

The University of Auckland Society President's Report 2017



The Executive Committee in 2017:

Janet Copsey (President), Richard Northey (Vice-President), Devi Arachchi (Treasurer), Amy Malcolm, Sylvia Rosevear, Paul Gilberd, Eva Tollemache, Renee Liang, Jennie Oakley, Rachael Yang and Rez Gardi (and ex-officio members, Karen Thompson as the Alumni Relations Manager and Natalie Newton as the Executive Officer).

Membership

Our current membership stands at 451 members with 15 new members joining in the 2016 / 2017 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 students from the Auckland University Robotics Association (AURA) who were able to attend, and went on to win, the 2017 VEX U Robotics World Championships in Kentucky.

The Society also contributed \$500 towards the cash prize for the Doctoral winner of the 2017 Three Minute Thesis competition, who was Miriam Seifert from the Business School, with her thesis title: "The Influence of Anti-consumption on a Firm's Abilities to Achieve a Competitive Advantage – Case Studies from the Slow Fashion Movement."

Support from the University

As in previous years, the Alumni Relations team has provided considerable support to the Society. Our Executive Officer, Natalie Newton, Alumni Relations Engagement Coordinator, has been a superb organiser of Society events, as well as very competently administering other matters for the Society.

Karen Thompson as the University's Alumni Relations Manager has kept the Executive Committee up to date with Alumni initiatives this year, including the hugely successful and sold-out debut of 'Raising the Bar' in Auckland; showcasing 20 of the University's top researchers, in 10 bars across Auckland CBD, on one night. Also launched this year was the University's inaugural '40 under 40' list, a celebration of young alumni game-changers and high achievers across a number of disciplines. Karen's involvement and support is of enormous value.

Events

Highlights included:

- The Summer Shakespeare performance of 'As You Like It' in February
- Bright Lights and the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner in March
- Visit to Gibbs Sculpture Farm in late April
- The Graduation Gala Concerto Competition in May
- First Society Salon on 'Happiness' in July – over 60 attendees
- Election debate focused on "Auckland Issues" in association with the Institute of Public Policy and Radio NZ in late August
- Second Society Salon, "Making Sense of the Election" in October – approximately 80 attendees
- Golden Graduates Luncheon in November

Photos and audio recordings from the salons are available at www.society.auckland.ac.nz

The draft calendar for 2018 will be distributed at the AGM. It is to be noted that there will be no University Summer Shakespeare performances in the New Year hence its absence from the Events Calendar.

Advocacy and Service

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

Patron

Sir Anand Satyanand agreed to become a second Patron for the University of Auckland Society in late 2016, joining our other Patron, Dame Catherine Tizard.

Thanks

Finally, I would like to thank this year's Committee, and our Executive Officer, for their commitment and support. This has been my first 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 2017