

The University of Auckland Society President's Report 2016

The Executive Committee in 2016:

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

Membership

Our current membership stands at 446 members with 18 new members joining in 2016.

Supporting the University Community

Through the Society's commitment to the Vice Chancellor's Student Support Fund, three exceptional students were able to take up opportunities to represent the University.

Arnold Lee has just completed his third year of study for a Bachelor of Music majoring in Classical Performance under the tutelage of Mr Qu Yong. With the Society's financial help of \$2,000 Arnold represented New Zealand at the acclaimed George Enescu International Competition in Romania in September this year.

Chelsea Numanga and Amy Chang were two University of Auckland students who toured with the New Zealand Youth Choir - This was made possible by a \$1,250 donation from the Society for each student. The tour was a great success, with several incredible highlights, including becoming the first choir in history to win first place in every category they competed in, as well as win the Grand Prize, at the 24th International Festival of Academic Choirs in the Czech Republic.

The Society also contributed \$500 towards the prize for the Doctoral winner of the Three Minute Thesis competition, which was Kate Riegle Van West from the Faculty of Creative Arts & Industries with her thesis title, "The effects of International Poi on cognitive and physical function in healthy older adults."

Support from the University

Our Executive Officer, Natalie Newton has done a superb job of supporting the Society this year. Her professional, proactive and very friendly approach combined with excellent organisation and communication skills is greatly appreciated.

Karen Thompson as Alumni Relations Manager has kept the Executive Committee up to date with Alumni activities, the results of the Alumni Survey and the ambitious engagement goal that is part of the *University of Auckland's Campaign For All Our Futures*. Karen's involvement and support especially behind the scenes is of enormous value.

Events

Highlights of this year's events include:

- The popular Summer Shakespeare performance of 'The Tempest' in March, with over 80 people attending the special Society outing to the Pop-Up Globe in the CBD.
- Bright Lights and the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner in March
- Visit to Goldie Vineyard with 35 attendees enjoying a wonderful afternoon on Waiheke.
- The Graduation Gala Concerto Competition in May
- Mayoral Debate in association with the Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries

- Two very successful Society Salons – ‘What are we doing today to help the world of tomorrow?’ in July, and ‘The Olympics and Our Olympians’ in November, with over 50 attendees at each salon. A special thank you to Sylvia Rosevear for chairing our July salon. Photos and audio from the salons are available at www.society.auckland.ac.nz
- Golden Graduates Luncheon in November

The draft calendar for 2017 will be distributed at the AGM.

Advocacy and Service

Submissions on behalf of the Society were made to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into New Models of Tertiary Education. Thanks to Richard Northey for the time he has put into these.

Lynn Lander, Renee Liang and Amy Malcolm have served on the Distinguished Alumni Awards Committee.

Patron

The Executive Committee recommend to its members that we formally invite Sir Anand Satyanand to join our current Patron, Dame Catherine Tizard as the second Patron of the University of Auckland Society. We have been in discussions with both Dame Catherine Tizard and Sir Anand Satyanand and are confident of the benefits of having two such high profile and committed alumni represent the Society.

Thanks

Finally, I would like to thank this year’s committee for their support, energy and commitment. It’s been a fun and successful year and we have enjoyed helping members to connect with and benefit from being part of the University of Auckland community.



Amy Malcolm, President 2016