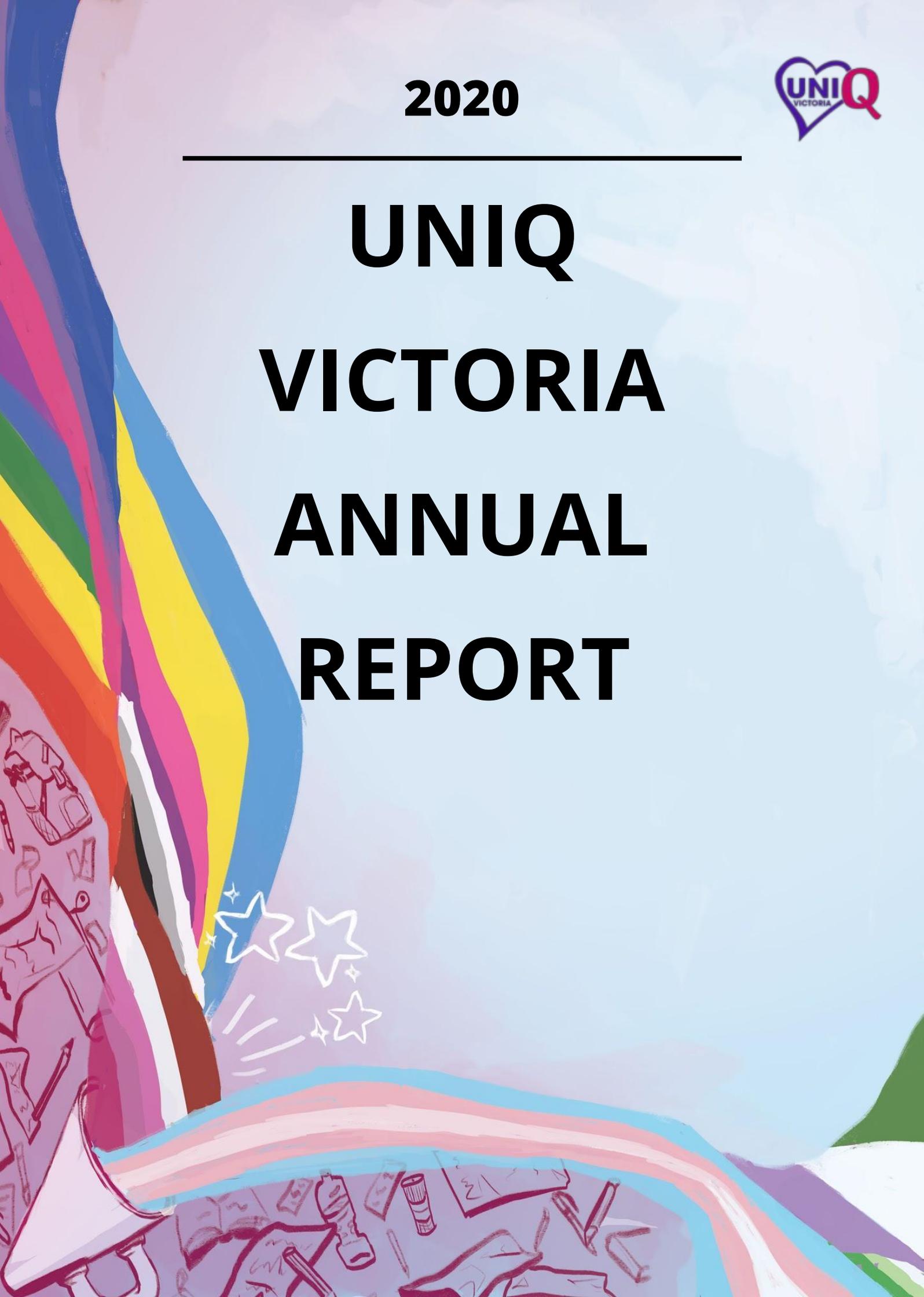


2020



UNIQ VICTORIA ANNUAL REPORT



Annual Report of UniQ Victoria for the Academic Year of 2020
Authored by Will Eland, Brock Stobbs, and Miia van Beusekom
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Karakia

Whakataka te hau ki te uru,

Whakataka te hau ki te

tonga,

Kia mākinakina ki uta,

Kia mātaratara ki tai,

Kia hī ake ana te atakura,

He tio, he huka, he hauhū,

Tīhei māuri ora.

Tūturu whakamaua kia tīna!

Tīna!

Haumi e, hui e, tāiki e!

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UniQ Victoria

UniQ Victoria is the Queer Students' Association of Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington.

We are a student-led group, controlled by queer and queer-allied students, working in the interests of all queer students, and representing their views.

UniQ is a student community group dedicated to providing queer students with social support and services that have a positive impact on their health and wellbeing, and ensure that our University is a safe and inclusive environment.

We are also advocates for the interests of queer students pursuing policy and legislative change, raising visibility for our community, running campaigns, and supporting students in connecting with the services they need.

Some of the things that we do include regular social spaces, an annual Pride Week, peer support, information and resources, student advocacy, submission writing, and so much more.



2020 Executive

| Role | Name |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Co- President | Miia van Beusekom |
| Co-President | Will Eland |
| Secretary | Rosie van Beusekom |
| Treasurer | Morgan Mahoney |
| Communications Officer | Brock Stobbs |
| Social Media Officer | Kavish Desai |
| General Executive | Xavier Brown |
| General Executive | Ethan Wellington |
| General Executive | Lamer Li |

Presidents' Report

Miia van Beusekom and Will Eland

This year has obviously been unexpected in the way it played out. We started out the year, before University had even started, in an advocacy position - alongside several other Wellington-based Queer Groups, we felt that open dialogue and meaningful efforts from the Wellington International Pride Parade had faltered. We helped form WRATH, a collective of these groups who worked together to ensure that we could work on the issues WIPP were facing as a united front. This work is ongoing.

Submissions on the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission Bill opened late 2019. The Bill was noted for its lack of inclusion of queer communities. UniQ developed a submission in response to this, calling for explicit inclusion of queer communities. We succeeded in drawing together queer student organisations from across Aotearoa to support this submission.

In early 2020,, UniQ attended the Wellington Pride Festival's Out in The Park alongside the University for the first time. This event was hugely successful in increasing our visibility, and allowed us to have conversations with students and prospective students who we might not normally see.

As the University year started out, we planned to have full-day spaces each Friday that students could drop-in on, as a tester of having a permanent Rainbow Space. We had also planned for a full year of events such as a Ball. We began with O-Week and Clubs Week, both of which had decent turn out for UniQ. The first few Friday spaces also had good attendance.

Presidents' Report (cont.)

Miia van Beusekom and Will Eland

Then, of course, COVID-19 happened.

Despite our best efforts, we were still unprepared for the rapidness of New Zealand's lockdown. We put our major projects on hold in favour of ensuring that UniQ survived the coming months. To this end, we had to rapidly rethink how UniQ ran to allow for an online space.

We started a Discord Server to allow UniQ to become an online platform. This server rapidly gained popularity, open 24/7 to our community and with executive-run events such as the weekly movie night. To this day, the Discord Server is engaged with daily, and has successfully ensured not only that we survive in a post-COVID world, but that we have even gained more popularity and members who were unsure about attending our physical spaces.

We have put effort this year into ensuring more of our processes are put in writing for future executives. To this end we have introduced procedures on gifting koha and responding to mental health crises (any others). The latter has been developed in conjunction with Student Conflict and Interest, the Rainbow and Inclusion Advisor Georgia Andrews, VUWSA Advocate Erica, and the Uni Rec staff Peter and Lara, in response to online incidents.

Events Schedule 2020

| Date | Event |
|----------------|---|
| 27/02 | Rainbow Orientation |
| | PGSA Orientation |
| 01/03 | O Week Welcome Festival |
| | Out in The Park |
| | Clubs Expo |
| Semi-Regularly | Online Movie Nights |
| | IGM |
| Weekly | Social Spaces |
| 15/07 - 21/07 | Pride Week (6 events) <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Games Night● Tea Party● Quiz Night● Movie Night● Takatāpui 101● Ivy Party |
| 02/08 | Sweat with Pride |
| 30/09 | AGM |

Treasurer's Report

Morgan Mahony

We began the year with \$683.17 left over from 2019. We have received money from Vic Rec (\$788) around April (lower than last year due to outstanding balance owing been taken into account). We also received \$170 for Discord Nitro (again from Vic Rec), and \$500 from VUWSA.

COVID meant we weren't able to spend a lot of money on much. Funds we had set aside for meetings and social spaces are only somewhat spent, community outreach couldn't be acted on as we had hoped, and both attempts this year to fund a Queer Ball were rebuffed. We were able to fund our Pride Week events as well as our AGM and IGM, however, and cover the material costs for all three.

As of writing, we have a balance of \$1,234.41. After we have finished paying back outstanding reimbursement, we should have \$525.56 for the remainder of the year. Our ability to repay this in a timely manner was impeded by both COVID and the availability of executive members, and I personally hope to have as much of this sorted out before the start of next year so the future exec doesn't have to keep on top of our (but mostly my) falling behind.

Internet Banking has definitely been helpful, and I'm glad we could organise that for us. We aim to start 2021 in a good financial position so next year's exec can hit the ground running.

Executive Comments

Brock Stobbs - Communications Officer

Core projects I contributed to this year was, naturally, Queerlient but also the development of our Discord server. Other things included the UniQ column in Salient, sporadic newsletters, and heavy participation in our advocacy work.

Queerlient proved to be more difficult than last year as we tried to have more say over the creative direction and content while also having less writers available. Finding the balance between what UniQ can and should do, and what Salient should do is always difficult and I think work can be done to make this clearer. I hope to provide a clear framework for producing Queerlient in my handover so that production is as smooth as possible.

The column was a success this year with more writers contributing than last year. This is especially notable as we began doing weekly columns, sometimes at full-page length. Admittedly, I dropped the ball on newsletters this year and did not produce as many as I should've. Again, something to make clearer and easier through my handover.



Executive Comments

Kavish - Social Media Officer

This year was quite a different year for UniQ given the COVID-19 outbreak there wasn't much social media management to happen, I mainly promoted the Discord server leading to many people joining, things did, however, pick up during Pride Week given it was our key event of the year.

I went to four out of the five events during Pride Week and mainly took photos to put on our Instagram story, specifically the quiz night was where the engagement took an uptake this as this saw me giving people chances to engage in the quiz at real-time, I also did an Instagram takeover with University Recreation.

Lately, I have been posting to promote social spaces. To the social media officer next year, I would recommend organizing takeovers with a variety of clubs early on as well as giving more opportunities for followers to engage via polls and questions.

Ethan - General Executive

This year has been extremely challenging with COVID. As a result, I have not been as present with activities as I would have liked. During Pride week, I have helped out with running the games night. I look forward to next year where I can hopefully do more in UniQ.

The logo features the word "UNIQ" in a bold, sans-serif font. "UNI" is purple, and "Q" is pink. Below "UNI" is the word "VICTORIA" in a smaller, purple, sans-serif font. The text is contained within a purple heart outline. The background is a light blue sky with soft, white clouds. On the left side, there is a vertical rainbow flag with stripes of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. At the bottom, there is a horizontal rainbow flag with stripes of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. In the bottom left corner, there is a purple area containing white line-art icons of various objects like a pencil, a paper airplane, a book, and a lightbulb. In the bottom right corner, there are three white stars of varying sizes, each with a small cross inside, and several short white lines radiating from them, suggesting a starburst or fireworks effect.

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