

THIBAUT BOUTTIER-ESPRIT

HE/HIM

APPLYING FOR GENERAL BOARD MEMBER

My name is Thibaut Bouttier-Esprit (also known as Tee). I moved to New Zealand from New Caledonia 5 years ago and lived in Dunedin most of that time until I moved to Auckland last year. During my time in Dunedin, I have worked with many organisations including Dunedin Pride Incorporated (first youth coordinator and ran the first ever queer youth ball in Dunedin) or the University of Otago (ran workshops on consent and coordinated a International Student's network). I am known to be funny, bubbly, motivated and hard-working.

I have a background in Sociology with a focus on sexuality studies and I am now working toward my master of Health Practice with a specialization on Health Promotion in order to work in the sexual health promotion area.

Fun facts about me: My favorite movie is Moana, my favorite shows are Atypical, the House of Flowers or Us the wave; and my favorite book series is Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (but i'm also a big fan of academic literature and sometime up reading random articles).

What made you want to join the RY board?

I have passionate with Queer Youth since when I moved to New Zealand. Growing up in quite a conservative island-country, I've never had the chances to be supported by organisations like RainbowYOUTH and therefore would love to provide things to young people that I wish I had.

I was the youth coordinator the board of Dunedin Pride Incorporated for a year and ran amazing events with an amazing youth which I miss a lot. I have taken a break from doing things related to queer youth for now almost a year and I am ready to start again, with now RainbowYOUTH for which I have a lot of respect for.

Finally, through my studies, I gained a lot of knowledge around sexual education (which is one of my area of research). I would love to be part of RainbowYOUTH and push toward regulations around sexuality education to make sure that it is inclusive in every high school.

RainbowYOUTH is on a journey to proactively and respectfully uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi. How would you contribute to this journey?

I have a background in sociology and would love to use what I learned to actually Te Tiriti o Waitangi. I understand the importance of Maori voices and would love to make sure that RainbowYOUTH contribute to empowering those voices.

What particular skills do you think you have that would make you suitable for the RY board?

I would love to be a General Board Member and use many of the skills I have gained over the years.

I have very good event management skills. I have ran 2 Pink Youth Balls and one Youth Hui. For those, I have applied for many grants, contacted many people around New Zealand and managed to keep a budget. For the hui, I've also ran workshops, which I believe is a very important skill to have, to be able to run workshops. Through all this work, I've also created an important network that could be useful.

As a migrant on temporary visa myself, I know the struggle to be an international student and keep updated about immigration rules in New Zealand which could be useful in the future, depending on the projects of RainbowYOUTH. I am also bilingual in French and English, which could potentially be useful in some ways or another.