

Executive End of year report 2017

Name: Fiona Lai

Portfolio: International Society Club; International & Domestic Exchange; National Expedition
Institution Programme

As part of your Executive contracts, you are required to complete an end of year report. The better the quality of your report, the more valuable it will be to the Association so please take the time to fill this in well but be honest, and please be concise. The information in your report will be used for **mawsa** annual report.

This is also an excellent opportunity to pass on your knowledge and recommendations to incoming Executive and strengthen Executive handover. By doing so, you are empowering the incoming **mawsa** Executive committee to build upon the achievements of your year better serving our members by growing as an Executive.

Introduction:

- My focuses for 2017 as the International Executive for MAWSA were:
 - To provide as much local cultural NZ experiences, such as travelling and classic kiwi NZ foods to offer to incoming international exchange students from all over the world.
 - And importantly connecting all International students with as many local students, building a community and sense of belonging whilst their study at Massey University, Wellington.
 - Present at student exchange seminars to students to encourage going on exchange and being a local approachable student that they can ask for advice (student-to-student level).

Key contacts:

- Massey University staff at Student Central
 - Cherie Wu (c.j.wu@massey.ac.nz)
- International Relations Office/Student Exchange Mobility Office
 - Greg Huff (G.Huff@massey.ac.nz)
 - Craig Lyons (c.v.lyons@massey.ac.nz)
 - Yuka Proctor (y.proctor@massey.ac.nz)
- National Expedition Internship Wellington office
 - Christina Baldarelli (C.Baldarelli@massey.ac.nz)
 - Anna Greenhow (A.Greenhow@massey.ac.nz)
- International Recruitment Coordinator Massey University Albany – External Relations and Development
 - Bryan Bonnevie (b.bonnevie@massey.ac.nz) + 64 9 414 0800 ext. 43204

<https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/international/contact-us/international-team-at-massey.cfm>

- Tim Croff – International Manager for International students studying CoCA at Massey Uni, Wellington (T.Croft@massey.ac.nz) +64 (4) 801 5799 ext. 63485

Communication

- When I was motioned into this position, I wasn't given any contacts or further information how to take on this role, therefore I used my initiative to form a MAWSA letter signed by my International Executive title to send out to all 3 campuses – Albany, Manawatu and Wellington. Particularly I focused to send first priority to Cherrie Wu (Wellington's

International Support) and the International Mobility Exchange office in Manawatu, Palmerston North.

- Sending emails, is the best way to introduce and establish a relationship with the other campuses to let them know who I am, what my role can offer should any International exchange students want to visit Wellington, 'there's connections!' Also if the people I've contacted hasn't responded to my emails, I follow up with a phone call – prior after the week my email has been sent out. I also attempt to set up a Zoom conference distance video chat for all staff to connect and get to see everyone's faces "put a face to the name(s)". And also ask questions and build the connections of the International & exchange portfolio - who reports to who etc.
- I've connected with Auckland University Students' Association Inc. (AUSA)'s International Students' Officer – (iso@ausa.org.nz) + 64 (9) 21 063 7885

Committee(s):

- I engaged my participation in Sarah Liebermann's 21Century Massey University Graduates employment programme initiative
- International Society Club – liaising with Tim Kendrew (Clubs Development Coordinator)

What events/activities did you undertake as part of your position?

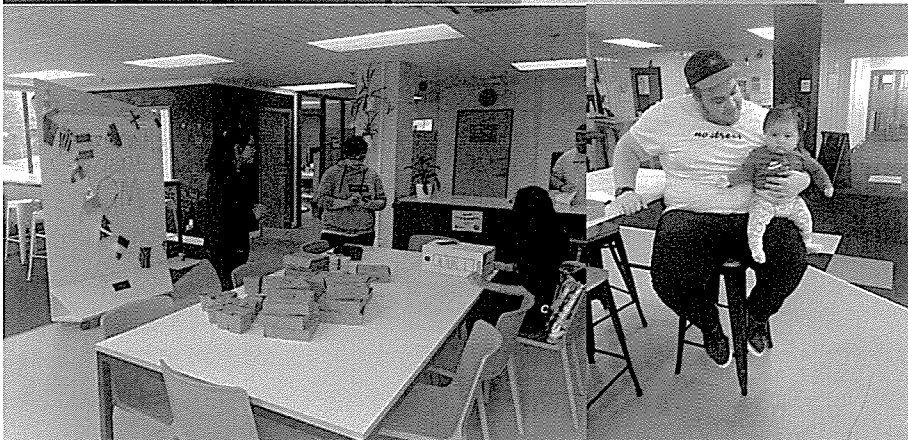
I've managed to successfully, ambitiously take the International Society Club students to:

- Adrenaline Forest
- A local Hurricanes vs. Cheetahs rugby game with a classic Fish n Chips dinner
- A welcome back to Semester 2 nibbles & drinks at Southern Cross Bar – connected new international students with local kiwi students
- Castlepoint trip that included stopping along the way in Masterton
- Mitiu/Somes Island trip
- Cape Palliser trip

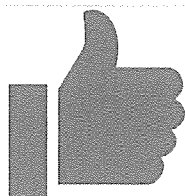
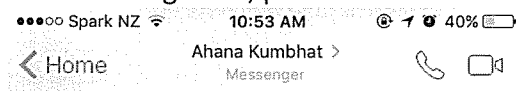


There were ups and lows with all these events, and it would've been convenient to have our own Massey Uni shuttle vans to drive and take our time with these trips, as transportation was a big expense factor to gathering all the international students to head on for the trips. I could've have done all this possible without Stephanie Korad (health executive) for her amazing, tolerant help with applying the clubs grants and mentoring. Also Kathryn Lanigan for top notch communication. And also mentions to the MORC club for their efforts to organising the big skiing trips that has engaged a lot of international students interest!

iSoc AGM Meeting 29.09.17 – got it done and dusted before assignments got too intense! Incredibly thankful to Sarah and The Chipperry for catering sponsorship! Free food draws attention!



I was in charge of organising the International students & solo-single students to attend the MAWSA 2017 ball together, positive feedback from all!



7:24 AM

Thanks so much Fiona, u did such a great job yesterday. If it wasn't for you I wouldn't have even come, I had a greaaaaat time 🥰 Cheers!!

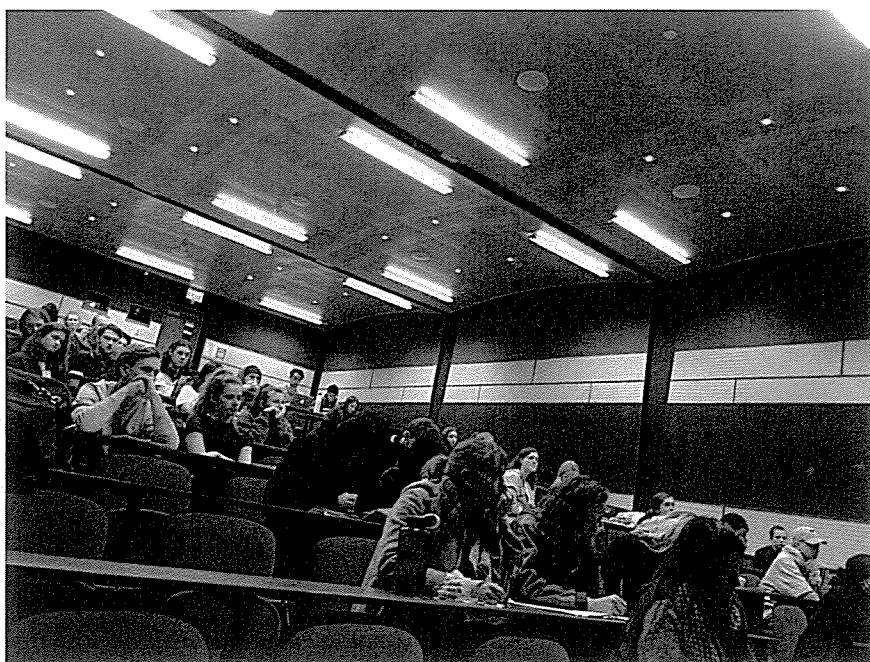
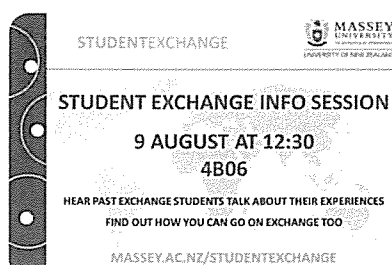
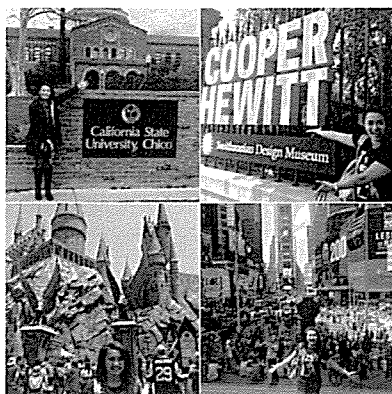


I've also given a Massey campus tour to the KNT TOGANE Japanese High School students visit on 02 August 2017.



And finally presented briefly to study abroad exchange seminar sessions – 09 August 2017 & Massey's Open Days

Come hear our International Executive talk about her experiences studying abroad!



I've personally support my student president for the NZ Blood donation awareness campaign day



Adam Logan Cairns

September 18

****NZ BLOOD****

The target for the day is always 60 whole blood donations.

--

In 2015 Massey achieved 42 donations with 12 new donors.

--

In 2016 when I got to help out, we achieved 59 donations and 27 new donors which is a new record for NZ Blood at Massey!

--

This year...with all those who helped out, we achieved...

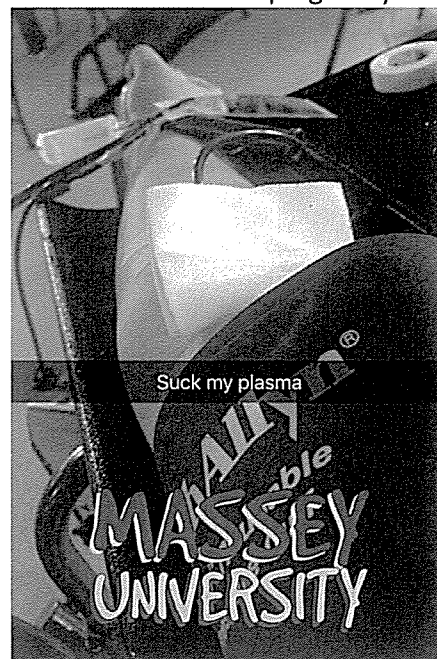
--

73 Donations and 38 new donors! This is a such a great achievement and a brand new record!

--

Massive shout out to Fiona who was helping out on the day to, you were; and always are amazing!

--



Attended Sarah Liebermann's 21-Century Skills workshop on 6th September 2017.

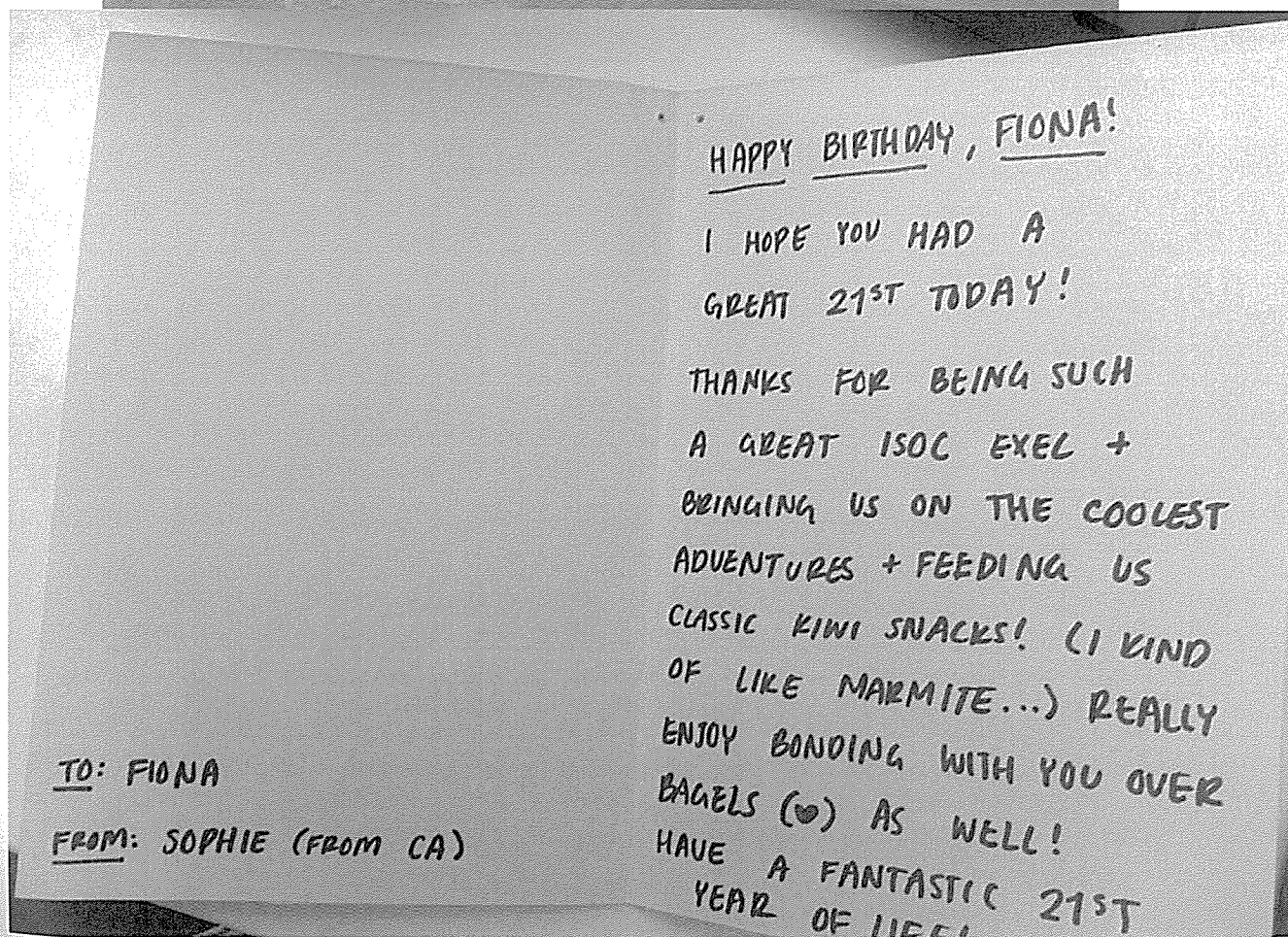
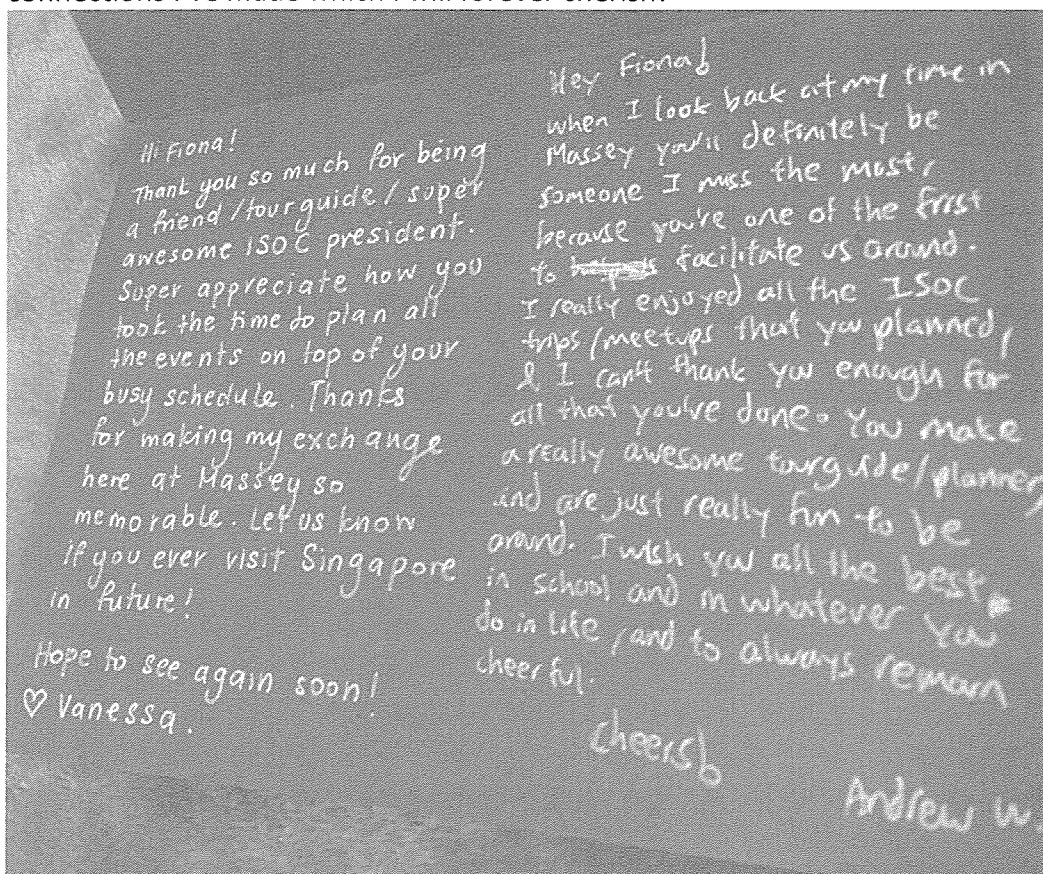
Attended Student Recognition Evening & MAWSCAs Awards – iSoc won The Best YOLO Club award!

Support of the Executive/Association:

Personally want to truly thank the MAWSA President's support and encouragement over everything! He was always there for me and also to Stephanie Korad (health executive), MORC Club, MasseyTV, Tim Kendrew, Sarah Grant.

Highlights:

- It has been a whirlwind of emotions and generally I'm proud to say I've accomplished my goal in building a community for the international students to enjoy a social, local tourist sightseeing side of their exchange whilst studying and there's a lot more I wanted to give. There were some students I wanted to drive to out of their shells but again everyone is different and it pays off in the end! I get memorable photos and cards from the friends and connections I've made which I will forever cherish!



I've also managed to get international students to experience local NZ kiwi foods and attempt the Marmite Challenge! I've made a list of NZ foods – pineapple lumps, jaffas, L&P, Pavlova etc for International students to MUST try when they arrive in NZ. It's classic New Zealand!

- I really think this 2nd semester I've planned and communicated better, which is a key highlighting skill to point out that needs to be established from the beginning, advance planning is better than last minute stress-out planning!

Lowlights:

- I am disappointed in myself for not attempting better in succeeding in events during the beginning of the year but again that was due to coming in to the role late, but I've picked it up. I've also realised it's not a one person team in the club. Communication is crucial so that no one gets offended or upset...
- And may a small lowlight is getting so attached to the international students and building a close friendship with some has made it difficult for me to say goodbye.
- I've also not accomplished my other goal to pursue a 'mentor buddy system' – pairing a local kiwi student with an international exchange student... But again, it depends on the number and interest. I would've like to combine Massey International exchange students and Victoria Uni international exchange students. Perhaps for 2018, that could be a new goal, building and extending connections.

Suggestions for future events/activities:

- More local trips! – Cape Palliser & Putangirua pinnacles as the international students missed out and I would've like to liaise communicating with Cherie Wu better to plan for these trips, but when I sat down to meet with her before the semester end, and semester 2 started, she didn't want much involvement with MAWSA or iSoc activities and would rather that be left on the student(s) to take care of... It's difficult that I have the bare minimum access to contacting the incoming international exchange students, and my email barely reaches out to them. I like to plan in advance obviously.
- But! I've had better positive feedback than Cherie for planning and making trips possible when Cherie was the one for bragging that she will plan local trips and that never happened for the semester 1 group of international exchange students.
- I suggest a classic Kiwi NZ potluck to welcome the incoming international exchange students, and actual fun activities that won't bore them during orientation. What is NZ slang, what is equivalent to what from their home country.
- Bubble soccer/Crocodile bike riding as an international group bonding before the semester starts and dine at Southern Cross Bar – given with our partnering relationship.

Time Commitment:

- With the amount of emails, phone calls I make to gain the best local deals for every international and local student to enjoy, I put in at least 5-8 hours spread within a week.
- Building this executive portfolio report with every information I know of for this international executive role took me about 2-3 hours. Had to backtrack and look back on what I did

Further comments:

- And I strongly encourage using the MAWSA International Executive email, treating it as your very own MAWSA work email. People and organisations take you seriously with it and I like distinguishing my email addresses...
- And finally most importantly, have fun, enjoy the time to socialise with new international people, learn cultures, understand one another. Find common grounds and build on interests

and have a blast of an adventure! There will be ups and downs, I just keep an open mind and understand that not everyone can be pleased. You've just got to be that advocating leader and build up the reputation for yourself! YOU CAN DO IT! 😊 (always end with an emoji! – people would understand the feelings more from reading the email or post!)