

As unopposed nominee for president I have started planning and plotting, studying and scheming. I have had several reports already from **Stewart Gruneklee** and **Harry Lewis**, both of whom are subject to re-election but in my opinion indispensable. Stewart is needed to ease the new treasurer into the chair, while Harry can be depended on for a level headed assessment of a proposal or suggestion, and to bring forth useful club statistics - not to mention experience as president for several years. While many may have opinions, decisions need to be based on facts in as far as they can be established. Harry is the facts man!

As a matter of fact, my nomination was conditional on Harry and Stewart nominating. Likewise for John Swale (secretary) and Stephen Zuluaga (VP), who are unopposed. We need the right team of productive people! Peter McConnachie is unopposed as our last minute find for treasurer - phew!!

**Rob Brown** is also subject to re-election. Rob has distinguished himself in a number of behind-the-scenes ways this last year, including project managing the QR scanner system that's at Moorabbin. Work is underway to replicate that in several other locations.

**Hugh Macdonald** is a young member who has contributed greatly in the last year. He took a lot of the marketing work off my shoulders, with a far superior understanding of modern communication channels than I have, especially with social media. Many young people these days barely use email any more, in fact even FaceBook is becoming an older person's medium!

With those eight (including me) we have age and experience (inside and outside the club) to provide stability and good governance.

Then there's the new "young'ens". There are four of them (in alphabetical order) Aavon (Lorenzo), Dave, Flynn and Paul. I have spent time with them in the Sci/Tech group. The most telling thing I can probably say is that they are the kind of young people who restore your faith in the future of the human race! I could probably have a more enjoyable dinner conversation with those guys than with many people my own advanced age. They are thoughtful and open-minded. They are not set in their ways or full of preconceived prejudices. They don't talk your head off and waste precious time on trivialities. Maybe most importantly they bring a young person's view of the world to the table.

These young people are the fresh blood our club needs to take it into the future. They may well be the future leaders of a club I don't expect to live to see (gee it hurts to write that!) but which I intend to help shape.

**Aavon (Lorenzo) Fernando** is from Sri Lanka. He is a degreed (is that an adjective?) electrical engineer with an additional diploma in automotive engineering. Aavon works for a truck manufacturing company in Bayswater. He is also secretary of his church, which suggest he understands organisational frameworks and procedures. Maybe one to groom for that post in Melb PC? This will be John Swale's last year.

**Dave Williams** is a sound engineer. He has his own company, and hires out on TV and movie projects. He has shown me a couple of the products he is developing for that industry, one with a

quite impressive 3D printed enclosure. So not only does he have the skills of his profession, he also has an enterprising spirit and a design and development talent.

**Flynn Howard** is young, just 23. But when he talks he adds ten years straight away. Flynn is a machinist, a tradesman of the thinking kind. He has amazing practical skills, and he will hopefully become a major asset as the downstairs workshop/maker space develops, contributing both training and a safety/procedural framework. Right now he is designing and costing the physical structure for the Sci/Tech SIG's hydroponics system. (I am trying to find time to work on the electronics!).

**Paul Hattam** is already known to many members from his talk on plant types in a recent monthly meeting. He is a qualified nurse, which ipso facto means very empathic. He has excellent people skills and is a constant source of ideas. I find him to be a good listener with a sharp mind.

I believe these four young men (I wish we had some women, but there you go!), with their drive, creativity and demonstrated interest in the club will provide a lot of the energy that will help propel the club into the future. We are at an interesting juncture: The messes of 2016 have been sorted, thanks to the efforts of presidents George Skarbek and John Hall. The new CiviCRM system is getting bedded in and now needs to be adopted by various stake holders. The club finances are stabilised. So I have the privilege of serving at a time when there are few bushfires, more like a few spot fires. My aim is in the short term to consolidate the gains of the last 2 presidencies, and rationalise and document processes and procedures with view to continuity. I want to make better use of our premises; getting more people through the doors should help generate memberships and income. Starting tomorrow I will be visiting suburban SIGs to talk to members there to find out what they need and desire. I have already talked one on one with a number of key people, and will talk to more in the coming weeks - and months.

But in addition to the short and medium term management, I also have the luxury of being able to start looking into the distant future. My hope is to map out a long range vision, not in order to make any sudden changes, but rather to have a guiding light against which future decisions can be gauged.

That is why I need the energy and enthusiasm of the four new young'ens, to be balanced by the stability and experience of the proven performers mentioned. So please, help me take the club forward and vote for my candidates.