



# WEN NEWS

THE WOMEN IN ENGINEERING NETWORK NEWSLETTER



WEN Leaders for 2021

## WEN RETREAT

### TANVI KEMKAR, OUTREACH TEAM

The excitement of driving up to Bella Rakha Retreat Centre bright and early on a Saturday morning was a nostalgic feeling. It felt like we had been teleported back to year 6 for a fun couple of days at camp.

Saturday morning was spent getting to know one another through many ice-breaker games. But these weren't your regular games, Kelly had put her own twist on them, making them engaging, exciting and full of entertainment! After we all got to know each other, we spent the bulk of the afternoon, working as a cohesive unit to determine who WEN is, what we represent and this year's missions & visions for the near future. We then got into our committee groups and started strategizing

what our goals were and how we would achieve them. We did this by painting our plans onto a canvas and then sharing it with the whole group. It was a fun activity, and everyone really got involved!

Sunday was for doing more detailed planning within our committees and setting up our team meetings for the year. As part of the outreach team, we really touched base on what we wanted to get out of this year and what our main focuses would be (we have some real big plans!). We shared our committee's events planned for the year with the whole team and received some useful feedback.

Before we knew it, the weekend was over, and it was time to head home. We all learnt so much about one another and WEN and are so excited to share it with you all through this year!

## SPONSOR NIGHT

FELICIA INDRAWIDJAJA, SPONSOR NIGHT COMMITTEE

With only 3 days to switch our first event of the year online, WEN 2021 was starting strong. Instead of the traditional presentation and mingling over food combo, we switched the format to work over zoom due to Auckland being in lockdown for the start of semester. Our wee team of three, Divya, Georgina and I, hosted over 140 students and 30 sponsors that night so that the students could learn more about our sponsors and so the sponsors could meet our students. We had a formal presentation about all of the WEN events to come this year and our sponsors gave their elevator pitch spiel. Beforehand, the students gave preferences on which companies they wanted to meet so we broke out into breakout rooms for two rounds. After that, all the individual sponsors had their own breakdown rooms and the students jumped in to talk to whoever they wanted! It was chaotic, but exciting; this crazy, online form of networking allowed some intimate and interesting conversations that would not have otherwise taken place in person.



Sponsors and students over zoom for Sponsor Night

## COCKTAIL NIGHT

BRITNEY KERR, COCKTAIL NIGHT LEAD

In mid-March, we cracked a cold one open with the girls at Roxy at WEN's first ever cocktail night! We thought a night of networking and dancing would start the year off right. WEN students, allies, alumni, sponsors, and University of Auckland staff were all in attendance with a huge 270 guests. During the evening we welcomed the WEN Presents series, and had both our Allies and Alumni Network Launches. Our network is ever expanding, and the cocktail night was a great representation of that. Our WEN Presents hosts, EJ and Dylan gave us lots of laughs (and prizes) throughout the night. Sophie provided a banging playlist for everyone to groove to with many kicking on in Roxy after the event was over. The night ran without a hitch and we really hope everyone enjoyed themselves! We may even have another similar event coming soon!



Cocktail Night, WEN Allies launch and WEN Alumni Network Launch in March 2021

## EQUITY

ADITI RAM, EQUITY LEAD

This year has been a huge year for the Equity team with our first proper year of the WEN Allies programme! We had over 250 signups, gave out heaps of merch and had (more than) a few cocktails at the WEN Ally Programme Launch. Now we are set to host exciting educational events to make engineering more diversity-friendly. Our job is to expand the WEN vision and make diversity a conversation that we have for everyone with everyone. Currently, we are in talks with ENGGEN staff to expand the curriculum, incorporating strategies that enable diverse teams to bring out their true selves when solving a problem. We are also hosting a diversity training series, running throughout the year, which you can complete to become a certified diversity leader! This year is going to be jam-packed and we can't wait!



WEN Allies with their newly designed t-shirts

## PART 1

CHANTELLE HAYWOOD, PART 1 LEAD

The Part 1 team has had the opportunity to run some awesome events this semester. We kicked off the year with Part 1 orientation, which introduced the first year students to engineering and what to expect on their academic journey. Due to the unfortunate timing of the Lockdown, we had to hold the first half of orientation online but that didn't stop us from having the second half in person where we had teams work together to figure out whodunnit at our Murder Mystery night. Our team has only just begun to run events such as these for all Part 1 students, so keep an eye out for other fun filled evenings where you can make new friends, socialise and have a great time! (Plus there is normally free pizza so how could you resist?)

## WEN WELLNESS: YOGA

ZOE MILLAR, WEN WELLNESS LEAD

Our first wellness event this year was a yoga session at the UoA Rec Centre followed by refreshments and zen chats. WEN members completed an hour of Vinyasa flow, practising mindfulness to start the week off with positivity. This is the first of four events we will be holding for the WEN Wellness Series so make sure to get involved throughout the year!



Inhale calm, exhale focus at our first WEN Wellness event of the year

## MENTORING

RAE CRUZ AND GRACE MASCARENHAS,  
MENTORING TEAM

Everyone was buzzing at our Aurecon x WEN mentoring programme launch event in March! It was a huge success, with mentees and mentors finally being able to put a face to the names. We had such a great turn out, and we are so grateful for those who could make it!

Our programme is now bigger than ever, currently standing at just over 120 members! We were so privileged this year to have had so many incredible volunteers take on the role of mentors, all of whom have a wide range of experiences in their respective fields.

In week 3, the WEN Peer mentoring programme was also launched successfully, with plenty of mingling and pizza! With the programme undergoing a revamp, we have some fun activities planned for this year- like our summer work event!

## OUTREACH VOLUNTEERS

JESS FENWICK, OUTREACH TEAM

2021 has started off as a great year for Outreach! This year we have had over 100 awesome volunteers sign up to get involved with our outreach program and get out into schools to share their stories and inspire young women to pursue engineering. We kicked off our year with Outreach Orientation on the 26th of February where we all got to know each other and a few of our workshop activities (including our new Smart Carts activity!), before having a bit of fun with some board games and snacks. Since Orientation, we have also had two other trainings, the first one focussing on our junior activities, Spheros and Aqualibrium, as well as presentations. The second focussed on our senior activities, Smart Carts, DC Motors, and Static Electricity. These were to help our volunteers to get comfortable with our workshop activities and how to present them in schools before they went out into schools.



Our Outreach volunteers for 2021 at Outreach Orientation

## OUTREACH VISITS

JESS FENWICK, OUTREACH TEAM

School visits have also been off to a great start. At the time of writing this, we have been on 3 visits, holding workshops at Birkenhead College and Glendowie College as well as a panel at St Cuthbert's College. It has been awesome to be able to get into classrooms, helping students experience Engineering firsthand, dispelling myths and stereotypes about engineering, and sharing our experiences. We have had some great fun with our new smart carts activity which all of the students we have run the workshop with have really enjoyed. We also have a lot more visits coming up! By the end of May, we will have visited 16 schools and run almost 30 panels and workshops. We also have plans to take Outreach outside of Auckland and we will be visiting 15 schools across the lower North Island and the South Island!



Jackie on a high school visit, working on DC motors



Kelly on our Outreach trip to Tauranga in 2020

## KELLY MOODIE

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING ADVISOR

I've been so happy to see so many of you back on campus at our WEN events. Hopefully, I'll have the opportunity to connect with many more of you throughout the rest of the year - we have so many different events on as well as opportunities to volunteer with WEN!

Please feel free to stop by and say hello - my office is just next to engineering reception, I love meeting students and hearing all about what is going on and what I can do to help improve your experience. Any and all ideas are very welcome! I look forward to seeing you soon!



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