

OTAGO REGION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

General Member – Mika Young

Date: 3rd October

This year as a General Member, I was primarily responsible for Outreach events, and also helped out with other events such as Otago Southland Model United Nations and the Volunteer Training Day.

For Outreach this year, I decided to run the events in the second semester, as I hoped it would allow students to be able to help out with the organisation, and we were relatively busy with other events in the first semester. I began by putting together a small team of volunteers to help me. James Sutherland and Gawin Chang jumped on board, and did a great job helping to get the events together, particularly in their roles of organising Venue and Catering respectively. We began by organising Central Otago Model United Nations, which we aimed to hold in late August. We were able to secure Wakatipu High School as a free venue, and catering was organised, however, despite promotion on Facebook and via High School Ambassadors, unfortunately we did not get enough registrations to be able to run the event.

After this, I realised that we needed to do more promotion than just to students themselves. We then put all of our efforts into making Southland Model United Nations a success. To promote this event, I decided to directly contact with schools, in the hope that teachers who saw value in the event would encourage students to participate. Furthermore, instead of simply stating the relevant information about the event, the emails which I sent to schools were worded in a way that attempted teachers that this was a unique and valuable opportunity for their students. I kept email correspondence with teachers from about six weeks prior to the event, and this eventuated as a great way to promote, as some teachers such as Barbara Jones from James Hargest College, Nicola Hawkes from Southland Girls' High School and Sam Sanson from St Peters Gore High School all spoke to students and put together groups of senior students who would like to attend the event. Although I was hesitant to organise much beyond catering, venue and registrations before we had confirmation of registrations so that we were certain the event was going ahead, we managed to pull everything together in the week leading up to it, and the day went relatively smoothly. We had twenty-six participants, and had the support of Jehoon and Laurie Duncan on the day to run the event.

For next year, I would recommend contact with schools well in advance, making sure emails are really selling the event, and following up with schools who don't reply.

Unfortunately, Timaru Model United Nations did not happen, partly as contact with Canterbury wasn't very successful, and partly as I didn't feel that I had the capacity to invest the time needed to organise this event alongside organising Southland Model United Nations. For this reason, I would also suggest that the Outreach events are organised in a more spread out manner next year.

General Member – Sylvia Duncan

Date: 3rd October

My role this year has been split between regional welfare officer and GM with the portfolio of volunteer recruitment and development. The RWO role is a new one and it definitely been a process getting the new welfare protocols off the ground. It will be important in the future to develop welfare plans early in the piece for events so that potential issues can be mitigated. Selection of heads of welfare early so they can be a full member of the committee is probably the best way to do this.

As for our volunteers: I ran a new event this year, the volunteer training day, to give our team some new transferable skills as well as some background knowledge to UN youth. This was well attended with 25 people all up, mostly new volunteers. This event could be useful next year as well - perhaps focusing on skills like budgeting, creating an event on the website, Canva.