

By Students For Students

A History of the Otago Polytechnic Students' Association 1964 - 2014

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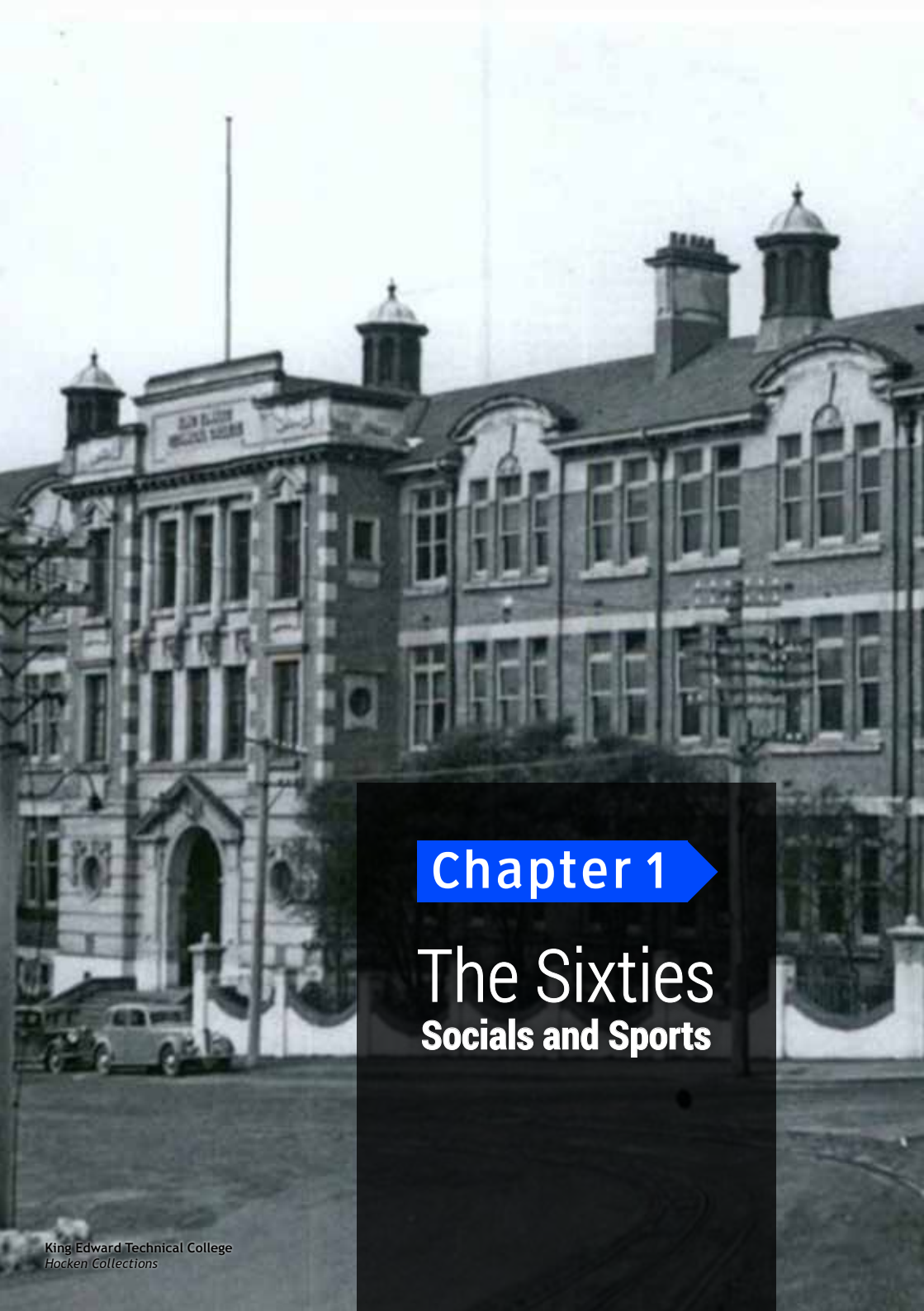
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Photographs are from the OPSA collection unless otherwise noted.



Otago Polytechnic Students' Association



Chapter 1

The Sixties Socials and Sports

The Sixties

Socials and Sports

When Otago Polytechnic officially opened for the first time on 1 February 1966 it already had a students' association. In anticipation of the splitting of King Edward Technical College's tertiary and secondary courses into a polytechnic and a secondary school, the college set up the Polytechnic Full-time Students' Association in 1964 to organize social and sporting activities for full-time tertiary students. (The association was also referred to as the Students' Union. The name was changed to the Otago Polytechnic Students' Association in 1968.)

The technical college's board of managers decided that membership of the students' association would be compulsory for full-time students, who were very much in the minority. Of the more than 2500 tertiary students who trudged up the hill to the big brick and associated buildings in Stuart Street in 1965 only about 70 were attending full-time, taking art or commercial courses. The rest were part-timers with day jobs.

The full-time students elected the association's executive committee (initially called the student council) at an annual meeting each February. The office holders – president, secretary and treasurer – were all honorary positions. There were

no paid employees. The executive met every fortnight. The annual meeting also discussed activities for the year and a social committee made the arrangements. The students' association fee was set by the board of managers at £1 (\$2 from the introduction of decimal currency in 1967) and paid when students enrolled. Part-time students could opt to become associate members for five shillings (50 cents from 1967), which enabled them to take part in activities organized by the association.

The polytechnic administration kept a tight rein on student affairs. No student organization was to be formed without the permission of the polytechnic principal and he or his representative (all principals were men in those days) could at any time attend any meeting of any organization, including the students' association. The polytechnic's first principal, Ian Scollay, sent a staff member to OPSA annual and executive meetings.

The students' association initially stuck to its narrow brief of organizing social and sporting activities. In August 1964 it held its first social function – described as a very successful Friday night dance in Burt Hall (the technical college's assembly hall that doubled as a gymnasium). The

association arranged a further dance in Burt Hall in June 1965.

A month after the opening of Otago Polytechnic in February 1966, the association organized a further dance that highlighted the female dominance of full-time courses. The dance was said to have been enjoyed by those who attended although 'the numerous girls without partners was a problem.' There were other problems too with early dances organized by the association, including vandalism, gate-crashers, people sneaking in for free and dances often running at a loss.

In September 1966 a couple of hundred dancers tripped the light fantastic at the posh Savoy Lounge in Princes Street at the first annual ball organized by the association. It was reported to have been a social and financial success. The ball was held in conjunction with the association's first Miss Polytechnic contest, in which the 'beautiful birds' were interviewed by the judges and then paraded in formal gowns during the ball.

Like its dances, the association's annual balls were also a mixed success. There were reports of poor ticket sales, unsuitable venues, shoddy catering arrangements and too much free booze consumed by students who couldn't handle it. Even some of the balls that were well run and well attended lost money, epitomized by the 1977 ball, which was described as 'terrific except for a substantial loss.' Annual balls fell out of fashion in the early 1980s, although OPSA continued to financially support balls held

by physiotherapy, art and nursing students, and the annual OPSA balls were revived in 1995. The associated Miss Polytechnic contests drowned in a wave of feminism during the 1970s and were never revived.

Social activities were not confined to dances and balls. In 1966 the association set up a drama group and organized a concert. Social events in the next few years included a folk evening (for which the association hired bands, poets and performers), a car rally, a barbecue at Long Beach and a bus trip to Larnach Castle and the Portobello Aquarium.

The association was busy too on the sporting scene. In 1966 it started a lifesaving group, organized the first of its regular ice skating trips to Central Otago, ran regular Tuesday night sports evenings in Burt Hall that featured volleyball, table tennis and darts, and entered netball teams in the local Saturday competition. Further sports clubs were formed in subsequent years including softball, hockey, badminton and basketball, and further sporting activities organized, including a football match between male and female students and a basketball match between students and staff. The association also later assisted sports teams to buy uniforms and equipment and pay entry fees for local competitions.

In 1967 the association arranged a programme of outside speakers to talk to students in Burt Hall every third Thursday. Guest speakers that year included representatives of the main political parties, and 91-year-old Dunedin writer,



The OPSA executive in 1969, at that time still called the student council.

Back row: S. Scott, W. Hays, G. Sutton, J. Wilson, A. Leow.

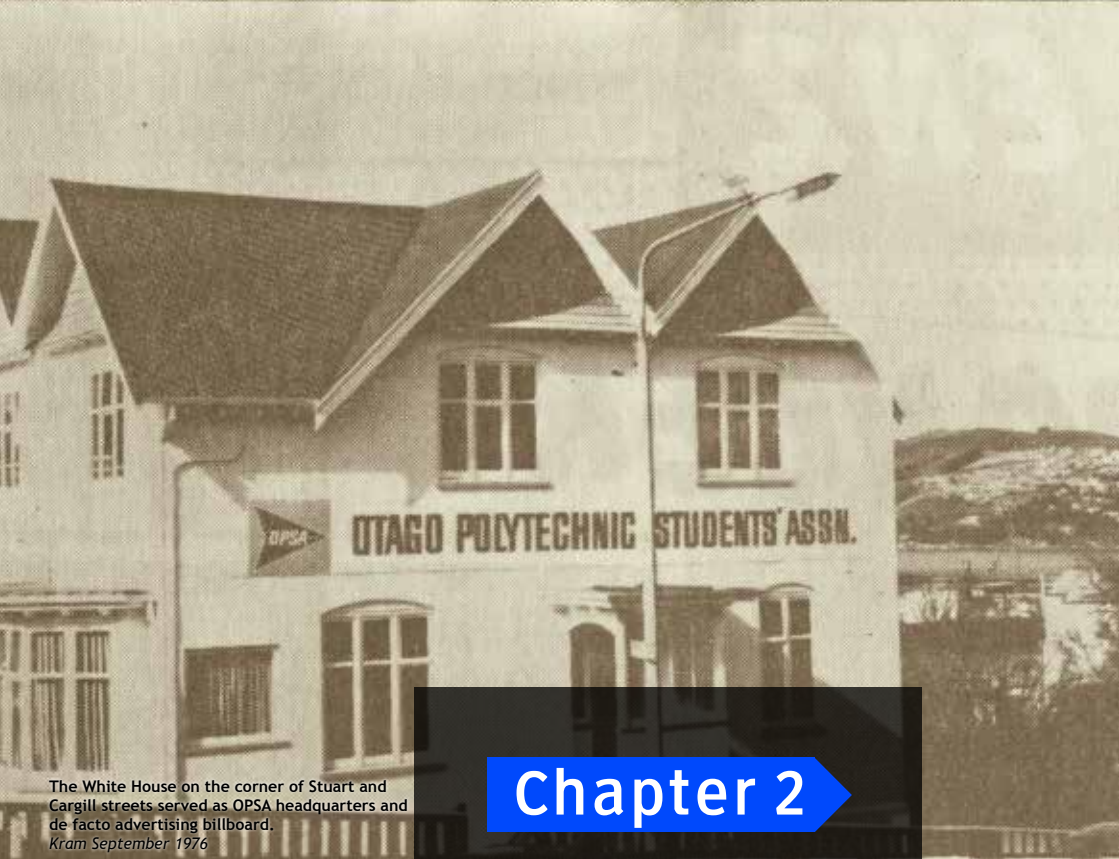
Middle row: G. Unsworth, G. Lettoff, C. Langston, T. Urbani, P. Jenkins, L. Calman.

Front row: K. Tippet (secretary), J. Petitt (treasurer), M. Scott (president).

publisher and long distance walker A.H. Reed. The programme was discontinued in 1969 because the hall was too noisy from traffic and secondary school pupils, and because students were not interested in the topics the executive felt were important. The presence of the secondary school pupils on the shared site was an ongoing problem until they moved to Logan Park in 1974.

While organizing social and sporting events dominated the associations' early years, it also made a tentative

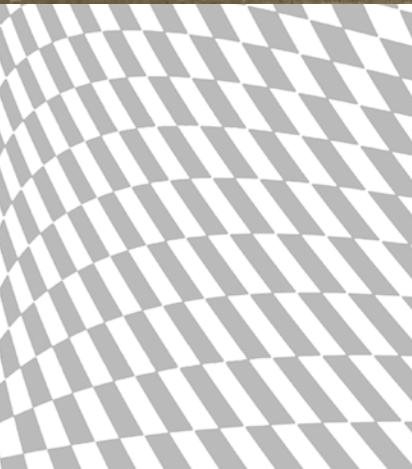
entry into the world of merchandising. In 1966 it produced scarves, ties and lapel badges incorporating the Māori word *kimihia* (to seek), all in the polytechnic's official colours of blue and gold. It later expanded into selling other merchandise including monogrammed T-shirts and hoodies. Despite the commercial activity, the association was still a very modest business. In 1969, for example, it had an income of \$295 (of which it only spent \$161) and a turnover of \$1300.



The White House on the corner of Stuart and Cargill streets served as OPSA headquarters and de facto advertising billboard.
Kram September 1976

Chapter 2

The Seventies Compulsion and Constitutions



The Seventies

Compulsion and Constitutions

The Otago Polytechnic Students' Association led a nomadic life for its first quarter century. It was shunted around various venues, including old houses and flats the polytechnic purchased for eventual demolition as part of grand plans that were later abandoned to build a new polytechnic on or near the Stuart Street campus.

At first the association had to make do with a common room – described as too small, rather unattractive and colourless – in the Patrick Building on the extended Stuart Street-Tennyson Street site.

In 1970 the polytechnic made available to the association a brick house at 83 York Place. The house included a kitchen, living room with a record player, sunroom and 'study rooms' for quiet games of chess, dominos and draughts. The association had to tend the garden. The polytechnic council decreed that the association had to make a special application to the council chair to have alcohol on the premises and to open the house at night. The house was to be closed at weekends.

The York Place house was taken over by the polytechnic caretaker in 1972 and the association shifted to a flat at 25 Smith Street. With the demolition of the Smith Street property to make way for the

proposed redevelopment of the polytechnic, the OPSA offices switched to the called White House, on the corner of Stuart and Cargill streets in 1975. Like the other premises, it was owned by the polytechnic and made available to the association rent-free.

Amid this unsettling period, the government sought to introduce some official recognition and financial stability to tertiary students' associations and improve services to tertiary students. In 1974 the government made membership of tertiary students' associations compulsory by law. With membership of OPSA already compulsory for full-time students, the polytechnic council accordingly passed a by-law that effectively extended compulsory membership to part-time students. Full-time students paid a \$4 students' association fee plus \$3.50 towards a government subsidized student health and welfare service. Part-time students paid a \$1 OPSA fee plus the \$3.50 health and welfare levy. Students were eligible for fees relief on grounds of hardship and exemption on grounds of conscientious objection to compulsory membership. OPSA became an incorporated society, effective from 15

April 1976, as required by the new law, with its own constitution. (It officially became a non-profit making organization in 1986 and was given charitable status in 1994.)

Some part-time students resented being made to join OPSA. In October 1974 they presented a petition to the polytechnic council objecting to a compulsory students' association fee being levied on part-time students, and to the OPSA executive being the 'spokesman' for all polytechnic students. The petition was signed by K.G. Wright and 302 other part-time students. They argued that current students would see little for their fees, very little was known about the association and part-time students were not represented on the executive.

OPSA countered that membership was compulsory by law, that there had been a meeting earlier in the year to discuss fees, which had been poorly attended, and that OPSA fees were among the lowest polytechnic students' association fees in the country. The complaint about no representation was taken care of in the constitution; the executive was to comprise between 12 and 16 members, half full-time and half part-time students. This provision was later dropped in line with the increasing trend towards full-time study.

Another law change further enhanced the associations' status and effectiveness. When the Otago Polytechnic council was established in 1966, it had no student or staff representation. Students were regarded as recipients of education. Neither the government, nor the

polytechnic administration, nor the council itself saw any place for them around the council table. In 1974 the polytechnic council allowed student representatives to attend council meetings for the first time. OPSA president Keith Geary and treasurer Adrian Chisholm sat in on council meetings throughout the year but were not allowed to participate in the proceedings. Two years later the law was changed to allow student and staff representation on polytechnic councils as of right, and Otago Polytechnic students elected David Nicoll as their first council representative. Students also gradually gained representation on most of the polytechnic's various boards and committees.

A further level of communication was introduced through a system of elected class representatives who acted as a link between classes and the polytechnic in matters such as the quality of teaching and the provision of services. The class representatives held meetings and were supported by the students' association.

OPSA was also able to exert some informal influence through the Otago Polytechnic-Students' Liaison Committee established in 1970 to provide a regular forum for discussions between OPSA and the polytechnic council. This committee was later discontinued, but from 1973 regular meetings were held between representatives of the polytechnic administration and OPSA executive.

The 1974 law change gave OPSA the cash and the confidence to expand its horizons, including one major development



From humble beginnings. A page from the first issue of SAM, published in 1974 and edited by Bruce Stewart. SAM volume 1, 1974

that looked to the future and partly confirmed the view of the petitioners about current students seeing little for their fees. With increased and guaranteed funding, OPISA decided in 1975 not to go on a spending spree but to invest 25% of students' association fees each year in a building fund to eventually take advantage of government subsidies that had just been introduced for the construction of student amenity buildings.

As for the part-timers' claim that very little was known about the association, it was able to point to a couple of other recent developments. At the start of 1974 OPISA published its first annual *Students' Handbook*. It contained more than two pages of information on OPISA and was handed to every student on enrolment.

OPISA also started publishing a regular magazine after a couple of tentative starts. In 1969 the association published a one-off students' association magazine, with the less than inspiring title of *Otago Polytechnic Students' Association 1969*. The following year the association's secretary produced

a basic newsletter informing students of social events, facilities and executive members.

In 1974 SAM appeared. An acronym for Students' Association Magazine, SAM was the first in an almost regular students' association magazine that went through various guises and titles: *Guff Sheet*, *Student Informer*, *Kram*, *Pinch*, *The White House Papers*, *The Informer*, *Blast*, *Tech Torque* and since 1999 *Gyro*.

With an increase in funding, OPISA employed its first paid staff member, a part-time secretary, from 1975. Scott Jarrett resigned as OPISA president to take up the position. He was followed in quick succession by three outsiders, including two who were sacked, one for being 'over-rigid'. She was replaced in 1980 by Linda Whyte, who resigned six years later to take up a job at University College. Lesley Scoullar took over in June 1986 and celebrated 28 years in the job in 2014. (During that time she went through several changes of title.) In an organization in which executive members came and went, she provided a much-needed continuity, stability, institutional memory and guidance.

With the employment of a paid secretary, the honorary secretary's position on the OPISA executive was dispensed with, although the position of vice-president was added to the list of elected office holders. Each executive member was also given a portfolio or area of interest to work on.

Part of the expanding of horizons

during the 1970s involved joining other organizations, notably a national students' association. In 1971 polytechnic students' associations around the country formed their first national body, the New Zealand Technical Institutes Students' Association (at a time when most polytechnics called themselves technical institutes). The Otago Polytechnic Students' Association was a founding member of NZTISA and OPISA president Lesley Grant attended NZTISA's first annual meeting in Wellington in 1972. NZTISA took 5% of each association's fees. OPISA was among the associations that felt this was too high. Several Otago Polytechnic students held office in the national association and OPISA president John Reid was elected president of NZTISA in 1980.

One of the immediate benefits of a national body was the ability to arrange national sports tournaments. Despite the tyranny of distance, Otago students took part in the first national sports tournament organized by NZTISA, at the Auckland Technical Institute in 1973, and were regular competitors in subsequent sports tournaments.

OPISA also joined other organizations. It became a member of the Otago Youth Council in 1976 and joined the New Zealand Student Arts Council, which enabled it to show films that did not reach cinemas, and get concessions on touring shows promoted by the council. The arts council was wound up in 1992. In 1983 OPISA joined the Australia and New Zealand Student Services Association, which was also later

disbanded.

The widening of activities beyond organizing social and sports events extended to entering the catering business. The polytechnic initially ran a cafeteria on the ground floor of Burt Hall. With the departure of the secondary school pupils in 1974, OPISA took over the running of the cafeteria and then established a replacement snack bar in a former staff common room in the Stuart Street block, in the capable hands of Gwen Smith and a small staff.

In 1969 OPISA produced its first discount booklets, which it sold to students. From 1973 the association produced student ID cards for access to services and benefits, including free discount booklets, which listed Dunedin shops that offered usually a 10% discount to full-time students (the forerunner of the student discount directory). Full-time students could also apply for international student identity cards that entitled them to 50% student standby fares on Air New Zealand domestic flights. Later, the international firm of STA introduced a system of discounted flights for student cardholders.

In 1977 OPISA started a second-hand bookshop in the White House, selling used textbooks on behalf of students for a small commission. It later also ran a book sale at the start of each year.

The association also became more overtly political. In 1974, for example, it joined students' associations throughout the country in campaigning for bursaries

common to all tertiary students. This produced success in 1976 when the technical institute bursary was replaced by a standard tertiary bursary that put polytechnic students on the same rate as the previously higher paid university students. OPSA continued to push for bursary payment increases over subsequent years. Political activity was not confined to immediate self-interest. In 1975, for example, OPSA protested against the setting up of what was seen as the sinister Wanganui Computer to store official information.

The basic work continued too. In 1974 OPSA organized two dances and the annual ball, and requested coffee-dispensing machines for each common room and more cycle racks on campus. In 1975 it called for traffic lights to be erected on the corner of Stuart Street and York Place because of the potential danger to students from vehicles using the busy Stuart Street thoroughfare. From 1976 OPSA adopted the university tradition of organizing an orientation week. The first was described as 'close to a complete success', comprising

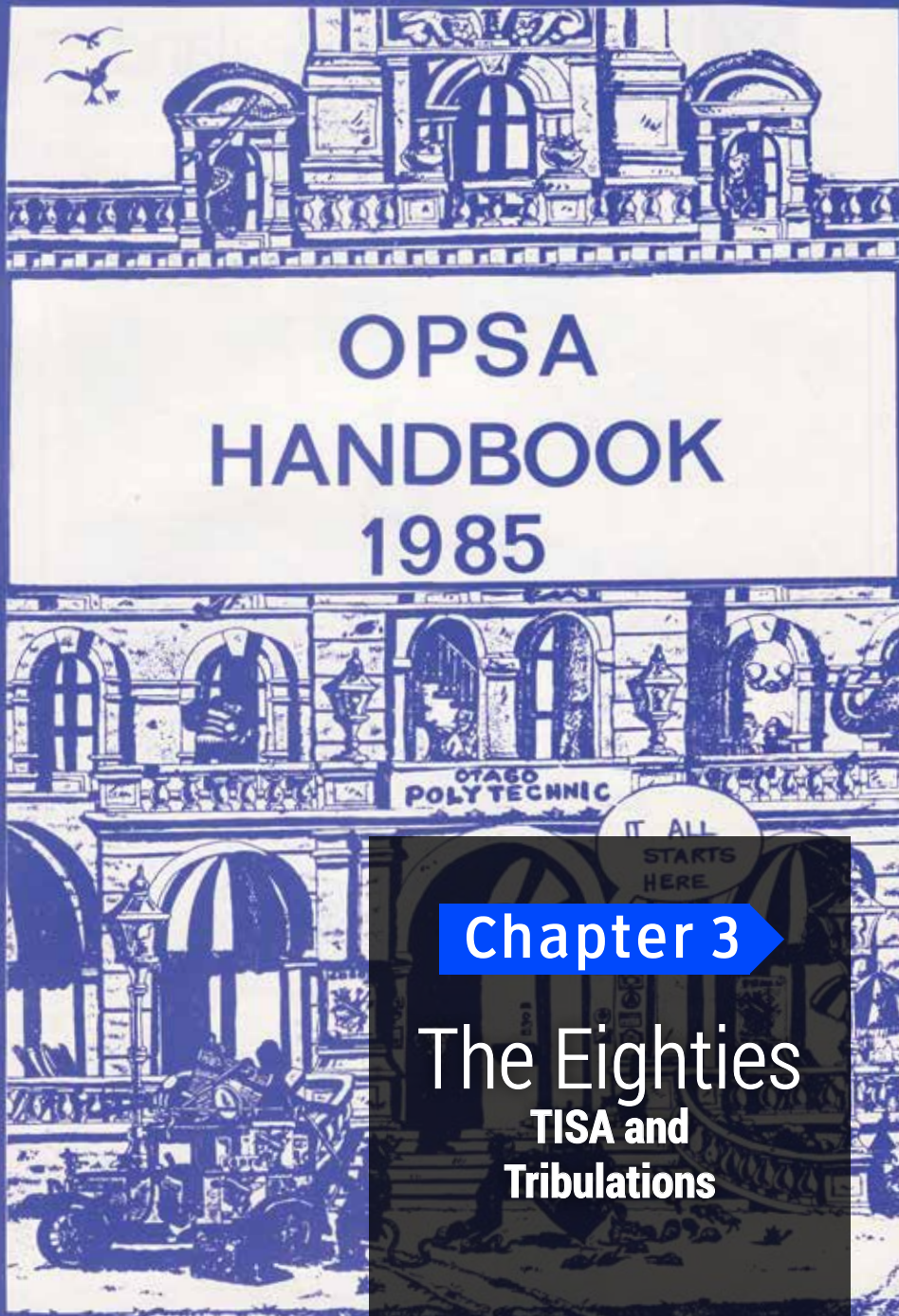
two hops, a barbecue and a get together for students and staff. Involvement by part-timers was minimal. The association also became involved in community fundraising for various nationwide Telethons during the 1970s.

Some OPSA activities fell victim to student apathy. In 1971 there were not enough players to enter teams in the local netball or hockey competitions. In 1974 a party planned for Long Beach was cancelled because of lack of support (and concerns about students wanting to ignore the buses and use their own cars). A 1979 bus trip to the Waiora Scout Camp was cancelled due to lack of interest.

Apathy was a perennial yet understandable problem in an association of people who were there primarily to attend classes and pass exams, not to get involved in a students' association. The running of the association was sometimes dogged by a lack of a quorum at executive meetings. The association struggled to attract and retain office holders, or offered 'no confidence' as the only voter alternative to the sole candidate. It was not uncommon to have a turnover of two presidents a year. The association had three in 1966 and again in 1975. Even motivated students such as 1976 president Greg Gwynne, who tried to berate fellow students into becoming active in the association, resigned mid-year because he felt he would not pass his full-time art course. The problem didn't go away. In 1989 there were no nominations for the positions of president or vice-president at the annual meeting.



Having a ball. About 300 people attended the 1973 ball where the band Velvet was a big hit.



OPSA HANDBOOK 1985

Chapter 3

The Eighties TISA and Tribulations

The talents of polytechnic art students were often used to enhance OPSA publications, including the front covers of handbooks.

The Eighties

TISA and Tribulations

From 1979 the Otago Polytechnic Students' Association started paying its elected officials. It was in part an attempt to make the positions more attractive and in part to recognize the increasing workload that went with them. Initially the president and treasurer were each paid a modest honorarium.

The following year an ambitious young man arrived on campus with much bolder plans for the presidency and the association. Paul Gourlie, who was already the president of the Otago University Students' Association, was elected president of the Otago Polytechnic Students' Association. He reckoned his election was a reflection that students had not been satisfied with the representation they had received in the past and hoped his dual role would develop a closer relationship between the two associations. He was enrolled in courses at both institutions, although his right to hold both positions simultaneously was questioned by some students.

Paul Gourlie ended his university involvement in 1981. He was re-elected OPSA president, students' association fees (which had increased slowly since 1964) were increased substantially from

\$15 to \$24 for full-time students (\$12 for part-timers), his honorarium was increased substantially and he effectively became the first full-time president of the Otago Polytechnic Students' Association. Paul Gourlie explained that this was a step towards changing the office of president into a full-time salaried administrative manager.

The following year, with Paul Gourlie again re-elected president, OPSA moved out of the rent-free White House and rented larger, more central premises in the former Children's Library in the terrace buildings at 203 Stuart Street, just above the Octagon. OPSA leased half the building, establishing what it described as a student public relations office downstairs and an exhibition gallery for art students upstairs. Paul Gourlie said he instituted the shift to bring the OPSA offices closer to the majority of polytechnic students and to give the association and the polytechnic a higher public profile.

These moves worried the polytechnic administration. The polytechnic's principal, Ted Aitchison, was concerned that a 'student-activist-politician' who paid a token enrolment fee but did not even bother attending classes (an accusation

he made against Paul Gourlie) could be elected to office and speak on behalf of 'active' bona fide students. In 1982 Paul Gourlie didn't even bother enrolling as a student, on the grounds that once elected, he could hold office until death, retirement, removal from office or the election of a successor. This loophole was later closed so that an office holder had to be a current student and not just a student at the time they were first elected.

Ted Aitchison had wider concerns too. He questioned the association's financial management, and particularly the cost of renting a central office, which he reckoned greatly exceeded any tangible benefits and which Paul Gourlie admitted had put a strain on OPSA's finances. Ted Aitchison felt that 'excessive income' had been a prime cause of 'the more doubtful activities' of the association and the polytechnic council vetoed a further increase in students' association fees to \$32 in 1982. The OPSA executive regarded the polytechnic administration as patronizing and complained to Ted Aitchison that 'they had been treated like high-school kids'. OPSA threatened to seek a judicial review and the council backed down. (The council finally gave up the right to veto students' association fee increases in 1997 and left it up to the OPSA annual meeting.)

Meanwhile, Paul Gourlie had bigger fish to fry. In 1983 he was elected national president of NZTISA, leaving OPSA to pay back-taxes on his OPSA president's honorarium. OPSA reverted

to having a part-time president on a reduced honorarium. It vacated its rented accommodation in the middle of town and moved back up Stuart Street to a rent-free students' information centre on the ground floor of the old brick building.

It was only there a short time before it was on the move again, as part of the laborious task of relocating the polytechnic to a mix of surplus Dunedin Teachers College buildings, shared teachers college buildings and new buildings on the flat in North Dunedin. The relocation began in 1980. The commerce students were the first to shift and created a spat between OPSA and the Dunedin Teachers College Trainees' Association over how much OPSA would pay for commerce students using trainees' association facilities.

The students' association initially moved into two tiny offices on the first floor of a vacated teachers college building on the corner of Albany Street and Anzac Avenue in 1984. Most of the wooden building was taken over by the polytechnic's art school. The association then moved down into another temporary office – a prefab it purchased from the teachers college and moved onto the art school site. Part of the prefab was used as an OPSA office and the rest as a common room for art students. It was later demolished to make way for the polytechnic's Leith Block.

While relationships with the polytechnic administration became strained, those with the national association became dysfunctional. OPSA was increasingly

irritated by NZTISA over such things as a lack of audited accounts, the employment of a full-time president and the failure to reimburse travel costs. OPISA actually resigned from the national body in 1980 but soon rejoined.

In 1983 the national association, which had changed its name to the New Zealand Technical Institutes Student Services Association, set up TISA Card Limited (with its president Paul Gourlie as managing director) to provide a national student ID card. OPISA bought shares in the company and replaced its own card with the national card. The following year the national card scheme and NZTISSA itself were shrouded in accusations of mismanagement and Paul Gourlie resigned. OPISA had already got rid of its shares and went back to producing its own ID cards and discount booklets.

The national ID card fiasco and ongoing concerns with the way that NZTISSA was run prompted the OPISA executive to vote unanimously in 1984 to once again resign from the national association. OPISA president Denise Jackson told NZTISSA that OPISA involvement with the national body was a waste of time and of no benefit to Otago Polytechnic students. OPISA then reversed its decision before the notice period expired. NZTISSA self-destructed two years later – its failure put down to inefficient management of funds, lack of accountability and ineffective communication with and representation of members. It was replaced two years later by the Aotearoa Polytechnic Students'

Union, of which OPISA was a founding member (and provided one of APSU's presidents, former OPISA president Rebecca Parata, in 1997).

The wrangling with the polytechnic administration and national association overshadowed less controversial but more worthy activity. Polytechnic students had put up with scant recreational facilities on the Stuart Street site. In 1981 they gained free access to the Otago University Students' Association Clubs and Societies Centre in Albany Street, after OPISA did a deal with OUSA to make an annual payment. Free or subsidized access to the centre continued under various arrangements over the years, with a return to a system of free use for a lump sum payment from 1997. The centre offered activities from Indian vegetarian cooking to kick boxing, facilities from saunas to sewing machines and a base for clubs and societies from international socialism to fire dancing. In 1988 OPISA also paid \$10,000 towards the high-tech sand-based turf (since replaced with a water-based turf) at the McMillan Hockey Centre next to what would become the association's new home.

In another major development, OPISA joined with the university and teachers college students' associations in 1984 to run the local Student Job Search. Students were able to use the nationwide service to find work while studying or during the holidays. The service was funded by the government and students' associations around the country.

In 1985 OPSA introduced a student loan scheme to provide interest-free emergency funds to members to cover anything from medical bills to course materials. OPSA and the polytechnic later jointly administered a student hardship (assistance) fund that provided grants, interest-free loans and advice.

OPSA's own financial position benefited from a sponsorship deal from 1986 with the Bank of New Zealand, which fronted up with cash in return for the BNZ's name plastered over everything from mail outs to buses carrying OPSA members to sports tournaments.

In 1980 the association set up a trust fund, the interest from which it used to award annual cash prizes to students nominated by the heads of departments for being a 'good all round student'. These were replaced by graduation awards from 1992, awarded to students nominated by fellow students for providing excellent service, for example by helping with course-related work or study. The following year the association introduced an award for excellence for first year fashion students at the annual 'Collections' fashion show.

In 1983/4 OPSA became involved in two outdoor education projects. It set up annual scholarships to sponsor students to Outward Bound courses and berths on the Spirit of Adventure. The sponsorships later lapsed although students could apply for individual grants to take part in these activities.

While boredom had killed off the programme of lunch-time speakers in the late 1960s, by the late 1980s the executive had lightened up and started providing popular lunch-time entertainment, including live performances by local and visiting bands. A new feature was added to orientation week from 1988 – Top Fac, a version of Top Town for polytechnic faculties. Teams competed in obstacle courses and games such as hitting savelys over nets and catching them in buckets.

The association also contributed money to various other student activities. In 1984, for example, it underwrote an art school ball, subsidized a physiotherapy student tramp at Trotters Gorge and paid air fares and registration fees for a nursing student to attend a nurses' seminar in Napier. Such assistance was later formalized into a system of class and departmental grants to assist with social events, exhibitions, study and conference attendance. OPSA also continued the tradition of contributing to community causes, donating money to the Southland flood appeal in 1984. The association introduced another tradition too. From 1984 executive members and staff were treated to an annual 'thank you' dinner at a local restaurant.

The struggle to provide services in Dunedin was compounded when the polytechnic branched out to campuses in Oamaru and Cromwell during the 1980s, and later Queenstown and Wanaka. OPSA decided to charge these students

reduced students' association fees in recognition of their distance from its facilities and services. Various measures were tried to include the outlying students in association affairs. The most timid saw each campus elect a student representative who liaised with the association and posted information on notice boards. The boldest saw Cromwell students for a time setting up what they called the Cromwell Campus Students' Association, with its own president and spending power, under the watchful eye of a polytechnic staff member.



THE
STUDENT
CENTRE

Chapter 4

The Nineties

Unipol and User Pays

The Nineties

Unipol and User Pays

After 26 years and eight venues, the Otago Polytechnic Students' Association acquired its first purpose-built accommodation in 1990. The deal worked out with the government for the relocation of the polytechnic included the joint use by the polytechnic and the Dunedin College of Education (the re-named teachers college) of a student centre paid for by the government. The two-storey building on Harbour Terrace boasted students' association offices for both institutions, full cafeteria and function rooms for up to 700 people, a common room, and health, counselling and chaplaincy services.

OPSA contributed to running costs for its office space in the student centre

and was represented on a joint student centre management committee, along with representatives of the polytechnic, college of education and the college's students' association. The committee employed the student centre staff and the centre was run as a separate business entity.

With the opening of the student centre, OPSA closed its long-established café in the old brick building in Stuart Street and the temporary café it had set up in D Block on the new campus site.

Since 1975 OPSA had been putting aside 25% of its fees to build a student centre. Now that the government had obliged, the association decided to draw on its building fund to jointly purchase the



Students exercise their right to free use of the Unipol recreation centre.

former Williamson and Jeffrey warehouse in Anzac Avenue and turn it into a student recreation centre, which also opened in 1990.

Aptly named Unipol, the centre was a joint venture with the university: the Otago Polytechnic Students' Association owned 20% of the centre, the Otago University and the Otago University Students' Association each owned 40%. OPISA paid \$370,000 towards the purchase price and renovation costs and contributed to the annual running costs through a levy on Dunedin campus students. They had free access to training facilities, exercise equipment and social and competitive sports such as basketball, netball and volleyball. These facilities were complemented by pool and table tennis tables at the Student Centre. With no further buildings planned for the foreseeable future, in 1994 OPISA reduced the amount of students' association fees going into the building fund from 25% to 10% and put the extra 15% towards student services.

Until 1989 OPISA had got by with one paid staff member. By 1991 the workload was too much for a part-time office manager and the association took on a part-time student services officer (liaison officer/association services officer). Shaun Scott was the first, followed by Sandy Garner, Maria Polechtchouck, Simone Montgomery and Mark Baxter from 2001. They took over responsibility for social activities, the student magazine and association campaigns. Magazine editors were paid from 1996. A part-time office

assistant, Christian Watson, started work in 1999.

The association also became more professional and corporate in the way it operated. It introduced a handbook for executive members, job descriptions for officials, a strategic plan and a financial management policy. OPISA also entered cyberspace in 1997, developing a web page of information about the association.

The 1990s were characterized by student protests as user-pays gate-crashed the tertiary education system. OPISA raged against the introduction of a student loan scheme in 1989 and backed protest marches in Dunedin against the scheme and local polytechnic fee increases, and called for the introduction of a universal student allowance. Otago Polytechnic students were among those from around the country to hop on protest buses and converge on Wellington in 1993 for a budget day mass rally in support of increased tertiary funding. They repeated the exercise in 1997 to protest against rising fees and student debt. In 1997 OPISA staged a sit-in at a polytechnic council meeting and students occupied the registry and held their own mock council meeting. In 1999 about 200 polytechnic students joined a student debt rally through the streets of Dunedin to the Ministry of Education's offices in the Exchange.

The moves towards user-pays created more work for the association. In the past, individual students had occasionally popped into the OPISA office for a bit of advice. OPISA complained in 1992 that



Who ate all the pies? Participants in the fast food eating competition during orientation week in 2000.

as a result of user-pays education it had experienced a huge increase in the number of students requiring advocacy and budget advice.

Protest was not confined to issues affecting students' pockets. In 1991, for example, OPSA boycotted the polytechnic's 25th birthday dinner in protest at the presence of the United States ambassador and United States foreign policy.

Some OPSA campaigns were more humdrum but produced more tangible benefits. After several years of repeated requests, in 1997 the Dunedin City Council finally installed a pedestrian crossing between the Student Centre and main campus buildings on the other side of Harbour Terrace.

The viability of the association was threatened in 1999 as a result of a law change promoted by M.P. Michael Laws

that required each tertiary institution to hold a referendum to decide whether students' association membership should remain compulsory or become voluntary. OPSA ran a concerted campaign in favour of compulsory membership, which students voted to retain by 705 votes to 493. Less than a third of association members voted in the referendum.



OPSA president Rachel Dibble (left) takes part in an NZUSA demonstration in Wellington in 2005. Ever-increasing student debt consumed much of OPISA's political activity following the introduction of the controversial student loan scheme.



Chapter 5

The Naughties & Beyond Blowouts and Blues

The Naughties & Beyond

Blowouts and Blues

The Otago Polytechnic Students' Association was as keen as anyone to see all of the polytechnic's Dunedin facilities consolidated on the North Dunedin site but it shared the concerns of polytechnic staff and others about plans to complete that relocation in 2001–2. Those fears were well founded. A budget blowout caused the polytechnic council to abandon the project before it was completed, leaving the hospitality and language courses stuck on the hill. The students' association joined the chorus of calls for the chief executive, Wanda Korndorffer, to resign, which she eventually did after negotiating a generous exit package. OPSPA executive member Brooke Lawton was a prominent critic of the polytechnic council and administration's handling of the re-development project.

More trouble was also brewing on the national scene, where apparently nothing had been learned from the NZTISSA debacle of the 1980s. Increasing concerns about developments within the re-named Aotearoa Tertiary Students' Association culminated in OPSPA giving notice in 2000 that it was going to resign from ATSA, as did five other member associations.

One particular concern was about

ATSA financially supporting the setting up of a private training establishment to provide education in students' association management, when ATSA's constitution opposed such private organizations and ATSA already provided such training. OPSPA was also troubled that ATSA's national director, Kia Houpapa, was the private training establishment's chief executive. There were more general concerns too about a lack of communication, lack of accountability, and apparent financial mismanagement within the national association.

After the required notice had expired, OPSPA joined the New Zealand University Students' Association in 2002. (ATSA had to threaten court action to get its final fees payment from OPSPA.) This was the first time since 1970 that NZUSA had a polytechnic association join its ranks. Other polytechnic students' associations followed suit. OPSPA co-president in 2006, Natalie Absalom, was instrumental in getting the national association's name changed to New Zealand Union of Students' Associations. The following year she was elected National Womens' Rights Officer.

The like-hate relationship with



OPSA is represented in the first-ever Otago Polytechnic graduation parade in 2001.
Terry Stevens/Otago Polytechnic Students' Association

successive national organizations broke down again in 2011. OPSPA, after giving the required 12 months notice and holding a referendum, left the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations on the grounds that it was overspending on administration, underspending on student activities and campaigns and not putting the needs of students first. The parting of the ways saved OPSPA \$31,000 a year in levies and expenses.

The new millennium saw OPSPA expand, taking on new staff, office space and activities. From 2004 it employed an advertising agent for *Gyro*, which became the first polytechnic publication to join the Aotearoa Student Press Association and aspired to be recognized at the association's annual awards. The following

year OPSPA employed a part-time Central Otago regional coordinator, Bob Tovey, based in Cromwell, but with responsibility for Wanaka students as well. (The campus in Queenstown closed and Oamaru was taken over by Aoraki Polytechnic.)

Office expansion came as a result of the takeover by the University of Otago of the Dunedin College of Education and the demise of the college's students' association in 2007. OPSPA spread into its former neighbour's office in the Student Centre, which was turned into a meeting room and office for the president and vice-president. The former meeting room was converted into a student services area, where students had access to cheap faxing and photocopying, colour printing, binding and laminating.

In 2009 the Student Centre was redeveloped. With the closure of the Tennyson Street site, the hospitality students and staff made the long-awaited move to their new home in the Student Centre. It provided a new barista, training kitchens and restaurant, along with new common areas, quiet room, computer stations and improved recreational facilities. Hospitality took over the OPSA offices in 2014 and the association moved around the corner into Block S while it waited for a more permanent home in an atrium being built linking H and F Blocks as part of a major campus upgrade.

In 2012 polytechnic students also benefitted from all-new-improved Unipol facilities, when the student recreation centre moved from the former Anzac Avenue warehouse to the nearby University Plaza

located beside the Forsyth Barr Stadium. OPSA relinquished its 20% shareholding in Unipol in 2012 but retained its investment and agreed to put in further money to ensure polytechnic students continued to enjoy the same access as university students.

From 2003 OPSA awarded sporting 'blues' to students who achieved a high level of sporting excellence, behaviour and contribution to their club or sport. In 2006 it presented its first staff awards in recognition of outstanding teachers.

Developments within the executive included the option of presidential job sharing to ease the workload. Natalie Absalom and Richard Mitchell successfully stood as co-presidents for 2006, and Meegan Cloughley and Ryan Ward followed the precedent for 2008 and 2009.



Former rugby and cricket international Jeff Wilson presents the 2006 OPSA blues awards to touch rugby and basketball player Nadine Stone (left) and rhythmic gymnast Nicole Hooper



OPSA women's welfare officer Melissa Hoffman and vice-president Vanessa Pringle sell T-shirts with Thursdays in Black logos as part of an international campaign that arrived on campus in 2001 encouraging people to wear black each Thursday in support of a world without rape, violence, abuse and discrimination.

The changing face of the polytechnic student body was reflected in Māori students electing up to three and Pacific Island and international student groups each electing up to two representatives on the association's executive from 2002/3. Executive members also took on roles that reflected changes in society. By 2009, in addition to the traditional jobs of social, sports, women's rights and campaigns officers, the executive had a sustainability officer, a mature students' officer and a men's welfare officer. In 2005 the association created a new role of OPSA representative on UniQ, an Otago University-based group that represented and supported 'queer' tertiary students in Dunedin. This arrangement was superseded by the creation of a 'queer' support network at the polytechnic in 2007.

One important development went against the tide of more expansive representation. In 2010 OPSA (along with polytechnic staff) lost the 34-year

right to have a representative on the polytechnic council, as a result of a law change that reduced polytechnic councils to a maximum of eight (Otago previously had 15). The new council comprised four members appointed by the minister of tertiary education, along with three community members and one Māori member all appointed by the council. The Otago Polytechnic council decided not to have a student as one of its community representatives and instead created a student sub-committee whose representative was able to speak but not vote at council meetings. The same arrangement was made for polytechnic staff.

The association continued to look beyond the campus, from opposing the invasion of Iraq in 2003 to objecting to a 'wife beater Wednesday' promotion at a local hotel in 2004. It also made regular and thoroughly researched submissions to local and central government, from a 2011 request for a fare-free citywide bus service to a 2012 call for changes to the electoral system.

These paled compared with the biggest fight that OPSA had engaged in during its nearly 50 year history. For the first time since the organization was established, compulsory membership of OPSA ceased at the end of 2011, following the passing of a law promoted by M.P. Heather Roy that made students' associations membership voluntary. From 2012 the polytechnic opted to continue to collect a compulsory student services fee and have OPSA

continue to provide most of the services. OPSA waived its no-longer compulsory \$40 membership fee, which previously covered expenditure such as the president's salary and running campaigns, and called on its reserves to fund the deficit – something that was unsustainable in the medium term. (In a 2011 survey of students 56% responded that they would voluntarily pay a membership fee directly to OPSA but that was without them having to put their hands in their pockets.)

From ultra-modest beginnings in 1964 as a small, subservient organization with several dozen members and its horizon set on organizing an annual dance, by 2014 the Otago Polytechnic Students' Association had grown into a substantial, independent

organization representing more than 7000 students. The association had survived chronic apathy and severe bouts of local and national over-ambition since 1964 to provide its members with a huge range of services, from representing their interests within the polytechnic administration, to furnishing quality recreational facilities, to supplying the cheapest official rubbish bags in Dunedin. Its biggest test was yet to come.



'Whadda we want?' Students Michiel Verkade (left) and Alex Nicholls rally in the Octagon in 2001 in protest over the scrapping of the emergency unemployment benefit that left some students without support over the summer holidays.



OPSA brought an international flavour to the polytechnic in 2006 through its inaugural cultural food festival. The association also organized a cultural showcase at which international students performed.

Note & Autographs

OPSA Presidents

1966	Lindsay Laing	1990	Trevor Fordyce/Prue Edge
1967	Prue Cruickshank/Kay Stalker/Graham Dickson	1991	Prue Edge
1968	Brian Roff	1992	Lissa Mitchell/Nicola Hall
1969	Peter White/M. Scott	1993	Nicola Hall
1970	Reid Buchan/James Marlow	1994	Rebecca Parata
1971	James Marlow/Matthew Robertson	1995	Rebecca Parata
1972	Matthew Robertson/Lesley Grant	1996	Grant Dickson
1973	Malcolm McCallum/Rodger Smith	1997	Grant Dickson
1974	Keith Geary	1998	Debbie Ruthven
1975	Scott Jarrett/Geoff Weston/Keith Geary	1999	Debbie Ruthven
1976	Greg Gwynne/Barry Simpson	2000	Simone Montgomery
1977	Scott Jarrett/Wayne Barnett	2001	Anna McMartin
1978	John Reid	2002	Phil Baskerville
1979	John Reid	2003	Michelle Watt
1980	John Reid/Paul Gourlie	2004	Rachel Dibble
1981	Paul Gourlie	2005	Rachel Dibble
1982	Paul Gourlie	2006	Natalie Absalom/Richard Mitchell (co-presidents)
1983	Terry Stone	2007	Richard Mitchell
1984	Denise Jackson	2008	Meegan Cloughley/Ryan Ward (co-presidents)
1985	Wayne Everson	2009	Meegan Cloughley/Ryan Ward (co-presidents)
1986	Hilary Frankpitt/Warrick McNeill	2010	Meegan Cloughley
1987	Garry van der Veen	2011	Michelle Fidow
1988	Alexina Finnie	2012	Rebecca Hohaia
1989	Trevor Fordyce	2013	Rebecca Swindells (nee Hohaia)
		2014	Rebecca Swindells (nee Hohaia)



OTAGO POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE, 1978

Back Row: Neil Campbell (Construction); Martyn Cobbe (Art); Grant Leoni (Art);
 Brian Boyd (Engineering); Tony van Alphen (Construction); John van Rooy
 (Construction); Wayne Morris (Art).
Front Row: Marion Fletcher (Physiotherapy); Annette Wood (Physiotherapy);
 Joan Duckley (Art); John Reid Jr. (Art) President; Christine Prendergast
 (Science) Treasurer; Erin Parker (Physiotherapy); Eunice Landers (Secretary).



OTAGO POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE, 1979

Back Row: Ross Macleod (Commerce); Gail Gough (Physiotherapy); Carolyn Hay (Physiotherapy);
 Christine Prendergast (Science, Treasurer); John Reid (Art, President)
Front Row: Eunice Landers (Secretary); Margaret MacManus (Commerce); Theres Bruce (Physiotherapy)
Absent: Bronwyn Dale (Art); Joan Duckley (Art); Grant Leoni (Art)
Resigned: John van Rooy (Construction); Richard Emanuel (Art); Martyn Cobbe (Art); Jenny Ryan (Physiotherapy)

OTAGO POLYTECHNIC ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE 1981



Front Row — Linda Whyte (Secretary), Paul Gourlie (President / Maori & Computer Science), Angela Dwyer (Vice President / Art), Feona Jelcich (Ceramics), Trish Kelly (Science), Penny Rowson (Commerce), Frank Graves (Commerce), Cheryl Bateman (Catering), Ted Matheson (Physiotherapy), Mark Cartman (Physiotherapy).
Back Row — Christine Prendergast (Science), John Reid (Immed. Past President), Rowena Mason (Treasurer / Ceramics), Stephen Blaikie (Catering).
Absent: Terry Stone (Physiotherapy). Resigned: Ross MacCloed.
Life Members: Ross MacCloed, Christine Prendergast, Angela Dwyer.

OTAGO POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS ASSN EXECUTIVE 1982



Front Row: Sonya Griffith (Commerce), Mark Cranswick (Physio), Peter Wood (Treasurer/Commerce), Ross Groves (Construction), Karl Walls (Construction), Paul Cadogan (Construction), Barry Simpson (Marine), Gwen Smith (Snack Bar).

Back Row: Mark Cartman (Physio), Andrea McCone (Commerce), Judy Bosworth (Commerce), Paul Gourlie (President), Linda Whyte (Secretary), Barbara Smith (Snack Bar), Louis Campbell (Snack Bar).

OTAGO POLYTECHNIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE 1983



BACK ROW:
 John Lanigan, (Physiotherapy) Peter Wood, (Student Rep. on Council) Gwen Smith, (Manageress, Snack Bar) Chris Bosworth, (Engineering) Patrick Cole-Baker, (Art) Denise Jackson, (Commerce) John Warren, (Physiotherapy) Paul Cadogan, (Construction) Barbara Smith, (Snack Bar)

FRONT ROW:
 Rob Nisbet, (Snack Bar) Linda Whyte, (Secretary) Terry Stone, (President/Physiotherapy) Sara Griffin, (Treasurer/French) Judith Watson, (Construction)

ABSENT:
 Kathryn Long, (Physiotherapy) Marie Taitel, (Art) Anja Pass, (Physiotherapy)

OTAGO POLYTECHNIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE 1984



Back Row: Judith Watson (Construction), Paul Cadogan (Construction), Rob Nisbet (Construction), Chris Bosworth (Engineering), Lyn Cotton (Physiotherapy), Sue Gair (Office), Jeannine McMillan (Science), Bridget Doran (Physiotherapy), Jeanne Kinkaid (Art), Donald Harman (Art), Jan Fraker (Snack Bar), Gwen Smith (Manageress - Snack Bar)

Front Row: Lorraine Ritchie (Nursing), Kerry Evans (Physiotherapy), Denise Jackson (Commerce/President), Linda Whyte (Secretary), Helen Mason (Commerce)

**OTAGO POLYTECHNIC
STUDENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE 1985**



Back Row: Amanda (Dance), Kelly (Dance), Sherrill (Health), Margaret (Physical), Mary Watson (Permeant), Beulah (Hospital Pharmacy),
 Bridget (Dance), Mary (Dance), Sue (Health), Nick (Health), Mark (Dance), Phillip (Dance)
 Front Row: Jackie (Dance), Linda (Health), Elizabeth (Dance), Wayne (Dance), Phillip (Dance), Helen (Dance), Alan (Dance)

800 800 8000 • 800 800 8000

**OTAGO POLYTECHNIC
STUDENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE
1986**



Back Row: Jan Fisher (Dance Bar), Lenley Scoullar (Secretary), Bridget Ellis
 (Vice-President/Nursing), Blaise Frankitt (Health), Mark
 Merwin (Dance), Alfie, Lorraine (Dance), Gerry (Dance),
 Front Row: Deem Smith (Management/Secretary), Liz (Dance), Kirsty (Dance) (Physio)
 Donna McKeandry (Physiotherapy), Belinda (Dance), Belinda (Dance) (Nursing)

OTAGO POLYTECHNIC
STUDENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE
1987



Back Row: Lenae Soodie (Physio), Brian Parker (Art), Matthew Thompson (Construction), Steve Gourley (Commerce), Jan Fisher (Book Sale)
Middle Row: Bob Stibbe (Book Sale), Denise Foley (Nursing), Shona Cameron (Art), Ana Collins (Art), Liz Curney (Physio), Jeanie Obit (Commerce), Ann Smith (Nursing)
Front Row: Denise McDonald, Jan Fisher (Cafeteria), Alexina Finnie (Nursing/Vice-President)
Absent: Jacqui Ellis (Nursing/Vice-President)

OPSA

OTAGO POLYTECHNIC
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE 1988



BACK ROW: Gary McKay, Shona Cameron, Lisa Beech (Art), Sue Quirk (Commerce), Dan Underwood (Physio)
MIDDLE ROW: Lesley Scoullar (Secretary), Ana Collins (Art), Keith Crawford (Physio), Sarah Reed (Nursing), Jacqui Ellis (Nursing/Student Rep on Council), Helen Flint (Nursing), Owen Smith (Cafeteria)
FRONT ROW: Denise McDonald, Jan Fisher (Cafeteria), Alexina Finnie (President)
ABSENT: Steve Gourley (Vice-President)

OPSA

OTAGO POLYTECHNIC
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

E X E C U T I V E 1 9 8 9



Back row - Prue Edge, Di Halstead (Art); Trevor Fordyce (President)
Middle - Paul Paris (Cafe); Keith Crawford (Physio); Gasy McKay (Art)
Sarah Bead (Surg); Noira Hughes (Physio); Helen Flint (Hut)
Lisa Beach (Art)
Front - Lesley Scoullar (Sec); Ana Collins (Art); Denise McDonald,
Denise Rybar, Naewyn Ferguson (Caf)
Absent - Gwen Smith (Cafe); Rob Gordon (Art)

OPSA

The Student Centre
Harbour Terrace

P O Box 1381
Telephone 477-6074
DUNEDIN

OTAGO POLYTECHNIC
STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

1 9 9 0 E X E C U T I V E C O M M I T T E E



Back Row: Debbie Broad, Jan Fisher, Denise McDonald,
Nicci Hession, Paul Edge (President),
Colleen Conroy (Vice-President), Owen Smith,
Lesley Scoullar (Office Manager)
Front Row: Graham Wicken, Emma Milburn (standing),
Di Halstead, Lisa Beech, Trevor Fordyce,
Craig Connor

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1991

OPSA



TOP ROW: Graham Wicken, Di Hainstead (Student Rep. on Council), Tamara Richardson
 MIDDLE ROW: Barry Jenkins, Lissa Mitchell, Nik Hall, Shirley Ford, Lesley Scoullar
 BOTTOM ROW: Kim Arcus, Harold Spiers, Jason Court, Frue Mope (President)

1992 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Back row: Gerard van Rooy, Dave Morgan, Shaun Scott, Harold Spiers, Dylan Meill (V.P.), Loza Motaano, Ravita Lavamai, Shirley Ford
 Middle row: Lesley Scoullar, Nik Hall (Pres.) Graham Wicken, Sheridan Dickson, Myles Matheson, Jenny Melville
 Front row: Di Hainstead, Stephanie Rowha, Peter Scott (absent)

1993 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Back Row: Sandy Garner (SGO), Peter Scott, Toni Clarke, Nyles Matheson, Kris Claydon, Darren Bammond
Middle: Lesley Scullar (OM), Kik Ball (Pres), Tan Mei Ping, Mark Thompson, Graham Wichen (VP),
Front: Rebecca Parata, Shirley Ford
Absent: Rebecca Challis, Dalen Pacey, Charleen Gallagher, Lona Moutaane

**OTAGO POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' ASSN
 1994 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**



Rowena Parata (President); Lisa Matthews (Vice-Pres)
Stephaine Cooper (Coop. Thr); Cindy Ross (Act)
Robyn Kelly (Act); Kevin MacLimpie (Execut)
Sandy Garner (Student Serv. Offic.); Lesley Scullar (Act. Manager)

Otago Polytechnic Students' Association

1995 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Back Row: Simon Fogarty, Darren Swan, Dave Harris, Jocelyn LePetit
 Lesley Scoullar (Off. Manag), Anthony Ritchie (guest conductor)
Front Row: Sandy Garner (SSO/Officer), Rebecca Parata (Pres)
 Grant Dickson (VP), Chrissy Pickford, Barry King, "Dusty"
 Absent: Charles Strong

OTAGO POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION 1996 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



199 Lucinda Richards, Lucille Hill (Minor Rep.), Tania Armstrong (VP)
2nd Arthur Rainworth (Zustify) Jo Scott, Simon Fogarty, Grant Dickson (Pres), Maria Poluchshosok (SSO)
3rd Rachael Cameron, Terry Hordanga, Lesley Scoullar (OffMan), Vive Supramaniam (Int Rep.)
4th Rogham Mills (Web), Darren Swan
4th (A) Anne Coulthart (SSS), (Minor & Minor), Chris House (Editor)
 Absent: Dean Fraser and Dale Grace (Editor)

OTAGO POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

1997 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Top: Kiri Webster (Grant Dickson (President), Rebecca (APSU President), Lesley Scoullar (Office Manager)
 2nd row: Vanessa Pringle (Library Rep), Simon Draffin (Development), Maria Polchtrchuk (SSO)
 3rd row: Duncan Heal (TT editor), Debbie Fricker (Campaigns Coordinator), Nis Tinsam (Women's Welfare), Heather Grubb, Lucille Hill (General Rep)
 4th row: Simone Montgomery (Woman's Welfare), Simon Fogarty (disabilities rep)
 5th row: Emma Collin, Brenda Beattie (Disabilities Rep)

OTAGO POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

1998 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Top: John Barless (APSU Prez), Lester Briggs (Campaigns), Mel Hague (Social), Simon Fogarty (Disabilities), Heather Grubb (Tennison St), Sean Leslie (Disabilities), Vanessa Pringle (Library)
 2nd row: Catherine Bourke (VP from May), Debbie Burhven (Prez), Simone Montgomery (Women's welfare), Lesley Scoullar (Office Manager), Christian Watson (Office Assistant), Maria Polchtrchuk (Student Services Officer)
 4th row: Simon Draffin (VP till May)
 5th row: Grant Dickson (Immediate Past Prez)

Otago Polytechnic Students' Assn

1999 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Top row:
down
Ansel Aslam, Jenny Wilson, Anish Deyo, Debbie Rutherford (President),
Carol Davis, Michael Todd, Tom Yeo, Diane Hasle, Vanessa Pringle (VP),
Mel Hoque, Chris Ford, Shane Gallagher, Gilbert Martin,
Fraser Heil, Letley Scoullar, Christian Watson, Simon Fogarty, Simone Montgomery

OTAGO POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' ASSN
2000 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Back Row left to right and downwards:
Simone Montgomery (President), Jenny Mogeridge, Vanessa Pringle (Vice-President)
Anna McMarrin, Mif Heggie, Marcus Aupike, Melissa Hoffmann, Mohamed Kaba,
Letley Scoullar (Officer Manager)

Group Bear photo:
Vanessa, Simone, Max Elavazhagan, Fraser Heil (Student Liaison Officer),
Dylan Campbell, Lata Anderson, Carol Davis, Chris Moodle and Melissa Mckeate
Bottom left: Christine Watson

OTAGO POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' ASSN

2001 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Back Row left to right :
 Anna McMarrin (President), Jenny Muggendige, Vanessa Pringle (Vice-President),
 Laina Anderson, Daniel Garanta, Melissa Hoffmann, Keyna Watkins, Marcon Augustus
 Middle row: Mark Baxter (Student Liaison Officer), Christian Watson, Michelle War
 Next row: Sojia Birch, Simone Montgomery (gYRo Editor), Cathie Verkaide, Emily Whitman
 Group photo: Mary McMarrin (baby) and Lesley Scoullar (Office Manager)

OTAGO POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' ASSN

2002 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



(Group Photo - in descending order L-R)
 Phil Bastarville (Pres), John Yorks, Christian Watson (Admin),
 Lesley Scoullar (Off Manag), Robyn Harrison (Admin), Danny Parker,
 Shireen Malik, Fe Scott, Mark Baxter (SLD), Brooke Lawton,
 Cathie Verkaide, Micolle Watt (VPres), Taring Waghela
 (Top - 2nd R) Tasha O'Brien
 Sojia Birch, Mary Duff, Byron Kuatimba, Fiona Bowker, Hira Adlam
 (Absent)



OTAGO POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' ASSN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2003



Middle Photo: Mark Baxter (SLO), Gary Bert (Co-VP), Graeme Egan, Fath McQueen, Leighanne Evans,

Ginny Hela, Lily Guo, Michelle Wall (Pres), Lorna Luo, Rachel Doble (Co-VP)

Outside Photos: Left clockwise

Jeff Carnwell (g7/10 Agent), Clare Gillies, Christian Wilson (Asst.), Reuel Pene,
Lesley Scouler (Off Manager), Fiona Bowler (g7/10 Editor), Sojia Bloch, Mal Lublow,
Asha Peha, Denny Parker (interim VP), Lili Takau, Eran Paterson, Matt Dowling,
Riya Gywnne, Tasa Cobour, Anna Gibb



OTAGO POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' ASSN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2004



First Row:

Therese Rowell, Adrian van Lennwen, Christian Wilson (Admin), Clare Gillies, Fath McQueen

Second Row:

Gary Bert, Ginny Hela (Vice President), Hana Cao, Joyce Kuo, Kaia Harrison

Third Row:

Matt Dowling, Mia Daniels, Natalie Abelson, Stephen Rabbette, Rachel Doble (President)

Fourth Row:

Carmen Wilson (g7/10 Editor), Bob Toney (Central Coord.), Michelle Wall (Research)

Absent: Jeff Carnwell - Advertising Agent

Mark Baxter (Student Union Officer), Lesley Scouler (Office Manager)

OTAGO POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' ASSN
2006 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Front row: Dean Baddock, Carmen Wilson (Editor), Lesley Soullar (Off Manager), Christian Watson (Off Assit.)
Middle row: Terry Wilson (VP), Mark Baxter (Student Liaison Off.), Sylvia Lee (Int.), Joanne Yoon, Harvinder Jai, Natalie Absalom (Co-President), Stu Sinclair, Rachel Dibble (Researcher)
Back row: Steve He, Camellia Lee, Ryan Ward, Richard Mitchell (Co-President), Baxter Hunter (Pacific)
Absent: Bob Tovey (Reg.Co-ordinator), Anahita Suri (Int.)

Executive

Otago Polytechnic
2005 STUDENTS' ASSOC



Rachel Dibble
President



Kalle Baheman



Steve He



Harvinder Jai



Claire Gillies



Kaeela Harrison



Masi Daniels-Rother



Vivian Hu



Trevor Rowell



John Horrocks



Rachel Iyani



Stephen Rabbette



Andrea Ebbson



Gavin Mason



Luo Filipo



Terry Wilson
Vice-president



Mark Baxter



Carmen Wilson



Christian Watson

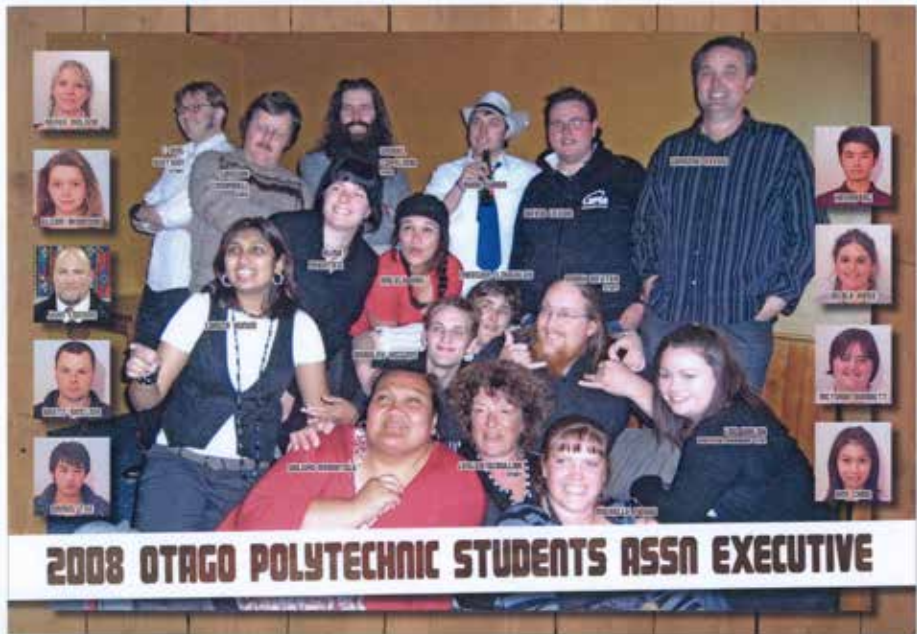


Lesley Soullar

Staff



2007 OPSA EXECUTIVE



2008 OTAGO POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS ASSN EXECUTIVE



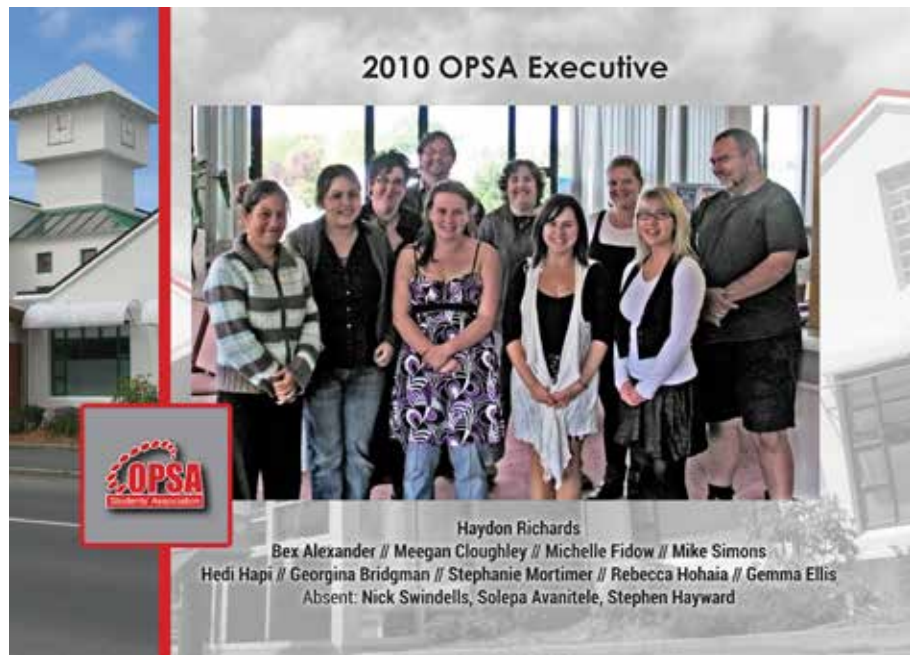
OTAGO POLYTECHNIC
STUDENTS' ASSN
 (03) 477-6974 - WWW.OPSA.ORG.NZ - STUDENT CENTRE

2009 Executive & Staff

Asanka Liyanarachchi, Rebecca Hohaia, Allen Kanewischer, Solepa Avantele, Gemma Ellis, Dave Cozen, Nathan Millar (Ad. gov)
Nick Swindells, Michelle Fidow, Lesley Scoullar (Govt), Gregor Campbell (Govt), Mark Baxter (Govt), Daniel Copeland (Govt)

Meegan Cloughley (President)

Absent: Haley Kihī, Anasaunua Teofilo, John Carman, Julie Culpitt, Courtney Simpson, Ryan Ward (Co-president)
Bradley Higgins, David Carey, Tawhiri Kareta, Nuzsolia Vanua, Tom Dymock, James Robertson,



2010 OPSA Executive



Haydon Richards

Bex Alexander // Meegan Cloughley // Michelle Fidow // Mike Simons

Hedi Hapi // Georgina Bridgman // Stephanie Mortimer // Rebecca Hohaia // Gemma Ellis

Absent: Nick Swindells, Solepa Avantele, Stephen Hayward



OPSA Executive Committee 2013



Rebecca Hohaia (President)



Agnes Ekeana



Bethany Robertson



Phil Te Tuna



Alana Pihakia



Eden Ewai



Stephen Hohaia (VP)



Gabrielle Tū



Georgina Britgman



Vee Yee Mai

OPSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2014

- Bex Alexander
- Stephen Hohaia
- April Henderson
- Joseph Noon
- Jessie Douglas
- Jessica Hohaia
- Matheus Souza
- Rebecca Swindells



Absent: Matama Tahiri, Finau Mafi, Robet Langer, Martin Schlafke



Otago Polytechnic
Students' Assn
1964 - 2014
FIFTY YEARS STRONG