



Annual Report 2019



National Executive (Member Organisations)

James Ranstead (New Zealand Union of Students' Associations)
Caitlin Barlow-Groome (New Zealand Union of Students' Associations)
Meity Carlman (Albany Students' Association)
Karla Davis (Association of Students at UCOL)
George Barton (Auckland University Students' Association)
Kristy Havill (Lincoln University Students' Association)
James Heath (Otago University Students' Association)
Faelan Soreson (Whitireia Student Council)
Mamaeroa Merito (Te Mana Akonga)
Perina Mucalo (Students' Association at Wintec)
Helen Vea (Unitec Student Council)
Tamatha Paul (Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association)
Andrew Lessells (Younited)
Michael Salmon (Massey University Students' Association)

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PRESIDENTS REVIEW

Our 90th year sure was a massive one! Nothing has held NZUSA back in fighting for the interests of tertiary students!

2019 has been an outstanding year for student voice. We have finally seen the Government take student voice seriously with consultation for future changes in the area. Tauira Pasifika, our national Pasifika student organisation was officially established in 2019 after years of hard work from our Pasifika Liaison, Ali Leota. NZUSA has signed an Memorandum of Understanding with New Zealand International Students Association to cement our partnership. There is a lot of change happening in tertiary sector especially with the Reform of Vocational Education, and we want to see student voice as a consistent, permanent and valued part of these changes.

NZUSA would not be in the position it currently is without James Ranstead, President until September. While I focused on stabilising the organisation financially and operationally, James was out working with a range of external stakeholders to make Aotearoa a better place to be a student.

I am incredibly proud of everything we achieved this year! With only two full-time people at NZUSA, for most of the year, we have rebuilt Thursdays in Black, have gained over 5,500 signatures on our Postgraduate Student Allowance petition, worked alongside Elections Commission to increase student and youth voter turnout and have seen student leaders across the country speak proudly of the work NZUSA does.

Debt Free Futures campaign is set up and ready to hit the ground running in 2020. With next year being the election year, students have seen the importance of voting and the change that can happen. We are ready for another YOUTHQUAKE!

There has been strength this year in our National Executive. We have two new associate members: Student Connect at Weltec and Whitireia Student Council. Alongside these two student organisations joining National Executive, Te Mana Akonga has been granted a voting seat at the table too. It is great to see our relationship with TMA grow from strength to strength and we are excited to see what the future holds.

All in all, we have absolutely killed it this year. We have funding to have a full time President and Vice President and one day a week Thursdays in Black representative and Pasifika student representative. Let's see what happens!!



Caitlin Barlow-Groome
Acting National President

AT A GLANCE

2

New Associate Members: Student Connection and Whitireia Student Council

15

National Executive Members

4

Successful events for student leaders: ITP Leadership Summit, Student Voice Summit, Conference and Congress

5

Key projects: Local Body Elections, Thursdays in Black, Reform of Vocational Education Postgraduate Student Allowance and Student Voice

\$194

million saved in student debt because of Fees Free

10%

Increase in Facebook page likes

KEY PROJECT

STUDENT VOICE

This year, NZUSA has been working hard behind the scenes to combat the impacts that voluntary student membership (VSM) has had on student voice in Aotearoa. Many discussions and workshops were had at the last NZUSA Congress and Conference about VSM and the consequences that have been experienced across students' associations. This year, NZUSA committed to focusing on these issues and finally, after a near-decade long discussion, the Government is taking action as a result of the efforts of NZUSA.

Sam Smith (Student Voice Project Lead) and James Ranstead worked together this year to coordinate a major lobbying strategy which led to the Government committing to a review of student voice in tertiary education. After collecting many stories about the impacts of VSM, NZUSA began working with backbench MP Jan Tinetti in the background to develop options for alternatives to VSM. The major project that NZUSA members and student representatives have been asking for is a National Centre for Student Voice (NCSV) and Jan helped to circulate this idea around the government.

The next phase was navigating the coalition government. NZUSA met with the Associate Minister of Education, Tracy Martin (New Zealand First), Green Party Tertiary Education Spokesperson, Chlöe Swarbrick (Green Party), the Minister of Education Chris Hipkins (Labour) to talk about the importance of establishing a NCSV to ensure that student voice is consistent and well-supported nationwide. By the end, there was general agreement amongst the three parties that a NCSV was needed.

The Minister of Education then commissioned the Ministry of Education (MOE) to begin assessing the problems with student voice in Aotearoa. NZUSA met with MOE officials during this process to ensure the concerns of our students were heard. After the MOE reporting their findings to the Minister, he then announced in August that the Government was going to undertake a national review of student voice in tertiary education to form the basis of their plan going forward.

A discussion paper detailing the focus areas of the consultation was released followed by a survey. The focus areas were as follows:

1. Enhancing the student voice status quo by: Increasing accountability, greater support, and sustainable resources
2. Making structural changes to enhance student voice
3. Establishing a National Centre for Student Voice

NZUSA were extremely pleased by the scope of the consultation and that, after months of lobbying, a National Centre for Student Voice was finally being considered by the Government as a way to combat the impacts of VSM.



In order to help our members and student representatives complete the survey, NZUSA produced a 'Guide for the Tertiary Student Voice Engagement Survey'. This was sent out to all members and posted on NZUSA's social media channels. Throughout the survey period NZUSA send out emails and made several Facebook posts in order to get as many students completing the survey as possible. The most recent update is that around 300 people completed the survey, over half of them being students.

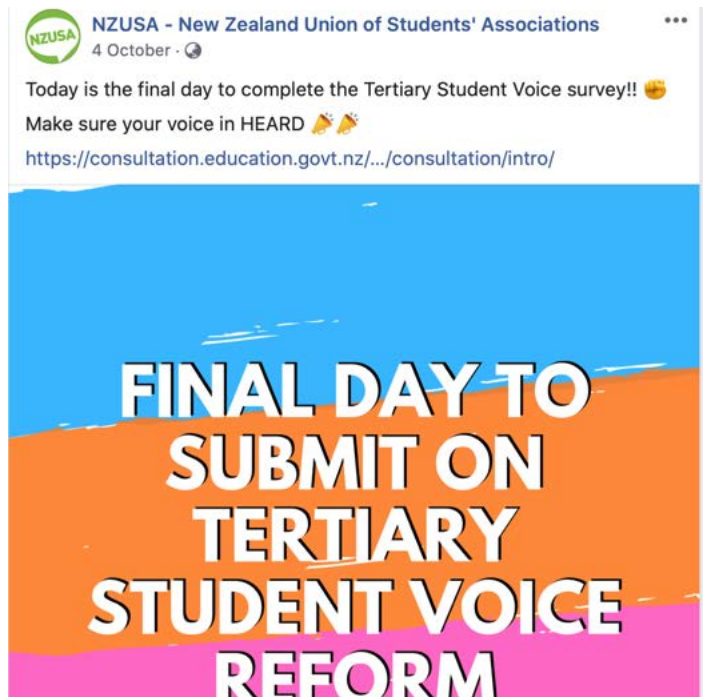
In October, Sam Smith travelled to Sydney to speak at the Student Voice Australia Symposium about Tertiary Student Voice and Partnership in New Zealand. After hearing about ideas and projects that have been developed in Australia, NZUSA met with the MOE to discuss how New Zealand can use the Student Voice Australia Project model to help shape a National Centre for Student Voice.

In terms of where too from here, the MOE website states that the results from the student voice consultation will be available in early 2020. From then, it is likely that the Minister will lay out his proposal for student voice reform. Throughout this time, NZUSA will continue to liaise with MOE and the Minister of Education to ensure the best outcome is achieved.

While this year has seen many breakthroughs in the student voice space, it is not lost on us that successive NZUSA Presidents have pathed the way for the work NZUSA has been able to carry out in 2019. NZUSA is hopeful that students will see stronger, better resourced, more independent student voice in the near future as a result of our collective hard work.



Sam Smith speaking at the Student Voice Australia Symposium in Sydney



NZUSAs social media push for student submission on Tertiary Student Voice

KEY PROJECT

LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS

Youth and student engagement in elections is incredibly important because a lot of the time, people are disengaged because they don't feel as though their opinion or vote matters.

What we saw this is over 70 people under 40 running in the local body elections across the country. This meant students had someone running who they felt represented them.

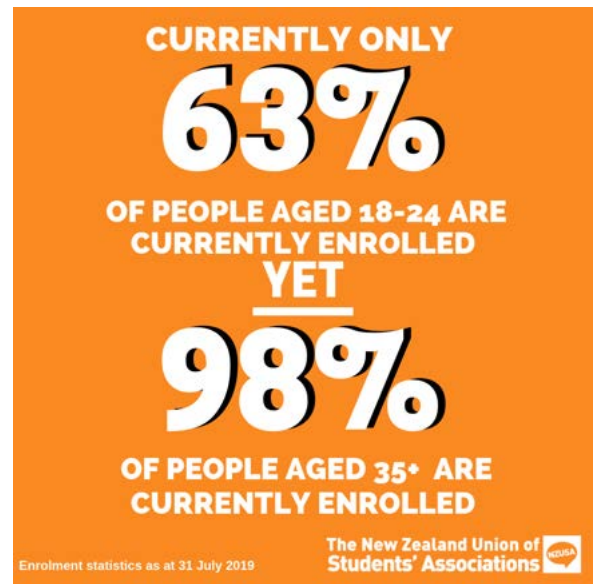
NZUSA ran a campaign called '30 Under 30' which profiled 30 candidates under 30 who ran in the elections. The main purpose of this was to give young people a reason to get involved in the elections and vote! We have seen flow on effects of our digital campaign as our social media engagement increased with a slightly different group of people.

In the Wellington region alone, we have seen 6 new Councillors under 30 elected including the youngest ever Mayor, Campbell Barry and one of our National Executive, VUWSA President, Tamatha Paul.

Our other aim was to increase the youth voter turnout. Almost everyone over 35 was enrolled but less than two thirds of people under 24 were enrolled to vote. We partnered with Electoral Commission and 11 campuses to provide a BBQ on these campuses to encourage students to enrol with the hope they would vote. From this, we received over 400 new enrollments.

NZUSA partnered with Seed Waikato who's aim was to increase the youth voter turnout in Hamilton City Council elections. This was incredibly valuable as they held some amazing events and created graphics that eased the stress on National Office.

With 2020 being the general elections, NZUSA has developed good relationships with external stakeholders who believe youth voice is important in politics. Our aim for 2020 is to see an increased voter turnout on the campus polling booths!



YOUR VOTING GUIDE seed WAIKATO

- Saturday 29 June**
Enrolment packs were sent to all enrolled voters. Look out for a letter from Orange Guy at the Electoral Commission. If you didn't get one, make sure you enrol at vote.nz
- Friday 16 August**
You have to enrol by this date to get your voting papers in the mail. After this, you'll have to go request special voting papers from your local council.
- Friday 20 - Wednesday 25 September**
Your shiny new 2019 voting papers will be crash-landing in your mailbox this week, so keep an eye out.
- Wednesday 25 September to Saturday 12 October**
It's go time! Make your voice heard on who you want to influence our future. Remember - you vote for a Mayor plus Councillors in your ward for your city or district (depending on where in the region you live), plus votes for your Waikato Regional Councillors. Hint: Check our website for a guide on how to figure this out!
- Saturday 5 October**
By today you should have put your voting papers in your local post box to make sure they arrive safe and sound. You'll get a postage-paid envelope with your papers, so don't worry about stamps!
- Friday 11 October**
This one's for the procrastinators out there - this is the very last day you can enrol!
- Noon, Saturday 12 October**
Voting for 2019 is officially closed. Preliminary results will be announced the next morning. See you in another 3 years!

OUR FUTURE. OUR VOTE. YOUR VOTING GUIDE

KEY PROJECT

POSTGRADUATE STUDENT ALLOWANCE

Since 2014, NZUSA has been running a campaign to restore the postgraduate student allowance, which was removed by the previous National Government in 2013. In 2017, The Labour Party made an election promise to restore the postgraduate allowance, which in turn has provided a useful basis to refresh this campaign. In essence, the purpose of the campaign is to restore the postgraduate allowance, such that it matches the current student allowance available to undergraduate students and the prior requirements/qualifications.

Action Station Petition:

This petition has been running for 2 years, however we reached 5000 signatures seven months ago. Once we met this milestone, we hosted a petition 'handover' at Parliament. The petition requested that the Government restore student allowance eligibility for postgraduates before the 2020 election, as signed 5,680 people. Approximately 80 people were in attendance, including many MPs. Speakers included students, MPs and the Tertiary Education Union. The handover of the petition was followed by a submission to the Education and Workforce Select Committee.

<https://our.actionstation.org.nz/petitions/restore-the-postgraduate-student-allowance-now>

Student Stories:

Following the handover of the petition, we have also sent an email to all petition signatories. We updated them of our progress, and encouraged them to share their stories of crippling debt and the impact that a student allowance would bring for them. NZUSA has received many responses to these, and we are hoping to share these in the media soon.

Minister Meetings:

Furthermore, following the petition handover, the focus of this campaign has been to lobby Ministers and MPs from all sides. Meetings have been held with Chloe Swarbrick (Greens), Hon. Tracey Martin (NZ First) and the Education Minister, Hon. Chris Hipkins. At each of these meetings we focused on reminding them of the election promise and reiterating the significance that this policy would have on the lives of students.



Vice Chancellor Support:

Another important aspect of the campaign is to build support for this policy across the tertiary sector. One way we have done this is by meeting with NZ Vice Chancellors Committee, and Universities NZ to encourage Vice Chancellors from the eight NZ universities to signal their support in the form of a letter to the Minister. This meeting was very positive and strong support from the NZVCC was demonstrated.

KEY PROJECT

THURSDAYS IN BLACK

It has been three years since NZUSA relaunched the Thursdays in Black campaign which is currently thriving on university campuses across Aotearoa.

This year, after creating a 5-year plan, we created a National Council with all of the Thursdays in Black campus leaders. The National Council will guide the elected representative in where they believe needs extra work but also gives the campus leaders a sense of community in what can be emotionally draining work.

National Thursdays in Black Council

The National Council met 5 times in 2019. We worked together on National Day of Action, fleshing out having a dedicated Thursdays in Black elected representative and

Dedicated Thursdays in Black Representative for 2020

After many discussions with National TiB Council, Finance, Risk and Audit Committee and National Executive, we are excited to be having an elected Thursdays in Black Representative for one day a week in 2020. This person will lead the campaign and follow the Thursdays in Black strategic plan so the campaign can continue its growth in the years to come.



185
73%
2000

Thursdays in Black tops sold in 2019

Increase in Instagram followers

Likes on Facebook

National Day of Action

One of the National TiB Council's biggest achievements this year was having a National Day of Action. Every campus organised activity suitable to their campus with the aim to grow the visibility of Thursdays in Black and show students why they should stand with us in solidarity with survivors.

Alongside campus activities, we lead an online campaign where people changed their profile pictures to show they support survivors. We encouraged people who changed their photos to explain why and have support services. At the same time, we also soft launched our new website.

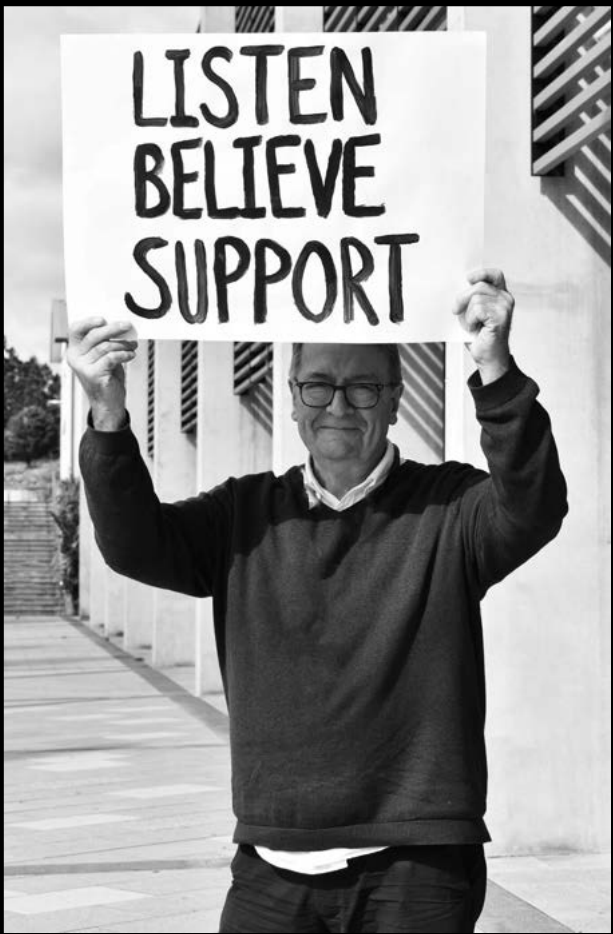
We are incredibly grateful to the members of National Thursdays in Black Council and their campus groups for all their hard work this year: Kayli Taylor, Otago; Jahla Tran-Lawrence, Victoria; Jacob Paterson, Massey Wellington; Kyle Fitzgerald, Massey Palmerston North; and Barbera Forster, Lincoln.



**New long sleeve tops
now available!!**



**Hit us up if you want
one. English or Māori
\$35 each**



KEY PROJECT

FREE EDUCATION

New Zealand has a rich history of free tertiary education, spanning 150 years since New Zealand's first tertiary institute opened in 1869, the University of Otago. User pays Tertiary Education was introduced in New Zealand in 1990, along with the student loan scheme to assist with fee payments.

Between 1990 and 2017, the cost of tertiary education has continued to increase. Interest was removed from student loan debt in 2004 as a result of NZUSA teaming up with multiple other organisations and applying pressure, making it a significant election issue.

New Zealand has the 7th highest amount of student debt in the developed world, and the average bachelor student loan increased from \$19,000 to \$32,300 between 2007 and 2017. The total amount of student loan debt has swollen to nearly \$16b.

The Labour Party's Fees Free Policy was established in 2017, granting citizens without prior tertiary experience eligibility for 1 year of full-time tertiary education without fees (or 2 years part time for apprentices). The Labour Government have also stated that they plan to continue to further roll-out the Fees Free Policy across the second and third years of tertiary education in 2020 and 2023 respectively, if elected in the associated General elections.

The cost of education has been a hot topic for political parties since Since August 2019 I've been developing a campaign for free tertiary education. The aim of the campaign is to support the implementation of free tertiary education either by extending the coalition government's Fees Free policy or by other means. In the last four months, I've met with politicians, worked with students and student leaders, travelled to Auckland and Dunedin and met with unionists and other stakeholders to gauge support for a free tertiary education campaign.

From the outset we wanted to tie the campaign in with themes of wellbeing, sustainability and the future of work. When meeting with MP's including Tracey Martin, Chloe Swarbrick, Chris Hipkins and Grant Robertson there has been enthusiasm for a tertiary campaign that ties into these issues; one that tells stories of young people who have benefited from Fees Free, those who have delayed further study because of the cost; people who have retrained, those who have faced redundancy due to automation, those who have struggled financially because of their student debt. Ultimately, we have developed a framework for an election year campaign "Debt Free Futures"; we have gathered testimony that makes a compelling case for free tertiary education and will launch a website in support of the campaign before the end of November.



The messaging has resonated with both politicians and the general public alike, and while I was expecting significant resistance to a free education campaign - the response has been largely positive. This is evidenced by the over 50 New Zealanders who have given quotes and photographs to be a part of the campaign. It is striking how widely the burden of student debt is being felt in Aotearoa, by working people of all backgrounds and the student body.

Unfortunately, the digital agency we hired to design the digital assets has been underwhelming; the agency has been slow to produce the promised work and the quality has been variable. We hired Obvious off the back of high praise from colleagues and peers, but it is clear the company has limited experience producing work for a political campaign such as this, as well as a lack of expertise in video work.

This has been disappointing; fortunately the company agreed to refund the remaining video budget meaning we have some flexibility to pay a qualified person to shoot and edit a short campaign video. We also have access to the video that was shot by the company, and I recommend that in advance of March next year some time was spent editing some of the stories that have been collected.

It has been a real privilege to work with at NZUSA and in collaboration with student leaders and students across the country - for the first time in decades student voices are being heard loud and clear and there is growing recognition that they can't be ignored. I feel confident that the time is right to make bold demands of politicians and the government and that a "Debt Free Future" is possible.



KEY ACTIVITY

PASIFIKA STUDENT VOICE

O le ala i le pule o le tautua

The pathway to leadership is through service



After eight long years and a lot of love and passion poured into this work, the Pasifika Students' Fono was revitalized over two eventful days, 20-21 July, at the University of Otago.

The 2019 Pasifika Student Fono comes as part of the National Pasifika Liaison, Ali Leota, journey to establish a national voice for Pasifika students in tertiary education. From the fono, it was clear that this gathering was much needed as the tertiary education environment continues to evolve and make decisions without the input of Pasifika student voice. For the students who attended gained valuable skills to take back to their local associations and formed new relationships that will contribute to building a stronger student voice.

The 2019 Pasifika Students Fono will go down in history as the catalyst of mobilizing the voice of Pasifika students across Aotearoa. The Pasifika Students Fono could not have been possible without the generosity and support of Ako Aotearoa, University of Otago Pacific Island Students Association (UOPISA), NZUSA and OUSA.

The Pasifika student community across Aotearoa has been truly blessed and we look forward to continuing to build on to this strong relationship and see the Pasifika Students Fono become an annual event.

REBUILDING OUR RELATIONS IN THE PACIFIC

In August, alongside James Ranstead we attended the University of South Pacific Students Association (USPSA) 10th anniversary and Federal Council meeting in Nadi, Fiji. It was a fantastic to re-build our relationship with USPSA as NZUSA was very influential in establish USPSA 10 years ago.

This was the first NZUSA visit to USPSA since 2012 with then President Peter Hodkinson. Taura Pasifika will love to continue to strengthen this relationship, and USPSA will love to visit NZUSA again as they did in 2011.



Moving forward with Pasifika student voice, it was a strategic goal of the National Pasifika Liaison to help establish a national voice for Pasifika students. With that, 2019 has been very successful, strengthening relationships with members and non-members of NZUSA in both ITP and universities; bringing back the Pasifika Students' Fono and ensuring the Pasifika student voice is heard. As a result, we were able to elect the inaugural Taura Pasifika executive to lead the way for Pasifika student voice for 2020 and beyond.

It has been a real privilege to help mobilize the Pasifika student voice. Now that we have a strong team of Pasifika student voice champions, we are excited and look forward to working with New Zealand Union of Students' Associations, Te Mana Ākonga, New Zealand International Students' Association and other groups to help advocate for a barrier-free education.

UNIVERSITIES NEW ZEALAND ENHANCEMENT THEME

Enhancing access, outcomes and opportunities for Māori learners and Pasifika learners The Enhancement Theme has been a real catalyst for mobilizing Pasifika student voice. After another successful year of work to progress the goals and aspirations of each university's plan for Māori students and Pasifika students, 2019 has been a huge success for Pasifika in university.

Student voice has been an integral part of the

Enhancement Theme, this is all possible to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NZUSA and Academic Quality Agency (AQA). Part of this meant that on the Enhancement Theme Steering Group of Universities New Zealand's Cycle 6 Academic Audit included the voices of Māori students (Te Mana Ākonga) and Pasifika students (Tauria Pasifika).

This year Pasifika student voice played a vital role in the second Enhancement Theme Symposium. The vibrant event, held at Massey University Pukeahu Campus on 1 November, demonstrated the evaluation of current Pasifika initiatives across universities. It provided opportunities for Pasifika students, university senior leadership teams, academic and support staff to work together in forging a collective plan for future direction and enhancement for Pasifika learners and families. Our thanks to Ali Leota, Mary Jane Kivalu, Josh Alefosio-Pei and Juliet Lauaki Ngauamo – an inspiring group of learners sharing their voices of Pasifika evaluation. Their contributions, as well as other Pasifika student attendees, were extremely popular for #ETSymp19 goers.

TAUIRA PASIFIKA EXECUTIVE TEAM FOR 2020:

- National President – Ali Leota
- Northern Hub Vice-President – Sulu-Danielle Joshua
- Central Hub Vice-President – Jaistone Finau
- Southern Hub Vice-President – Mary Jane Kivalu
- National Secretary – Jephtah Coe
- National Treasurer – Zayna Lam



Ali Leota
National Pasifika Liaison

KEY ACTIVITY

MAORI STUDENT VOICE

Through Te Mana Ākonga

Kia ora e te whānau,

We've had a very busy and jam-packed year so far, we thought we'd fill you in on the most significant changes we've made.

Ngā Kete me Poutama.

Our New and Improved Logo.

This year we voted in a new logo for our Roopu. Designed by Anihira Lundon this logo is a combination of Poutama and Ngā Kete Matauranga.

Poutama represents the stairs that Tāne climbed as he ascended into the heavens to gather the three baskets of knowledge for mankind. These baskets (kete tuatea, tauri and aronui) are depicted by the three red triangles in the centre.



As Tauri Māori, we journey into Tertiary Education with the intention of filling our baskets with knowledge that we can use to awhi and tautoko our whānau, hapu & iwi.

This design reflects both the experience of Tāne, but also the current day experiences of Tauri Māori who navigate the complex tertiary education system. It pays homage to our past whilst also remaining relevant to our current day experiences.

Te Pae Tukutuku o Te Mana Ākonga

Our New Website.

This year we also created and launched our first website: <https://www.temanaakonga.org.nz/> Our website provides up-to-date and accurate information of Te Mana Ākonga, beforehand, we had no means of exposure or information online.



Te Oranga Taurira o Te Mana Ākonga

Te Mana Ākonga Mental Health Working Group

This roopū was first convened in March 2019 with the purpose of informing Te Mana Ākonga on the state of Mental Health within Taurira Māori in Tertiary Education.

This roopū, takes a proactive and solution focused approach. It's apparent that taurira are struggling with mental health and rather than waste time continuing old discussions this roopū focuses on providing solutions for our Taurira. Our roopū aspires to motivate movement amongst our TMA roopū by leading initiatives that will generate positive change.

As we address our objectives we will ensure that our initiatives are kaupapa Māori centred, placing manaakitanga and mana enhancement at the forefront.

In this year we ran Health Service Assessments on our respective students services, following those assessments we created recommendations that were taken to Te Kahui Amokura (Te Kahui Amokura comprises the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori, Assistant Vice-Chancellor Māori or Pro-Vice Chancellor Māori from each university). Following on from Te Kahui Amokura our recommendations have been taken to Universities NZ to inform strategies and frameworks to improve Taurira Maori wellbeing (via The Wellbeing and Sexual Harm Prevention Committee).



Te Pararē

Te Pararē means to speak out, to be heard. That's what Te Mana Ākonga intends to do with the establishment of our first National Māori Tertiary Students' publication aptly named, Te Pararē. This is a forum in which Taurira Māori can autonomously and unashamedly speak for ourselves about issues that are relevant to us. Te Mana Ākonga is creating a space in which Taurira Māori writers & artists can contribute their ideas, analyses and experiences. We have moved to release one print this year and will update NZUSA on that progress.

Follow our social media sites to stay updated with the mahi Te Mana Ākonga is doing!!

Ngā mihi nui,
Mamaeroa Merito
Te Mana Ākonga Tumuaki.



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Wellington, 6011



**The New Zealand Union of
Students' Associations**

