

President's Report for AGM 6th November 2019

The Year in Review

Over the past year your Committee has been improving the infrastructure in our Moorabbin Office including the improvement of our internal LAN Service and the upgrading of our Audio/Visual and Video Streaming equipment in order to provide better streaming of our Monthly Meetings via our Member Services Web portal.

We have also installed a QR Code reader in our Moorabbin Office so that we can scan Membership badges as the attendees enter and provide a Report to the Committee of how many people are attending each Meeting.

We currently have a Project underway to provide Portable QR Scanners to our regional SIG Groups so that they can scan the attendees at their meetings and I am very hopeful that under the guidance of our new President elect – David Stonier-Gibson – we will soon be able to start testing the first of these portable units in order to roll out further units to our SIG Groups in 2020.

We have also grown the attendance at our new “Melbourne Computer Club” events and we now have 199 subscribers to our “Meetup” Group where potential Members can find out about future Events. It is hoped that we might be able to stage some “Pay as you Enter” events in the future which some of these Meetup subscribers might attend.

I am also pleased to be able to report that the “attrition rate” of Members who do not renew, which was running at -13.2% of Members in 2016-2017 and -10.4% in 2017-2018 is down to -6.9% in the 2018-2019 Year just past.

As a result of this I am pleased to be able to report that in the financial year 2018-19 we made a small surplus of \$477 (*after depreciation costs of \$29,371) against the 2017-2018 years loss of -\$9,430.

(*Whilst depreciation costs have lowered the overall surplus we are currently in a very good position with income less expenses of \$29,848 resulting in cash at Bank of \$23,038 and Term Deposits of \$492,144).

Legal Matters

When I became President in November 2017 one of my first challenges was to appear before the Fair Work Commission in February 2018 to answer a claim of underpayment being brought by our ex Office Manager.

After appearances at the Fair Work Commission in Exhibition Street and much written correspondence between ourselves and multiple lawyers on the plaintiffs side the complaint was escalated to the Federal Circuit Court and the Treasurer (Stewart Gruneklee) and I attended a session of the Federal Circuit Court in William Street on the 2nd of August this year.

I am pleased to say that largely due to the Court Documents and ground work that was provided by one of our Members – Sharman Grant – (who donated her services pro bono), we were able to settle the matter out of Court and whilst I am restricted from providing the details of this matter it is sufficient to say that we are still showing a surplus of \$3,549 in the Treasurer's September Report to Committee despite the settlement having been made in August.

It is my intention to award Sharman Grant a Volunteers Recognition award prior to the AGM Meeting.

In Summary

As you will have seen in the notice for the AGM we have had to run an election this year because of the number of volunteers who have nominated for Committee.

This illustrates the fact that we are still a very active club and whilst our existing members are still able to enjoy the benefits of our IHelp, Interest Group, Yammer and Office 365 Services we are embarking on a new phase of our Club with additional Services intended to attract younger Members to join such as our Tech Projects and Microcontroller Workshop initiatives.

None of this would be possible without the generous donation of time and effort from all of our Volunteers whether they be on the Committee, contributing to and editing our PC Update magazine, running SIG Meetings or working "behind the scenes" on our I.T. infrastructure or Moorabbin building maintenance.

I would like to personally thank each and every one of those Volunteers for keeping our Club moving forward into the 21st Century and I sincerely hope that some of our younger Members can keep enjoying the benefits of our Club over the coming 20 years as I have done over the past 20.

Kind regards,
John Hall,
President, Melbourne PC User Group.