

# **AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC ACCESS NETWORK ASSOCIATION INC**

**VRN A0026600C  
ARBN 081 355 722  
ABN 84 081 355 722**

## **2014 ANNUAL REPORT**

**October 2014**

## **Presidents Report 2014**

*Jeffrey Toll*

This year has been a quiet year for APANA without any major incidents.

Last year we were expecting to do a major re-write of APANA rules due to changes in Victorian legislation for incorporated non profit organisations. However, a closer look at this revealed no urgent requirement to change anything as we did not plan any rules changes prior to the update anyway. As we have not submitted any new rules to Consumer Affairs Victoria, we are now subject to the default rules. One advantage of the new rules is that it allows members to attend annual meetings electronically and hopefully will increase member attendance participation at AGM's

National server has required regular ongoing maintenance due to updates in FreeBSD which keeps our database of member records, treasurers accounts and main webpage. I'd like to thank all those who work on this: Dean Hollister, Carolyn Baird and Mirko Fluher.

Our long time treasurer, Carolyn Baird of Hunter Region will be officially stepping down this year and after 12 years of service she deserves a well earned retirement to enjoy life without the need to attend APANA business. I'd like to extend our warmest thank you's from everyone at APANA to Carolyn for a job well done.

**Jeffrey Toll**  
**APANA President**

## SECRETARY'S REPORT:

*Matthew Brady*

	<b>Region</b>	<b>Members October 2014</b>	<b>Members September 2013</b>	<b>Change</b>
The 2013/14 year has been a relatively quiet year for APANA, however there was	SA	24	25	Down 1
	Hunter	11	13	Down 2
	Melbourne	7	7	-
	ACT	6	6	-
	Brisbane	5	5	-
	ICR	5	5	-
	Perth	4	5	Down 1
	Sydney	3	6	Down 3
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>Down 7</b>

been a gradual contraction in membership across the country. Sydney and Perth have both dropped below 5 members.

Despite that, the overall future outlook for APANA looks to be good with a continual running of operations and services.

**Matthew Brady**  
Secretary

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

*Carolyn Baird*

APANA's financial situation continued to improve in the 2013/2014 Financial Year. The recorded surplus was only about half what it was for the previous year mainly due to a reduction in membership revenue and lower interest rates. The surplus was still substantial, with Hunter the only region to record an overall deficit but with a positive bottom line, the small yearly deficits Hunter has been experiencing over recent years are not affecting the region's financial status to any great extent. Perth, Brisbane and Sydney are continuing to pay down their debt to National. All regions should remain financially viable throughout this financial year.

This year was mostly uneventful, apart from the hassle regarding mail redirection. AusPost continued to insist that NPOs should now pay business rates instead of the residential rates that had applied in previous years. The problem of how to collect mail from the PO box was resolved when Mirko Fluhrer volunteered to clear the box for me. Mirko, a long time and honorary member of APANA, has now resumed his role as Database Manager – a role which he shares with Dean Hollister. My personal thanks go to both of these members who have made my role as Treasurer a lot less frustrating than it otherwise might have been.

After thirteen years, I now feel confident to be able to step down knowing that I leave the financial state of APANA in better condition than it was back when I first accepted the position of Treasurer in 2001. It is now time for a new generation to take control of the organisation's finances – just don't spend it all in the one shop.

**Carolyn Baird**  
**Treasurer**

## **REGION REPORTS:**

### **ACT:**

*Edwin Gibbons*

Another uneventful year with only a few minor problems caused by internet connection glitches (2) and a power outage.

The main server has "just worked", with only a few minutes down time this year caused by the drive filling up.

A rebuild / reinstall of the software and operating system to bring both up to the current security versions is on the books (esp. after the news of the last two weeks).

### **Brisbane:**

*Pauline Sheppard*

### **HUNTER Region:**

*Carolyn Baird:*

Another quiet year for the region.

In the past year Hunter lost 2 members. The region currently has 11 members made up of 2 uucp, 1 domain, 4 mail-news, 1 ethernet, 1 organisation & 2 APANA members only.

Our System Administrator still maintains the network remotely but now lives locally so is able to make regular visits for the purpose of performing backups and/or attending to any problems that arise. Only a few minor disruptions to service occurred during the year and overall the network is functioning exceedingly well considering the age of the equipment we use.

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

It is unlikely that Hunter's bottom line will improve as in recent years we've recorded and over coming years are likely to continue recording small losses due to low membership numbers. This is not a problem at the moment since Hunter does have a positive balance that will cover the yearly deficits for many years. But if it does become a problem then we should look at eliciting help from National to pay a portion of the Internet connection cost that is used by the Database.

### **Perth Region:**

*Jeffrey Toll*

Perth has had a very quiet year. Membership now stands at only 4 members which leaves the future of Perth as an APANA region in doubt.

Virtual Odyssey running on SA APANA equipment had a major hiccup last October after an update to FreeBSD which left it unserviceable. As Dean did not have physical access the

machine, it was left as is and turned off permanently. Email services to existing Perth members are now handled SA APANA.

Thanks to Dean Hollister and SA APANA tech for their assistance throughout the year.

### **ICR:**

*Matthew Geier*

All quiet.

### **Melbourne:**

*John Newnham*

### **South Australia Region:**

*Simon Roberts*

We've had a good year with most problems resolved but some action items remaining and operating systems being unmaintained.

Purchased a new VM server which unfortunately has had little use because of my desire to configure it myself and my studies maintaining a high workload. It has been 75% configured to be a replacement firewall so we can upgrade our firewall to a supported OS (ie Ubuntu 14.04) and still keep an operational hub.

We recently used it's Power Supply Unit (PSU) to replace the PSU that failed in our operational VM Server. A new PSU has been fitted and awaits payment so it can be released back to us.

We've had lots on interest in trying out different virtual server operating system and associated applications.

Unfortunately Odyssey, the Perth virtual server, suffered from irrecoverable issues after a risky software upgrade went bad. I am hopeful when our new virtual server becomes operational it can be reborn.

VMHost, our Virtual Server, suffered a loss of PSU and was replaced with the PSU in the new virtual server to minimise downtime and the associated loss and access to email. The server is in need of an operating system update to enable support.

Mitigated our web and mail server (tierzero) crashes by reducing the resources available for serving web pages and therefor memory use.

SA server logs showing shellshock bug exploits are targeting our servers, make sure you're patched!

RGM action items not actioned but perhaps more interest in doing this will be found at our RGM:

-The SA website wasn't able to be refreshed this year as planned

-SA hub backups and other areas of redundancy remain a concern and work has not progressed this year as planned.

We maintain healthy regular RC meetings which are scheduled each month.

We perform the following services for national and other regions:

Brisbane mail

Sydney mail

Perth mail

National DNS

I believe our membership level has been maintained with the loss of one member and gain of one member.

The SA region finances remain quite healthy despite incurring costs for a new virtual server. Because of this we will discuss options to reduce SA fees at our RGM.

**Sydney Region:**

*Craig Dewick*