

President's Report to the Melb PC AGM 2015

The year just ending has seen major change and development in Melb PC's key services for members.

PC Update has now been completely transformed into PC Update Newsletter. We have been fortunate to have two volunteer editors – first Ian Rankin, and then Gary Taig, who have sustained our monthly publication. The decision to move to the Newsletter format has led to substantial financial savings while enabling us to maintain this central service to members.

The move of our email hosting from outlook.com to Office 365 Enterprise E1 (as our new service is known) was completed when we switched over in February 2015, almost a year to the day since we moved from our in-house service (of blessed memory) to outlook.com. In the space of a single year, those changes brought us a very long way from our legacy in-house service. Our mailboxes have increased in size five thousand times, from 10Mmb to 50Gb. Members' cloud storage (now OneDrive for Business) has increased from none at all to 1 terabyte (1000 gigabytes). Outlook.com brought with it other new services: an online calendar and an address book. We still have those with Office 365, and yet more new services have arrived. We are gradually working out how to make the best use of them.

The long-awaited move of our legacy internet services from their hosting in Burnley (at an AAPT facility which we rented) to our own server room at Moorabbin, was finally consummated in December 2014. This was a difficult and complex operation. We were able to restore many services as soon as our servers had been plugged in and switched on at Moorabbin, but others required more work. Two legacy services that are not yet restored are the members' websites and the newsgroups. Discussion continues about the possibility of restoring these services and decisions will be made by the incoming Committee. It seems unlikely that we shall be able to restore the newsgroup service, but more likely that web-hosting for members can be reintroduced.

The move to the Newsletter form for PC Update, and the transfer of our internet services to Moorabbin, have led to a saving in annual costs to Melb PC of around \$100,000. Together with the rise in subscriptions agreed by our 2014 AGM, they have placed our finances on to a much more secure footing for the future.

A highlight of the year has been the unveiling of our new website. We now have a website with a fresh look and a new focus on key member services and information. Some of the most important developments are behind the scenes, where the content management system we have chosen to support the site enables different office-holders (such as SIG conveners) to manage their own areas. The website is still a work in progress. We expect to see further refinements as needs become clearer, both of current members and of visitors who may become members.

At the start of the past year we celebrated Melb PC's 30th anniversary as an incorporated association in Victoria. Towards the end of the year, in late September, 50 members gathered together to consider Melb PC's preferred future. That was a successful event, most ably animated by Bill Ford, to whom many thanks. We hope and expect that the momentum developed at that event can be maintained into the coming year.

Finally I would like to thank the retiring Committee for their work during a challenging year. I trust this report shows that Melb PC has made important steps towards future sustainability while maintaining the services most valued by its members.

Harry Lewis
President 2013-2015