20, 1958, in Uparbeda, a village in Odisha state, to a Santhali tribal family. Her caste? Dalit.

Uparbeda, Odisha, is one of the most underdeveloped regions in India, and the Santhal are one of the largest tribal communities. Murmu grew up in poverty. She was not born into privilege, wealth or connections but studied her way to the top. She was the first woman from her village to graduate from University. Subsequently, this

makes her the first woman of tribal descent to hold the office of President. She's also the first Dalit woman to do so. She's also the second woman, and the first president born in Independent India to occupy this post. Having lived in New Zealand, I've truly learnt how important it is to have someone who *has* been marginalised in a position of power and how terrible it can be when someone who doesn't care about Indigenous rights has a seat instead—because experiences cannot be taught, and only then will change follow. So, I'd say she's pretty iconic.



Murmu is a symbol—of hope, perseverance and, most importantly, change. I would not claim that Indian politics is perfect, but I will say that if there was any leader that I wish I could have met, Murmu would definitely be on top of the list.

So, what was it like seeing her? The imposter syndrome ran deep; I truly felt like I was in the presence of someone great and did not understand what I had done to earn a seat at this event—and then I heard her speech. Murmu spoke about a lot of things. How New

Zealand and India have always had strong relations that they hope to build on, that she was in awe of how beautiful this country is, and that it was an honour to be here. She told us that standing in the presence of us, she felt like she was back in India, surrounded by family. As we sang the national anthem (which was just the audio, but Indians will sing given any opportunity), I looked at our President and felt like she had brought a giant piece of home back here for me. I felt like I belonged.

*That is the power of a good president and a good person. She is a symbol of hope, but more importantly, a symbol of what India stands for. A land of culture, love and family. We weren't allowed to introduce ourselves or come too close to her (because, you know, she's the *President*), but we did get to take a photograph with her, which I will probably keep staring at for the rest of my life.*

As she waved her goodbyes, I looked around and saw my own awestruck expression plastered on everyone's face. My dad works in Bollywood, so I've had my fair share of encounters with celebrities, but *nothing* came close to the feeling of anticipation before the dhols played and our President walked onto the stage.

True leadership isn't just about power or position—it's about the ability to inspire and connect with people. Murmu left behind not just a memory but a sense of pride and belonging that will stay with me—and everyone there—forever.

This felt like a whole lot of gushing, but, in my defence, this edition does come out one day after India's Independence Day. So, thank you to our President for being the leader that she is (and planning her visit *just* so that I had content for Craccum).



HOROSCOPES



CLARICE DE TOLEDO



LEARN MORE

It's gonna be a pretty full-on week! This Monday, there will be a full moon in Aquarius, setting the tone for the week. We'll be witnessing the results of the intentions that we set around August 4th, closing a cycle. This full moon will be connecting directly with Mercury retrograde, it's likely that we will be getting clarity around issues that have been confusing in our lives recently.

ARIES

This could be a really good social week for you. You could be attending a lot of different events, connecting with new people through work or networking. You may also find yourself reflecting on which friendships are worth investing energy into, growing closer with some friends or possibly feeling emotional or uncertain about a particular friendship. This week could also be a time of clarity for you when it comes to your hopes and dreams, with friends potentially linking you to new opportunities.

TAURUS

You could be reflecting a lot this week, coming to realisations when it comes to your career and long-term goals. You could be evaluating your work commitments and what is truly worth your time and attention. Girl, it can be confusing. Expect things to become clearer as this full moon intensifies. This is a time to contemplate changes in your path and adjust yourself to become more aligned with your heart. You could also be taking on more responsibility in an area of your life.

GEMINI

This week you might feel more inspired to do activities related to reading, writing, and researching. You could be putting more effort into your coursework, or wanting to deepen your understanding on a certain subject that's not necessarily related to your studies. You may be more thoughtful this week, as you explore your new interests, and maybe your opinions and beliefs on the world are undergoing a change. This time of the month would be ideal for a short distance trip, or it could be that you're planning an overseas trip.

CANCER

Your focus this week could be towards your financial matters. You could be paying off some debt, or it could be that you receive unexpected money. It may also be that you find yourself negotiating how to share expenses, and ways of managing your own money as well as money that you split with a partner. Maybe you're looking into ways you could invest, save or receive some

passive income. Also, be mindful of possible relationship conflicts that may arise this week, both romantic and platonic, try to reassess the ways in which you respond to conflict.

LEO

You could be feeling extra social around this time, and possibly enjoying some quality one-on-one time with a friend or a romantic partner. If you're casually dating, you could be contemplating a deeper commitment, or if already in a relationship, you might work on improving communication and closeness. Even if relationships aren't a current focus, you could be reflecting on your future dating aspirations, while finding new ways to collaborate with people and support your close ones.

VIRGO

Happy birthday Virgos!! While the start of this Leo season was slower and more focused on rest and emotional healing, this week you could be feeling a shift towards a more productive and energised mood. You could be finding yourself more busy with tasks and obligations, and you may be recognizing the impact that stress has on your health, and feel motivated to improve your physical well-being. Additionally, it could be that emotions regarding your job situation might come up and you need to be showing yourself a bit more kindness.

LIBRA

This week your focus could be shifting from social commitments to personal reflection. You could turn inward, revisiting old interests and hobbies and spending time doing things that bring you joy, as well as addressing issues of self-confidence. You're in need to be more compassionate towards yourself and less reliant on external validation. You could also be wrapping up creative projects, and deepening connections with certain people.

SCORPIO

You might be shifting your attention away from work and responsibilities in order to take care of things related to home and family around this week. You could be doing home-related tasks like moving, renovating or redecorating. You may feel more inclined to spend time with your family and hearing more from them, or it could be that certain emotions related to your childhood and your past come up around this time, and you prefer to spend some time alone. Additionally, it could be that you're leaving home to travel somewhere, or that some major event takes place in your family too.

SAGITTARIUS

This week, you might find yourself on the move, like meeting friends, attending events, or exploring cultural experiences in the city. It also could be a good time to get away from the city and spend some time reconnecting with nature on a little day trip. If you've been working on a writing or speaking project, such as a podcast, newsletter, or social media content, you may want to launch it around this full moon. You could also be putting more energy into other types of practical skills like cooking, painting, knitting or playing a new instrument!

CAPRICORN

Around this time, you might find yourself splurging more, especially on practical items, like new clothing, home decor, dining and travel. You might be treating yourself quite a bit, but it could mean that some emotions around money could come to the surface, especially if you've been feeling undervalued or underpaid. You could be reflecting on job changes or adjustments in your work life. On a more positive note, you could be finishing up personal projects you've been working on, and wanting to put more of your creative skills in practice.

AQUARIUS

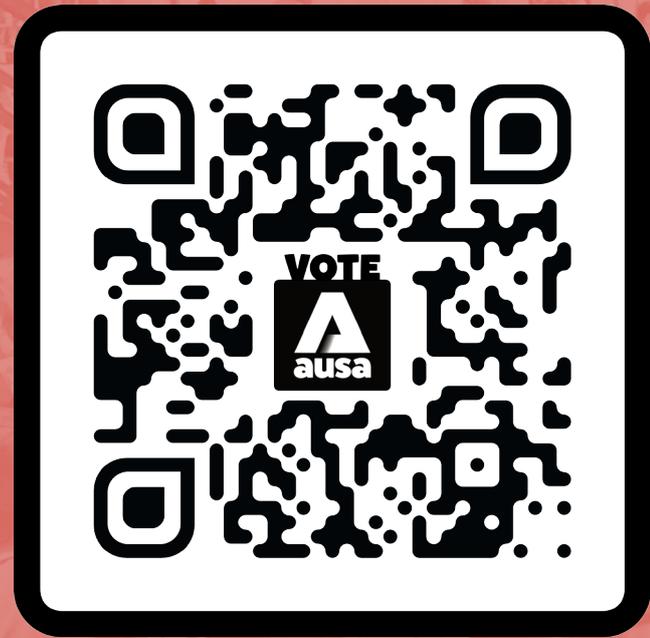
During this week, you will be shifting your attention back to yourself! You could be putting more effort into taking better care of yourself, uncovering different interests and embracing your qualities. You may be announcing important projects, changing up your appearance, like going shopping for clothes or getting a new haircut. This week is all about finding new ways of expressing yourself, finding your inner confidence and attracting new opportunities.

PISCES

This could be a pretty emotionally taxing week for you, so it's important to prioritise rest and reflection. You could be feeling drained and confronting the ways that you may work against yourself, and realising the ways that you could improve your mental health and mindset. It's a time to step back and reflect on your lack of control over certain aspects of life, and maybe you'll be turning to spiritual practices like meditation or other rituals in order to gain perspective. Therapy and healing work could also be good alternatives.

VOTE AND BE IN TO WIN

VOTE IN AUSA ELECTIONS,
ELECT WHO WILL
REPRESENT STUDENTS
IN 2025



PRIZES INCLUDE:

- JBL GEAR
- VOUCHERS
- PLAYSTATION 5



YOUR CANDIDATE

VOTE IN AUSA ELECTIONS! ELECT WHO WILL REPRESENT STUDENTS

PRESIDENT



Sarah White

Kia ora! My name is Sarah White, and I'm excited and honoured to run as YOUR AUSA President for 2025. I'm a fourth-year Law & Commerce student with a passion for politics and a desire to spark change. University should be some of the greatest years of our lives, and I'm dedicated to making sure your experience is the best it can be; I've got the knowledge, passion and motivation to make it happen!

As the current AUSA Treasurer-Secretary, my role this year has been to lead AUSA financially and to support the President in their leadership of the Executive, and I'm ready to not only continue AUSA's legacy - but make it bigger and better. With a new funding and partnership agreement on the horizon with the University, AUSA needs a leader with the experience to carry out this vital transition. I'm ready to hit the ground running - with plans to increase support services for all, amplify our collective student voice, and improve your experience with diverse events that connect ALL students.

As the former President of the Commerce Students' Association, I've also got the perspective of what makes AUSA so fundamental for us students and what can be improved. I have the ability to successfully lead a team and represent students to the highest decision-making bodies at the university, and it would be my privilege to serve as YOUR President. I look forward to this journey alongside you and kindly ask for your vote to represent YOU in 2025.

EXPERIENCE. PASSION. ACTION.
#VoteSarahWhite

More details: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100095668684543>



Gabriel Boyd

Whether you grew up in Auckland or were born and raised overseas, travelling thousands of miles for a chance to study at our prestigious university as I did, we all came here to grow- not only academically but as a community, a whānau, navigating university life together. My name is Gabriel Boyd, and I'm honored to run for AUSA President, aiming to revitalise our campus life to its pre-COVID vibrancy and beyond.

I hope to achieve these goals through four main pillars: expanding mental healthcare access for students, adding dynamism to the clubs' space, including a 'club of the week' initiative, working directly with professors to make in-person classes more accessible and equitable, and running a more recognisable Student's Association.

I have experience reinvigorating a community. When I first became the Study Abroad Student Society president, the club was struggling. I revamped the executive, increasing 20 active members to over 200. On the Arts Student Engagement Team and as an Arts+ Leader, I work with fellow students and staff, brainstorming academic and engagement policies.

For a full-time job serving my classmates, dedication is essential. I don't believe anyone could devote enough time to such an important role with a full course load. I've structured my schedule so I only have three classes over my final two semesters to guarantee commitment to listening to your concerns and doing what's best for our campus community.

For a comprehensive list of qualifications, endorsements, and detailed policy proposals, visit [Vote_Gabriel](#) on Instagram.



Dr. Morteza Sharifi

As an accomplished education professional with extensive experience in programme development, policy implementation, and compliance management, I am excited to bring my diverse skill set to the AUSA Student Executive for 2025. My background includes a robust teaching portfolio across various educational levels, and curriculum design. These experiences have honed my analytical skills and fostered a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities within educational institutions.

My engagement in large-scale research projects and proficiency in cross-cultural communication further underscore my ability to navigate complex, diverse environments. I have a proven track record of advocating for students' rights and systemic improvements, demonstrated by my active involvement in policy discussions and efforts to influence positive change at the University of Auckland.

Having faced administrative challenges firsthand, including taking the UoA to the High Court to receive my PhD, I am acutely aware of the persistence required to address pressing issues. I am committed to transforming the student experience by advocating for a supportive and inclusive environment where students are not merely customers but active partners in their educational journey.

Currently, I am pursuing a law degree at the University of Auckland, which further equips me with the knowledge and skills to advocate effectively for students' rights and interests.

My goal is to ensure that every student's voice is heard, acknowledged, and acted upon. By leveraging my expertise and dedication, I aim to contribute meaningfully to AUSA's mission of representing and supporting students across all facets of their university experience.



Fania Kapao

Kia Orana! My name is Fania Kapao and I'm gonna to Make AUSA Great Again. A vote for me is a vote for you. Slay.

If elected as President, I will focus on the following initiatives:

- **Public Transport Fares:** Advocate for reduced fares for students.
- **Anti-Bureaucracy:** Streamline processes to ensure efficiency and transparency.
- **Delivering on AUSA Promises:** Ensure that promises made by AUSA are fulfilled.
- **Support Students for Fair Rent in Halls:** Support fair rent practices in student halls.
- **Allyship and Student Protesting:** Protect and expand spaces for student protests, including overnight protests.
- **Maori and Pasifika Spaces:** Protect and expand these spaces on campus.
- **RAs' Benefits:** Advocate for free rent and living wages for Resident Assistants.
- **Fair Work Conditions:** Ensure living wages for students working part-time or casually for the university.
- **Group Work Contribution Forms:** Implement forms to ensure fair contribution in group work.
- **Assignment Transparency:** Make average, top, and bottom score information available for all uni assignments.
- **AUSA Club Tender:** Ensure equal funding and advertisement for every club that applies.

Who am I? I'm a postgrad pursuing a Master's in Public Policy. I have a deep passion for advocacy, politics, and public service. My values of kindness, transparency, generosity, patience, and down-to-earth nature guide my actions and interactions with everyone. I believe in equality, charity, mentorship and the power of a good laugh to foster a positive and connected student community.

I promise to be approachable, accountable and available for all students. Together, let's create a campus where happiness is a dream we all share, and where accountability, anti-corruption, and anti-gatekeeping are the norms. Let's deliver results and ensure the welfare for us all.



Layba Zubair

Kia Ora,

My Name is Layba and I'm a third year law student. I've been Womens' Rights Officer in 2023 and am Education Vice-President currently - and I'm running for prez this year.

There's a lot of reasons why I've chosen to run for President, but my biggest driver is that I truly feel so fulfilled, to be able to represent and serve the student body.

As Womens' Rights Officer, I pushed for better responses to sexual violence on campus, played a key role in the development of the University's Harmful Sexual Behaviour Advisory Group, and worked on projects spanning from period poverty to broader sexual violence prevention.

As Education Vice-President, I've worked closely with faculty associations across the university. May it be issues with course content, disputes with lecturers, or even lack of access to student facilities - I've walked into every meeting with student voice at the forefront, and have repeatedly delivered on what students actually want and need from the university.

What I have is truly a passion for representing the student body, and I have a track record for it. I won't give you a list of things that I'd promise to do (and never end up doing), but what I can do, is commit to ensuring that as a student association we are better partners under Te Tiriti, continue to push for adequate responses to things like sexual violence, racism, and ableism on campus, and if nothing else convinces you, then also potentially cheaper shads jugs.



Elson Tan
(SECOND OPTION)

If I am elected in this position, I will work with students who need help in any aspect of uni life. In addition, I will ensure that uni events are held to the best they can be, and I will also increase the frequency of sponsored events so more people can attend. Because if there is one thing event goers have disdain about, it's missing an event due to an unavoidable circumstance. Lastly, I will offer a space for students to talk with AUSA execs for volunteer opportunities, job advice, or even just enough room to vent. But no matter what, all problems will be dealt with as soon as they come in. It is a hard job, but if one can pull an all-nighter writing an essay, one can pull an all-nighter solving 99 unique student problems.

YOUR CANDIDATE

VOTE IN AUSA ELECTIONS! ELECT WHO WILL REPRESENT STUDENTS

EDUCATION VICE PRESIDENT (UNDERGRADUATE)



Matthew Lee

Kia ora! My name is Matthew Lee. As an experienced and proven advocate for students, I believe that AUSA should return to its core mission, which is to fight unapologetically for students. As students, our priority is to get a good education and to do what we think is right for our world, but the University makes it difficult for us. They must recognise the importance of investing in education instead of the Vice-Chancellor's salary. More importantly, the University and AUSA need to support students through the high cost of living. That includes lowering rent at student accommodation to provide safe, secure, and affordable accommodation for students, expanding the hardship grant, and investing more into education, not buildings.

AUSA is about students. In the same vein that AUSA holds the University accountable, students should hold AUSA accountable. Apart from social events, AUSA should hold regular and accessible open meetings where students are able to voice their concerns directly to AUSA.

We do not live in a vacuum, but as members of a community. AUSA should take a more active stand in issues regarding students and advocate for more policies geared towards students. We also cannot ignore the inhumane destruction of Universities and academics in places like Palestine. As members of a global student community, we must stand with Gaza and call for a ceasefire now.

As the chair of Students for Fair Rent, I believe I'm the right person for the job. Vote for me for real change.



Tina Liang

As a third year pursuing a BCom/LLB conjoint degree, majoring in Economics, I am deeply committed to enhancing the academic experience of undergraduate students at the University of Auckland. My academic journey and personal experiences has procided me with a strong foundation in both the commerical and legal sectors, providing h a well-rounded perspective for the role of Education Vice-President (Undergraduate) for AUSA.

If elected, my focus will be on fostering an inclusive and supportive academic environment. I plan to advocate for greater transparency in academic decision-making, ensuring that student voices are not only heard but actively integrated into university policies. I will work to strengthen the relationship between the Student Council and Faculty Associations, promoting collaboration and open communication to address student concerns effectively.

Moreover, I am committed to expanding academic support services, particularly for students struggling with the demands of their courses. As a law student, I know firsthand the hardships students face, at times feeling vulnerable and isolated in the vast university campus. I aim to create a kinder and safer space on campus, pushing for accessible tutoring, mentorship programs, and initiatives to reduce academic stress, such as improved mental health resources and flexible learning options.

In addition, I will prioritize regular engagement with the undergraduate community through forums, surveys, and direct consultations. This will ensure that the policies and actions I advocate for are genuinely reflective of the diverse needs and aspirations of our student body.



Ryan Fraser

My name is Ryan Fraser, and I am currently an undergraduate student studying Computer Science and Commerce. Alongside my studies, I serve as a Science Ambassador in the Faculty of Science, where I continuously demonstrate my leadership abilities through various volunteering opportunities.

In addition, I am an active Teaching Assistant for Physics 140 at the University of Auckland. I earned this role through my dedication and non-obligatory work for the course while I was a student, holding drop-in sessions that impressed the course coordinators. This led to my official appointment, making me one of the youngest TAs ever hired by the university.

These experiences, combined with my background in professional fitness coaching and academic tutoring, have provided me with a profound sense of accomplishment. This feeling drives my desire to share similar opportunities with all undergraduate students. As someone who embodies the principles of academic and extra-curricular excellence, I want to create opportunities for other students just like the ones I have pursued.

If elected as Undergraduate Education Vice President, I aim to create initiatives that support students in achieving both academic and extra-curricular excellence while navigating their academic journey. I understand the challenges of being a new student and the excitement of realizing one's potential at the University of Auckland. My goal is to foster an environment where every student can thrive, not just find a path to graduation, but excel in all aspects of their university experience.



Praneel Gupta
(SECOND OPTION)

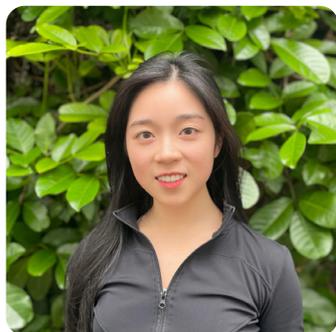
Hello I am Praneel. I am doing Bachelor's of Commerce right now and my goal is to become a CA. I have experience in Accounting and managing assets. In the past I have experience working as an associate and a manager. I am skilled in public speaking and communication with exponential debating and negotiation skills. I am experienced in editing and marketing with many successful clients.

I have amazing information absorbing capabilities with a healthy and prosperity mindset. I am open to learning and I love discussing and communicating my thoughts. If elected for this position I would be sure to become a reliable intermediary between us students and the University. AUSA is known for being the voice of the students and I will be sure to take this one step ahead. If elected my main focus would be in increasing the transparency and abridging the gap between the student body and the University. I know how hard it can be getting your voice heard. I will be available for all the students for discussion and casual talk. I will learn and co-operate with my seniors to make the best decisions possible while keeping an eye out for the student interests.

Thankyou for your time and consideration.



EDUCATION VICE PRESIDENT (POSTGRADUATE)



Trista Ma

As a first-year Mechanical Engineering PhD candidate at the Newmarket campus, I am uniquely positioned to serve as AUSA's Education Vice-President (Postgraduate).

My experience on AUSA's Postgraduate Consultation Committee in 2024 has given me valuable insight into the needs and challenges facing postgraduate students across the university.

I have demonstrated leadership through running the Mechanical Engineering Women in Engineering postgraduate group, fostering inclusivity, social and academic support within our community. This experience has honed my skills in advocacy and relationship-building, crucial for the PEVP role.

If elected, I will focus on four key areas:

1. Enhancing AUSA's presence on the Newmarket campus, serving as a direct link between AUSA and this often-overlooked student population.
2. Strengthening the connection with the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) to ensure postgraduate voices are heard in academic decision-making processes.
3. Increasing the number and visibility of academic-related workshops, ensuring better exposure for postgraduates, especially on campuses like Newmarket and Grafton.

I am committed to working collaboratively with the AUSA Executive, staff, and university departments to advocate for postgraduate students' interests. My experience and dedication make me well-suited to represent our diverse postgraduate community on academic committees and contribute meaningfully to policy development at the University of Auckland.



Arash Honaryar

My name is Arash Honaryar. I am a PhD candidate in the Department of Engineering Science, and I am excited to be running for the position of Postgraduate Education Vice-President at AUSA. I was awarded as a selected citizen of Shahin Shahr City in Iran in 2016. Also, I have been awarded the role of PhD Student Representative of Engineering Science & Biomedical Engineering at The University of Auckland. This role enables me to gain valuable experiences by communicating with students and academic staff, organizing a successful PG Social gathering event, and participating regularly in the SSCC meetings. I am deeply committed to representing and advocating for the interests of postgraduate students at The University of Auckland by establishing regular forums and feedback channels, to ensure that postgraduate students' voices are consistently heard and considered in academic decision-making processes, improving communications between postgraduate students and university departments such as implementing a digital network or platform where students can easily access updates on academic policies, ongoing projects, and available resources. Along with increasing their motivation by enhancing support services, including career development opportunities and mental health resources. If elected to the position, I will work tirelessly to ensure that postgraduate students have a strong voice and receive the support they need to succeed academically and personally and launch a comprehensive survey to gather input on the current challenges and needs of postgraduate students, using this data to guide my initiatives and create a supportive and resourceful environment for all postgraduate students.



Maira Beatriz Garcia Hijar

Kia ora, peers! I am thrilled to stand before you as a candidate for the AUSA Education Vice-President (Postgraduate) role. I come from a large, vibrant city in central Mexico and am working towards a doctorate in Education. I am interested in the human sense of a fulfilled life and its connection to the educational elements that enable us to develop and achieve whatever goals we have. I enjoy interacting with students from all over the world to broaden my perspectives as part of a community and, hopefully, with your help and support, as a student leader for the next 2025 executive term.

My aim, together with the President, will be to create a dynamic student body with boundless energy, respect, a listening ear, and perseverance to amplify your voices and bring the causes close to our hearts to fruition. I plan to initiate regular student-led forums, promote inclusive policies and ensure that our activities and decisions reflect the rich fabric of our student population. To this end, I will ensure that the e-mails dedicated to student services are duly attended to, providing a prompt response and solution to their needs. It is equally important to follow up on the issues that require it, such as student accommodation, academic and financial support for students to attend events, and a broader scope of scholarships. This school is more than an institution. It is a vibrant community where everyone has the potential to thrive and contribute. Let's give it a go together!



Fania Kapao
(SECOND OPTION)

Kia Orana! My name is Fania Kapao, and I am currently a postgraduate student at the University of Auckland, pursuing a Master's in Public Policy. I have a deep passion for advocacy, politics, and service. My values of kindness, transparency, charisma, generosity, patience, and down-to-earth nature guide my actions and interactions with everyone. I believe in charity, mentorship, humour, and the power of a good laugh to foster a positive and connected student community.

If elected as Postgraduate Education Vice-President, I will focus on the following initiatives:

- Public Transport Fares: Advocate for reduced fares for all students.
- Support Mature Students: I will advocate for a Mature Students Welfare Officer role to be established for the next AUSA elections in 2025.
- Networking events: I will work to ensure the needs of Postgrad students like me are satisfied.
- Ensure students who are studying part-time, remotely or who are parents are included and advocated for when we are drafting events and policy.
- Support Students for Fair Rent in Halls: Support fair rent practices in student halls.
- Fair Work Conditions: Ensure living wages for students working part-time or casually for the university.
- Group Work Contribution Forms: Implement forms to ensure fair contribution in group work.
- Assignment Transparency: Make average, top, and bottom score information available for all uni assignments.

Together, let's create a campus where happiness is a dream we all share, and where accountability, anti-corruption, and anti-gatekeeping are the norms. Let's deliver results and ensure the welfare of all students.

A vote for me is a vote for you. Slay.

YOUR CANDIDATE!

VOTE IN AUSA ELECTIONS! ELECT WHO WILL REPRESENT STUDENTS

ENGAGEMENT VICE-PRESIDENT



Lee Li

Take part in and make the most of it" is the message I want to send to all my fellow students and the potential I see in them. I am Lee Li, and I am running for Engagement VP not only as a transgender individual but also as a refugee and asylum seeker from a country where 'being yourself' is a punishment.

Today, I am engaging with students to advocate for our communities and address wider issues that matter to us, such as Climate Change, Cease Fire, Trans Rights, and Refugee Issues. I see your potential to make a real impact alongside me. For the past two years, I've been working closely with the Student Engagement team to support students. I've hosted three Orientations and actively engaged with diverse organisations to support wider communities in Aotearoa, including Arts+, ASA, MSG, AUSA, UoA Rainbow, and Craccum Magazine.

If elected, I will organise forums and workshops on key issues, strengthen partnerships with diverse student organisations, and advocate for the expansion of support services to address the unique needs of marginalised students, such as implementing gender-affirming signs. My goal is to create an inclusive, supportive, and engaged university community.

Aotearoa once trusted me and gave me a second chance to live, so I hope you can trust me and join me. My question is, "How can I help?"

Come talk to me and make your voice heard at the B201 Foyer Space. Endorsed by the Student Support and Engagement Team, Arts Faculty.



Max Guo

Because of my experience as an intern in a bank, I know how to save money and how to spend it. I am able to research and identify trends and create new ones that benefit school values. I will be able to critically look at how the values of the school translate to the numerous social media available and be able to manage the school's reputation, both internally and externally, online and offline.



Jennifer Setefano

Talofa lava, o lou igoa o Fesolai Jennifer Setefano! I am a law and Arts students majoring in pacific studies and Criminology! I am full Samoan and I would love to be your engagement VP for 2025! Connecting with students is one of my favourite things to do! I got the pleasure to do so in my role as Welfare VP this year and the joy of connecting, speaking to students about what they want to see and make changes on is a major factor! I would definitely love to see more engagement on our media platforms! More content on our events and also I would love to host events that'll make your student experience fun and exciting! And also would love to create a better way of connecting with students ensuring that most students get the best uni experience possible!



Kalana Piramange

Ayubowan, I'm Kalana - a student, a YouTuber, and a wannabe engineer who has a passion for campaigning, raising awareness, and tackling youth issues. I've seen firsthand how AUSA could do more to address the issues that students deeply care about beyond campus, and that is what inspired me to run to be your Engagement Vice-President for 2025.

As the communications executive of Students for Fair Rent and an active member of Young Labour, I've heard from so many students, just like me voicing and speaking about the issues that they deeply care about outside of university ranging from climate change, affordable rent, cheaper transport fares to global conflicts and so much more. As the engagement VP, I want to help amplify these voices by hosting workshops on key issues, providing a better platform for campaigns, using social media as a powerful tool to voice these issues, and doing what I can to help develop these campaigns at the University so they get closer and closer to achieving their goals to make a positive difference.

Being in a campaign myself, I can personally see how rewarding it can be to be a part of a positive movement for meaningful change. I am committed to ensuring that all students feel empowered to participate in existing campaigns on issues they care about or to start their own campaigns to champion issues that are important to them because even a small campaign can make a difference to a lot of people.



Oliver Cocker

I am Oliver Cocker, and I have given my university years to amplifying student voices and championing the issues that matter to us. You might have seen me in Craccum in various roles, including News and Features Editor, or been interviewed around Campus. Or maybe you've met me delivering submissions for the New Zealand Law Students Association. I am always there for student interests.

Having lived in Student Accommodation for three years, I understand our challenges, from affordable transport to the constant financial burdens that weigh us down. Although it's a lofty goal, I will target them with the renewed vigour you deserve.

Proposed Initiatives:

As your Engagement Vice-President, I will focus on the issues that resonate with you beyond the university environment. My key initiatives include:

- Universal Student Allowance Spearhead campaigns that drive home to all the parties, not just the government, that University is a full-time job that deserves to be recognised.
- Election Participation: Ensure next year's local elections are accessible and engaging for all, guaranteeing you are heard.
- Affordable Transport: Continue to advocate for Auckland Transport to provide students with more affordable and convenient public transport options.

If more pressing issues arise, I will always give you precedence, and you can always talk to me.

I will be your voice, will, and advocate. With your vote, we can influence change and make our time as students more inclusive, engaging, and impactful. Vote for Oliver Cocker as your Engagement Vice-President, and let's go onwards and upwards.



Alan Wu

I'm a third-year student studying law and arts, running to build a stronger university community.

In my first year, I really struggled to make new friends and navigate student life. It was only at the end of last year this started changing.

My biggest hurdle has been figuring out how university services and organisations work. When I needed extensions, I struggled to find the right university services to approach, and when I struggled financially, I did not know what help was available.

I want to shape our student culture in a way that incentivises participation so students can grow in their interests, careers, and studies.

If elected, I propose:

- Running 'student civics' workshops throughout the year to educate students on the constitution, their membership etc. Such basic information should not be difficult for students. Learning how to participate and fit into your community should be accessible to everyone.
- Reconfigure 'Weeks Tender' by consulting clubs annually to decide on the agenda. Student events should involve our very own student organisations in which they are participating.
- Create an engagement committee of student members to help facilitate campus events.
- Instate student media that regularly publishes updates regarding university politics, discussions, and other matters.

Relevant information, such as website figures, should be current and freely available. As Craccum's News Editor, I have attended council meetings and reported them in our publications. However, this information should be easily accessible by any student and not be jargon.



Jade Butler

Kia Ora everyone, my name is Jade Butler, and I'm running for re-election to be your Vice President of Student Engagement for 2025!

As your Engagement VP this year, it's been a busy Semester One! In each Weeks Tender (our themed weeks), I worked to plan and run an AUSA event, which hadn't been done before.

I introduced "Self-Care Week," offering activities like financial literacy workshops, cultural dance fitness classes, men's mental health haircuts, and more. Self-Care Week had up to three events per day and was the most jam-packed Weeks Tender in recent memory, with twelve events over five days.

Looking forward, I still have much more I want to accomplish as your Engagement VP, which is increasing student attendance on campus. My goals are to help grow this by revitalizing Shadows, our student bar, with monthly student talent events; and ensuring AUSA hosts diverse and inclusive events beyond Shadows, and scheduling more daytime activities to accommodate all students. This balance of lively and calm events will ensure all students feel welcome and understood by AUSA.

Visibility of student leadership is essential.

Many are unaware of the Student Council or their faculty representatives. My goal is to improve leadership visibility through social media campaigns on platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook to ensure students know who their representatives are.

For more information about my campaign and to learn more about me, visit my Instagram, @Jade_deVere.

Thank you for considering me as your candidate—I hope to receive your vote!



Luca Zhao
(SECOND OPTION)

Hi, I'm Luca, I'm a student at UoA, in the past year, I've learned team management experience in UniGuide, and started to have more opportunities to cooperate with AUSA in the AUSA buddy program. In this semester, I founded the UoA Swimming Club, hoping to bring swimming back to our campus.

I know a lot about student participation activities, so I'm confident that I can assist AUSA to continue activities in the new year and carry out more activities in UoA about potential politics, economy, student volunteering, etc.



Dr. Morteza Sharifi
(SECOND OPTION)

As an accomplished education professional with extensive experience in programme development, policy implementation, and compliance management, I am excited to bring my diverse skill set to the AUSA Student Executive for 2025. My background includes a robust teaching portfolio across various educational levels, and curriculum design. These experiences have honed my analytical skills and fostered a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities within educational institutions.

My engagement in large-scale research projects and proficiency in cross-cultural communication further underscore my ability to navigate complex, diverse environments. I have a proven track record of advocating for students' rights and systemic improvements, demonstrated by my active involvement in policy discussions and efforts to influence positive change at the University of Auckland.

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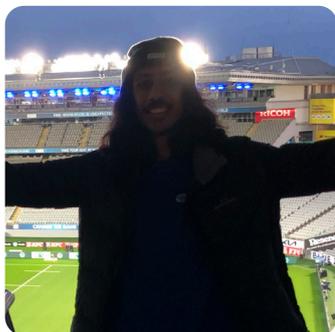
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My goal is to ensure that every student's voice is heard, acknowledged, and acted upon. By leveraging my expertise and dedication, I aim to contribute meaningfully to AUSA's mission of representing and supporting students across all facets of their university experience.

YOUR CANDIDATE

VOTE IN AUSA ELECTIONS! ELECT WHO WILL REPRESENT STUDENTS

ENGAGEMENT VICE-PRESIDENT cont.



Jasneel Deo
(SECOND OPTION)

Hi, I'm Jasneel and I am a third year psychology student. I love psychology and love learning about people and how we can make the most of our lives. In my spare time, I love to watch movies and visit new restaurants. I enjoy eating outdoors and love doing outdoor activities like walking and running. My proposed initiatives would be to engage with my peers and consult with them how their education is going and what can be done better. To provide meaningful mahi and create spaces of inclusivity and engagement so students feel a sense of belonging and connection which can help them do well at their studies. I would make sure that every student has ample opportunity to share their voice and to raise their concern so we can make the University of Auckland a more socially and academically stronger and collective space for people to come and study. This will be done by working with the students and providing surveys and pop-stalls just to get a feel as to how students are doing. If elected, I will ensure that every student is catered for and looked after and ensure accountability and responsibility is taken place at AUSA and at the University of Auckland. And also to make sure that the steps we are taking are for a better future for all of us and that we all have a platform to do well.



Hisham Haq
(SECOND OPTION)

As a 4th-year Global Studies and Arts Conjoint student majoring in Economics, Geography, and International Relations. My unique perspective as an Indian national born in the UAE, combined with exchange experiences at SciencesPo and McGill, has broadened my academic and social horizons. My professional experiences involve working with intergovernmental organisations, MP offices, and political consultancy giving me skills in advocacy, events management, and policy engagement. I am prepared to leverage my diverse skill set to drive meaningful change. My goal is to create a more connected, engaged, and globally-aware campus community that truly represents and serves all students.

Some Key Initiatives

- Promote greater climate change initiatives among students by organising awareness campaigns and collaborating with environmental organisations.
- Resolve micromanagement issues with student groups by implementing streamlined processes and providing better support and resources.
- Focus on promoting inclusive events to ensure that all cultural groups feel represented and included in campus activities.
- Advocate for comprehensive student demographic data collection to better understand and address the needs of the diverse student body.
- Discourage brainrot on campus and build a better university culture.
- Establish more channels with international bodies (embassies, consulates, IGOs, NGOs) to promote greater visibility and representation for UoA abroad. For instance, drawing on my experience from McGill, where an International Diplomats Reception Day was held to connect students with diplomatic representatives.
- Advocate for dedicated research centres for different communities, inspired by Victoria University Wellington's model, to support

WELLBEING & EQUITY VICE-PRESIDENT



Lola Vaelua Afeaki

Malo e lelei and Talofa Lava!

My name is Lola Afeaki. First, I would like to thank God for His unconditional love and for His continual presence in my life. I would also like to acknowledge my village with my utmost gratitude and humble respects. I am of Tongan and Samoan heritage. I grew up in Māngere 275 and continue to grace my hood with my presence. I am running for the role of Wellbeing & Equity Vice-President 2025, hoping I can serve our students and give back to the community that raised me. I served the university in different executives for clubs, worked in uni accommodation and have volunteered for the sake of ensuring our students are heard, listened to and are safe on and off campus. I am putting myself forward for this role with sheer dedication to promote our students' voices, ensure welfare is accessible, fair and safe as well as supporting proactive student governance. I want to improve advocacy and care for student mental health, provide safer and better care for students living in university accommodation and reform responses and actions to pastoral care. Every student deserves to be heard and cared for their individual holistic needs. Each student has different backgrounds, upbringing and financial situations that should not be hindering their ability to achieve academic success. With the experience I have acquired from various opportunities, my natural ability to serve, and my passion for diversity and inclusion, my perseverance will guide me to support our students.



Jasneel Deo

Hi, I'm Jasneel and I am a third year psychology student. I love psychology and love learning about people and how we can make the most of our lives. In my spare time, I love to watch movies and visit new restaurants. I enjoy eating outdoors and love doing outdoor activities like walking and running. My proposed initiatives would be to foster a loving and caring environment for our team do really well and to engage with our community, ask what their needs are and to deliver on their needs. In particular I would love to produce a lot of wellness events and social events where people can come together, make friends and do fun activities together that build friendships and connections. I would ensure that everyone is treated equally, equitably, and valuably and ensure that our events are safe, inclusive, and culturally sensitive to ensure that everyone is feeling good if elected. Also, I would ensure that AUSA has a lot of connections and reaching out to current stakeholders and building on our relationship and to reach out to possible stakeholders and include them in our events and organisation to build a more connected and accessible Auckland.



Sasha Rodenko
(SECOND OPTION)

Hi everyone! I'm Sasha and I'm running for Wellbeing & Equity Vice-President for 2025!

A bit about me - I'm in my 3rd year of a Bachelor of Optometry, am a huge animal lover, and love to bake some yum food in my free time.

I have an invisible disability and have been involved in advocating for disabled peoples' rights for a while now, starting the Disability Action Plan alongside the Pro Vice-Chancellor Equity, and other disabled students/staff since my first year of uni. Here we speak from our experiences as disabled people at The University of Auckland to implement positive changes in the university environment for all. More recently I have founded the UoA Students with Disabilities in Healthcare Association, a club and a more importantly, a safe space for disabled learners who have an interest in healthcare.

If chosen, I will fight for more disabled-friendly events, more academic support for disabled people, as well as more opportunities for us to learn, relax, and have fun. Currently as a member of the Disability Action Plan I can only speak for the experiences that I have had, if elected I will make sure you all have a voice that the Pro Vice-Chancellor Equity will hear, implementing changes that matter and will ACTUALLY make a difference to you.

I am committed to ensuring that our needs are heard and most importantly... met.



Jiajun Guo (Aileen)
(SECOND OPTION)

I am Jiajun Guo (Aileen), an AUSA International Buddy Volunteer and Career Leader at the Business School Career Centre.

If elected as Wellbeing & Equity Vice-President, my primary focus will be on enhancing mental health support and ensuring equitable access to resources for all students. I will work to improve counseling services, create wellness programs, and provide better support for students facing challenges.

Additionally, I will establish regular feedback channels to listen to your concerns and needs. Your input will guide my actions, and I will advocate for policies that support your wellbeing and promote equity across our campus.

My goal is to make a positive impact on every student's experience. Thank you for considering my candidacy. If elected, I promise to work tirelessly to promote a healthy, equitable, and inclusive environment for all.

Thank you for your support and vote.



Tina Liang
(SECOND OPTION)

As a third-year student pursuing a BCom/LLB conjoint degree, majoring in Economics, I've faced the immense stress, vulnerability, and isolation that many students experience at university. These challenges have had a profound impact on my mental and physical health, and through these experiences, I've come to realize that nothing is more important than our wellbeing. This understanding drives my commitment for creating a friendlier and more interconnected campus environment.

If elected as Wellbeing & Equity Vice-President, I'm committed to making tangible changes that prioritize student health and inclusivity. I'll work closely with Campus Life, the Equity Office, and other key stakeholders to ensure that our wellbeing initiatives are truly student-centered and address the diverse needs of our community.

I want to advocate for mental health services that are not only accessible but also tailored to the unique experiences of different student groups. I know how crucial it is to have support systems in place, and I will push for increased availability of counseling and peer support networks. Additionally, I'm passionate about addressing financial barriers that can add to students' stress, and I will work to expand scholarships and emergency grants.



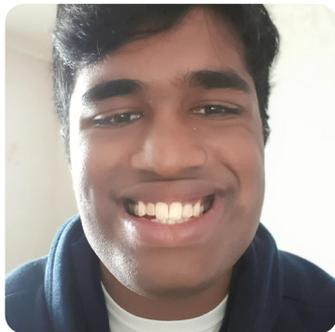
Elson Tan

As a person who used to be left out of the kinds of big social groups many of you take for granted, as a Wellbeing and Equity Veep my main goal is to ensure no student gets left behind when it comes to their wellbeing in all aspects of uni life. I would encourage people to bring other students who have never been to events, to said events so that every student can leave uni having gone to one, and I will also encourage people to reach out to students they've never talked to before, which can unite the entire UoA as one massive community where everyone cares. Because if there is one problem, it's that not enough people care.

YOUR CANDIDATE!

VOTE IN AUSA ELECTIONS! ELECT WHO WILL REPRESENT STUDENTS

FINANCE & OPERATIONS VICE-PRESIDENT



Preniven Naicker

As a dedicated economics student at the university of Auckland, I bring a robust understanding of sustainable economic growth and a strong track record of leadership. My academic journey has been marked by leading insightful presentations throughout my journey in university, equipping me with a deep understanding of economic factors that can influence university finance and operations.

If elected as vice president of finance and operations, my primary goal is to improve financial transparency and efficiency within the student association. I plan to implement a digital dashboard that provides real time insights into budget allocation and expenditures. This tool will ensure every student can easily access and understand where their fees are actually going. This creates a greater sense of accountability and trust within the student body.

Additionally, I aim to focus on sustainability, advocating for investments in student mental health resources and wellness initiatives on campus. This includes expanding on mental health support services, creating more wellness programmes and integrating sustainable practices into our campus operations. By doing so, we make our campus support the overall well-being of our student community.

Through open forums and regular consultations with students, I will ensure that our financial decisions are student focused and aligned with their needs and aspirations. My goal is to create a more inclusive and clear financial environment that supports all students in their university experience.



Ananya Garg

As a Bachelor of Commerce student majoring in Accounting I hold a strong foundational knowledge of Financial management and Strategic planning. My leadership roles include having served as a treasurer with Generation Zero and a Secretary with the New Zealand Hindu Student Forum. These have roles along with my Accounting background have honed my budgeting, financial management and resource allocation skills. Additionally, I facilitated financial literacy workshops with saVy New Zealand, empowering students with essential money management skills. If elected as the Financial and Vice President Officer of the Auckland University Student Association, my primary initiatives will focus on enhancing financial transparency, increasing funding opportunities for student initiatives enhancing Student Experience on Campus.



Praneel Gupta

Hello I am Praneel. I am doing Bachelor's of Commerce right now and my goal is to become a CA. I have experience in Accounting and managing assets. In the past I have experience working as an associate and a manager. I am skilled in public speaking and communication with exponential debating and negotiation skills. I am experienced in editing and marketing with many successful clients.

If I am elected for this position, I will propose effective and efficient strategies for healthy and smooth running of the Association. I have amazing information absorbing capabilities with a healthy and prosperity mindset. If elected my main focus would be increasing the transparency and optimisation and allocation of resources through cost benefit analysis which is positively effect the overall health of the association. I am open to learning and I love discussing and communicating my thoughts. I will learn and co-operate with my seniors to make the best financial decisions possible while keeping an eye out for the public interests.

Thankyou for your time and consideration.



Kyara Wiriadinata
(SECOND OPTION)

Hi! I'm Kyara, a second year pursuing a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Data Science. I come from the bustling city of Jakarta, Indonesia. I'm running for this position as I understand the feeling of being clueless and lost as a new international student (I still feel that haha). I understand feeling out of place and not understanding the world around you. Feeling homesick, away from home, and missing everything you left behind at home. So, I want to help people feel more comfortable here!

If I get elected, I'll help foster a sense of belonging for all international students so you can confidently say to your parents that you enjoy being here and don't regret your decision :)

Some initiatives I would do include culture night, hosting more events through AUSA Buddies, collaborating with UoA clubs to host more fun activities, and others! I'm planning to do some education space as well about understanding employment and part-time jobs in New Zealand, renting a flat, etc.

However, it doesn't matter how good an event is if *you* don't enjoy it. So, I'll constantly ask for your suggestions! What kind of events we should make, how we can support you as an international student, and general improvements.



INTERNATIONAL OFFICER



Haonan Chen

My name is Haonan Chen, and I am an arts major with a focus on education and TESOL. Throughout my academic journey, I have had the privilege of serving as the class representative in six different courses, demonstrating my leadership skills and commitment to my peers. My experiences have equipped me with the ability to effectively communicate, advocate for student needs, and collaborate with faculty and administration.

If elected as a member of the International Office, I propose several initiatives aimed at enhancing the international student experience. Firstly, I plan to establish a comprehensive support system for new international students, including orientation programs, peer mentorship, and language assistance. This will help them acclimate to the new environment more smoothly.

Secondly, I aim to create more cultural exchange events and workshops, fostering a sense of community and mutual understanding among students from diverse backgrounds. These events will not only celebrate cultural diversity but also provide opportunities for students to learn from each other.

Lastly, I intend to work closely with the administration to address any concerns or challenges faced by international students, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs met. This includes advocating for better access to resources, academic support, and mental health services.

By implementing these initiatives, I believe we can create a more inclusive and supportive environment for international students, helping them thrive academically and socially. I am committed to working diligently and collaboratively to achieve these goals.



Luca Zhao

Hello everyone, my name is Luca, I am an international student at UoA, I come from China. In the past year, I have served as UniGuide and AUSA International buddy, which has allowed me to learn more about international students, especially new students.

If I am selected, I will further promote support for international students, including promoting cooperation with AUSA Buddy to help international students adapt to the new environment faster, and continue to provide health and welfare support for international students.



Jiajun Guo (Aileen)

I am Jiajun Guo (Aileen), an AUSA International Buddy Volunteer and Career Leader at the Business School Career Centre. I understand the importance of engaging our international students in the community and providing the support they need.

If elected, my top priority will be to enhance our support services. This includes improving access to academic help, counseling, and practical advice tailored to your needs. My aim is to eliminate any information gaps and ensure your success.

I am dedicated to enhancing the experience for all international and exchange students. Having faced similar challenges myself, I know what support is needed and am committed to making a meaningful difference.

My goal is to ensure that every international student feels supported and valued. Together, we can build a welcoming and enriching environment for everyone. That's why I am running for the position of International Student Officer.

Thank you for your support!



Hisham Haq

Hisham Haq is a 4th year student majoring in Economics, Geography, and International Relations, specialising in European Studies and French. He was born and raised in the UAE to Indian parents. He has represented UoA twice on exchanges at SciencesPo and McGill. Having been an international student throughout childhood, Haq understands the struggles ranging from forming meaningful connections to the lack of representation and inclusion for various groups on campus. Throughout his undergraduate studies, he has worked in diplomatic missions and has had experience dealing with international students. Confident in his ability to enhance the international student experience and outlook with his ideas, Haq is committed to addressing international student issues head-on.

Some testimonials-

"Hisham's plan to advocate for more cultural clubs has my vote. I'm tired of pretending to be the next closest ethnicity just to attend events" - Pakistani student tired of sneaking into Indian events

"He wants to push for greater ethnic data collection. I'm supporting him because I'm tired of being lumped into the 'other' category. Also, more data will only be helpful in promoting the university overseas" - No data on this person

"He said something about advocating for more international support and faster student visa process. Idk what that means, but sounds important" - Tourist visa holder

"Hisham can speak multiple languages. I'm pretty sure one of them is English" - Proud monolingual

"I don't even go here" - AUT student.

Fun fact about Hisham- Despite being Indian, he has interned with the Pakistani Consulate.



Yao Huang

My name is Yao Huang, and I am a Master of Commerce student from China. I am running for the position of International Students Officer. Just so you know, I meet the requirements for this position. I have been studying at the University of Auckland for one semester and am about to start my second semester. As an international postgraduate student, I have encountered many challenges, and if elected, I can better understand and assist postgraduate and international students. For example, I would work on accelerating the process of distinguishing between research-based and coursework-based master's programs, helping new international students adapt to studying at the University of Auckland and voicing the concerns of postgraduate and international students to the university.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICER



Ansh Aneja

I am an international student at the University of Auckland, passionate about advocating for the diverse needs of our global student community. My extensive background in sports, academics, and professional experience has given me a unique perspective on the challenges we face.

If elected as your international students officer, my initiatives will focus on three key areas: community building, academic support, and mental health and well-being.

1. ****Community Building****: I aim to create more opportunities for international students to connect and share their cultures through regular social events, cultural festivals, and support groups. By fostering a sense of belonging, we can build a strong, inclusive community where everyone feels at home.

2. ****Academic Support****: I will work to enhance academic resources tailored specifically for international students. This includes establishing tutoring programs, study workshops, and a peer mentoring system where senior students can guide newcomers, helping them navigate the academic landscape and succeed in their studies.

3. ****Mental Health and Well-being****: Recognizing the unique stresses international students face, I will advocate for improved mental health services, including counseling and stress management workshops. Additionally, I will push for the creation of a dedicated space where students can relax and access resources in a supportive environment.

My commitment is to ensure that every international student feels heard, supported, and empowered to thrive at our university. Together, we can make our campus a welcoming and enriching place for all. Let's build a community where every international student can achieve their full potential.



Max Guo
(SECOND OPTION)

Because of my experience as an intern in a bank, I know how to save money and how to spend it. I am able to research and identify trends and create new ones that benefit school values. I will be able to critically look at how the values of the school translate to the numerous social media available and be able to manage the school's reputation, both internally and externally, online and offline.



Kyara Wiriadinata

Hi! I'm Kyara, a second year pursuing a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Data Science. I come from the bustling city of Jakarta, Indonesia. I'm running for this position as I understand the feeling of being clueless and lost as a new international student (I still feel that haha). I understand feeling out of place and not understanding the world around you. Feeling homesick, away from home, and missing everything you left behind at home. So, I want to help people feel more comfortable here!

If I get elected, I'll help foster a sense of belonging for all international students so you can confidently say to your parents that you enjoy being here and don't regret your decision :)

Some initiatives I would do include culture night, hosting more events through AUSA Buddies, collaborating with UoA clubs to host more fun activities, and others! I'm planning to do some education space as well about understanding employment and part-time jobs in New Zealand, renting a flat, etc.

However, it doesn't matter how good an event is if *you* don't enjoy it. So, I'll constantly ask for your suggestions! What kind of events we should make, how we can support you as an international student, and general improvements.



Li Li Shin

I am an international student passionate about helping my peers, sharing experiences and tips on relocating, living in a new environment, and adapting to a different culture. My own journey has equipped me with valuable insights and experiences that I am happy to share and create a supportive and inclusive community for all international students. This passion and my commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of my fellow students are the reasons I am nominating myself for the position of International Students' Officer (ISO) of AUSA. If elected as the International Students' Officer, I am ready to enhance communication and facilitate peer support.



Ghanashyam Danam
(SECOND OPTION)

I am an active Master's student in Construction Management, deeply engaged in various student leadership roles. I represent my program on the Staff-Student Consultative Committee (SSCC) and serve as secretary for the Engineering Postgraduate Student Association (EPSA). My extensive experience in mentorship through the Civil Engineering Students Association (CESA), AUSA Buddy Program and PG Buddy Program has equipped me with the skills to effectively support and advocate for my peers.

If elected as the Postgraduate Officer, I will focus on three primary objectives: enriching academic support, streamlining communication, and fostering a robust community among postgraduates. My initiatives include organizing specialized academic workshops and a seminar series with industry experts and enhancing digital communication for improved interaction and feedback.

Furthermore, I aim to launch a comprehensive mentorship program that pairs new students with seasoned postgraduates, facilitating both academic and professional development. My proactive involvement in university committees will ensure that postgraduate voices are not only heard but also influence decision-making.

With a proven track record in student representation and leadership, I am committed to making a significant positive impact on our postgraduate community.



Neha Desai

With extensive experience as both a faculty member and an administrator in the Indian academic world, I bring a unique and comprehensive perspective to the role of International Students Officer. Currently, I am pursuing my Master of Educational Leadership as an international student, giving me a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by students in a global academic environment.

My professional journey has equipped me with a solid foundation in academic policies, student support services, and administrative procedures. This experience allows me to empathize with international students' experiences and advocate for their needs effectively.

Proposed Initiatives and corresponding Action Plans:

If I get elected for the said position, I would like to focus my attention on:

1. Enhanced Support Services (including but not limited to - Accommodation, Bank account opening, understanding UoA, enabling buddies/mentors in faculties where there are none, mental well-being, developing study support etc)
2. Advocacy and Representation (including but not limited to - regular meetings with international students and office representatives, gathering regular feedback, understanding and addressing their concerns)
3. Career Development (including but not limited to - curating networking opportunities for international students to navigate NZ job market and build professional connections)

I am committed to enhancing the international student experience and build a supportive, inclusive community. If elected, I will work sincerely to ensure that every international student feels valued, supported, and empowered to succeed.

WOMENS RIGHTS OFFICER



Ishita Seth

My name's Ishita, I'm in my fourth year of uni studying a LLB/BHSc conjoint. As a queer woman of colour, it's really important to me to make sure our university is a safe space and that people feel seen and heard. I understand the unique challenges and opportunities we face in both of these communities.

My goal is to create an inclusive and supportive environment where everyone's voice is heard and valued. I believe in the power of community and am committed to advocating for initiatives that promote equality, diversity, and acceptance. I remember when my university journey was starting out, I didn't know many people in my faculty and it was very nerve-wracking. I did not put myself out there until this year and I want to help others in similar positions who may not know about the opportunities at uni, and also ensure that everyone feels comfortable being themselves on campus.



Emelia Martin Moses

Kia Ora! Vannakam! Selamat Datang!

My name is Emelia Nishanti Martin Moses, and I am running for AUSA's 2025 Women Rights Officer! I am a 4th year student doing a Bachelor of Arts and Global Studies! Over the years, I have had experiences in leadership, advocacy, and community engagement, particularly around youth development. I previously held leadership positions in UN Youth New Zealand and work as a youth advisor with the electoral commission.

A big part of the reason I am running is for the University of Auckland to be safer and more empowered for all self-identifying women. Yes, it is a cliché to say this, but it is because of a continuum of work that still needs to be done. Women have the right to be safe and empowered to be bettered, especially in a tertiary space. Creating holistic support for women is needed throughout the university's service, from strengthening the women's space and mana wahine committee to creating a safer and more inclusive environment and protecting women through prevention mechanisms within all university spaces, particularly in university accommodations. Lastly, holistic support should be provided by connecting services to those who have experienced harm. If I am elected as your WRO, yes, your voice will be heard, and your experiences will be heard.

WOMENS RIGHTS OFFICER cont.



Mair Marulli de Barletta

I have spent the past four years at UoA in pursuit of an LLB (hons.); what began as an ill-disguised attempt to achieve 'favourite child' status (it didn't work, my little brothers doing med), has become an incredible voyage of self-discovery.

2025 will be my final year at UoA, as such, I have spent significant time reflecting on the highs and lows of my university journey. A definite low for me has been the significant disparity of treatment between students as a result of the disjointed nature of the faculty system. As any student (who has the willpower to make it onto campus) will know, the resources available between different faculties and university buildings varies wildly.

The arts faculty merger of 2024 brings with it a unique opportunity to heighten overall interfaculty cohesion. I strongly believe that as we all pay the same student levy (over \$1000 each!), we should have equitable access to women's spaces, to sanitary products, and appropriate pastoral care, regardless of our chosen degree path.

Agree? Vote Mair for AUSA Women's Rights Officer 2025.



Neha Desai
(SECOND OPTION)

With extensive experience as both a faculty member and an administrator in the Indian academic world, I bring a unique and comprehensive perspective to the role of International Students Officer. Currently, I am pursuing my Master of Educational Leadership as an international student, giving me a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by students in a global academic environment.

My professional journey has equipped me with a solid foundation in academic policies, student support services, and administrative procedures. This experience allows me to empathize with international students' experiences and advocate for their needs effectively.

Proposed Initiatives and corresponding Action Plans:

If I get elected for the said position, I would like to focus my attention on:

1. Enhanced Support Services (including but not limited to - Accommodation, Bank account opening, understanding UoA, enabling buddies/mentors in faculties where there are none, mental well-being, developing study support etc)
2. Advocacy and Representation (including but not limited to - regular meetings with international students and office representatives, gathering regular feedback, understanding and addressing their concerns)
3. Career Development (including but not limited to - curating networking opportunities for international students to navigate NZ job market and build professional connections)

I am committed to enhancing the international student experience and build a supportive, inclusive community. If elected, I will work sincerely to ensure that every international student feels valued, supported, and empowered to succeed.

POSTGRADUATE OFFICER



Trista Ma (Second Option)

As a first-year Mechanical Engineering PhD candidate at the Newmarket campus, I am uniquely positioned to serve as AUSA's Education Vice-President (Postgraduate).

My experience on AUSA's Postgraduate Consultation Committee in 2024 has given me valuable insight into the needs and challenges facing postgraduate students across the university.

I have demonstrated leadership through running the Mechanical Engineering Women in Engineering postgraduate group, fostering inclusivity, social and academic support within our community. This experience has honed my skills in advocacy and relationship-building, crucial for the PEVP role.

If elected, I will focus on four key areas:

1. Enhancing AUSA's presence on the Newmarket campus, serving as a direct link between AUSA and this often-overlooked student population.
2. Strengthening the connection with the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) to ensure postgraduate voices are heard in academic decision-making processes.
3. Increasing the number and visibility of academic-related workshops, ensuring better exposure for postgraduates, especially on campuses like Newmarket and Grafton.

I am committed to working collaboratively with the AUSA Executive, staff, and university departments to advocate for postgraduate students' interests. My experience and dedication make me well-suited to represent our diverse postgraduate community on academic committees and contribute meaningfully to policy development at the University of Auckland.

Less focus will be placed on developing the academic-related workshops and the relationship building between SGS.



Martin Wang

My name is Martin, and I am an admirer of philosophy. I believe students at university are meant to take away more than just academics but to find a direction in their lives. Throughout history, the school has been a place to offer life guidance and provide students with purpose. However, in modern days, I found more students with confused initiatives, which impaired their learning ability. I want to strengthen the counseling of student well-being, not only when students have mental difficulty but also by kindly talking to them and making them believe they can be the great people in the textbook. Psychological counseling is not what I am after but an indiscriminate deed of kindness. I wish to form an organization that offers these services to students who care about themselves and make this something people are not ashamed to tell their friends. My vision is that one day, students can come with their friends to counseling without fear to discuss not their capabilities, but what they want with their lives. Ask them what they truly want from the study at Uni. Most importantly, I wish to propagandize the service on multiple campuses and host free food events so everyone knows the organization exists. It's not systematically doing things because it's our job, but actually getting the students the help they need because we respect them as we respect ourselves.



Ghanashyam Danam

I am an active Master's student in Construction Management, deeply engaged in various student leadership roles. I represent my program on the Staff-Student Consultative Committee (SSCC) and serve as secretary for the Engineering Postgraduate Student Association (EPSA). My extensive experience in mentorship through the Civil Engineering Students Association (CESA), AUSA Buddy Program and PG Buddy Program has equipped me with the skills to effectively support and advocate for my peers.

If elected as the Postgraduate Officer, I will focus on three primary objectives: enriching academic support, streamlining communication, and fostering a robust community among postgraduates. My initiatives include organizing specialized academic workshops and a seminar series with industry experts and enhancing digital communication for improved interaction and feedback.

Furthermore, I aim to launch a comprehensive mentorship program that pairs new students with seasoned postgraduates, facilitating both academic and professional development. My proactive involvement in university committees will ensure that postgraduate voices are not only heard but also influence decision-making.

With a proven track record in student representation and leadership, I am committed to making a significant positive impact on our postgraduate community.



Mick McDonough

Kia Ora!

My name is Mick McDonough, and I am ecstatic to apply for the Postgraduate Student Officer position.

I am an aspiring human rights correspondent, I have a passion for working with people to help them achieve their goals and foster a vibrant, equitable community. Currently pursuing a Master of Conflict and Terrorism Studies, I have plans for further study at the University of Auckland for at least the next year.

I have had the pleasure of serving as chair of the International Cultural Branch of the International Office on my undergraduate campus, a postgraduate class representative two semesters in a row, and a TA at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Each of these positions have provided me with diverse perspectives.

If elected, I would aim to work with the postgraduate mentors to build cohesion across disciplines and continue to expand upon the exciting mixers and social events put on for postgraduates. I would also collaborate with PSGA to ensure postgraduate students continue to have a place to voice their questions, comments, and concerns so that we can approach issues students may be encountering in a meaningful way.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kindly,

Mick



Li Li Shin
(SECOND OPTION)

I am an international postgraduate student with a strong passion for supporting and guiding my peers through their academic and personal journeys. My experiences navigating the challenges of postgraduate studies have provided me with valuable insights that I am eager to share to create a supportive and inclusive community for all postgraduate students. This dedication to improving the postgraduate experience is why I am nominating myself for the position of Postgraduate Student Officer of AUSA.

YOUR CANDIDATE!

VOTE IN AUSA ELECTIONS! ELECT WHO WILL REPRESENT STUDENTS

QUEER RIGHTS OFFICER



Lee Li
(SECOND OPTION)

Kia ora, my name is Lee. I am running for Queer Rights Officer because, as a transgender refugee and asylum seeker from a country where 'being yourself' is a punishment. Not long ago, I signed a document presented to the New Zealand High Court, and a lawyer asked me, "Do you sincerely and solemnly declare that your name is Lee Li, you identify as female, and your pronouns are she/her?" At that moment, I felt my identity was finally acknowledged and accepted.

When I was 16, I was fortunate enough to get a one-way ticket to New Zealand and landed on this free soil. Since then, I've been living authentically as Lee. Over the past five years, I've been actively engaging in protests, rainbow parades, and activities to advocate for my Takatāpui community, including the pink shirt campaign and my fundraising efforts at Rainbow Youth. Yet, most toilets at our university don't have any gender-affirming signs, and some unisex toilets are even locked for maintenance. We must change this.

If elected, I will:

- Advocate for Gender-Affirming Facilities: Ensure that all university toilets have gender-affirming signs and are accessible to everyone.
- Support Takatāpui and Rainbow Communities: Organise events, workshops, and support groups to promote inclusivity and provide a safe space for queer students.
- Raise Awareness: Continue to engage in campaigns and activities.

An MP once told me, "I am glad you find New Zealand so welcoming." So vote Lee for your next QRO. Let's make our campus more welcoming again.



Theo Van de Klundert
(SECOND OPTION)

Kia Ora. I'm Theo van de Klundert, and I'm excited to be standing for election as the AUSA Queer Rights Officer. I've held this role twice before, in 2022 and 2023, and now ask for your vote again to continue improving student voice and support. I have strong and effective advocacy skills, and an excellent understanding of rainbow and queer issues. I've led some of AUSA's biggest rainbow wins, including upgrading Queerspace, re-energising the AUSA Queer Student Council, reforming the transgender name change policy, and establishing the new UOA Rainbow Student Advisor role. I am currently the Chair of Spectrum Work Aotearoa, an employment advocacy trust, and am appointed by the Mayor of Auckland to the Council's Rainbow Communities Advisory Panel.

Once elected, I'll build on previous wins by using my university relationships to further refresh queer space, and make sure rainbow perspectives are at the heart of AUSA decision-making. I'll make sure Pride Week funding goes towards rainbow faculty clubs, including Rainbow Engineering, Science, Business, Law and Arts, and create opportunities for exposure to professional networks for rainbow students. With your vote, I'll work tirelessly to ensure every student will be heard, valued, feel safe, and be well represented.



Artie Ho

Kia ora! I'm Artie, a LLB/BA(Sociology) student who's queer and trans and running for QRO! UoA's queer community saved my life - the support, solidarity, and friendships that keep me going - and for almost as long as I've been here I've worked to give back to our community so that more people can experience the same: I'm currently a Trans on Campus exec and have served on the Queer Student Council this year and last year. I want to keep giving back, and that's why I'm running.

I believe what our community needs most is concrete change. So, in addition to all the duties of QRO, I promise to deliver on three projects if elected.

I will start a Queer Students Association. This will meet our community's need for a general queer student group to bring our community together through regular social events, help all rainbow clubs to pool our resources to hold bigger and better major events, and free up rainbow faculty clubs to focus on their faculties.

I will establish a fund to support our gender diverse students who need financial help to transition. From medical appointments to specialised equipment, a basic quality of life can be prohibitively expensive. I will seek sponsors, organise fundraisers, and will donate 10% of my income.

I will set up and maintain a community pantry in Queerspace.

I am incredibly proud to be endorsed by Trans on Campus, Ethnic Rainbow Community, AUGSS, and Rainbow Arts, Business, Science, EDSW, Engineering, and Law.



DISABILITY RIGHTS OFFICER



Sasha Rodenko

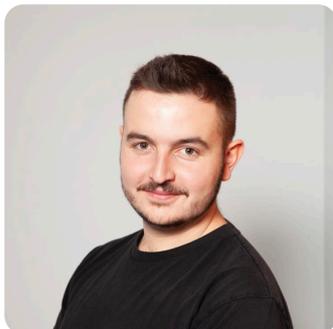
Hi everyone! I'm Sasha and I'm running for Disabilities Rights Officer for 2025!

A bit about me - I'm in my 3rd year of a Bachelor of Optometry, am a huge animal lover, and love to bake some yum food in my free time.

I have an invisible disability and have been involved in advocating for disabled peoples' rights for a while now, starting the Disability Action Plan alongside the Pro Vice-Chancellor Equity, and other disabled students/staff since my first year of uni. Here we speak from our experiences as disabled people at The University of Auckland to implement positive changes in the university environment for all. More recently I have founded the UoA Students with Disabilities in Healthcare Association, a club and a more importantly, a safe space for disabled learners who have an interest in healthcare.

If chosen, I will fight for more disabled-friendly events, more academic support for disabled people, as well as more opportunities for us to learn, relax, and have fun. Currently as a member of the Disability Action Plan I can only speak for the experiences that I have had, if elected I will make sure you all have a voice that the Pro Vice-Chancellor Equity will hear, implementing changes that matter and will ACTUALLY make a difference to you.

I am committed to ensuring that our needs are heard and most importantly... met.



Theo Van de Klundert

Kia Ora. I'm Theo van de Klundert, and I'm excited to be standing for election to be AUSA's first Disability Rights Officer. Building on two previous terms on the AUSA Executive, I'm asking for your vote to build a stronger student voice, greater visibility of disability equity, and improvement of student services. I'm a fifth year BA/LLB student, the Chair of Spectrum Work Aotearoa, an employment advocacy trust for neurodiverse communities, and a member of City Vision. I have considerable experience in student advocacy and governance and lived experience as a disabled student. I'm collaborative, positive and effective. I enjoy productive relationships with other executive members, student groups and university leadership, and am well engaged with a range of groups across the disability sector.

Once elected, I'll work to achieve improved disability support services on campus, extending access to diagnosis services to all students, easier and more consistent extension policies, and better access to student hardship grant funding. I'll establish an AUSA Disability Advisory Group to provide advice from lived experiences to better support the executive and student council response to disability issues. With your vote, I'll work tirelessly to ensure every student will be heard, valued, and well represented.



Jude Pountney

I'm a 3rd year arts student that has dyslexic and ADHD, I'm passionate about finding way to best accommodate people of all kinds and finding ways to improve our learning experience at university. I understand the struggles of navigating university when you are different from others and know how scary and isolating it can all feel. Personally I dropped out due to my inability to keep up with my course work due to my different nature but I'm back with a keen desire to finish my degree and create a more accommodating and positive experience for people like me.



Ayolabi Martins

My name is Ayo, and I am a second-year Law and Arts student at the University of Auckland. Throughout my academic journey, I have been deeply involved in disability advocacy, working tirelessly to create a more inclusive environment for all students. My experience includes meeting with MPs, writing news articles, speaking in Parliament, and participating in various consultative groups.

If elected to this position, my initiatives will focus on fostering a supportive and inclusive community for disabled students. I plan to introduce bimonthly forums to address learning challenges and promote equal opportunities. These forums will serve as a platform for students to voice their concerns, share their experiences, and collaboratively develop solutions.

Additionally, I will establish regular drop-in sessions where students facing health challenges and academic pressures can meet, support one another, and share coping strategies. These sessions will provide a safe space for students to connect and build a sense of community.

I am also committed to actively seeking input from the broader disabled community at UoA. By listening to their suggestions and feedback, I aim to ensure that our initiatives are truly representative and effective in meeting the diverse needs of all students. Together, we can create a more inclusive and equitable university environment.

Your support would allow me to continue advocating for positive change and making a meaningful impact on the lives of disabled students at our university.

LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY & DISCRIMINATION ON CAMPUS

A research survey to find out about your experiences of language use and/or linguistic discrimination here at the University of Auckland

Kia ora, talofa, 你好, 안녕하세요, こんにちは, नमस्ते, مرحبًا, malo e lelei, bonjour, hola, kia orana - hello!

We are conducting a **research survey** to find out about **your experiences of language use and/or linguistic discrimination** here at the University of Auckland. Through this survey, we aim to highlight both the benefits of and barriers to promoting greater linguistic diversity on campus. **The aim of the research is to build a more inclusive, equitable and linguistically diverse campus.** We're hoping you can help us!

This will be an **online survey**. It will take about **10 minutes** to complete. Your responses will be completely **anonymous**.

After **completing** the survey, you can enter a **prize draw** for **cash vouchers** if you wish. **Scan the QR code, or use this link - <https://bit.ly/46r1A4H> - to take the online survey.**

**SHARE
YOUR
VOICE!**



Scan the QR code to take the survey if you are a student, academic or professional staff at UoA