AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC ACCESS NETWORK ASSOCIATION INC

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2012 ANNUAL REPORT

September 2012

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:
Marc Walters

APANA has seen consolidation during the past year as the formerly rapid loss of members to commercial ISP's seen in previous years has halted. This has left a core of members whose needs and interests coincide with what the organisation has to offer.

Recently a number of technical and organisational changes and opportunities have been embraced, each of which has, or will, strengthen the ability of APANA to meet the needs of its membership over the coming years. From this it is evident the enthusiasm and cohesiveness of the APANA membership remains its most valuable asset.

APANA has always existed to cater to the varied needs of its membership, and the organisation continues to consistently reflect this. APANA IS its members. In the years to come changes in technology and the Australian Internet landscape will continue to provide impetus for our members to find new and exciting uses for the resources the organisation provides.

I thank the regions, their committees and members for the time, work and dedication they have given to APANA

Marc Walters
President, APANA

SECRETARY'S REPORT:
Jeffrey Toll

Region	Members September 2012	Members September 2011	Change
SA	23	27	Down 4
Hunter	16	16	-
Brisbane	6	7	Down 1
Perth	7	7	-
Melbourne	7	6	Up 1
Sydney	6	6	-
ACT	6	6	-
ICR	5	4	Up 1
TOTAL	**76**	**79**	**Down 3**

The 2011/2012 has been a quiet yet stable period for APANA. All regions are above the 5 member requirement thankfully, thus retaining the long standing structure. Sydney and ICR dipped below 5 members for a short period during the year but managed to recover lost members with some good follow up work. The largest region, South Australia has lost the most members but still remains the most active of all APANA regions.

Though APANA still lacks a positive direction for growth, some interesting developments have occurred in our large but mostly unused stock of IPv4 addresses that appear now to have some value. Just as South Australia's Steve Fraser pointed out and predicted, the availability of IPv4 addresses from commercial operators such as APNIC have become in short supply and subsequently have seen a steady rise in price. This will probably continue until IPv6 takes off.

Recently, we have been approached by NoISP, a co-operative non profit internet supplier, which has expressed an interest in our IPv4 addresses for their operations. This may benefit APANA by either increased membership and / or utilise an otherwise unused asset to generate extra income from leasing the addresses. As present, discussions are still in progress with NoISP.

South Australia continues to be the most active region with several ongoing projects such as the Cloud Based Storage service, Two Factor Authentications, Sky Region and virtualization. SA currently hosts WA APANA's machine 'Odyssey' as a virtual machine on SA equipment, thus making excellent use of existing infrastructure with a cost saving to WA.

Often organisations benefit from a change in management. This can have the effect of injecting new ideas, increased motivation and make use of otherwise unused talent. I have encouraged South Australia to have a member as an officer within the management structure of APANA, which seems appropriate considering they are the largest and most active APANA region.

The future outlook for APANA looks to be good with a stable membership and continuing running of operations and services.

TREASURER'S REPORT:
Carolyn Baird

APANA's financial situation continued to improve throughout the 2011/2012 Financial Year
- both at a National and Regional level. All regions are now operating in a fiscally
responsible manner and are well-positioned to produce a surplus again this year.

During the year one phone line was cancelled; a few billing discrepancies were resolved and
Perth's services were migrated to South Australia's server, otherwise the year was mostly
uneventful.

At the end of the financial year, $101,356.46 of old equipment (>10 years) was written off
the Balance Sheet to give a more accurate portrayal of APANA's Current Assets.

Since the end of the financial year, a Community CPS Credit Union account has been set up
and $20,000 of consolidated funds lodged there in a 3 month fixed term deposit. On maturity
this interest will provide additional income to those regions with positive balances.

All regions currently have a year-to-date surplus and their financial positions have improved
substantially since this time last year as they should continue to do so throughout this
financial year.

REGION REPORTS:

ACT:
Edwin Gibbons

A quiet year in Canberra mainly pottering around and experimenting with "pet projects" including, at various times, VNC, Samba, virtual machines, a (small scale) mesh wireless network, (demonstration) cloud servers, setting up a Wordpress site all with the intent of self education.

A (very?) low key participation with the local linux group meeting at the local University has given food for thought (and initiated some of the "pet projects"!).

Otherwise, a further year of enjoying the very real assets provided by previous APANA members and looking forward to future opportunities.

Brisbane:
Pauline Sheppard

A few email problems earlier in the year were quickly sorted out and the region has been running smoothly since.

Hunter Region:
Helen Donaldson:

The region remained quiet throughout the year.

Overall membership numbers remained stable. The region currently has 16 members made up of 2 UUCP, 1 domain, 6 mail-news, 1 Ethernet, 1 organisations & 5 APANA members only.

Our System Administrator remains resident in Sydney but still maintains the network remotely and makes regular visits for the purpose of performing backups and/or attending to any problems that arise. This arrangement has not impacted on the performance of the network with only a few minor disruptions to service occurring during the year.

Again this year I've been involved in helping with computer-related problems for members, although not as many as in previous years.

Hunter's budget at the moment anticipates a surplus for the coming financial year of around $95, but the region will benefit from interest on invested funds and should be able to record a small surplus by the end of this financial year. Our current balance of $1,730.38 is an improvement on last year's balance at this time.

Perth Region:
Jeffrey Toll

With Perth's financial situation worsening and down time of Odyssey unacceptable, we have finally virtualized Odyssey with the help of South Australia APANA. With this setup, we have achieved some great cost cutting, with elimination of phone line rental and the Amnet ADSL account, we now have a machine which is ultra-reliable and costs very little run.

From its commissioning in April this year, the results have been excellent with only a few minor outages so far. Many thanks to Dean Hollister (WA APANA), Steve Fraser and Simon Roberts (SA APANA) for their assistance with this project.

Dean has taken the other machine, Voyager, which runs APANA newsgroups, and configured it to run from his private connection.

Some old equipment remains at the Como hub such as the rack, modems and various other items which we have not decided what to do with yet, as its value is probably quite low.

ICR:
Management Committee

After slipping below the membership requirements for a region earlier in the year, this was rectified by a member transferring from another region to ICR. Otherwise nothing to report.

Melbourne:
John Newnham

All quiet in Melbourne.

South Australia Region:
Simon Roberts

Significant Items:

1. Relocation of SA Hub

   The physical relocation of the SA Hub in early January was a success with minimal downtime. The hub was moved from Steve's house to Simon's house since Steve was relocating to Loxton. Unexpectedly the administration of moving was a nightmare with our fixed IP-address changing and other IP-addresses not being routed to the new fixed IP-address. This was compounded by unreliable Internode hardware that was eventually replaced.

2. Virtualisation of Perth Server

   Using spare capacity SA agreed to host the Perth Odyssey Virtual Server and although we didn't have the technical know how to configure a FreeBSD server. This provided a learning opportunity for some of the technical group members. It too us a little longer to come up to speed but we managed to create a virtual FreeBSD server that is managed and was further configured by Perth region.

3. Cloud Service to all APANA Members

   SA is now hosting a cloud based storage that is both secure and accessible from a range of mobile devices in addition to standard PCs. This is available for all members.

   Other Events to Note

   - We have quite a few people from other regions now using mail and/or hosting facilities.

- The "Sky Region" trial has been running for two years.

Sydney Region:
Craig Dewick

Jedi and Goliath are still at my place at Waterfall and I am still providing services to Sydney's 3 remaining fee paying members. Otherwise, all quiet in the region this year.