

Pasifika Report AGM 2024

Held on 30th May 2024 at Student Lounge, Massey University

Delivered by Wesley Peters - Pasifika Co-President

Key Achievements:

- The continuation of our frequent events, such as Kai + Talanoa, Talanoa and Cuppas(T's & C's), Kava Nights and Social Sports, these events have been instrumental in bringing our Pasifika students together across all four campuses, Auckland, Palmerston North, Wellington and Distance. Furthermore, the celebrations of the 11 Pasifika Language Week have allowed us to showcase the rich cultures and heritages within our spaces
- Increase in number of students within the physical Fale spaces, Palmerston North and Wellington with 25+ students , Auckland with over 15+ students, Distance over 10+ students. This positive engagement has been maintained through our weekly and fortnightly events, leading to a high retention rate of our Pasifika students within the Fale.
- Despite the limited feedback we have received through surveys, we have been able to hold consultation events within each campus to keep our students informed about current events such as course cuts and changes, OSE's and scholarships.
- Our Pasifika Distance rep, Caroline Ryan, has been working and setting up channels based on location for NZ based Pasifika distance students, to help them engage in the physical campuses near them. Working with the Distance VP regarding a STREAM for the Pasifika students.
- The Wellington Pasifika cohort have been involved in 48 Film Festivals, a few in the Pacific Connection choir (performing for the PM and other respected individuals), and Leo Choir, also PACIFICA INC (an NGO for Pasifika women living in NZ - where students - do volunteering work in the community, supporting women's refuge , and other specific) and at Kids Camps NZ (an organisation designed to create happy memories for children- victims of abuse, neglect and abandonment).

Strategies:

- Through our strategies of tailored event schedules, regular communication, and active listening, we have been able to create a welcoming environment for our Pasifika students.
- This includes the partnership of MUPSA with a Manawatu-based and local favourite, Cook Island business, Papa Engus Donuts for events.
- As well as reaching out to our extended Pasifika community to invite speakers. For example, this week for Samoan Language Week, MUPSA had

Lemau Moevao Familie, a lawyer and partner at Jacobs Florentine Firm, Palmerston North as a spokesperson, and MP@D as a special guest, Moemoana Schwenke, known as Miss Samoa and Miss Pacific Island . Additionally, MAPS attended and supported Victoria University's Samoan Association and have an upcoming collaboration event in July, with Victoria University for Pacific Week Exhibition

- Across the three physical campuses, have been liaising with the Pasifika Student Success team as they plan to introduce their Pastoral Care program , provide insights of services and discuss future collaborations during the academic year. The PSS staff stationed near/at Fale, help with engagement, with sharing of events to students and supporting.
- Since 2023, MUPSA have annual combined lunches and sport days with Manawatahi on the Palmerston North campus. The combined events enable Pasifika and Maori taura to familiarise themselves and the spaces, and extend support to each cohort over the year at sports, study nohos, quiz nights etc.,.

Future:

- We aim to continue raising awareness around current events and issues that affect our Pasifika community, planning upcoming roll-outs (New Calendonia voting, West Papua conflict, Fiji's drug with posts and stories to engage and consult with students. Staying informed and proactive, we can ensure that our services and support remain relevant and impactful for our students.
- Shifting our approaches in consultations , focusing and emphasising on the pastoral care aspect. E.g , Stop the cuts,
- Overall, we're able to establish an inclusive and diverse atmosphere. We have recognised that services and representation go hand in hand. Representation is a crucial part of ensuring that voices and needs of our Pasifika students are recognised, it is the implementation of services that provide the tangible benefits and support in Fale.

Thank you !