



2023

UNIQ

VICTORIA

Annual Report

# Karakia

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*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

The Queer Students' Representative Group at Victoria University of Wellington - Te Whare Wānanga o Te Ūpoko o Te Ika a Māui

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UniQ Victoria is Victoria University of Wellington's queer representative and advocacy group. We offer social and supportive space for all queer students at VUW.

Our primary purpose to advocate on behalf of the queer students at VUW while also providing spaces and events that help queer students connect while feeling safe and supported throughout their time at VUW. We offer social spaces, movie nights, Pride Week events and a variety of other events throughout the academic year.

UniQ also aims to provide and connect queer students with basic services if you need some help finding good, queer support.

UniQ is proud to be an official rep group of the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association.



**2023**

# EXECUTIVE

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President	Khai Dye-Brinkman
Vice President/Social Media Officer	Zia Ravenscroft
Secretary/Treasurer	Oliver Hayman
Events Officer	Thomas Lamont-Smith
Advocacy Officer	Morgan McKenzie
Communications Officer	Alex "Goose" Cherian
General Executive	Jonathan Shaw-Lewis
General Executive	Amy Booth

# President's Report

Khai Dye-Brinkman

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Kia ora koutou,

As we reflect on the events and developments of the past year, 2023 will undoubtedly be remembered as a challenging and demanding period for our university. Several significant issues have shaped the course of the year, influencing both the university's operation and its relationship with various stakeholders.

## **University Funding Challenges:**

One of the most pressing concerns in 2023 was the financial instability that loomed over the university. The difficulties related to university funding reverberated throughout the student body as well. Many clubs and organizations, including UniQ, encountered challenges in securing the necessary financial support to continue their vital work. Despite these obstacles, UniQ was able to persevere and adapt, continuing its commitment to supporting the LGBTQ+ community and fostering inclusivity and diversity on campus.

## **Memorable Events:**

Despite the hardships faced by the university, 2023 was marked by some notable events that brought the community together. Sex Week, organized in collaboration with VUWSA, was a significant success in promoting sexual health education and awareness. UniQ was able to provide amazing collaboration to ensure that queer voices were heard during these important conversations.

The year also saw a series of protests, as students and staff passionately voiced their concerns about the challenges and changes the university was experiencing. These protests were a reflection of the commitment to academic excellence and the desire for a brighter future. The pro-trans counterprotest at the start of the year was an amazing atmosphere. There was such incredible love and support from the wider community.

Pride Week was another highlight of the year, showcasing our yearly Gayla, which was an amazing night. We also celebrated by presenting the quiz night, hosted by olivia dreams. Overall, pride week was an outstanding success.

### **Building Strong Bonds:**

In the face of these challenges, UniQ has strengthened its bonds with key stakeholders, particularly with VUWSA and Sterling from R&I (Rainbow and Inclusion). Collaborative efforts between us has proved essential in navigating the turbulent year and have been so supportive to us throughout this year.

As we move forward into 2024, UniQ has an amazing year ahead. The lessons learned in 2023 will undoubtedly shape a better experience for our members. We have a lot planned and I can't wait to share the next year with you all!

Nga mihi nui,  
Khai Dye-Brinkman (they/them)

# Treasurer's Report

Oliver Hayman

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Being Treasurer has been a decidedly enlightening experience and I am very glad that I took it up. Revenue from the Clubs board ended up being lower than what we'd hoped for this year, due to a combination of an unfortunate technical error and the general paucity of the fund. What's more, the University has told us, in no uncertain terms, to expect money to become scarcer due to a reduced student sponsorship fund. It is no secret that the University is facing financial difficulties, and rep groups like UniQ are apparently not exempt from the consequences. Still, this year we were compensated by our own successful fundraising during Pride Week and grants from other charities like the RULE Foundation.

Going forward, it will likely be worth seeking out alternative means of raising money, diversifying our revenue sources and all that good stuff. The financial situation is changing for VUW, and, being downstream of the university as a whole, our situation may change with it, though to what extent is not yet known. Nevertheless we will no doubt continue to endeavor to provide quality community and social events, especially our annual Gayla and other Pride Week activities.



# 2023 Financials

as recorded by the Treasurer

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## Profit and Loss Report

**All Accounts**

**26th September 2023**

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**Profit**

Clubs Funding	\$	600.00
VUWSA	\$	1,500.00
Rule Foundation	\$	1,500.00
Fundraising	\$	1,440.00

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**Total Profit**

**\$ 5,040.00**

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# 2023 Financials Cont.

as recorded by the Treasurer

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## Loss

Regular Events	Food	-\$	164.46
	General Expenses	-\$	180.00
Operational Expenses	Google Workspace and Domain	-\$	165.60
	Zoom	-\$	276.73
	Website Hosting	-\$	107.26
	Catering	-\$	1,600.00
	Advertising	-\$	-
	GST	\$	-
Pride Week	Venue Hire	-\$	2367.50
	Koha	\$	287.50
	Advertising	-\$	-
	General Expenses	-\$	697.19
<b>Total Loss</b>		<b>-\$</b>	<b>4,578.73</b>

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<b>Net Profit</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>461.27</b>
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# Executive Comments

excluding President and Treasurer

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## **Zia Ravenscroft**

### **Vice-President and Social Media Officer**

It's almost a year since I became UniQ Exec's Social Media Officer, with a vision for colorful, professional, and minimalistic posts on Instagram and Facebook. Managing Twitter, given Elon Musk's impact, became challenging. As head admin on Discord, I implemented VicVerify bot and improved channel organization. Our Instagram hit 1000+ followers during my tenure.

Three months ago, I was elected Vice-President, fostering personal growth and working closely with President Khai to shape UniQ's future. My role involved organizing Pride Week events, collaborating with external groups, and editing the Queerlient. The highlight was the Queerlient centrefold, Unedited Sessions podcast, and Hot Takes in the Hub video. It's an honor to serve with this dedicated team.

## **Goose**

### **Communications Officer**

In 2023, I continued as the Comms Officer for UniQ, and the year felt more manageable with experience. I revived the newsletter and kept it running smoothly. The highlight was collaborating on the Queerlient with Salient, fulfilling my passion for writing and community-building. The role allowed me to bring together writers and artists, contributing to our community's identity. I recommend staying in the position for a few years to maintain consistency and relish the satisfaction of producing a successful Queerlient.

# Executive Comments Cont.

excluding President and Treasurer

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## **Morgan McKenzie**

### **Advocacy Officer**

My role as UniQ's advocacy officer so far has largely been focused on keeping the RHAG running smoothly and getting in touch with some of the notable rep groups and people around the university. The foundation has been laid to expand into providing more accessible and useful advocacy services for queer students, and I look forward to seeing more collaboration between UniQ and key stakeholders such as Sterling. Overall, I'm proud of how the exec team has worked together to overcome challenges and set up for bigger and better things to come in future.

## **Amy Booth**

### **General Executive**

In 2023, I began my role as a UniQ general executive at IGM. I assumed this position as a dedicated first-year representative and have cherished my involvement since. Working with the executive team has been fulfilling, contributing to the Te Herenga Waka queer community. Whether I'm reelected or not, I aim to continue engaging with this fantastic team, building connections beyond the role. I take pride in fostering strong camaraderie with my colleagues, which enhances the job's enjoyment. While I've relished my responsibilities, I believe there's room for greater personal contribution. I wish to expand my involvement by assisting with document reviews, refreshing the website, and improving organization systems. My time on the executive team has been incredibly rewarding.