

# NDSA 2020 Annual Report



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We acknowledge the Whadjuk Nyoongar people whose land we work and live. We acknowledge elders past, present and emerging and pay our respects to all indigenous peoples

# NDSA Council



- **President** - Olivia Trahair
- **Vice President** - Maneesh Kelly
- **Secretary** - David Stokes
- **Treasurer** - Thomas Desmond
  
- **Academic Committee Chair** - Umberto Gargaro
- **Clubs Committee Chair** - Grace Cuddihy
- **Welfare Committee Chair** - Liam Martin
  
- **Assist Director** - Skye Huggins
- **Environment Director** - Natasha Berthold
- **Events Director** - Stephen Beirouti
- **Marketing Director** - Charlotte Lee
- **Sport & Health Director** - Joshua Scardina
  
- **OCM** - Erin Basile
- **OCM** - Saheb Aneja
  
- **Discount & Sponsorship Officer** - Wesley Donovan
  
- **Deputy Events Director** - Kara Divito
  
- **Graphic Designer** - Galvin Francisco
  
- **Immediate Past President** - Montefiore Nathan

# 2020 Council

## Academic Committee

- Deputy Academic Committee Chair- Emily Hains
- School of Arts and Sciences Representative- Guiletta Holborn
- School of Business Representative- Reiniera De Vos Van Steenwijk
- School of Education Representative- Adelle Harris
- School of Health Sciences Representative- Christopher Morrow
- School of Law Representative- Elena Martino
- School of Medicine Representative- Brittany Webster
- School of Nursing and Midwifery Representative- Elsie Rowbottom

## Welfare Committee

- Deputy Welfare Committee Chair - Eloise McGinnity
- International & Study Abroad Representative - Olivia Hoyne
- Faith Representative - Teneil Anderson
- Women's Representative - Zoe Butler
- General Committee Member - Akshaj Veluthedath Madhu
- 

## Clubs Committee

- Deputy Clubs Committee Chair - Jarvys McQueen-Mason
- PAANDA President - Ella Gorringe
- Education Society President - Pepi Ott-Kelly
- Notre Dame Law Students' Society - Siobhan Blake
- West End Society - Jarvys McQueen-Mason
- Notre Dame Nursing Society - Annabelle Jones
- Labor Society - Eliza Toohey
- Newsspeak - Daniel Fairweather
- Stripes - Caitlin Eaton
- Physiotherapy Students' Society - Jeremy Burke
- Club 46 - Felix Lansang
- Teach Learn Grow - Claudia Hodges
- Bible Fellowship - Brenton Williams
- Greens Society - Montefiore Nathan
- African Students Society - Sonia Umubyeyi



# THE EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President - [Olivia Trahair](#)

Vice President - [Maneesh Kelly](#)

Treasurer - [Thomas Desmond](#)

Secretary - [David Stokes](#)



# President

It has been an honour to be the President of the Notre Dame Student Association in 2020. I am so proud of all of the achievements that the Council was able to achieve despite the unexpected obstacles we faced.

It was only upon reflection that I was able to fully appreciate the events and initiatives we hosted this year. When the impacts of COVID-19 were beginning to be felt, I was panicked and concerned for all students, staff, their families and the wider community. I was quick to assume that the pandemic would override the year and undo a lot of the momentum and success of the previous years. However, with some encouragement from everyone and a realignment of goals, we were prepared to continue to fight for students and represent them during a time when they needed it most.

During the beginning of May, the NDSA hosted virtual Q&A sessions with the Schools of Education, Law, Physiotherapy, Health Sciences and Medicine. The respective Deans of each School, along with the Pro Vice Chancellor and Head of Fremantle Campus Professor Selma Allix, joined the NDSA to discuss the changes being experienced at Notre Dame and the impacts they were having. This opportunity allowed students to have their questions asked and answered by the staff members making the decisions. Students were understandably frustrated and upset in the wake of major changes to their university life, but we hope these Q&As eased some of their concerns.

One of my priorities for this year was ensuring that students had knowledge and understanding of the decisions being made within the University. As student representatives, we are in a privileged position to develop working relationships with different staff members and through regular dialogue we can ask the necessary questions and discuss any queries raised.



We were also privileged to hold office during the introduction of the new Vice Chancellor, Professor Francis Campbell. It was clear to us from the start that Professor Campbell was going to be supportive of our goals and assist us in ensuring that the student voice is at the centre of University decision-making. With his guidance we were able to work with the University to introduce more student representatives on decision-making boards and bodies. This included the NDSA President being invited to the weekly Senior Management Group meetings, an annual report being submitted and presented to the Board of Directors and the introduction of weekly meetings with different University executive members. This was the first time that students have been invited to these meetings and is an exciting step forward for student representation. With your elected representatives now having a seat at the table, we can ensure that the student voice is heard, respected and acknowledged.

Another important element of this priority was the introduction of the Memorandum of Understanding between the University and the Student Associations. With this now implemented, students are recognised as partners and collaborators in developing a vision for the University in the future. In drafting this agreement, we were able to work closely with the Sydney Student Association, an aspect that we really enjoyed and are grateful for.

A thank you must go to the dedicated, passionate and supportive team that made all of the this possible. To my fellow executive members; I am so grateful for your support and guidance. You challenged me when I required challenging and supported me when I needed support. To the Committee Chairs, Directors and Ordinary Council Members; thank you for your enthusiasm and commitment to your roles and the time you have dedicated day after day during what was already a very challenging year. To the Committees; it has been so rewarding to welcome a diverse team of representatives that ensured the student voice was always at the heart of our decisions. Thank you for being you! I am so excited to continue watching the growth of the NDSA, and can only hope I have made a small but mighty impact.

*Olivia Trahair*

2020 President



# Vice President

What a year! Our Council came together in early December of 2019 as a relatively young Council, with our four executive members all new to their 2020 roles and many council members new to the NDSA. We ran a successful retreat to bring the Council together and establish strategies and initiatives that we could implement throughout our term. We were quietly confident that, together as a Council, 2020 would be a very successful year. But as the saying goes, 'even the best laid plans... often go awry'.

Orientation this year was, for the first time, a week rather than a day. This move was a huge success from an NDSA perspective. A spread out schedule allowed the University and our clubs more time for activities such as our silent disco, new Student Q&A Panel, as well as more time for new students to enjoy our musical acts; Jack Davies & the Bush Chooks, Gus & Jonny and the West End Society of Notre Dame. We also had a full day to set up for our first event of the year – the O-Week Beach Party. This year held at Freo.Social the event was enjoyable and a great way to lead into semester one.



We also had the pleasure of holding office during the arrival of our new Vice Chancellor, Professor Francis Campbell. The Vice Chancellor's focus on student representation was immediately clear to us, and throughout the year the NDSA has been included in more and more university decision-making processes. This has manifested in the form of regular meetings with the University Executive, more students sitting on internal panels and an increased ability for the needs of students to be met by the University.



This would not be a 2020 annual report without a healthy analysis of the COVID-19 pandemic. From April there had been speculation among the state and the University community regarding how Notre Dame would be impacted by COVID-19 and what measures would need to be taken. In the lead up to and during the transition to online learning, the NDSA was involved in a consultative role and in drafting the communications to students. Once WA restrictions began and all classes were online, we ran a series of Q&A panels with school Deans and University Executive members directed at students to answer questions and ease any uncertainties held by the student body.



The pandemic meant that our established ideas for the year had to be reimaged, postponed or cancelled – the NDSA even held our first ever online meetings. Our department heads were given the directive to come up with ways in which their specific portfolio could still operate in an online setting. This was carried out with various levels of success and led to some fantastic innovations that helped the student body. The Q&A sessions mentioned are an example of this. Overall, our aim during the height of COVID-19 restrictions was to act as a communication conduit between the students and the University. Representing the students' opinions and facilitating the University's communications. By the start of Semester Two we were able to host our second retreat for the Council and have an O-Day Semester 2 which featured both on-line and on-campus initiatives. Our Ball was rescheduled to the end of the Semester and was shifted to the Hyatt Regency Perth.

We worked with the Student Services to implement Campus Tuesdays, a very popular initiative that has involved free food for students from various food vans, and accompanying live music, for students every Tuesday.

One of the most exciting moments of the year was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the NDSA & SAUNDA (our counterparts on the Sydney Campus) and the University. This sets out the relationship between the student representatives and the University.



Overall, this year has been challenging and rewarding in equal parts. All of our plans for the year were washed away by a global pandemic, but we managed to adapt to the new terrain and still represent the students – the role we had been elected to do. The end of 2020 sees the relationship between the NDSA and the University more developed than it has been in recent memory, but also sees a year where we did not have as many opportunities to interact with the student body as before – resulting in less engagement and traction among our students. Individually, I will miss the NDSA but I know it is in good hands and well-equipped to grow throughout what will (hopefully) be a more regular year.

*Maneesh Kelly*  
2020 Vice President



# Treasurer

Currently the NDSA has \$35,607.68 in the bank. As of the 28th of October, the NDSA has spent \$90,858.21 and has received \$96,214.25. What this means is that so far this year we have made a profit of \$5,356.04.

This year we received a grant from the University of \$41,500.00, which is the second largest grant the NDSA has ever received. We have no more events this year and some final expenditure for the All Hallows Eve Ball, which means for next year we roughly have \$35,607.68 left to carry over to the next years council. What this will allow us to do, along with the grant from the University next year, is to plan many bigger and better events for 2021. This will also allow us to distribute more funds to the separate portfolios within the NDSA and our subsidiary committees. On a final note, this year has been a tough one, in regard to expenditure and revenue given the state of the world and COVID-19. We had to drastically change the way we think about spending our money and from what avenues we can receive money.

Especially in regard to events we were very fortunate to be able to hold our Beach Party and Ball which is where a majority of our income has come from. However, we have also started selling some merchandise to test the waters, including our branded Keep Cups, Beanies and Hoodies. We have also run online competitions to help with student engagement, meaning different portfolios have had to spend their money in different ways. However, I believe that all of the impacts of COVID-19 has allowed the NDSA to see that we can pivot and change our directions when it comes to expenditure and revenue and allowed us to explore new avenues of receiving money. Being a part of the executive has also been such a rewarding experience and I can't wait to see what the NDSA achieves next year.

*Thomas Desmond*

2020 Treasurer



# Secretary

In 2020 the Notre Dame Student Association faced a number of hurdles both behind the scenes and in the spotlight, but despite these obstacles we managed to achieve a number of amazing steps forward as a council. One of my most notable contributions as Secretary to the council was having a large hand in the final draft of the Memorandum of Understanding, a historic agreement signed by the Association and the University confirming a relationship between us based on collaboration, cooperation and mutual respect. This is the first of many steps on a journey that will hopefully allow the Association to grow as a student representative body but also as a force within the University, sitting at the tables where major decisions regarding the student experience are made every day.

In addition to this significant milestone, the Association underwent an overhaul of policy and procedure. In updating our Constitution, Terms of Reference and other policies, I sought to ensure that we function at a professional standard wherever possible, maintaining consistency of design, structure and workflow across all our departments. Whether this meant updating the formatting and logo design across our policies or restructuring the documents to make them easier to navigate, I believe these changes will help future councils and make future progress even easier. Throughout the year I also participated actively in what events we were able to hold with social distancing restrictions in place, including Orientation Week events, Open Days, barbecues and more in an effort to make sure the campus still felt alive in a time where staff and students alike were understandably feeling the weight of the world on their shoulders.



Our fortnightly council meetings, where we discuss any initiatives being pushed, or problems that have require our attention, hit quite the speed bump with COVID-19 restrictions making meetings on campus impossible. But just as the University had to, we were forced to adapt and held our meetings via online video conference, which had the unforeseen effect of speeding up the meeting processes.

Whilst this is not the ideal, and they will not be used where not necessary, it was comforting to know that as a council we were able to continue functioning despite such a change in routine.

The NDSA has made some major breakthroughs in 2020, and there is so much potential going forward to become an even stronger voice for student advocacy in developing a stronger relationship with the University as well as increasing its footprint across social media and on campus. It's been amazing to be a part of all the steps it has taken this year, and it's only up from here!

*David Stokes*

2020 Secretary





# THE COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Clubs Chair - [Grace Cuddihy](#)  
Welfare Chair - [Liam Martin](#)

# Clubs Chair

The Deputy Committee Chair and I began this year with a clear vision for Clubs and a list of goals that we wanted to achieve. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic hit us very hard and it became increasingly difficult to work towards these goals. However, despite it being an incredibly challenging year for the NDSA and all affiliated Clubs we were still able to achieve some amazing milestones.

## These include:

- ONE amazing Open Day featuring on-campus and virtual activities.
- TWO successful Orientation Day festivals.
- TWO major policy changes that have positively affected the running of Clubs.
- TWO new Clubs affiliated.
- FOUR training sessions that got our Club Presidents up-to-date on policy and procedure and prepared them to lead their Committees.
- SIX School-Based Clubs who have provided students with social events, academic support, educational resources, professional development and more.
- EIGHT music videos featuring members of West End Society, PAANDA and, Education Society.
- ELEVEN Community-Based Clubs who have allowed students to pursue passions outside of their degrees such as theatre, music, journalism, faith, and politics. Others have provided resources, events and support to minority groups including LGBTQIA+ students and African students.
- SEVENTEEN active clubs who have all done great things for students.
- TWENTY-TWO virtual events hosted during quarantine including watch parties, games nights, baking competitions and song challenges.
- FIFTY-EIGHT club events held on campus including bake sales, sausage sizzles, productions, personal development training, competitions, study sessions, movie nights and much more!
- TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN tickets for PAANDA's Production of When the Rain Stops Falling.
- THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY Committee meetings across all of our Clubs.
- FOUR HUNDRED hoodies sold by Nursing Society and Law Society.
- And most importantly
- NINETEEN hardworking committee members who have put so much effort into improving Notre Dame Fremantle's Clubs throughout 2020.

Open Day and Orientation Days were the most collaborative that Clubs have seen in a long time. It was fantastic to see club members working together, sharing resources and helping each other out and we were excited to have ALL of our active clubs attend at least two of these three events. Clubs reported impressive amounts of student engagement and club-wide events like these encouraged the wider student body to get involved and learn more about what the clubs community has to offer.

### **African Student Union**

Although they were only affiliated partway through 2020, Sonia and the African Student Union Committee were determined to make every second count. They have achieved so much in such a short time and had amazing engagement during Open Day 2020. I am so proud to have helped this Club reach affiliation and am excited to watch them grow in the future.

### **Notre Dame Greens Society**

Our other newly affiliated club, Notre Dame Greens Society is also looking forward to a promising future. Expanding the diversity of political clubs on campus, Monte and the Greens Society Committee aim to promote the Greens Party and their policies by providing plenty of education, events and resources to students across all disciplines.

### **Club 46**

Our Health Sciences Club has continued to do what they can to provide new and exciting opportunities for their students. Events like their Career Panel have encouraged students to look beyond their studies and begin planning for the future. Their Cancer Council Relay for Life event that they completed in collaboration with UWA was a fantastic initiative and Felix and the Club 46 Committee have done a lot to build relationships with external organisations this year.

### **Stripes Fremantle**

Stripes has continued to provide more welfare support for students than any other Club. Their wholesome and inclusive events have included movie nights, coffee catch-ups, reading groups, potluck meals and craft sessions. They have also done an incredible job of raising awareness about inclusivity and sensitivity within the LGBTQIA+ community. Caitlin and the Stripes Committee have worked hard to create a safe and welcoming space for LGBTQIA+ people and allies on campus and I hope to see this continue into next year.





### **Education Society**

The Education Society has been absolutely unstoppable during 2020. They have done it all from free food events to professional development sessions. They have also done some amazing work fundraising for charity, hosting a quiz night in support of the organisation zero2hero. Their Committee, lead by Pepi, is one of the most enthusiastic and active on the Fremantle campus and it is always fantastic to see our well-established Clubs continuing to thrive.

### **NDLSS (Notre Dame Law Students' Society)**

NDLSS is one of our oldest Clubs and it is always exciting to see what they will achieve each year. They definitely did not disappoint in 2020 with Siobhan and the NDLSS Committee hosting more events than any other club on our Fremantle campus! Despite the setbacks that COVID-19 presented, NDLSS were able to host their annual ball which sold out fast and was deemed an amazing success by the students who attended. They also provided more educational resources, student support and practical learning opportunities to Law students than ever before. The incoming NDLSS Committee have big shoes to fill but I'm excited to see what they do next.

### **NDNS (Notre Dame Nursing Society)**

The NDNS team have always excelled in supporting their students and the 2020 Committee was no exception. Along with hosting fantastic educational events, the Club sold an incredible amount of merchandise. Designed by a talented student, the NDNS hoodies sold out incredibly quickly and helped the club raise \$2000 for charity. Annabelle and the NDNS Committee have donated so much time, effort and money to others this year and it's been great to see.

### **Newsspeak**

2020 has been a fantastic year for Newsspeak. With Daniel at the helm, the Club has worked tirelessly to produce a brand new revival edition of the student magazine Quasimodo. Covering everything from the Broadway musical Hamilton to the Black Lives Matter movement, the magazine contained a fantastic array of articles and beautiful graphics produced by talented students across multiple disciplines. Newsspeak also held multiple events and gave students opportunities to enter journalism competitions and secure exciting internships. The Club has grown in both numbers and resources and I am excited to see what they do in 2021.

### **Notre Dame Bible Fellowship**

While promoting engagement with the bible and faith, Notre Dame Bible Fellowship has also created a tight-knit community that regularly meet for social and wellness events. Brenton and his team have enjoyed coffee catch-ups and meals together while also providing opportunities for students to engage in prayer and bible study online during quarantine. ND Bible Fellowship does great work in promoting the values of the University through the lens of faith and I'm sure that they will continue to do so in 2021.

### **PAANDA (Performing Arts Association of Notre Dame Australia)**

As always, PAANDA has kept its followers thoroughly entertained with countless Tik Toks, film parodies, music videos, tributes to Timothée Chalamet, and other shenanigans. Despite their semester one production being postponed due to COVID-19, they jumped straight back into rehearsals once restrictions were lifted and are preparing to perform *When the Rain Stops Falling* at the end of this year. Ella has kept her team active during tough times and the Club has kept us all smiling throughout the year!



### **PSS (Physio Students' Society)**

Representing such a small cohort, the PSS are a tight-knit group who have a fantastic connection with the student body. Despite the pandemic barring many of their semester one events, Jeremy and the PSS Committee continued to do what they could to support their students. They raised \$1400 for the Kai Eardley Fund at their quiz night and are in preparations for an end of year cocktail party. Additionally, their highly anticipated river cruise event was an amazing success that has left myself and Notre Dame physiotherapy students excited to see what the Club will do next.

### **SAHND (Society of Archaeology and History, Notre Dame)**

SAHND has had a great year and have had one of the biggest presences online of any club. Along with sharing some amazing historical memes on their Facebook page, SAHND has brought loads of enthusiasm and fun activities to all club events. They have fundraised through events like bake sales (they make great cupcakes) and have offered historical walks and tours led by archaeologist Dr Shane Burke. Jacinta and the SAHND Committee have done great things in 2020 and things are only going to be better in the future.

### Notre Dame Labor Club

With a reasonably small committee this year, the ND Labor Club focussed most of their energy on spreading awareness about Labor policy and proceedings in WA. They rebranded with a new logo and kept students informed about how WA's politicians were working to keep us safe during the pandemic. Eliza and the Labor Club executive have done so much with their limited resources this year and I am sure that their numbers will grow in 2021.



### TLG (Teach, Learn, Grow)

Claudia and the TLG Committee started this year determined to grow the Club and they have definitely succeeded. The Club has increased their presence on campus significantly and their membership has continued to grow. Collaborating with their sister clubs at other WA university campuses, TLG and its members have positively impacted the lives of young people more than ever before.

### West End Society

The West End Society has grown so much in the past two years. During quarantine, they kept us entertained with amazing covers and music videos that showcased the diverse talent of their Committee. With their semester one production being cancelled due to the pandemic, the Club tried new things by producing playlists, hosting karaoke nights, and creating emoji challenges online. Jarvys and the West End Committee have displayed an amazing range of talent along with enthusiasm for all Club events. I'm looking forward to seeing what 2021 has in store for this club.

I have been so lucky to work with such an amazing team this year. Thank you and congratulations are owed to the Clubs Committee and to all club members who have put so much effort into supporting students despite the many obstacles 2020 has provided them. I also have to thank my Clubs Committee Chair Deputy, Jarvys McQueen-Mason who has kept morale high and has kept Clubs moving forward at all times this year. It has been an incredible year for Clubs and I am so very excited to see what will be achieved in the new year.

*Grace Cuddihy*  
2020 Clubs Committee Chair



# Welfare Chair

This year has been a period of significant change in the Welfare Department. As a result of the 2019 Special General Meeting the department has undergone major restructuring with the role of Welfare Director being replaced by Welfare Committee Chair. This new role has many of the same responsibilities, with the main point of difference that it now includes chairing a committee that has the responsibility of ensuring that the wellbeing needs of all Notre Dame students are met.

The Welfare Committee now consists of eleven seats, the structure is as follows:

- Welfare Committee Chair: sits on the NDSA Council, chairs the Committee and oversees the activities of all representatives on the committee.
- Deputy Welfare Chair: assists the Committee Chair in their duties; responsible for minuting meetings.
- Seven Representatives, each of which reflecting different sub-sections of the Notre Dame student community: Accessibility Representative; Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Representative; Faith Representative; International and Study Abroad Representative; LGBTIQ+ Representative; Mature Age Representative; Women's Representative
- In addition to this there are 2 GCM (General Committee Member) positions on committee. The purpose of these positions is to assist Committee Representatives and the Welfare Executive in their duties as well as managing any welfare responsibilities that don't



This year it has been difficult to plan and host events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however in early Semester 1 we were fortunate enough to be able to host an International Women's Day morning tea. All baked goods made for this event were distributed and the banner we made was signed by many students making this event highly successful.

Unfortunately, in Semester 1, we were unable to host a Wellness Week, which is traditionally a major event run every semester. We discussed hosting this event in an online format, however due to the short notice and members of the committee having to prioritise managing the sudden changes to their studies, this idea was unable to materialise.

In Semester 2, we were fortunate enough to hold an event for RUOK Day. This event proved to be popular with students and will hopefully be an event that the Welfare Department hosts annually. This event was co-hosted with the Notre Dame Counselling team and cost the NDSA a total of \$145.50 for decorations as the free lunch was covered by Counselling. This partnership helped to make the event successful and made sure the message of RUOK day reached a large number of Notre Dame Students.



This year I sat on the Student Affairs Committee along with NDSA President Olivia Trahair, Vice President Maneesh Kelly and Academic Committee Chair Umberto Gargaro. This Committee consisted of Pro Vice-Chancellor Student Experience, Selma Allix, a number of School Deans and a handful of students not connected to the Student Association. This committee played a vital role in ensuring that the student voice was heard throughout the year, which was vitally important this year as many aspects of university life had to change to be brought into line with COVID-19 safety practices. We also successfully advocated for a coffee cup recycling station to be installed in Prindiville Hall and pushed for a variety of other exciting initiatives.

Overall 2020 turned out to be vastly different to what we had anticipated it to be, this unfortunately meant we were unable to achieve many of the things we had hoped to. However we were still able to find alternative ways to advocate for student wellbeing and help make each students university experience the best that it could possibly be



*Liam Martin*

2020 Welfare Committee Chair

# THE DIRECTOR REPORTS

Events Director - [Stephen Beirouti](#)

Assist Director - [Skye Huggins](#)

Environment Director - [Natasha Berthold](#)

Marketing Director - [Charlotte Lee](#)



# Events Director

The year got off to a great start with the “Back to Uni Beach Party” at Freo.Social on the 14th of February. Just over 100 people attended which was a fantastic turn out and the fact that it was held on Semester 1 O-Week meant that we were able to attract more people to the event.



COVID-19 obviously impacted the rest of the events planned for Semester 1 and most of Semester 2 however, the University approved the NDSA All Hallows Eve Ball which will be held on Saturday 31st October at the Hyatt Regency Perth. All available tickets were sold in a period of 2 weeks – indicating an obvious desire to attend university events post-lockdown.

A successful year, given the challenges faced, 2021 should prove to be even more successful. Watch this space!

*Stephen Beirouti*  
2020 Events Director



# Assist Director

This year it has been an honour to be the Assist Director for the Notre Dame Student Association. From approving grants for students in need, to implementing the food pantry, it has been a pleasure to assist Notre Dame students in times of stress. The food pantry enabled students to access non-perishable snacks in between their classes if they forgot their lunch or couldn't afford to buy food.

Furthermore, the COVID-19 Student Hardship Assistance was established in May this year, and the Assist department was officially invited to join other university Assist Departments in annual meetings to discuss other financial initiatives to help students. The COVID-19 Student Hardship Assistance Fund enabled students to purchase textbooks, online software and laptop expenses during the COVID-19 crisis.

Additionally, I had the pleasure of helping other NDSA members at their fundraiser events such as R U OK Day, Open Days and Orientation Days along with NDSA initiatives such as sausage sizzles on Tuesdays. These initiatives enabled us as a council to promote the NDSA, increasing the awareness and promoting our goals for the year. Moreover, the Assist Department became more involved with the University Disciplinary Committee.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time on the council this year as it gave me the opportunity to meet more people and be more involved in university life.

*Skye Huggins*  
2020 Assist Director





# Environment

## Director

The Student Cutlery initiative continued successfully in 2020, allowing students who had forgotten cutlery to use disposable ones provided in the Prindiville Hall kitchen. However, students seemed disinclined to limit their use, making it hard to keep up with the demand and so refilling times had to be further restricted in second semester. Signs were put up and the refilling was much stricter, which allowed cutlery to be provided more consistently and reliably.

Prindiville Hall underwent a redecoration, despite the difficulties of COVID-19 restrictions. New blankets and pillows were introduced into the lounge, creating a more comfortable space for students to decompress. A new bookshelf and photoboard were purchased but unable to be installed before lockdown, which will hopefully create more focal points for students to meet and interact around. In addition, the Hall was re-arranged to create a more seamless flow of students between the areas for recreational activities, relaxation and eating, reducing the congested feeling around the table tennis table and couches.

Whilst budgetary restrictions as well as lockdown regulations made it difficult to run the style and number of events that I would have liked to have in 2020, towards the end of the year I was able to run the Sustainability Fair at almost no cost. This was a relaxing time for many students going through a stressful time of semester, with a focus on relaxation and wellbeing.

After being contacted by a student who runs an independent business creating preserved flower displays, we contracted three pieces to be made to be placed around Prindiville Hall. These will definitely liven up the space, creating a warmer environment for students to spend their days in

*Natasha Berthold*

2020 Environment Director



# Marketing Director

NDSA's Marketing Department continued to grow, despite the challenges faced by the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the year. The marketing department saw a strong start, where O-Week reached 9,314 people and sparked a lot of interest. However, with the University's shift to online-learning half way through Semester One, we had to change the way we engaged and supported students. Our social media accounts become a crucial tool, communicating with students about the changes through the semester, the evolution of the pandemic and the steps the NDSA was taking.

Regular weekly social media competitions were introduced halfway through semester one. The idea was to help students engage with the NDSA and share their thoughts each week. The marketing department was very pleased with the success of each week's competition post which saw a reach of over 3,000 students.

The discounts this year, again, started strong. We were offered several discount opportunities from various local business. However, since the struggles of the pandemic, the interest from businesses to continue the discounts has decreased.

NDSA as a whole has had major developments this year, which has included graphic design, social media management, professional writing, continuing the growth of our key events and developing a list of discounts with our local businesses.



We have worked hard to maintain consistent brand strategies across the various departments. These strategies have enabled us to create a cohesive, friendly appeal across all areas of the NDSA. The Marketing department has maintained an essential part in every initiative, helping to increase the engagement and professionalism of the NDSA.

### Facebook

- Total Page Followers: 4,499
- Total Page Likes: 4,478
- Over half our student population follows NDSA
- 9.8k people reached

### Events

#### O-Week 2020:

- People reached 9,314k
- 406 responses
- Interested 176

#### O-Week Beach Party

- 3,893k people reached
- Interested 157
- Went 97

#### NDSA All Hallows Eve Ball:

- 9,467k reach
- 641 responses
- Interested 416

### Instagram

- Followers 2020: 651
- Impressions: 1,313

#### R U OK? Day

- 809 people each
- 24 responses
- Interested 76
- Went 46

#### Discounts

- Over 16 local business currently
- offer discounts to students

*Charlotte Lee*

2020 Marketing Director

