

**2018 INITIAL GENERAL MEETING (IGM)
 PRESIDENT'S REPORT
 Jordan Anderson**

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REPORT ON THE RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE PGSA

Membership

PGSA membership stands at 1476 as at 8th March 2018. With the addition of many more social and membership events this year, the PGSA has been able to increase its reach and event attendance. As we continue to increase the effectiveness and value of our events, we aim to become a more effective representative organization, and to strengthen our 'brand' as the students' association for postgraduates.

Academic Conference Grants

Since the 2017 AGM, the PGSA awarded Academic Conference Grants to two applicants as listed below. These awards are generously sponsored by Vice-Provost (Research) Kate McGrath and provide funding for the conference fees of PGSA members who are attending an international conference. If you are interested in applying for a conference grant, check out the terms and process on our website, or email pgsa@vuw.ac.nz for more details.

Janepicha Cheva-Israkul	Social and Cultural Studies	\$210	10.12.2017
Hannah Gibson	Social and Cultural Studies	\$286	9.03.2018

In 2018, the PGSA endeavours to increase awareness of these grants, and to provide greater clarity to our members around the application process.

Student Representation

The PGSA represents postgraduate students on key Boards and Committees at Victoria University, at both the Faculty and University level. Representatives on these committees are drawn from the Executive Board and other postgraduate volunteers.

The PGSA thanks all those who have contributed to the postgraduate community through service on a University Board or Committee. Since the 2017 AGM, the PGSA has hosted a Committee Reps Morning Tea

event on the 17th October, and we have one coming up next month on 17th April. We currently have representatives on the following committees:

○ Academic Board	Jordan Anderson
○ Academic Committee	Jordan Anderson
○ University Research Committee	Vacancy
○ URC Intellectual Property Standing Committee (IPSC)	Vlad Samoylov
○ Human Ethics Committee	Schyana Sivanantham/Will Abbiss
○ Faculty of Graduate Research Board	Kris Santoso/Priyanka Roy
○ Faculty of Health Curriculum Committee	Max Baddeley
○ Faculty of Health Academic Committee	Tosin Popoola
○ Faculty of Health Research and Leave Committee	Vacancy
○ FHSS/Education Research Committee	Hayden Thorne
○ FHSS Teaching & Learning Committee	Elizabeth Olsen
○ FHSS Faculty Board	Corrina Connor/Jasmine Edwards
○ FHSS Academic Committee	Faka'iloatonga Taumoefolau
○ FHSS Postgrad Committee	Setor Donne Novieto
○ Faculty of Science Animal Ethics Committee	Vacancy
○ Faculty of Science Board	Jasmine Chan-Hyams
○ Faculty of Science Research Committee	Vacancy
○ Faculty of Engineering Board	Vacancy
○ Faculty of Commerce Board	Solmaz Nazari Orakani
○ Commerce Graduate Research Degrees Committee	Vacancy
○ Pipitea Human Ethics Committee	René Versteegh
○ Faculty of Law Board	Nathan Ross
○ Faculty of Education Board	Xuechan Yang
○ Faculty of Education Academic Committee	Vacancy
○ Faculty of Education Learning & Teaching Committee	Vacancy
○ Faculty of Architecture & Design Board	Hamish Beattie/Vacancy for Design
○ Library and Information Services Committee	Jayden Nowitz
○ VUW Equity and Diversity Committee	Vacancy

For any postgraduate students interested in taking up a representative position on a Board or Committee, please contact our Representation Coordinator Josh Brian (jshbrian@gmail.com) to apply or register your interest.

SUBMISSIONS / REVIEWS

The Minimum Resources Agreement, which governs the minimum resource rights of all full time research students at Victoria University, is currently being renegotiated. Vice Provost (Research) Kate McGrath is chairing the review committee, and an Interim MRA was signed as of December 2017 (currently available on our website). Once the full (5 year) agreement is final, the PGSA will distribute the updated version to all members, and the website copy will be updated.

The PGSA Submitted on the University Library Change Proposal in November 2017. We gathered information from the postgraduate community, and praised the library for their good reputation among postgraduates. The main purpose of our submission was to oppose the proposal to remove the role of Subject Librarians. During our verbal consultation with fellow students, we found that postgraduates value their Subject Librarians highly, and that they perform a highly valued service for research students. When the Change Proposal was revised, Subject Librarians were retained.

EVENTS

O Week

Postgraduate Orientation Evening 26.02.2018

This event was run in conjunction with the Student Recruitment and Orientation Office and was designed to welcome new postgraduate students at all levels into the university. We had around 100 students in attendance in HMLT205, and had a great programme including a panel of current postgrads talking about their experiences so far. Following the formal session, we had drinks and nibbles at Milk & Honey which was a great success.

Tuesday Chats (O Week Edition) 27.02.2018

For O Week we ran an additional instalment of Tuesday Chats, which is an afternoon tea standing date usually held on the First Tuesday of each month at VicBooks Pipitea. It was very popular, with around 15 people in attendance.

PGSA Summer Picnic 28.02.2018

The inaugural Summer Picnic was very successful, with around 80 students in attendance. We hosted it in our wet-weather alternative location of the Hub Courtyard (instead of Kelburn Park). Despite the last-minute location change, it was a great success. We had board games, giant Jenga, giant K'Nex, ball games, and a chemical worm-making activity. We invited people to bring their own food, and the PGSA put on hot chip butties and fruit.

First Fridays (O Week Edition) 2.03.2018

Our usual First Fridays event happened to occur in O Week, and was a popular event despite being at the tail end of the week. We had around 15 people in attendance.

Kelburn Welcome Festival 2.03.2018

For the first time, the PGSA ran a stall at the Kelburn Welcome Festival. The demographic was mostly undergraduate students, and we found ourselves only rarely interacting with postgraduate students.

Victorias Awards

The Victoria Awards, attended by 150 postgraduate students and staff, were held on Thursday 30th November 2017 at The Hunter Lounge. Guests included Chancellor Neil Paviour Smith, Provost Professor Wendy Lerner, Vice-Provost (Research) Professor Kate McGrath, and Dean (Faculty of Graduate Research) Professor Peter Whiteford. The event was a great success. It was pleasing to see the great variety of student research awarded research excellence awards – special congratulations to our own Pascarn Dickinson for his award. The event would not have been possible without the enthusiasm and efforts of Fran Denton, who worked wonders considering that, along with the entire Executive, she had never been to a Victorias Awards ceremony. The PGSA Executive were a wonderful help on the night, and served as excellent ambassadors for our association.

2017 Award WinnersPostgraduate Teaching Awards:

- 1st – Sebastian Elsen (School of Architecture)
- 2nd – Pascarn Dickinson (School of Geography and Earth Sciences)
- 3rd – Hannah Banks (School of English, Film, Theatre, and Media Studies)

Supervisor Awards:

- Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences – Dr April Henderson
- Faculty of Health – Dr Kathy Nelson

Victoria Business School – Professor Chris Marshall
 Faculty of Science - Professor Phil Lester
 Faculty of Engineering – Ramesh Rayudu
 Faculty of Education – Dr Sue Cherrington
 Faculty of Law – Dr Joel Colon Rios
 Faculty of Architecture and Design – Professor Brenda Vale

PGSA Landers Postgraduate Award:

Emma Woodward – Faculty of Architecture and Design

VUW Professional Staff Award:

Heather Day – School Manager, School of Social and Cultural Studies

PGSA Life Membership Awards:

Tara Officer

Gemma Swan

Sue Kelly

Postgraduate Research Excellence Awards:

Hamish Simmonds - Victoria Business School

Hang Yu – School of Engineering

Jennifer Soundy – School of Biological Sciences

Joanne Waitoa - Te Kawa a Maui *Māori Development Award*

Katheryn Edwards – School of Psychology

Qi Chen – School of Engineering

Sarah Ballard – New Zealand School of Music

Sarah Harpur – Institute of Modern Letters

Vicky Shandlil – Va'amanu Pasifika

Yingyi Zhang – School of Architecture

Interactive Postgrad Forum (now Research Roundtable)

PGSA hosted an Interactive Forum on the 21st November. Interactive Postgrad Forums have run since 2010 and provide an opportunity for postgraduates to present their research and ideas in a friendly environment among their colleagues. They can obtain constructive criticism and feedback on their work, network with other postgraduate students and forge effective relationships that enhance their personal and professional development. From 2018, these events have been rebranded as 'Research Roundtables' and will run in a similar style, but also open up to students at any stage of their research. Any postgrad who is keen to develop their presentation skills and promote their research, can book into a 2018 event through our Executive Administrator today.

First Fridays

Held at Kelburn on the First Friday of every month, this casual breakfast event provides postgraduates with an opportunity to meet their colleagues and have a casual breakfast/coffee and chat.

Tuesday Chats

Held at Pipitea campus on the first Tuesday of each month, Tuesday Chats provides an opportunity for postgraduates to meet their colleagues and have a casual coffee and chat.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Research Roundtable

4pm, Student Union Building 217/218, Kelburn Campus, 20th March

First Fridays

9am, Milk & Honey, 6th April

Kickstart Your Thesis!

9am-5pm, SU217/218, 26th April

A communal writing event for members at any postgraduate level. Keep an eye out for the opening of registrations, as the 25 places fill up fast!

Tuesday Chats

2:30pm-3:30pm, VicBooks Pipitea, 1st May

PGSA EXECUTIVE BOARD

The PGSA Executive Board is the core leadership team of our Association. Below is a list of members and officers of the Executive Board:

President: Jordan Anderson

Co-Vice-Presidents: Josh Brian, Priyanka Roy

Treasurer: Schyana Sivanantham

Executive Members: Alyssa Ryan, Kris Santoso, Taylor Cooney, Will Abbiss, Alan Hunt, Faka'ilootonga Taumoe'olau, Pascarn Dickinson, Jasmine Chan-Hyams.

Executive Administrator: Fran Denton

Volunteers

The PGSA is always on the lookout for keen people to join us! In addition to being a member, you might be interested in joining the Executive, or contributing to the student representation the PGSA coordinates by taking a seat on one of the many boards and committees at the university. If you are interested, please contact pgsa@vuw.ac.nz for more information!