

The University of Auckland Society

President's Report 2018



The Executive Committee in 2018:

Janet Copsey (President), Richard Northey (Vice-President), Karen Thompson (Treasurer), Devi Arachchi, Amy Malcolm, Sylvia Rosevear, Paul Gilberd, Eva Tollemache, Renee Liang, Jennie Oakley, Rachael Yang and ex-officio member Jody Clarke as the Executive Officer.

Membership

The current membership stands at 440 members with 16 new members joining in the 2017 / 2018 financial year.

Supporting the University Community

Through the Society's commitment to the Vice Chancellor's Student Support Fund, students are able to take up once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to represent the University. This year the Society sponsored two well-qualified students, one to attend the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York and the other to tour Europe with the Auckland Youth Orchestra.

The Society also contributed \$500 towards the cash prize for the Doctoral winner of the 2018 Three Minute Thesis competition. This year's winner was Dr Celia Keane from the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, with her thesis title: "*Low Anterior Resection Syndrome (LARS)*".

Support from the University

As in previous years, the Alumni Relations team has provided considerable support to the Society. We welcomed a new Executive Officer in May, Jody Clarke, who also has a role as Alumni Relations Engagement Coordinator. Jody stepped into the Society's Executive Officer role very easily and it has been a very smooth transition in terms of events organisation and administration of other matters for the Society.

Karen Thompson, Associate Director Communications and Alumni, became Treasurer in May as well as continuing to keep the Executive Committee up to date with Alumni initiatives this year. This includes the hugely successful and sold-out 'Raising the Bar' in Auckland now in its second year. Raising the Bar showcases 20 of the University's top researchers, in 10 bars across Auckland CBD, on one night. Karen has also been able to share highlights of a very full events year for the team, included alumni events in New York, San Francisco, LA, London, Tokyo and Hong Kong. Karen's involvement and support is very much appreciated by all Executive Committee members.

Events

Highlights included:

- Tours of the University's art collection displayed in the Science Centre in February
- Bright Lights and the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner in March
- A visit to the Grafton Campus in June
- First Society Salon on "Growing up in NZ" in August – over 50 attendees
- Golden Graduates Luncheon in September
- The Graduation Gala Concerto Competition in September
- Second Society Salon on the "Social Housing Crisis" in October – approximately 65 attendees

Photos and audio recordings from the Society Salons are available at www.society.auckland.ac.nz. The draft calendar for 2019 events will be distributed at the AGM. The University Summer Shakespeare is not taking place again next year so a visit to the Goldie Estate is planned as an alternative event for the first part of the year.

Advocacy and Service

Janet Copsey, Renee Liang and Amy Malcolm again served on the Distinguished Alumni Awards Committee.

Thanks

Finally, I would like to thank Sylvia Rosevear for her 15 year contribution to the Executive Committee and thank Devi Arachchi for her assistance over the last three years as the Treasurer for the Society. I would also like to thank this year's Committee, and our Executive Officer, for their ongoing support. This has been my second year as President and I hope members have found the programme of activities interesting as well as enjoyable. Together with other Committee members I hope you too have enjoyed the opportunity to connect with other members and be part of the wider University of Auckland community.

Janet Copsey, President 2018