Report on the 2013 Linux Australia Member Survey

December 12, 2013

Academic Surveys Australia, ACSPRI

Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

1 Introduction

The purpose of this survey was to gather data to better understand and meet the needs of the Linux Australia member community. Data was collected to understand the demographics of the community; levels of awareness of the community to the services and facilities provided; levels of awareness and importance of various Linux Australia priorities, values and activities; and, levels of confidence the community has in Linux Australia's leadership. This exercise was conducted in 2013.

The main findings are:

- Awareness levels of activities vary by activity with respondents reporting highest awareness of linux.conf.au and the lowest awareness of WordCamp and BarCamp events. Of those that were aware of the activities linux.conf.au has the highest reporting of attendance and WordCamp and Drupal events with lowest reported attendance.

- Awareness of other activities are quite consistent with >50% reporting no awareness and <45% aware. The one exception is membership of a Linux User Group or other open source group, 58% report membership with 42% saying they were not a member.

- 5 of the priority areas have over 50% awareness, with 4 having awareness <50%. The priority with the highest level of awareness is "grow the Australian open source technical community and the social capital within that community". The priority with the lowest level of awareness is "prevent burnout within the community, which is largely volunteer based, by increasing and widening participation." All priorities were ranked high on importance with "increase influence in the Australian IT sector, particularly regarding software patents, digital privacy, IT related infrastructure and legislation" rated the most important.

- All five values were ranked as important.

- The majority reported the Linux Australia Council and the organisation generally were effective.

- The profile of the community captured here is predominately male, above 25, not in training, with a higher qualification (the majority of these in IT), in paid work (the majority of those that are working or have worked in IT) and the majority from cities.

2 Methodology

The Linux Australia Member Survey 2013 was conducted as an online survey using the Limesurvey web based survey tool. A paper version of the questionnaire is available as an electronic attachment. Also attached electronically is the questionnaire and associated invitation and reminder emails in Limesurvey LSS format.

The survey was only available to members of Linux Australia. Email invitations, containing a URL to complete the survey with a unique token, were sent to each of the 2901 unique member email addresses at approximately 10am on Tuesday 29 October 2013. A copy of the invitation email is available in appendix 8.1.

Members who completed the questionnaire had their responses stored in one database, and in a separate database a flag for completion was set. This allowed for a reminder email to be sent on Thursday 31 October 2013 only to those members who had not completed the questionnaire, or where the invitation email had not bounced. A copy of the first reminder email is available in appendix 8.2.

A final reminder email to those members who had not responded was sent on Wednesday 6 November. A copy of the final reminder email is available in appendix 8.3.

The survey closed to new responses on Monday 2 December 2013. There were 581 completed responses. 621 bounced emails, 45 refused (opted out), and 1 flagged as deceased of 2901 member addresses. The response rate is calculated as the proportion of eligible members who completed the questionnaire. To be eligible, a working email address was required. Therefore the response rate is: $\frac{581}{2901-(621+1)} = 25.5\%$

3 Services and Facilities

The first question we asked was "Were you aware that Linux Australia provides services to facilitate the running of open source technology events?" The results are displayed below.
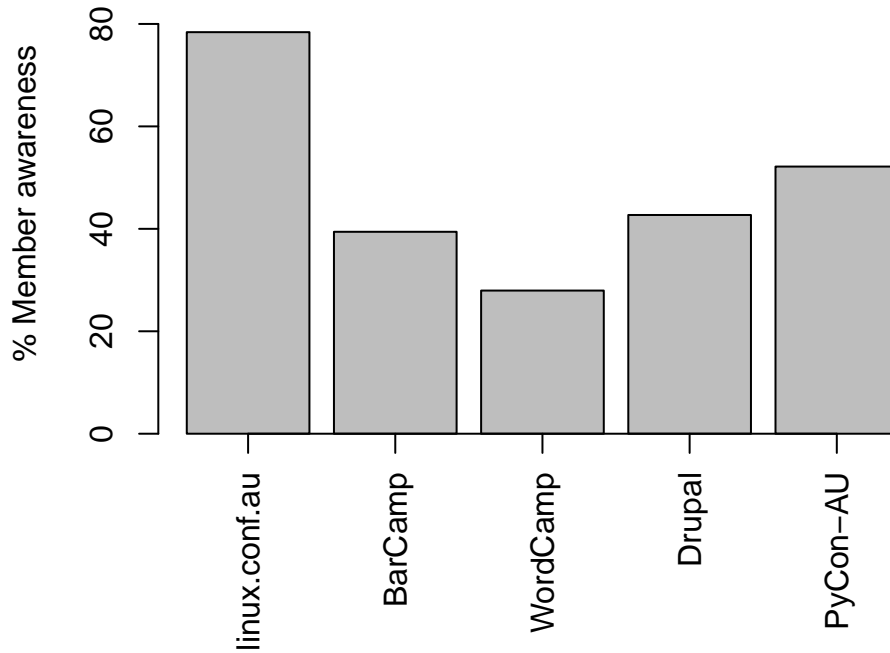
Figure 1: Member awareness of Linux Australia's facilitation of events

	Yes, I was aware	No, I was not aware
linux.conf.au	78.4	21.6
BarCamp	39.4	60.6
WordCamp	27.9	72.1
Drupal	42.7	57.3
PyCon-AU	52.2	47.8

Table 1: Member awareness of Linux Australia's facilitation of events

For this first question the response categories were Yes, I was aware or No, I was not aware. As the bar chart above shows linux.conf.au has the highest level of awareness (78% were aware) while WordCamp has the lowest level of awareness (27% were aware.) Table 1 shows the percentages of awareness across the different activities.

We then asked whether or not respondents had attended any of these events in the past. As the pie charts in Figure 2 show the majority of respondents have never attended the Linux Australia events. The conference is the most attended with 45% of respondents attending once or more times. Wordcamp is the lowest attended event with under 2% having ever attended and Drupal events are also low at under 5% having ever attended.
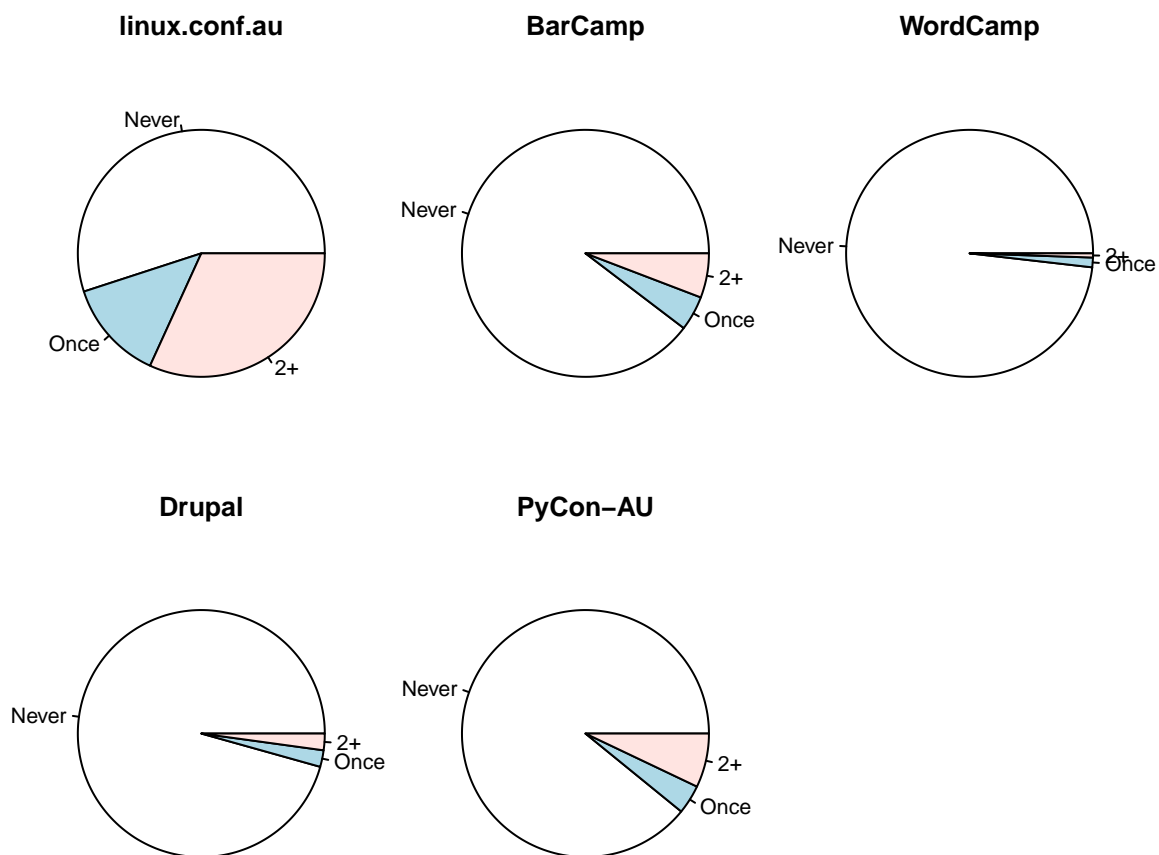
Figure 2: Member attendance of events

	No, never	Yes, once	Yes, two or more times
linux.conf.au	55.0	13.2	31.8
BarCamp	89.7	4.5	5.8
WordCamp	98.2	1.3	0.5
Drupal	95.7	2.2	2.2
PyCon-AU	89.1	3.8	7.1

Table 2: Percentage member attendance of events

Member awareness of grants scheme

41% Aware
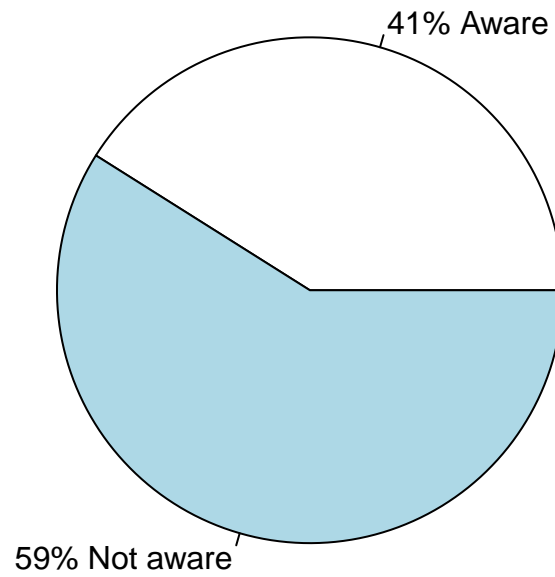
59% Not aware

Figure 3: Member awareness of grants scheme

We then asked about member awareness of the Linux Australia grants scheme. 59% of respondents report they were not aware of the grants scheme with 41% reporting awareness with the scheme.

	Percent
No, never	82.9
Yes, once	8.2
Yes, two or more times	2.9
Not stated	6.1
Total	100

Table 3: Grant applications

We then asked those that were aware if they have applied for a grant from Linux Australia in the past. Of those that were aware approximately 11% report they applied at least once for a grant.

Member awareness of services to subcommittees

46% Aware

54% Not aware
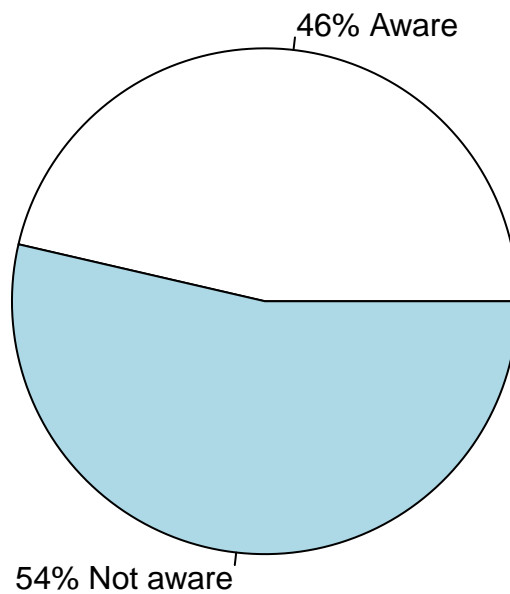
Figure 4: Member awareness of services to subcommittees

We then asked if members were aware that Linux Australia provides technical services, administration and insurance to subcommittees such as Linux User Groups and other open source groups (such as Python, PHP etc)? The pie chart shows that 46% reported they were aware and 54% reported they were not aware of such services.

Members also part of a LUG
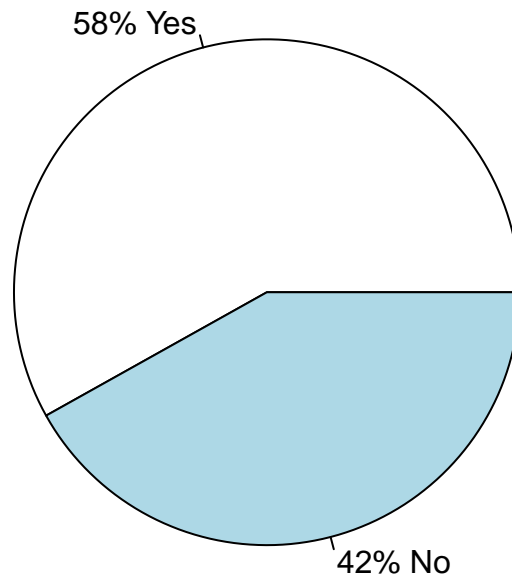
Figure 5: Members also part of a LUG

58% of respondents said that they were a member of a Linux User Group such as Python or PHP (etc). 42% said they were not a member of a LUG.

Member awareness of Rusty Wrench Award

42% Aware

58% Not Aware
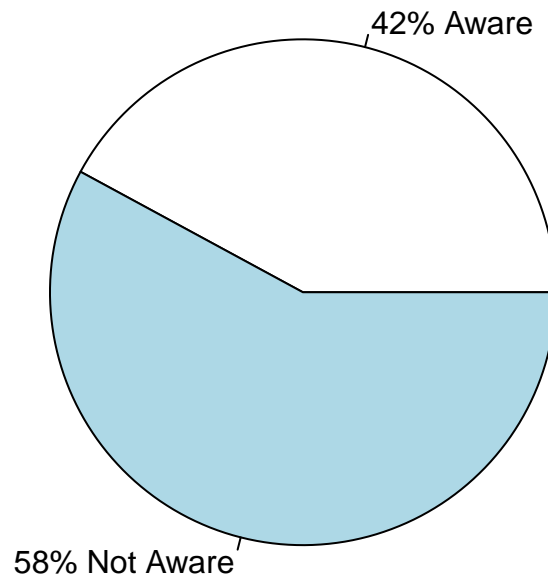
Figure 6: Member awareness of Rusty Wrench Award

We then asked if participants were aware that Linux Australia runs the Rusty Wrench award annually to recognise outstanding members of the open source community? 42% reported that they were aware and 58% of respondents reported they were not aware of the Rusty Wrench award.

	Percent
Yes	10.6
No	80.4
Not stated	9
Total	100

Table 4: Nominations for Rusty Wrench Award

Of the respondents that were aware of the award, almost 11% said yes, that they had nominated someone or been nominated for a Rusty Wrench award.

Member awareness of job listings

42% Aware

58% Not Aware
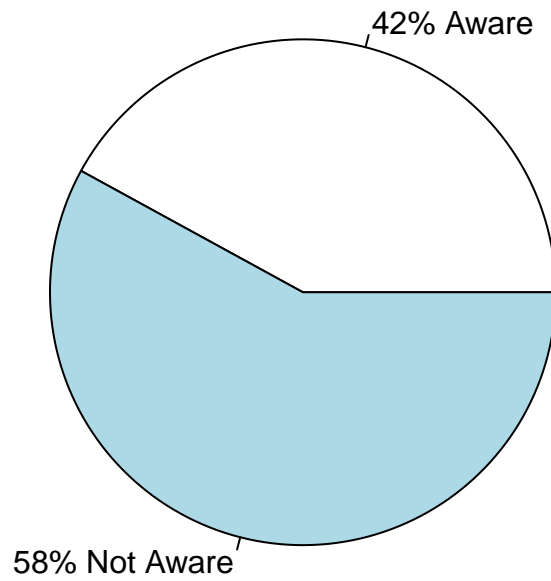
Figure 7: Member awareness of job listings on website

We asked about member awareness of the job listing on the website for jobs inside Australia related to Linux or Open Source. 42% were aware of the job listing site and 58% reported they were not aware.
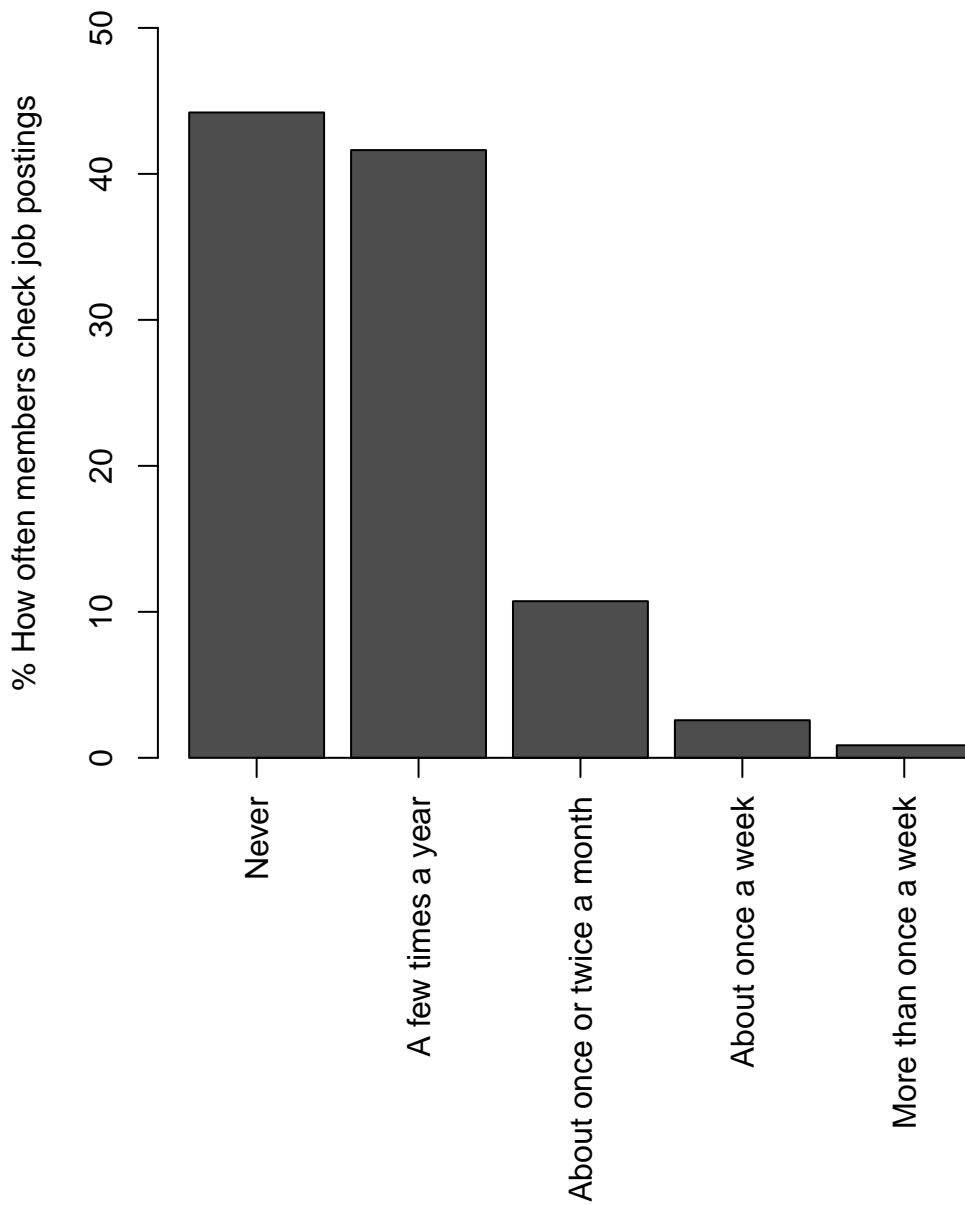
Figure 8: How often members check job postings

Of those that reported awareness, >40% reported they never checked the job postings. About 40% check them a few times a year, about 10% check them about once or twice a month, <5% check them once a week or more.

4 Priorities and Activities

The next section of the questionnaire focused on the awareness of Linux Australia's priorities and activities to meet these aims and priorities. We focused on awareness of Linux Australia's priorities and then whether or not respondents felt these priorities are important for Linux Australia.

	Yes, I was aware	No, I was not aware
(A) ensure a successful and to a lesser extent, profitable linux.conf.au	67.3	32.7
(B) grow the Australian open source technical community and the social capital within that community	78.8	21.2
(C) ensure an effective pipeline of committed open source enthusiasts including fostering younger members in high school and universities	46.9	53.1
(D) increase the grants and funding program	29.1	70.9
(E) increase promotion and communication activities, such as newsletter production	39.7	60.3
(F) prevent burnout within the community, which is largely volunteer based, by increasing and widening participation	22.7	77.3
(G) increase the voice Linux Australia has in the Australian IT and open source sector, and grow relationships with media and government	66.2	33.8
(H) increase influence in the Australian IT sector, particularly regarding software patents, digital privacy, IT related infrastructure and legislation	58.7	41.3
(I) have fun!	59.1	40.9

Table 5: Priorities of Linux Australia
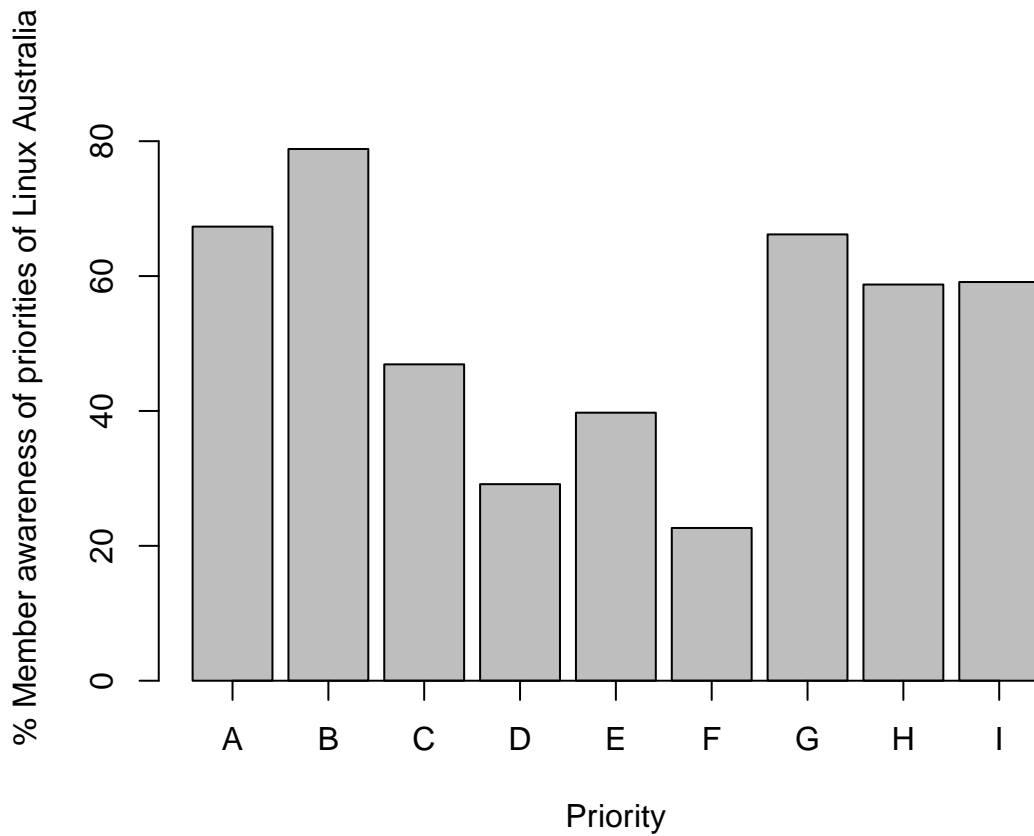
Figure 9: Member awareness of priorities of Linux Australia

Table 5 and Figure 9 display the results for awareness of priorities. The highest level of awareness was for priority B "grow the Australian open source technical community and the social capital within that community." The lowest level of awareness (23%) was for priority F "prevent burnout within the community, which is largely volunteer based, by increasing and widening participation." And, awareness of D "increase the grants and funding program was about 30%.
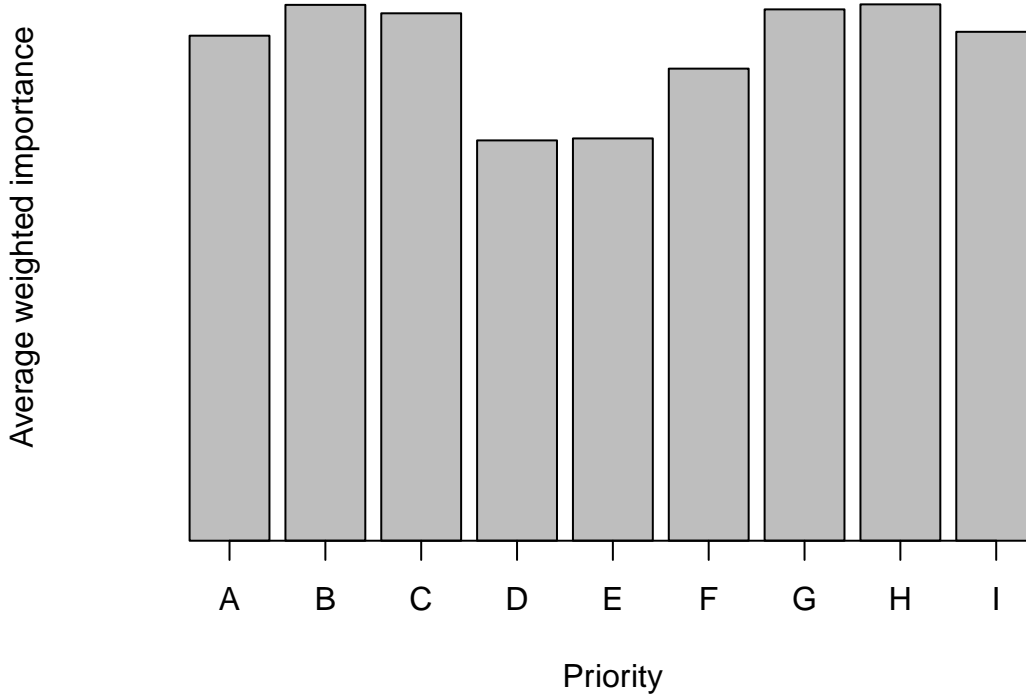
Figure 10: Member importance of priorities for Linux Australia

	Average Importance (%)
(H) increase influence in the Australian IT sector, particularly regarding software patents, digital privacy, IT related infrastructure and legislation	66.27
(B) grow the Australian open source technical community and the social capital within that community	66.21
(G) increase the voice Linux Australia has in the Australian IT and open source sector, and grow relationships with media and government	65.65
(C) ensure an effective pipeline of committed open source enthusiasts including fostering younger members in high school and universities	65.17
(I) have fun!	62.88
(A) ensure a successful and to a lesser extent, profitable linux.conf.au	62.41
(F) prevent burnout within the community, which is largely volunteer based, by increasing and widening participation	58.33
(E) increase promotion and communication activities, such as newsletter production	49.71
(D) increase the grants and funding program	49.47

Table 6: Priorities ranked by member importance

Figure 10 above displays the an average weighted importance ranking for each of the priority areas. Although all are ranked quite highly, priorities H, B, G and C are all above 65%. Only E and D, increase promotion and communication activities and increase the grants and funding programs are below 50%. Table 6 shows the

priorities sorted by their ranked importance.

Are there other member needs?
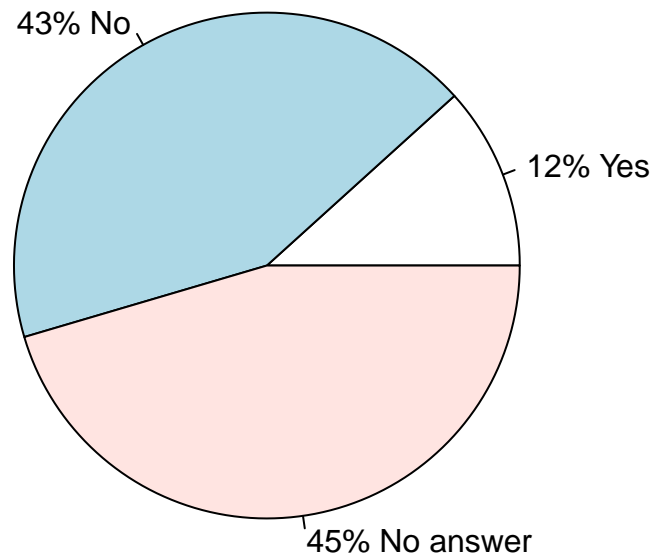
Figure 11: Other member needs

We also asked whether or not there were other member needs that Linux Australia should address (Yes, No). For those that answered Yes, they were asked to specify these unmet needs in an open ended question. These responses are found in Appendix 8.4. The responses are quite detailed and diverse so we include them in detail. Some example comments include:

- Keep the conference affordable.

- Support and promote events involving Open Source in rural and regional areas.

- Build trust to what open source can offer...There is this perception of low quality when not paying for licensing.

- Greater education to the wider community.

- Advocate for the adoption of FOSS software.

General themes to emerge include the need for promotion, advocacy, education and coverage in regional and rural areas.

5 Leadership and Values

In the next section of the questionnaire we asked respondents about the leadership and values of Linux Australia. In particular, we asked respondents to rate how important Linux Australia values, as embodied in the Linux Australia Statement of Values, are.
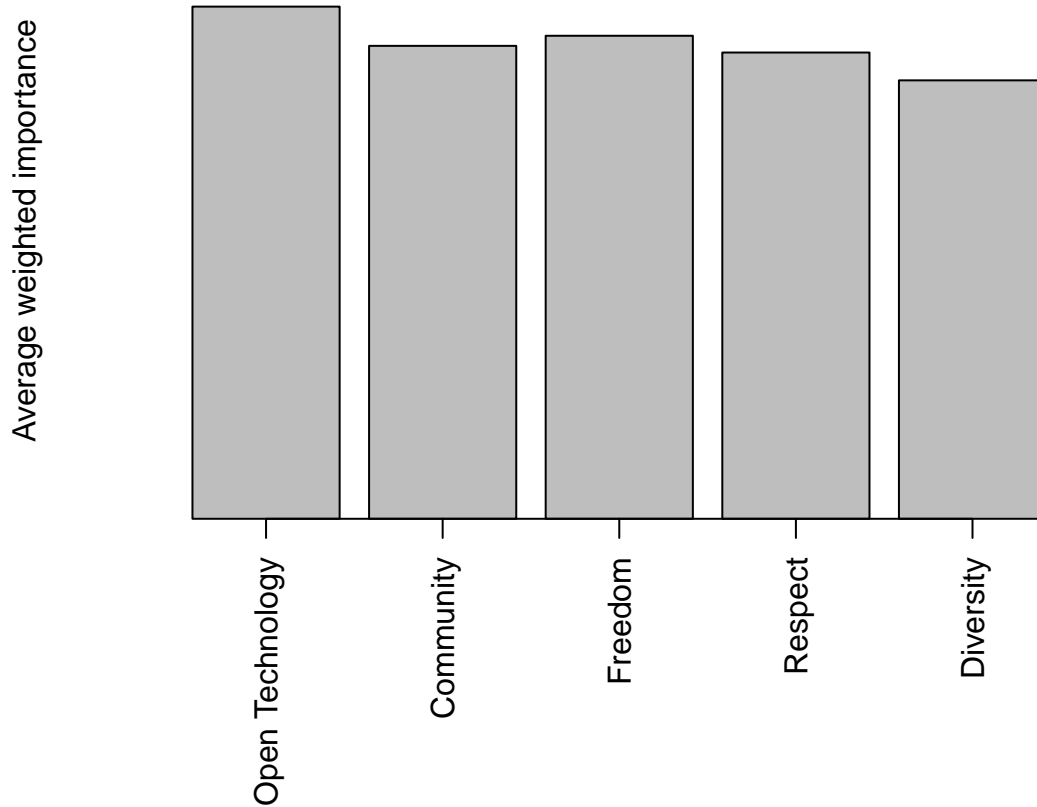
Figure 12: Member importance of values for Linux Australia

	Average Importance (%)
Open technology	71.10
Freedom	67.05
Community	65.65
Respect	64.73
Diversity	60.87

Table 7: Member importance of values for Linux Australia

We then calculated an importance ranking. As Figure 12 shows, respondents rank all the values quite high on importance. Open technology is ranked highest on importance, while diversity is ranked lowest.
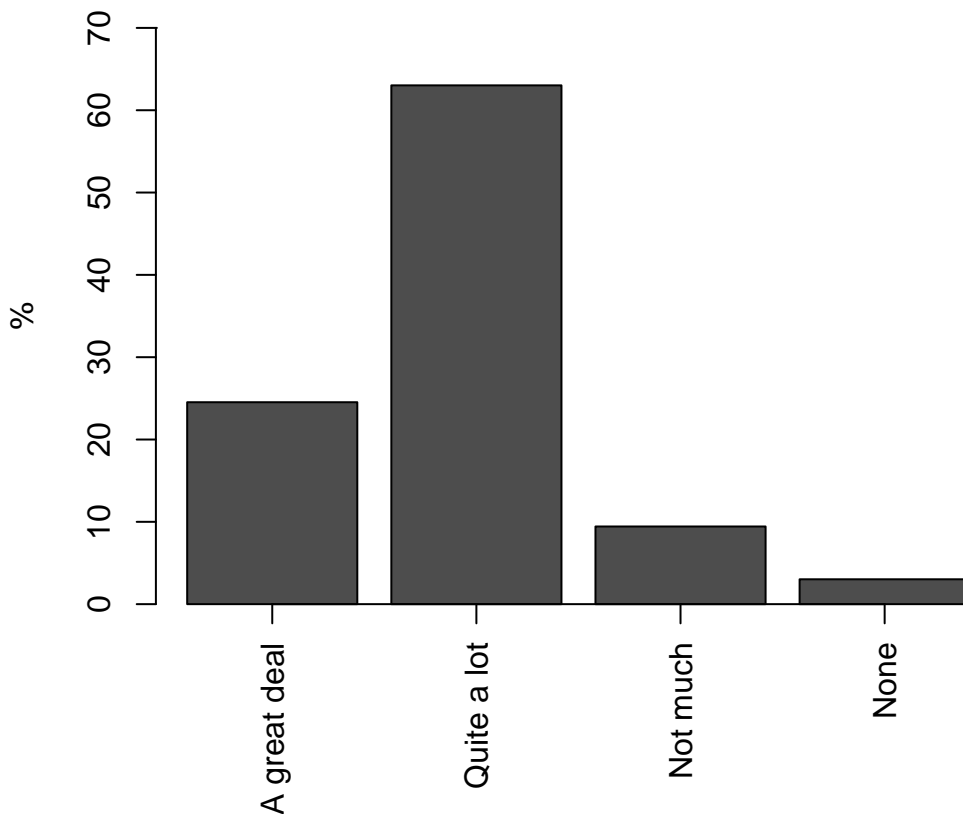
Figure 13: Member confidence in Linux Australia Council

We asked about Linux Australia leadership by asking: How much confidence do you have in the leadership of the current elected Council of Linux Australia. Only 45% of respondents chose to give a response for this question. Figure 13 shows that the majority of those (about 80%) have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in the leadership of the current elected Council of Linux Australia. About 10% of those that responded say they don't have much confidence or none.

We then asked respondents to explain why they rated the confidence in leadership as they did. This was an open ended write in response. These responses are included in detail in Appendix 8.5. Some specific comments include:

- Well known, democratically elected, minutes, results.

- All Linux Australia activities with which I've been associated were well organized, well run and carried out in a way the supported community building.

- I voted for them! I think they've done a good job over the last year.

- Not really aware of the council members.

- I don't really know them but the organisation seems to be doing okay.

- No idea who they are, but the process seems to work so I suspect they are okay.

The general theme to emerge from these comments is that for those who know the council they seem to think they are doing a good job, for others they may not know them but infer a good job since things seem to be going well and for others they don't comment on their confidence because they don't know them and don't have a view. There were very few clear negative comments. The low level of respondents choosing to answer this question, and the content of the comments suggest that many respondents were unaware of the council or it's members, therefore unwilling to rate their confidence in it.
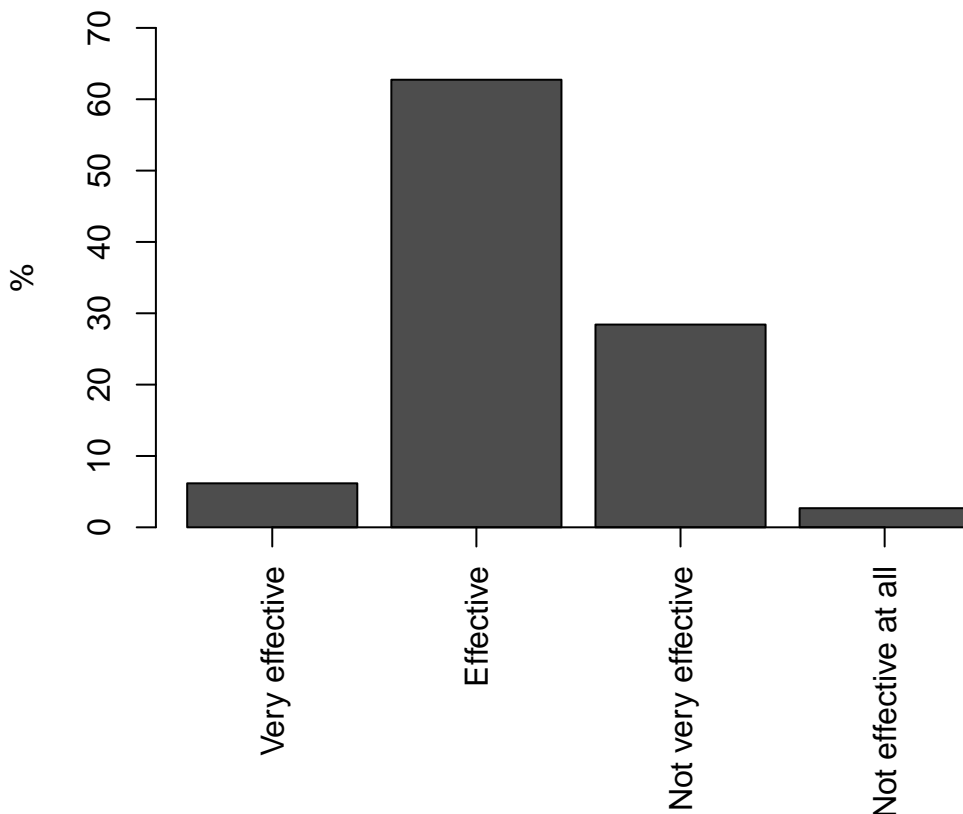
Figure 14: Effectiveness of Linux Australia

Next we wanted to know how effective respondents feel Linux Australia is. For this question, 65% of respondents recorded their view. Again, the lower level of respondents choosing to answer this question may point to a lack of awareness of Linux Australia's activities. The majority of those who answered report that they think the Linux Australia is either effective (>60%) or very effective. < 30% report that it is not very effective. Fewer even report that it is not effective at all. We then asked respondents to explain why they chose the level of effectiveness they did. These detailed responses are found in Appendix 8.6. Some example comments include:

- Not enough visibility or presence demonstrated.

- I know you do some good things, but I was unaware of others – promotion and profile need addressing.

- Even though I am in theory a member (though to be honest I wasn't really aware that I was) I have heard very little about the org.

- Lack of awareness of what is currently being done.

- Given that it's largely volunteers, they do good work. It'd be nice to have a greater amount of lobbying, but that would come at a price that I'm not sure is worth it.

- Achieve alot with the resources at hand. Could do better.

- Able to run good conferences and support other groups.

- Effective because the wheels turn smoothly. I didn't select 'very effective' because I feel like there is more LA could do to be more influential politically, and more LA could do to support developers.

The general theme to emerge here is that Linux Australia runs many things well, in particular the conference was mentioned. However, there is still a lack of awareness amongst other respondents of the range of activities. And, some respondents would like to see more influence politically and a higher profile in the public eye. However, many of these comments were countered with the recognition that resources were tight and choices had to be made about what could be done.

6   Demographics

In the last section of the questionnaire we asked about the respondents so we could get an idea of what the overall community is like.
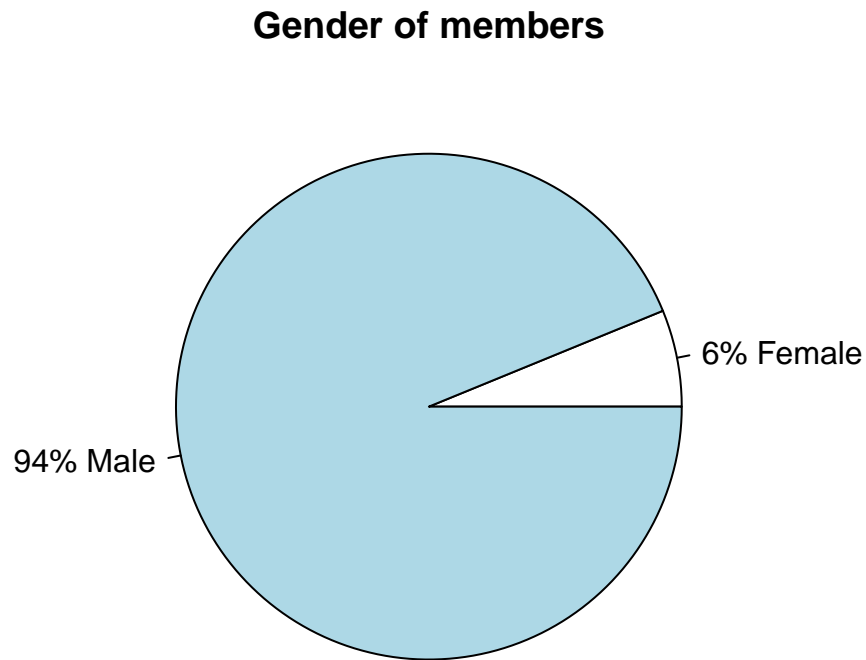
Gender of members

Figure 15: Gender demographic of members

Figure 15 shows that of the 86% of members who specified a gender that was male or female, the community (at least those members of the community that responded here) is largely comprised of males (94%) with females 6%.
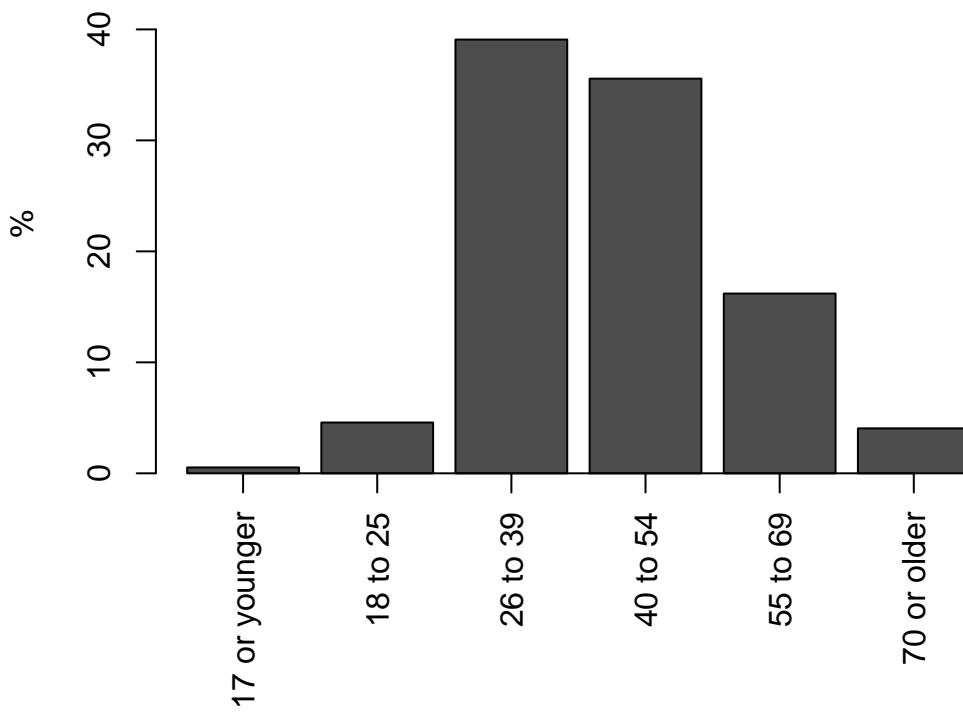
Figure 16: Age demographic of members

In terms of age, 26 to 54 year olds are the largest groups (26-39 is biggest, next 40-54 and next 55 to 69). The smallest age group is 17 or younger. 18-25 and 70 and older groups are about the same size.

Education status
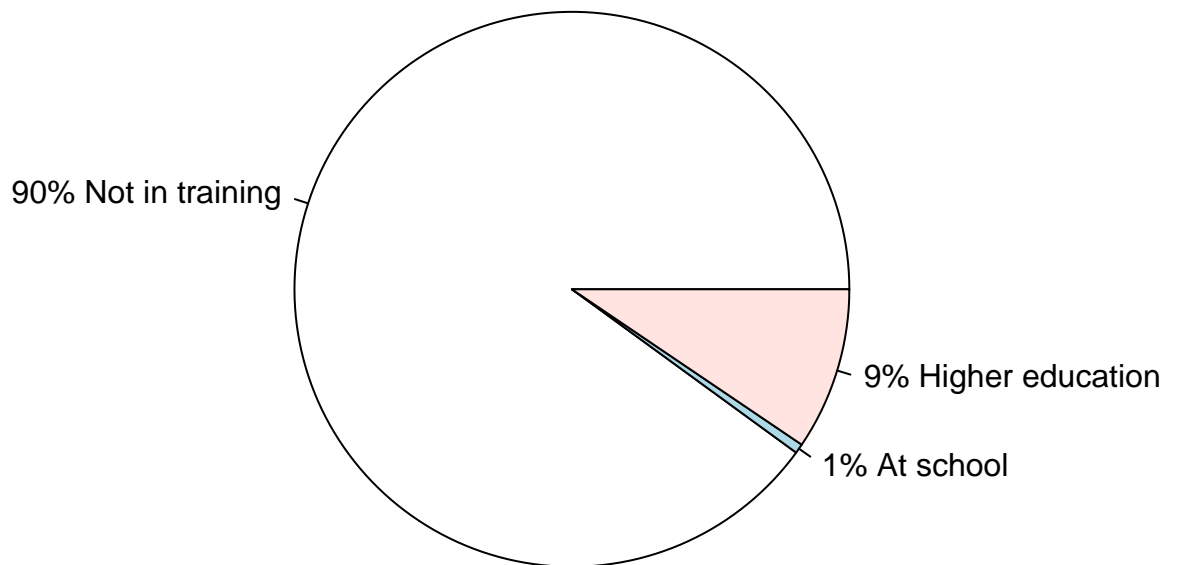
Figure 17: Education status

The pie chart in Figure 17 displays the results to the question: Are you currently in school or studying in higher education? Reflecting the age composition above only 10% of respondents were either at school or studying in higher education.

As shown in Figure 18 the majority of respondents have some type of qualification. The majority have undergraduate or post graduate qualifications. 10% of respondents report no qualifications.
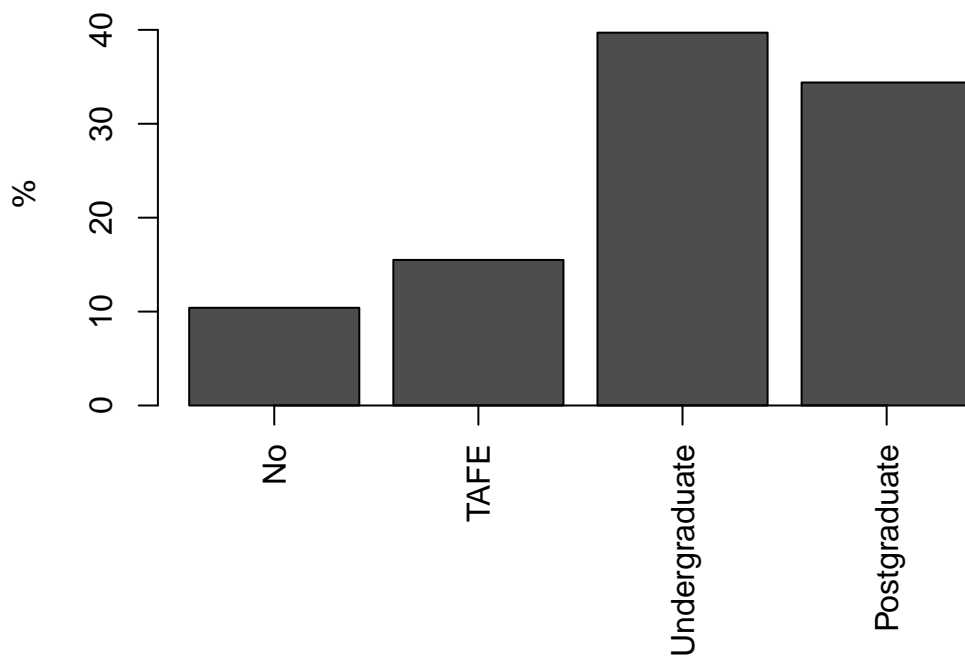
Figure 18: Member qualifications

Information technology education status
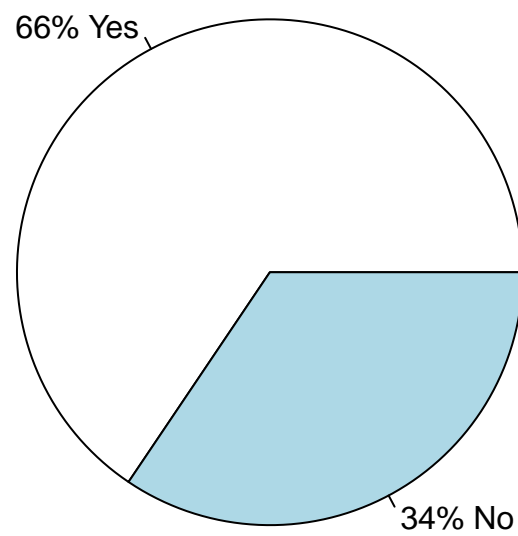
Figure 19: Information Technology education status

As displayed in Figure 19 above, of those with qualifications the majority have IT qualifications (66%) while 34% report that they do not have IT qualifications.

Work status
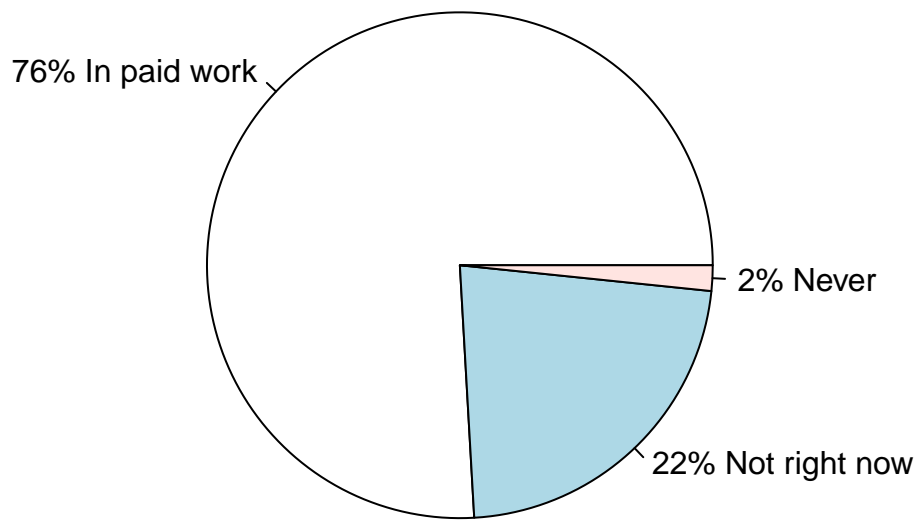
Figure 20: Work status

We asked respondents about their work status and the majority, 76%, are in paid work, 22% are not right now in paid work and 2% report that they have never worked.

Work in I.T. status

78% Yes

22% No
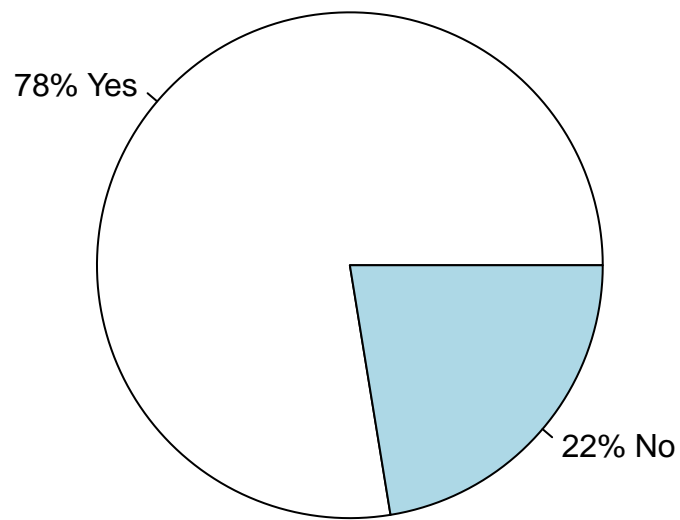
Figure 21: Work in I.T. field status

Of those that reported that they are currently in paid work or have worked in the past we asked whether they worked or had worked in the field of Information Technology (I.T.). The majority work or have worked in the I.T. field.

Retired status of those not in work
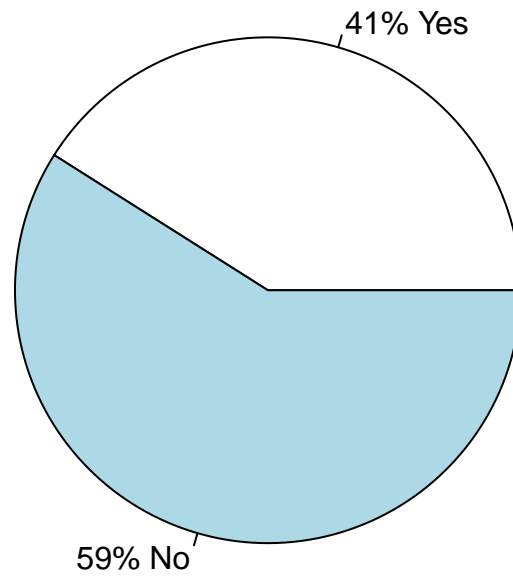
Figure 22: Retired status of those not in work

We asked people not in work whether or not they are retired. 41% reported that they are retired, while 59% of those not in work said they are not retired.
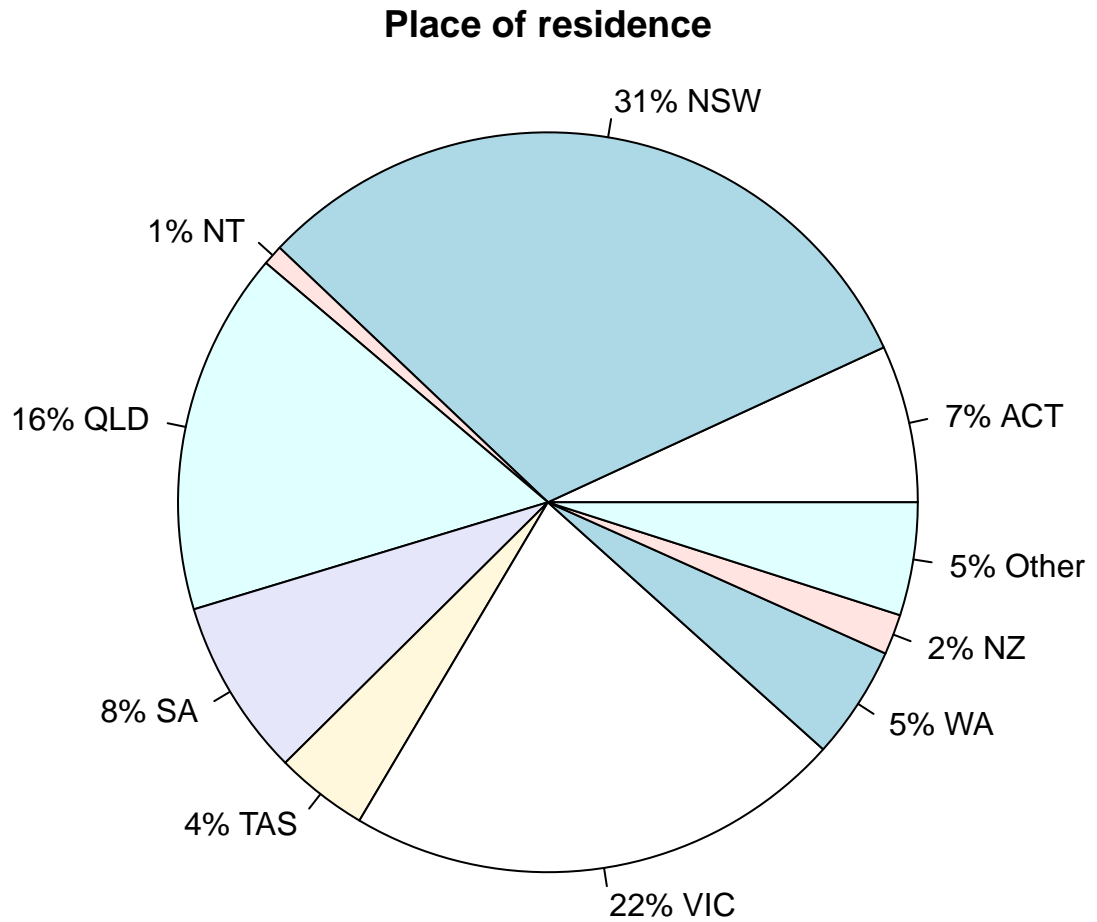
Place of residence

Figure 23: Place of residence

Figure 23 displays the places of residence of respondents. The largest numbers of respondents come from the largest states, NSW and Victoria with other respondents being spread across other states. All states and New Zealand are represented. Other refers to respondents from countries outside Australia and New Zealand.
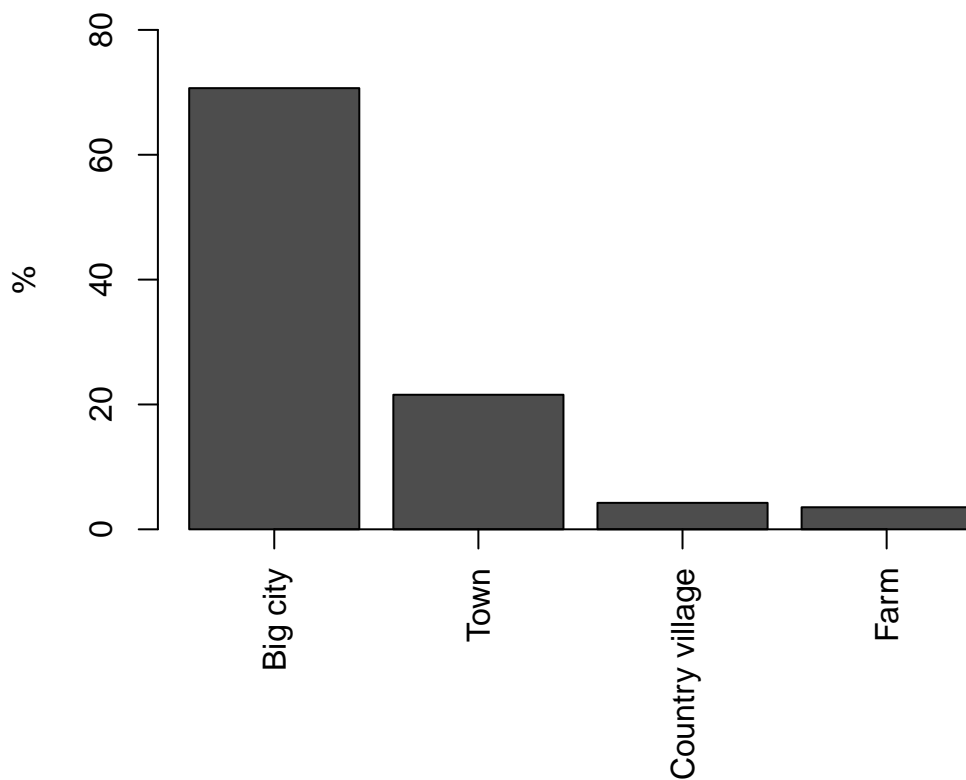
Figure 24: Region type of members' locality

Figure 24 shows whether respondents are from a big city, town, country village or farm. Although there were respondents from all of these areas the largest percentage comes from big cities, with towns or regional centres representing 20%.

Impact of locality on attendance of linux.conf.au

45% Yes

55% No
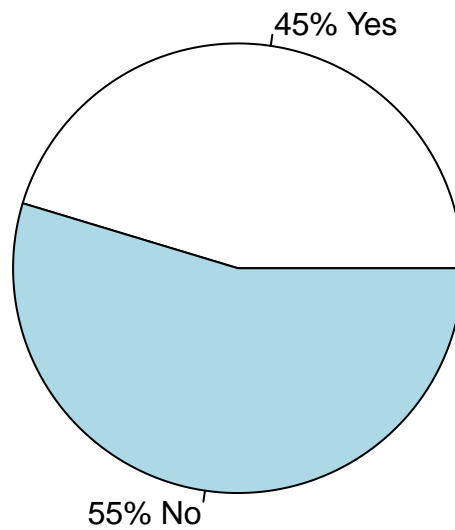
Figure 25: Impact of locality on attendance of linux.conf.au

We then asked respondents whether where they lived impacted on their ability to attend a linux.conf.au? 45% report that it does impact with 55% saying it doesn't impact. If respondents reported that it had an impact we asked them to explain why. These detailed responses are included in Appendix 8.7. Not surprisingly the main reasons for not being able to attend the conference because of where they lived were related to: cost of travel, distance of travel and the time required to travel.

We included a final open ended question: Is there anything else you would like to share with Linux Australia? These detailed responses are included in Appendix 8.8. Some example comments include:

- Keep the fight going...please we need it!

- Please keep up the great work.

- Love the conference, Wish I could attend more.

- Keep up the good work.

- You're doing a tough job very well. Thanks!

The general theme of these comments is 'keep up the good work' and an appreciation for what the organisation is doing. It is clear that there is alot of good will in the community and that if anything else, they would like to see and hear more about the work that is being done.

7 Recommendations

In summary then we can offer the following recommendations:

- Develop an awareness and promotions strategy which promotes the wider range of activities. This could be done by leveraging off the higher awareness of the conference and using it to promote events such as WordCamp and BarCamp. There is a general theme which runs throughout both the quantitative and qualitative data that respondents are interested but unaware of much of the organisation's activities. However, it also emerges, especially in the qualitative data, that there is recognition amongst members that this is a voluntary organisation with limited resources and so, choices have to be made.

- The data here demonstrates that there is no need to change your priority areas as respondents ranked the importance of all of these highly. There is evidence here to suggest that work could be done to widen awareness of the priority areas. It appears that some members think that your priority areas are more narrow than they actually are.

- Generally speaking respondents who reported knowing about the Council rated them with confidence and overall, the organisation was in the main considered 'effective.' The qualitative data suggests that the ratings of 'effectiveness' could be improved by raising awareness and increasing advocacy and prevalence in the media.

- Given the value of diversity then this is an area which could be a focus of work in relation to the profile of the community and reaching out to new members. The community, as captured in this sample, is predominately male, older and made up of individuals with qualifications in and/or work in IT. There could be outreach to women, younger members (particularly those still in training) and to other disciplines to broaden the member base and increase the diversity of the community.

8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix - Invitation email

```
Subject: Linux Australia Member Survey

Dear {FIRSTNAME},

You're receiving this email as part of the Linux Australia Member Survey 2013. Previous notifications
have been provided through the linux-aus@linux.org.au mailing list, however if you're not subscribed
to that list, don't worry - we've provided an overview below.
The survey is being conducted on behalf of Linux Australia by the Australian Consortium for Social and
 Political Research Incorporated (ACSPRI). Linux Australia has deliberately chosen to partner with
ACSPRI because of the alignment of values between the two organisations; ACSPRI is a key adopter,
supporter and advocate for survey and statistical open source software such as Limesurvey.
The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. None of the questions are mandatory. If you
 do not wish to respond to a question, simply leave it unanswered. Your responses will be anonymous. A
 record of whether you have completed or not is kept separately to your responses to ensure we do not
send you reminder emails.

To participate in the survey, please click on the URL below:

{SURVEYURL}

The survey will be used as a key input for Linux Australia Council's strategic planning activities,
and the results and analysis will drive key initiatives and priorities of the organisation over the
next 1-5 years. Thus, your contribution and time spent on the survey is valuable. It is appreciated.
The analysis of the survey will be tabled at Linux Australia's Annual General Meeting, to be held in
Perth, Western Australia in early January 2014 as a part of linux.conf.au, and will be made publicly
available at or after this time.

Your contact for any follow up questions, queries or concerns is Kathy Reid, Secretary, Linux
Australia - secretary@linux.org.au

With kind regards,

Kathy Reid Secretary Linux Australia
secretary@linux.org.au http://linux.org.au
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8.2 Appendix - Reminder email

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Subject: Reminder - Linux Australia Member Survey

Dear {FIRSTNAME},

This is a quick reminder that the Linux Australia Member Survey is available here:

{SURVEYURL}

It will only take approximately 10 minutes to complete. None of the questions are mandatory. Your
responses will be anonymous.
With kind regards,

Kathy Reid Secretary Linux Australia
secretary@linux.org.au http://linux.org.au

If you do not want to participate in this survey and don't want to receive any more invitations please
 click the following link: {OPTOUTURL}
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8.3 Appendix - Final reminder email

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Subject: Final Reminder - Linux Australia Member Survey

Dear {FIRSTNAME},

The Linux Australia Member Survey is about to close. Please take the opportunity to have your opinions
 heard by completing a short survey here:
```

{SURVEYURL}

None of the questions are mandatory. Your responses will be anonymous.

With kind regards,

Kathy Reid Secretary Linux Australia
secretary@linux.org.au http://linux.org.au

If you do not want to participate in this survey please click the following link: {OPTOUTURL}

8.4   Appendix - Unmet needs of Linux Australia

I think the priority regarding linux.conf.au should be to keep the conference affordable and accessable to everyone, not to ensure it is profitable.

Build trust to what open source can offer to organisations. There is this perception of low quality when not paying for licensing. This is not the case in developing countries.

I think some member services such as MX and secondary DNS might be useful, as would a vanity email address for members.

Major community outreach and visibility goals - make it abundantly known to people in any Australian city that LinuxAu exists, and wants to help.

I feel Linux Australia should also be a go to place for members wishing to reach out to other open communities and provide a knowledge base for members who wish to find these diverse communities.

Provide an EASY access route (no gobbily gook) to ask questions for us seniors to over come the problem of not being able to find or then understand the answers. Nerds (respectfully) seem to be unable to talk to us (seniors) in a language we understand. Please DONT leave out the steps that seem obvious to you, but leave gaps in the process of fixing, adapting or installing software. We DONT know if it debian or ? or ? or 32 bit or 64 bit or whatever, I really dont think you understand the size of seniors community out here that would love to be involved, but you need to understand our thought processes. Maybe you need to reseach this as well s IT, Universites and youth generally. Hope this helps, as we need it. Regards

- Funding for LUG groups to promote Linux in their areas - Beeter support for regional areas, maybe smaller conferences

Platform for research and development.

Support and promote events involving Open Source in rural and remote areas, whether online or real-life events. Currently our only way of being part of the community is online, with reduced opportunities for more in-depth interaction with the community. Synergies and the flow of ideas that can happen for people attending lca and LUG meetings and other events aren't really available for us.

More emphansis on encouraging DIY groups eg. embedded software development on Development Boards eg. Android on Beaglebone

Training

You need to establish a way to collect and channel funds from open source "consumers" to open source producers (where producers is a broader concept than coders). You need to actively promote open data and open data formats. These have more resonance with Govt and can be a gateway to broader adoption of open source. You need to have a program devoted to intellectual property, esp. in the context of free trade agreements, and how it affects the community.

Provide a forum for areas where Linux users are at a disadvantage. E-tax is a good example. LA could both pressute the ATO and the Minister to adopt platform independent E-tax methodology, advise users on how individually apply such pressure, and provide a mechanism for Linux users to share successes with work-arounds such as the use of the wine emulator.

Open Source programs, code, applications,& Student programming within the australian education system

Ensure good relations with other open source communities with similar aims e.g. the BSDs (i.e. try to sideline GPL "religious wars")

Threats posed by legal processes - software patents spring to mind but, as a network researcher, legal threats that result from broken laws which empower the authorities to act in very heavy handed ways to minor problems.

Greater education to the wider community re the ease of use of the Linux software.

Exploratory journeys to inland Australia to locate isolated guys like myself, before we die without ever having seen another Linux IT person in the flesh ... or some other social get together things.

Discover ways to educate the general public on the value of open source software, especially the value of Linux on the desktop! (Maybe this year ...)

Having an accessible group of knowledgeable members that can help hands on as such, with battling members to get the hang of different aspects. Even with guides it can be a challenge to set up non windows type domains. Dependant on the capability of those attempting this.

- possible funding of bursaries for study in open source areas - facilitating training - technical in linux/ open source - mentoring program - more voice/influence in the media

try and spread barcamp style smaller events outside of Melb/Sydney (ie we have nothing in ADL)

I have been coding since the 80s and now find I tend to mentor people trying to develop their ideas. Linux and open coded solutions are the obvious way for these people to start. What support does Linux Australia offer?

Our Computer Club internal activity uncovers every month problems associated with "Other OS systems" and its problems; problematical d/loads that sometimes ended up 'Not Recommended' and the frustration expressed by the participant. This is why, I am one of the few in our membership keen to expand Linux into our Club an d spread information to suit. We have experienced a failure in Ubuntu due to faulty disc DVD's provided. Am very keen to expand my knowledge in Linux; have a dedicated machine for this purpose: once I can unload Ubuntu 12.4

Provide guidance on Best Practices for members and FOSS users

Better communications with members

Not all members are IT pros, but the Linux people seem to think they are, or ignore them? Not all members have the same enthusiasm, but are still Interested.

Create partneships with IT retailers. Lift linux profile

The political importance of having community supported IT and communications that is not dictated to by large corporations. To promote the understanding that governments pay for education and the value of that intellectual capital should not be owned by the privileged few. The concept of the common-weal needs promotion.

Provide infrastructure services to LUGs and members.

Provide an ongoing update of activities via an email service or newsletter that is circulated regularly.

I just want to emphasise on the importance of promoting Linux and open source software to high school and university students.

REcognise diversity within a closed and unsular group that deserves recognition on a wider scale. The reason I chose to no longer be a memeber of the Sydney Linux group was because it became obvious that it no longer served the needs of it's original membership and took on a corporate hame, a covering protective barrier that shielded those who had made it their own personal opportunity to become significant and thereby destroy what was a useful, effective and community based collective. Rather than honour the open nature it became a vehicle for the ambitious to become significant at the expense of losing what was an important and well attended club. It was with particular personal sadness that I felt it neccessary to withdraw from what had been a fun and communal society, but was required to accept that it no longer held the same philosophy I once held. Hearing Pia Waugh on Radio National recently I was reminded of just why it was imortant to hold true to one's beliefs. But it has probably been too long and too much time for me to suggest that what used to be a membership of friends has become something different. I miss her, I miss them, I miss the comraderie and most of all I miss the sense that there was something important.

Mentoring. It would be great if someone could assist in bringing up more junior members to speed with Linux usage and hackability.

Support other open source events, not just LCA

Promote IT and related hobby and employment areas for females and the less privileged.

Prevention of the conference and volunteer effort around Free software being hijacked by wannabe politicians for their own ends, be they idealistic or entirely self-serving. All Linux Australia needs to do is run the conference successfully. Other things belong elsewhere to live or die on their merits alone.

open hardware running linux embedded

reduce the important of physical presence by increasing the availability of live streams, by directional linkups in-conference & user groups, and un-edited recorded videos of _all_ related events (not just linux.con.au, but making something that can work for small more adhoc events too) physical presence is a somewhat insidious form of discrimination - why someone cannot attend is pretty much irrelevant - better to solve the problem. (no, I'm not blaming, or suggesting that LA isn't doing a great job, I just realised that its way past time that we did something about this not quite hidden issue)

provide certification for Linux and Open Source qualifications

Helping to improve diversity of the Australian open source community and making it welcoming to people from under-represented backgrounds eg women, ethnic minorities.

Reduce the 'geekiness' of linux and therefore the fear of using Linux for day 2 day use.

Let people know via the LUGS wTF you actually do. See how much stuff I was unaware of.

interoperability with Windows

advocate for the adoption of FOSS software by individuals and organisations

identify any key projects or vendors that have a strong correlation with open source community and consider investment or advocacy, e.g.: i) key software packages or platforms (eg. integrating into ATO) ii) key partners with similar values (eg. Google with its advocacy of above) Both need to be done carefully, but there are potential opportunities for funding coders on projects of interest to Australian open source community (memberdb is another example) and in seeking commercial partners who share common values for joint advocacy or investment (in the project, not the vendor!)

Tuition, most likely in groups, or online, for interested persons (not necessarily employed or owning a business which uses Open Source). Make it user-friendly and not only geek-centred. Also women-friendly, as software study tends to have a male-geek-nerd image. :-) Locally based meetings for newbies, mums @ home and retirees. Many of these people are time-rich but cash-strapped, unlike IT professionals who are immersed in Linux full-time.

Make it easier for new members to get information about, and how to get involved within the community.

NSA-proof network services

You might have already seen to this since I last looked but web presence is critical. Have a polished, up to date website. Show your affiliation with international Linux groups.

affordability of conferences

Why there is no job without experience as you can't get experience without job.... This is a chicken-Hen situation because of which people like me who were linux enthusiast have lost interest in the platform.

Cad and ebgineering software,and get more involved in the Linux Phone

Display/advertise "Local" meeting places. All very well communicating via email or having an annual conference, but local events are not advertised on the site, how do you find them? Australia is a big country.

Right now, the focus of engagement is individuals and with the Government. The very small end, and the large end, if you will. I think a focus on getting either small companies or, large companies on-board as corporate supporters would be useful. On what basis / terms that might be would need to be decided.

Advise Linux users (and perhaps other software brand users) that attend computer classes within our community. eg: - U3a groups, Senior Citizen Groups, school committes, local libraries, etc. that there is a Linux option availablbe.

I contribute to a number of important Linux projects. Mesa, GTK+, Glib, etc when I have spare time and have even run a successful crowd funding campaign to do work on Mesa. One thing I find dissapointing is the apparent lack of Australian developers involved with or core members of such projects. I would like to work on open source projects with other Australians so I could chat on IRC etc. It would be great if there was a way to get involved with other Australian developers who are contributing there time to open source. Some central place to find out what others are working on. Otherwise its just lonely as the IRC channels are usually dead during our daytime due to time differences with where most developers live in the world. Then again I've never made it to linux.conf.au so maybe thats what I'm missing? But it would be good if there were some only comminity

Lobby for keeping IT support and data within Australia, similar to luxemburg and switzerland. Cheap, poor quality offshoring is hurting businesses and customers.

Training (online/on demand)

It should have more regional focus and participation - at present, it seems to be mostly designed to serve the east coast of Australia, and New Zealand, with little involvement in Western Australia. Linux Australia should be more about the whole of Australia, and, less about New Zealand, and, less emphasis on the east coast of Australia and more for the whole of Australia. At present, Western Australia is apparently regarded as being less part of Linux Australia, than New Zealand. Linux Australia should also, via its mailing list and its linux conf, discuss more about current applicable topics, such as the effects of the UEFI/GPT implementation on Linux, which is also why, the CALU should be restored - a Conference of Australian Linux Users, to deal with such current topics, for Linux users, rather than the now linuxconf, being for, and, apparently, only for, developers of linux utilities. Linux Australia appears to have walked away from the Linux users of Australia, with its objectives and conferences, and now appears to be more about only developers of linux utilities.

PROMOTION PROMOTION PROMOTION... existing Linux users generally are aware of its strengths and weaknesses but above all they are aware of what Linux is and isn't. I believe the greater percentage of everyday computer users have no idea about it whatsoever. I am an avid reader of Linux Format Magazine and the articles from Australia are virtually non existent. As it is the most widely read Linux Mag for goodness sake why not promote Australian Linux activities through it. Do the UK type thing with Raspberry Pi and promote Linux in schools - newsletters won't do it. I love Linux and I am sure many more would if they knew it exists and will do whatever a person wants it to do. Remember that not all users can travel to the four corners of the globe for conferences - Linux in Australia needs to be brought alive.

8.5 Appendix - Member confidence in leadership of Council.

Significantly improved transparency in how the organisation is run.

I have no reason to doubt their abilities, however I do not know much about their work.

Having known one of the committee members for a number of years, I feel that their no nonsense sytle and respect for others. There's no roon for shenanigans in a grass root organization, though rather large. Say.. Has Rusty's credit card recovered yet?

All Linux Australia activities with which I've been associated were well organized, well run and carried out in a way that supported community building.

Some elected members, such as Josh and Kathy, seem to be active in the community, whereas most of the others don't.

Although I can see some activity from Linux Australia I believe there could be a lot more done.

They have put in place processes - sub committee reports, excellent committee minutes, and so on. More than any other LA committee so far, the give the feeling of structure and dependability to LA. As an example of where that didn't happen: the handling of the Pia and Tim Berners-Lee. The decision on what to do was remarkably quick, and thus could not have received much in the way of input. Or to put it another way LA should be function like a bureaucracies, and are slow and deliberate for a very good reason.

I have worked with several of the LA Council members and I know them to be committed and competent.

From a personal point of view, I have seen them work effectively to guide and run their open events well and handle those issues that pop up with air of authority and inclusion.

Know at least four of the members personally and they have a great track record as organizers, community members, they listen and get stuff done.

The current council are very thorough, organised and most of all inclusive in all aspects and are constantly requesting for comment on various view points.

Well known, democratically elected, minutes, results.

I haven't heard a lot of information and what they have done since election.

I trust the people who have elected the current council, and those I know who are on the council I have respect for.

not really aware of the council members

Being one of the elected council members, I've seen them in action. Dodgy bunch.

They are there, doing a job and linux.org.au is still arround.

I don't have much interaction with Linux Australia. I presume what they are doing is correct.

Communication has improved. Openness is noticable. Responses have always been considered, professional and based in fact. I've not noticed any 'politics'.

So far, they have proven to be an exceptionally gifted and talented bunch of guys. Their success so far is probably a direct result of the great cohesion they have as a "team". I take my hats off to them!

*There has never been any reason to doubt the LA leadership and support teams They too are at the cutting edge of getting Linux into the community and government sectors.

I voted for them! I think they've done a good job over the last year.

My reading of the people and their actions gives me quite a lot of trust that LA is in safe hands - but because it's only ever online (I live in a rural area), I don't have the benefit of actually getting to know the people.

Don't know much about what they've achieved-> poor communication with the Linux community

I only know one person currently elected, and he is awesome.

I talk to Josh regularly, so I know he's doing a good job.

Gotta give 'em room for improvement.

They provide reports and return that support the outcomes

It is my gut feeling, and I have no reason to think otherwise.

I don't know what their vision for Linux Australia

Less than "great deal" because I do not think advocacy for Linux users in relation to issues like E-tax mentioned above is happening, or if it is, it is not well publicised.

Past performance.

The whole team is fantastic and if they dare step out of line ACTION KATHY will get them back in order
.

The work of the Council is highly visible and highly effective. I can think of nothing they've done which limits my confidence. On some matters (in particular medium-to-low priority new initiatives) they can be slow but this is not a bad thing and is a side-effect of the size of the Council's job.

I know nothing about the leadership but there is no button to indicate this.

The present Council seems to be good communicators and responsible shepherds of the LA community. They do not, however, seem to be noticably expanding LA's reach or activities.

I have no reason not to.

just because

As with most councils, they do a well enough job, but recent attempts to change the name, seem to have far more energy injected into it, than what is spent on promoting Linux

Whilst I do not know them personaly I am sure that they have the best interests of the community at heart.

Just general impression.

I don't really know them but the organisation seems to be doing ok

No idea who they are, but the process seems to work so I suspect they are OK.

I'm a new member.

I don't know them "personally" - but from the interactions on the mail lists, they seem to be enthusiastic and competent :)

they communicate with me in a meaningful manner.

They're all doing a very difficult job, akin to herding cats, voluntarily.

They seem to do a pretty good job.

Am still taking baby steps within the system, what I have seen and read gives the confidence in it.

- meet frequently, good notes and minutes - good experience on council - responsive

I've seen their responsiveness and outcomes achieved.

So far, following the mailing list, the council's actions look proper.

Because such great people such as Josh Hesketh and Hugh Blemings, who have vast experience within our community are on the council. If we keep getting such great talent like this then I have no doubt for the future of Linux Australia. And you too Kathy Reid :) (Nearly forgot your great work)

I used to attend meetings years ago and talk to many people in the industry who also like me consider the Council of Linux Australia are doing a good job.

I haven't been involved for long, but they appear to have done a good job to date.

because all individuals believe in open software and freedom in ideas.

I know many of the people on committee and have a degree of personal trust and respect for them. I have not been actively watching their activity so do not have complete validation.

I dont know the council members personally, but as a subscriber to the list I can see that they are active in their roles, esp Joshua and Kathy.

I know most of the people on the council to some degree. I have spent at least some time chatting with them at BarCamps, LUGs, linux.conf.au, IRC, mailing lists, have seen them give presentations etc., so am confident that they are all capable, well motivated, decent people with the best interests of linux-aus and the Australasian free software community at heart.

I have confidence in most, but not all, of the council.

Just "Jobs for the boys"

I've attended each linux.conf.au since the first time in Brisbane and expect that the current exec will continue to do a good job.

.

Linux Australia has an important image to protect, thus to create confidence in its membership, providing the leadership for an ever-increasing demand for a 'Good. reliable Product'.Have been attached to IT since 1999, when we first opened our three Hardware Stores and were first at using the Product code, baffling many in using the last 6 digits in our retail system; Mitre10 and oter store groups came to investigate 'What we were doing! It was OK until we came across a similar numbering system, then we put in the full 13 digit number!

From what I have read in the minutes and council interaction with the community and the requests on list, they seem reasonably sound.

I know most of the council, not personally but reputationally, and most have done a good job on the council in previous years.

Things are getting done. LCAs run. Other conferences run. Teleconference meeting minutes published.

I know and respect Josh.

Seem competent, could be less cliquish

because I have met most the board personally and believe that they do the bets job they can.

I don't know enough about the current leadership to give them top marks, but they seem to be doing a good job, that's all.

Hello, It is the first time that I am in touch with Linux Australia from the first day I registered ....

I know some of them, and are pleased with the job they are doing

They are responsive to members when they are approached. LA's governance is transparent with very good minutes produced by Kathy to ensure that everyone knows what's going on.

because i am confident too.

The council members I have been in contact with have struck me as competent and enthusiastic (though perhaps a bit overworked).

Seem to be doing a good job.

So far everything I've seen has been good work.

They have always been very helpful when I have had direct contact with them.

continued displayed competence

They are doing a good job, not great, but good.

Because I know the people and trust them.

cause i don't know who they are?????

The Linux presence online seems to be growing and improving all the time. Once only hard core geeks could really use Linus, now ordinary people such as I can use it. I can get help online, & I can find Linux compatible software to do almost anything I want. I think the Linux support network is doing a great hob, but I am not an expert user & I have only been using Linux for a few years so I am not able to understand yet, just what & how much u r doing.

I personally have little to do with LA but the other members of SLUG have confidence in the organisation and their enthusiasm indicates that the Linux community is healthy.

They seem to be committed to an open dialog with members and also seem to be trying to be inclusive to all group members: to consider all points of view before making decisions.

Coz youse are all grouse :)

I have little experience with the Linux Australia community even though I have used Linux in it's various forms since 1990 after receiving a notice via university from Linus Torvalds. Informix and Slackware were my initiation. Linux Australia seem to be doing a creditable job.

Things seem to be run well. I don't have much visibility beyond that, but the wheels seem to turn smoothly.

I've met a few of them personally, and those people are mature professionals. The online presence of the council is sound; they aren't cowboys who run arround trolling.

Although I've not had the chance to meet the current council members, from what I've seen on the mailing list is evidence enough for me to be confident in my answer!

Well, I know hardly any of them. No Wait, I know none of them at all. How can I have any confidence in any group of people that I don't know? It would seem that that is the appropriate response. But yes, you're right it is up to me to get to know who they are. I'm curious you actually asked me to respond to this survey.

Because they are hard working volunteers, whomever they are.

It is doing a great job.

I know them all and convinced some of them to run. Long history of doing good things in the community

Everything works without complaint

Elected by their peers they have obviously already been able to gain the respect of a significant number of members. That shows that they have the trust and confidence of a large range of people, that gives me confidence that, even if I don't personally know all of them, they have passed the litmus test for trust in their ability.

Seems to be working okay.

Leadership is stable, has experience and is responsive to member queries.

They seem active, focused and are appear primarily generous. They promote discussion and are willing to listen to issues raised. They also appear to be generally supportive of progressive social values and inclusivity.

I don't know

I know, or have known, several members of the council personally

The posting of regular updates on LA goings on via Newsletter and Committee Minutes

I have had no reason to doubt them

I have been a member for not too long, so I do not know much. However, while I have confidence in the leadership elected by the members, there is a need to better communicate with members like IEEE and other professional groups are doing.

I don't know them all

From what I hear of others who attended linux.cong.au & PyCon

Not really sure who the leaders are, they seem to be doing a good job, (as in the conferences I've attended have been a great resource.)

I have confidence in the people on the council.

cos.

Everyone on the council is trying to do the right thing, but is hamstrung by a power imbalance between a vocal minority of members who do nothing, and people who are taking action to improve the organisation. The council will lead, but the membership is too self-interested to follow.

limited only by the lack of my knowleadge of some members and their work, and then theres working with steve at LCAs. Enough said

collectively their judgement and capacity is observably good

Reputation of some of the council members (the ones I recognise)

Lots of transperancy in electing officials and clear ways to apply and work to be a part of it.

Awareness of Linux is growing and I think that you are part of that.

Really good work.

Got infected by the virus of political correctness. God involved with feminist, gay & lesbian and other non-technical issues. Reduced the freedom of expression by implementing restrictive antiharassment policies.

Because US corporation, such as Microsoft, Adobe, etc, controls Australian IT market and Australian government.

sometimes Linux goes off on a tangent re mainstream IT world or the conference videos aren't that well recorded but overall things run pretty well

Because of the philosophy of Linux and open source software being free for everyone, I assume, this same passion and ethic would be present in all members of the Council. I picture the members as computer nerdy philanthropists of intellectual property, or am I wrong?

It's going good

Don't know them, never heard from them.

* effective and prompt responses to potential conflicts / controversies * commitment to the code of conduct * persistence between conferences

Respect for differences is more importance than the others, diversity means difference which requires respect. Respect helps smooth troubled waters.

no particular reason

They haven't imploded (yet).

I didn't vote for any of them

Well respected group of individuals

If part of their job is to promote Linux, and all I ever get to see are questions on funding they obviously miss their mark

the ladies are doing a sterling job :) thank you girls I cant say that the boys are standing out, but perhaps the girls are because its new to have order in place of chaos and information in place of a vacuum

Good management of discussion in topics on linux-aus, including matters like this survey and grants

I have not been a member long, and do not fully understand the internal processes of Linux Australia, therefore, as I don't have informed opinion, I can't have confidence in it.

Im a new new member and haven't had a chanve to look into into the organisation that much but it looks like you're doing doing great work work which is why I joined.

judging by the choices made by the leadership, they've lost track of the fact that they are responsible for good stewardship of linux.conf.au before all else. they also seem obsessed with this idea that they run Open Source All The Shiny Things Australia rather than Linux Australia, and are choosing the organisation's priorities and resource allocation accordingly. at this point, the culture of Linux, I Want My Locus Of Interest Subsidised By The $$$ Generated By linux.conf. Instead is fairly well entrenched and self-perpetuating. i see no sign that the ... leadership ... even spotted the problem, let alone are moving to address it. i have no confidence i ever will.

I'm sure your intentions are good and you work hard and do good stuff but I know little about you.

Well, I think they do a fine enough job of organising the conference. Though, I must admit, it seems to me from the mailing list that all Linux Australia does, or cares about, is organising the annual conference. There are people who are active in Linux Australia who absolutely could not influence boardrooms, for example, to adopt Linux and have very small minded focus.

haven't spent money on hookers to my knowledge

It's actually difficult to say as I'm currently unaware of who the leadership are... I based my answer on who I've dealt with in running a subcommittee in the recent past assuming the leadership is the same (which may, in fact, not be the case_

They seem to be doing a pretty good job.

IF It Aint Broke Don't fix it

No obvious direction.

Know some of them personally.

Too much "Open Source" (there are other, previously existing groups for that), not enough *Linux* promotion.

Great bunch of people.

The fact that for myself as a high level Linux/Unix/MS engineer in the private sector, I see very little correspondence from Linux Australia. Either on my desk, through my junior staff or in my Inbox.

They have a good history of doing things well.

From a distance (I am not heavily involved) they seem to be pro-actively trying to improve the organisation.

Things seem to be running smoothly and the council is being pro-active in getting things done.

I am new to Linux and would to lean more.

The current committee have demonstrated both competence and enthusiasm.

Need greater exposure in main stream media and across all levels of the government and community

Im a little out of touch but know most of the members

I dont know much about them

Know some of the team and they are outstanding, ethical, responsible people.

I think they are doing a great job!

Advocacy is best way to reach others in the community and Linux Council seems committed to this

TBH I don't recall the entire current council, but I remember paying attention last election (both to the nominations and the results), and being quite satisfied with my perception of the skills and dedication of those on the council, particularly those I've interacted with elsewhere.

Evidence of poor leadership demonstrated in mailing lists.

Well at least they want to hear what people think by doing this survey

no

They have done a good job with linux.conf.au

I do not know any of them and I am not aware of any of them being from Western Australia, or, of any of them being concerned with Western Australia. The Linux Australia Council appears to be all from the eastern states of Australia, and, concerned only with the east coast of Australia and New Zealand, and, seems unconcerned with the whole of Australia, and, unconcerned with Linux users as users who are not developer of linux utilities.

I feel so with great hope.

Excellent and quick responses to community concerns over the past year.

I know many of the council personally and they're very effective committed people.

The invisibility cloak is working TOO well!

8.6 Appendix - Effectiveness of Linux Australia

I can't determine what action LA is taking to meet its current goals, from its website, and I suspect that it may be preaching to the converted a lot of the time. I'd like to say "I don't know" and provide this feedback, but there isn't an option.

linux.conf.au and the other conferences are successful year on year

My only direct experience is with linux.conf.au which in general has always been of a high quality

Even though I am in theory a member (though to be honest wasn't really aware that I was) I have heard very little about the Org.

With the help of volunteers, I feel that LA can run a capable conference which matches the best. We could do with more open source in schools and government.

LA events and advocacy help to strengthen the community and increase broader awareness of Linux in the wider world.

As per my answers, I dont think most of the community is aware of the values and programs your trying to run, though I have little understanding of the current council, I dont hear much about linux australia aside from linuxconf

I hear great feedback about Linux.conf.au and I hear Linux discussed in a range of forums and industry events.

We have little influence outside our community, we find it hard to attract new members to Linux and Open Source, and "diversity" has replaced "freedom" as our central core value. We need to increase our evangelism efforts, better support the linux.conf.au organisers, and focus on the freedom that defines our community instead of secondary issues. To clarify, we want everyone to feel included, and all are welcome, but diversity is not the reason we exist.

Not enough visibility or presence demonstrated

linux.conf.au is always a successful event. It is widely talked about in the Open Source community. The funding that is provided for other conferences is also greatly appreciated by those in the community.

Other than help wiuth a few conferences I'm not really sure what they do

Although I can see some activity from Linux Australia I believe there could be a lot more done.

The higher of LA is to promote Open Source, of course. But merely doing that will not ensure it survival. To survive it has to be useful - to provide something the would be difficult to do without it. Like it or not, the only measure that makes any sense on whether people find something useful is whether they are prepared to put money towards it continue to exist. The current committee seems to be running conferences well - and it seems to be active in finding new conferences. If it could find other activities that make money that would be good too - although obviously they have to be in line with the organisations "higher purpose". Jobs boards, open source repositories with sponsored ads, an Australia "Open Source register" of open projects, people, companies, and courses a regular news letter about news developments in those areas that could accept ads are all within it's remit.

I respect the effort, but I do not think LA really makes a difference, or if it does, I'm unaware of the fact that it's LA making that difference.

I know you do some good things, but I was unaware of others - promotion and profile need addressing.

I think that LA is effective in 'Preaching to the Choir' or working for and representing LA's community. What would make LA 'Very effective' is if the various messages were heard and understood by a wider audience. I suspect that the vast majority of IT professionals have never heard of LA, and even fewer casual IT users (that's everybody these days) would know of its existence.

It's an entity that has shown its ability to champion the ideals and communities that it helps and cares for. I have been a professional delegate to a number of Linux.conf events, and a somewhat quiet member of the mailing list for a number of years now. While discussions can get lively the members, comities and executive have always been courteous, respectful and tolerant.

The Council in their "first term" have done a great job! However I do think that more work can be done in raising the profile of Linux Australia especially in having a voice and view on important issues and being a "go-to" for comment for the media. Currently we hear a lot from ACS in the media and it is a very one sided view. LA needs to be another voice in the mix.

lca rocks

Awareness raising is notable. Mentioned in media and by others.

Conferences are very good but not much new happens.

enjoyed some events related to linux australia

They are communicating to me, but more could be done to be known by the general public.

As previously stated.

I think support for actual LUGs appear fairly non-existant. I have up meeting in the linux-aus-lugs channel once a month because apart from a handful of other LUG members across the nation there seemed to be no interaction with Linux Australia itself

They are active in the IT community and have some influence, but its extreamly difficult to fight the Microsoft FUD, especially in the education sector.

I am able to do my work using Linux, hence Linux Australia is effective

Lack of awareness of what is currently being done.

There have been the very odd occasion that I've experienced delays in communications, which I put down to the fact you're all volunteers with loads to do, not just for LA. Expanding to get others to help is a great step in stopping your own burnout. It's not that you're not Very Effective, it's just that you're growing so quickly. Success is its own worst enemy sometimes :)

They have realistic goals and are very determined in achieving them to the highest of standards for all the Open Source Linux community here in Australia. Keeping the community informed, motivated and participated is probably their strongest point. We are here today as a community because of the hard yards they each had to endure to the greater good of us all.

Because it is a difficult task overcoming community complacency and displacing windows as the chosen installation on new computer sales. People, especially windows users are lazy, don't want to find better ways.

The mailing lists run by the group are effective in bringing open-source enthusiasts together, promote open-source, and providing valuable technical advice.

LCA is awesome every year. I've loved the way the committees have responded to issues (such as the somewhat sexist keynote two years ago). I didn't choose `Very Effective' because I think there's more to be done, particularly in getting new blood into the committees, and in effectively representing the open source/open technology community to government.

first I have heard from them in a very long time

There's always room for improvement!

well, other than the Linux conference, I don't hear at all from Linux AU, and don't see what they are doing. Also, this questionnaire mentions a number of programs that I am also not aware of. So the survey itself highlights a need to be more visible, to be in our faces more. I might not be too aware of what is going on because I am retired, and don't read computer newspapers etc., but I should at least be on a blog or email news list or such to become much more aware.

Don't know much about what they've achieved-> poor communication with the Linux community

no ones knows about you

It's good for conferences and getting people together but I don't see a lot of external pushing of open source in sector and govt from LA directly, hence it hasn't been important for me to be a member for a long time.

I don't think we're very visible to non-members.

maintasins my interest in the community

There is always more that can be done, but LA already does a lot.

Don't know what they do

never heard of you

the group ive had contact with are a passionate lot but Linux does not get much press so its only the converted that understand the value and potential. in my circle most are appliance operators and would not be able or prepared to experiment....pity

Just an overall judgement call.

Visible good results, transparent processes.

My current and past experience with Linux Australia, even though it's been limited.

Measured against its goals it is achieving most of them with reasonable success.

Orgainising Linux Conf and maintaining a jobs site are important activities for keeping the community alive, especially in these days of high unemployment.

Several core activities, mainly conferences, are now very professional and well-run. There is much room for improvement in advocacy.

Your Not loud enough... there needs to be more done to promote Linux and open source in the government and corporate space

My awareness of Linux Australia is very limited and I do not see it comment on policies such as the internet filter, ASIC censorship or the NBN.

Not in every computer except super computers

As above, more energy needs to be put in to promotion of linux and important everyday use OSS like, openoffice etc, to ween those off Microsoft and MS Office, little discussions have been evident that they are doing any of this in schools, uni's tafe's, or even the odd festival, this should be a key goal in capital cities, those of us in rural areas, do what we can, go to book festivals even, school fete's, open days, etc, with a choice of distros, running on laptops so people can experience, play and pick one they like. Council all too often currently seem to concern themselves with developers and programmers than the layman who might want to dump windows, perhaps this is why they wanted to change the name, to concentrate of OSS, and not so much linux.

at getting the word out there to schools and colleges throughout Australia.

Because many business are not even aware of the existence of Linux itself and it's possibilities. The community is too close, too "elite" and we're not opening up enough to business and understand heir needs. Linux has to get out of the "experimental mode and become a real alternative to Licensed software. For real, not only for a couple of researcher and IT enthusiast. I tried myself to implement Linux in our company which was ready to pay some fees for assistance and it was very difficult to get some communication. Beyond the screen (shell) there is a REAL life with REAL people. Keep up the good work! A linux fanatic.

Not visible enough in the broader IT community to warrant "Very effective". Otherwise guite good.

The conferences seem to be getting better publicisied

I'm a new member.

It has made very little inroads with the Australia government and does not get called in on a consultative basis. It really needs to push in on government and the public education system.

LCA appears to be on solid footing, and other major events also seem to keep happening on a regular basis. People have the support they need to continue working at relevant projects and goals. There are periodic internal spats but they are either resolved or agree-to-disagree eventuates (which is a reasonable but not ideal situation) so the organisation doesn't suffer.

I see mention of LA occasionally in the press, and on other fora - but only occasionally. perhaps partnerships with similar bodies, eg OSIA, SAGE-AU might develop some synergy

Achieve a lot with resources at hand. Could do better.

As I commented earlier, the job is akin to herding cats. You can't win 'em all, no matter how hard you try, no matter how professional you are.

Continues to run the foremost FOSS conference in the Southern hemisphere; continues to provide support for LUGs across Australia. Those would seem to be LA's main purposes, and it fulfils them well. Anything else is a bonus.

a more open business model, finding the right path to assistance can be confusing.

Adoption by industry (not education) and local professional training will assist in all the areas trying to be achieve by Linux Australia. However these are fragmented or not communicated well.

We seem to be getting a fair bit done compared to previous years, stronger voice in various matters. We'd be more effective if we were sought out for more media coverage and media comment on various topics. We need more people volunteering on different tasks rather than Council doing everything...

I attended Linux.conf.au this year and it was well run.

Its achieving some goals really when however it is still struggling to utilise its memebership

I would say "very effective" when federal and state governments stop using closed source software altogether.

It runs the confs and pays the bills. Definitely needs more exposure to the media as the go-to in AU for FOSS issues.

I have limited interaction with LA, however they generally seem to do a good job.

It is rare to hear the philosophy behind open coded solutions. I know many people who develop open coded solutions on Linux that don't understand being part of building an open coded solution community is an advantage. At the JoomlaDay Sydney 2013 I did an impromptu presentation to remind people that contributing to Joomla Development was important in many ways, plus some history of how open coded software was put together in the past. The feedback was good and people seemed more interested in contributing afterwards.

Given that it's largely volunteers, they do good work. It'd be nice to have a greater amount of lobbying, but that would come at a price that I'm not sure is worth it.

The activities and events organized throughout the year and its successful implementation.

Linux Australia over the years has steadily matured and continued to successfully grow LCA from year to year. Linux Australia could do more on lobbying on Open Source issues to Government and Industry.

Their's always room for improvement! I think promoting Linux and Open Source is vital work and there's always more that can be done to educate ppl about the joys of unlocked, alternative software

It's not in the mainstream sufficiently.

There is room for improvement.

They are a very insuler group, and they don't seem to care aout anyone outside of the immediate cabal.

linux.conf.au is one of the best conferences in the world.

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By the quality of your presentation and communications.

LinuxConf simply does not hit the media the way it should. So much good stuff happens, so many good
people are there, but there is so little publicity leading up to, and during the event. We need more
bandwidth/support from the news and media- and a program to encourage government departments and
corporates to support community projects.

I have been using Linux for 15 years, and in Australia for 10 years. I only went to linux.conf.au this
 year for the first time, and have never been a formal member of a LUG. I am on the SLUG mailing list
though. While I understand that the entry to linux.conf.au is reasonably cheap, it can still be
difficult to get your employer to pay for that, plus flights, plus accommodation. It can often be a
battle to get family time too. Last year with the childcare was a good idea, though for partners who
don't have a technical background a 'partners confernce' might be a win...?

know very little about you

I don't hear about Linux Australia other than from LA itself.

It achieves most of it's goals, at least where success is not artificially restricted by dependency on
 other actors.

Linux Australia has run many conferences and they seem to kept getting better. Awesome work!

My one experience with LA was for the Joomla Melbourne 2013 conference - I found LA's support to be
excellent.

It is good at supporting the conferences, not so good at its other stated goals.

Because it has been around for so long.

I do not see many positive stories about Linux or open source in the mainstream technology press or
mainstream press as a whole. we are not capturing enough "mind share" that would help us sway
corporate and government decision makers.

You can read again what I wrote before....

If it were not for the users group, I would not have even heard of Linux Australia. I thought that
their sole purpose was to organise conferences. (I should add that I am a keen linux enthusiast but am
 not in the IT industry)

It doesn't seem to have a very user friendly interface, and programs

I've seen Linux Australia represented and talked about for many years now. If they weren't effective,
I imagine they would've disappeared a while ago.

It is shown y my previous answers

could be more effective - Linux is still not a recognised option in the classroom

I'm a Linux enthusiast and have been using Linux for well over a decade. I attend SLUG meetings and
observe a lot of interest but poor community engagement. I've had far better experience with foreign
LUGS and indeed still rely on these LUGS today, rather than SLUG for my Linux community needs. As for
"Linux Australia" - even worse! No idea what tangible benefits Linux Australia offers. There are
desperately few meaningful local Linux or open source conferences to attend and those that do pop up,
more often or not cost money. The most interesting event I've attended in 4 years was the RMS talk at
UNSW - and even then that was via channels other than SLUG or Linux Australia!

To those who know of it, LA does its job efficiently and thoroughly. However, a vast majority of Australians have never heard of LA or know what it does. Similarly, the issues which are important to LA and its members have not caught the public's imagination. None of this is necessarily the fault of LA or its leadership; it's just that in this country (and many others) the concept of open technology tends to be scoffed at by the public at large. This general apathy makes it difficult for LA to make serious inroads to the public consciousness, and as a result reduces the overall effectiveness of the organisation. Unfortunately, beyond hard and often thankless work, there isn't a whole lot that can be done to improve the situation.

Good media coverage every year around conference time

it improves technology and ehances innovation

Able to run good conferences and support other groups

I would pick "Very Effective" but it took me quite a while to discover Linux Australia after I started using Linux. I'm still not sure if that's my fault (e.g. I was just living under a rock) or Linux Australia (e.g. not enough advertising and promotion of it's existance).

Linux Australia makes it easy for other open source groups to put on major events, which in turn helps build the Australian open source community, many of whom use Linux software.

Good for like minded people, not for others

I think it is doing a very good job and is taking on more challenges (that can mean more mundane work and less hacking on code), but that it could engage better with the press and government.

I have heard of them, but what have they done? you can't even find a book on the shelf on blender

Pretty much the same as above. More and more people r starting to use Linux. Some may not use a Linux OS, but they might use some kind of Linux software. At the very least most average computer users r aware of Linux & have some interest in hearing more about it.

See my previous answer.

Simply because the general public still regard the "one operating system to rule the world" as the only one available. That is if they even know what an operationg system is. How does a very small squeaky wheel compete with a p

When it comes down to it, Linux Australia exists to run linux.conf.au - and it keeps happening, and it continues to be one of the world's great FOSS conferences. I think it's commendable that Linux Australia has managed to leverage the infrastructure built to support LCA out to support the broader open source community - on that level - LA is very effective. But it's less effective at communicating, and engaging with the broader tech community, to further the goals, or promote the values of the organisation.

As note above

Effective because the wheels turn smoothly. I didn't select "Very Effective" because I feel like there is more LA could do to be more influential politically, and more LA could do to support developers.

We mostly succeed at meeting the values statement. Because we're a volunteer organisation it's very hard to be more than that, and to become a non-volunteer organisation would undermine some of our values. So I think we're about at our peak effectiveness given who we are and what we stand for.

No obvious disasters lately!

There's only so much that one can do, I believe that LA is effective in what it does with the resources that it has

Well, I don't hear very much about you in the media. I think the only voice I heard at all in recent media was Pia Waugh on the Radio National program Future Tense. I'm certain that she has been quite hardworking in attempting to provide the media with news stories about Linux, to very little avail. It seems to me that what you ought to have with a large collection of money is at the very least some sort of good media program. It beggars belief that Linux has such little good coverage given the situation regarding sophisticated security issues and the modern versions ability to look almost but not quite like Windows. It should be a no-brainer that people would choose linux as their OS of choice . So why are you/we/me failing? If what you are meant to do is what you claim you are doing, then i despair, not because you are failing, but because you are failing so badly. Linux as the default operating system of choice ought to be by now the default. the fact that it isn't is either due to a poor marketing PR scheme on your side or a shitload of cash and a sense of "oh why bother" on theirs. I'm returning to Mint 10. That ought to say something. I have no decent hardware, but I know what the f*** I am doing. And still I manage to screw it p. Sorry. Shouldn't have been so abusive in my response. but you did ask. Someone needs to call me up and give me a job. Seriously. I'm good at what I am talking about. You should see me when I am being good.

In over 2 years of membership, this is the very first email or contact I have recieved !!

It is a hard ask to challenge the commercial juggernauts.

need more public activity

Works well within the community but does not lobby government the way other groups do

I get quite a few Linux feeds coming in - but see nothing from, of about Linux Australia. I must have signed up at some stage... But have no memory of it and have heard nothing since.

I feel LA reaches out to a large subset of the Open Source movement for this Region and thus can bring a great deal of experience behind projects and advice on matters affecting the whole Open Source Movement.

Seems to be working okay

It is effective at successfully completing items that it chooses to do.

They continue to promote the overall values of FOSS and progressive social values.

I dont really know a lot about Linux Austrlia (I found it via Pycon-au) and it seems to me more than ' not very effective', so thus i clicked effective

No idea

I never hear anything

I've only just joined, but it seems to work well

Compared with a recent slump in activity, current committee are a cut above and have started down a very positive road for the community as a whole.

Visible work in supporting FOSS in australia

So far it seems that awareness is limited only to the real open source enthusiasts, and it has not reached general IT practice yet. I may be wrong.

From what I hear of others who attended linux.cong.au & PyCon

Seem to be doing a good job.

conferences and support for communities

I'm not aware of its activities. This survey is the only communications received since I joined.

cos.

I am seeing more open source and linux stuff available.

LA acts as a good parent organisation for linux.conf.au, but fails at pretty much every other core objective. Every attempt to evolve and improve LA has been held back by the aforementioned vocal minority.

I never see anything on Linux Australia in the media.

Many times I see not their work but the effects of it, I believe this to be a good thing.

For me, being in Melbourne, the first LUG I heard of was LUV, and not Linux Aus

As a very interested user as well as working in a business promoting, supporting and servicing Open Source Software on Linux based servers I do not get a lot of info from LA (other than LCA conference related).

eg leaning on ATO

Other than seeing your name at events I have attended I know next to nothing about you.

You do very important things for developing community. But I think need to write some topics about new tech.

In the community, LCA is the goto and assumed at all of the events - and they are there.

Linux growth.

Linux conf happens each year

see the previous explanation.

Society should use any method to promote open source.

It is a voice. I'm not sure how much that voice is heard.

Manages to stay afloat and be heard occasionally

Could do more to engage with other communities, eg Government, business.

Not all that visible

Well shit, Sherlock - I don't know what you do.

mainstream IT world seems to ignore Linux because of bias to Windows and Mac so it takes patience to lobby to get more presence of Linux in the world in Government and Business

I am a little/lot out of touch with Linux Australia as I have been using Macbook Pro and an Iphone for the past two years. Prior to this I used Fedora and then Ubuntu and Mint for 8 years. I wd love to see Ubuntu, or perhaps Mint on a smartphone. I don't particularly like Android really, altho I have on ;y used Icecream Sandwich briefly.

Because they have an unobtrusive visibility

Because Linux is still viewed as great for servers and geeks as users. Mainstream population still sticks with what they know - Windows and Apple. What is Linux Australia doing to promote Linux ?

* manages a large conference * emphasises diversity * not 'very effective' as there is to some extent a culture of inwardness during the conference

because i see very little of you .... especilly from a rural perspective

I have been involved with Linux for over 10 years but in doing this survey I am learning a lot. Such as Linux Australia exists and what it is trying to achieve. So I have to say, terrible marketing and promotion of Linux Australia is my biggest gripe.

Need raise considerably the % of both businesses and users who know and use linux, then very effective perhaps shall apply. To achieve this we need linux to be a core part of IT/Computer training in schools.

no particular reason

lca keeps happening.

iuno

They have success at achieving their goals and striving to meet their vision.

Efforts appear to be spread too thin across a wide range of subjects

only because I don't think anyone outside of the linux world has heard of Linux Australia. We need to be doing a lot more to be recognised as the peak body for linux and be consulted by govts etc on policy matters and the like.

it has a media presence and its commensurate with its volunteer base. It could be more effective in advocacy although its linux.conf is a good vehicle for much of that.

Only as effective as its volunteers, which wax and wane. Leading a community volunteer organisation is challenging, but getting more focused advocacy on particular points of interest would be good.

Things could be improved by more events and PR.

Again new new member, plus I'm sure there are always ways to be more effective.

they have to beg people to put in bids for linux.conf.au. LUGs are fading and dying and the alleged peak Linux body for Australia is doing nothing visibly effective about it. their political and community engagement efforts are a risibly ineffective and ill-resourced joke. the financial and accounting infrastructure works adequately, though. that's *something*.

Mainly from how Linux.conf.au grows each year.

It runs an effective conference, but in terms of influencing Australian IT or business or promoting open source use in Australia it does nothing.

stuff happens

Because it's the best answer in the time I have to answer it

i am not sure what how to judge this as I have never seen anyone giving free knowledge and experience in Australia. If Linux Australia can provision something for people like me then it would be a great way to start.

We could better to out the dominance of Microsoft Windoze. Infiltrate schools & Govt Departments

Creating awareness among professionals about Linux i.e. Open Source

Nothing to show to effectiveness.

It still exists.

Does very little to promote "Linux", spends too much time promoting "Open Source" on the grounds that in some cases "Open Source" directly relates to Linux.

Working well.. but always room for improvement.

word not getting around to many students about linux

I don't hear much about them having an impact in popular press/media

Linux and Open Source Awareness and acceptance in business still has a long way to go. Linux Australia needs to strategise how they can promote Open Source technologies more effectively to larger organisations in Australia where Microsoft continues to dominate.

From my little interaction with the body, I can say that the Linux Australia comes across as not having a unified focus. Linux Australia needs to create a brand for themselves and push it. Get the very best in the open source community onside and then push into the private/public sectors for support and reference. Without it they will stay on the fringe.

I know of most of the things that Linux Australia does, because I set them up! I am now no longer involved in any official capacity with LA, so I tend to keep an eye out in the media. Whilst LA is broadly recognised within the Free Software community for LCA -- and some other parts like Drupal / PyCon / etc, it very rarely gets mentioned in even the local IT press. Let *alone* the mainstream media. I think LA should aim to be more visible to the local IT press.

There is room for improvement in their goals -> I don't think the advocacy is as strong as it could be , and the acceptance of diversity is a challenge amongst the community (through no fault of the council) and this is coupled with respect.

I am new to Linux and would to lean more.

I think that there are a number of people pulling in different directions, and unwilling to change directions when the majority have spoken on an issue. This is to be expected with a volunteer organisation. The committee itself I think has done an admirable job of listening to the membership and hearing and accepting the majority view on issues as they come up. One example of this was the debate about changing the name of the organisation. While I'm sure that several people on the committee would have preferred to change the name, when it became clear that the majority supported keeping the existing name they accepted that decision with grace and dignity. The same could not be said of all of the members.

As above

I hardly ever hear from you. Others have never heard of the organisation.

I think LA does a good job of running the various confs.

I can only go on the one conference I went to - the team seemed very committed and capable

it is the fact that it needs more promotion.

I dont know what they do. All I get on the Vic user group mailing list is job ads.

.

I didn't see/hear about it

It makes it point effective to larger community

LA does good work and does it well. But it could be better. When Joe or Jane Average on the street knows who LA are, what they do, and why - then I'll give "Very effective". :)

Little attention is paid to LA outside the community.

Its presence is well know

I can't see much Linux adoption in Australia, but that is partly due to attitudes and misconceptions in the Australian society and IT industry regarding open source software.

no

They have done a good job with linux.conf.au - it has been running for a number of years and has helped me

I am not aware of Linux Australia providing any benefits for Linux users, or, for Western Australia, and, it appears to not have constitutional representation provided for Western Australia. Linux Australia seems to be an east coast organisation concerned only with the east coast of Australia and with new Zealand, and seems related to developers of Linux utilities, but not for Linux Users in general, or, with Western Australia.

I feel so with great hope.

Haven't received much communication or promotional advice from Linux Australia. I forgot I was a member.

Does a great job but always room for improvement!

Linux Australia is very effective in managing events, but I'd like to see more activism and campaigning around free software values. Perhaps that's a task for another organisation though.

As above - re lack of visibility. The intentions are good but the lack of "presence" worries me.

8.7 Appendix - Members' ability to attend linux.conf.au

Run a Motel. Free-time is little and hard to come by.

If the conference is in another city it is hard to get my work to pay for me to go, or to even get the week off to attend.

Travel distance impacts what event I can attend.

Lack of reliable transport.

Cost of travel

Travel time and cost

Difficulty with flying to AU and bringing the wife along

I am unaware of any local regional activity

Too far to drive

The next conference is in Perth, I would have to fly there.

I don't live in Australia, which makes it more difficult.

Cost of travel out of state :/

Cost, travel time. Going to Linux Conf is like going on holiday trip.

distance, accomodation

I'm overseas..

Distance, I have to fly to every conference

Well, I'm hardly going to fly back to Oz just to attend a conference.

Cost

I live overseas.

travel

Perth and New Zealand both require airfare to reach and with the tight economic environment, justification for the expenditure is hard to justify.

Flights from Canberra are more expensive than from e.g. Sydney

Travel is a little bit more difficult and expensive.

Travel to the conference is self funded, so the ability to attend varies depending on the location and associated costs.

Travel and funds

I live 650 kms from the nearest Capitol city (Brisbane)

Cost, pure and simple.

I would love to attend linux events however 6+ hour round trip by car or 8+ hours by Vline bus then train,tram, etc to get to events not undertaken lightly.

I can't always get travel funding, so venues that are close (in flight cost) such as Melbourne, Sydney , Brisbane, Canberra are fundable by me. Perth, (Broome?) New Zealand etc., are harder.

Money money money, oh and time traveling.

Travel to lca is prohibitively expensive.

dependence on public transport, availabilty due to weekday day-time commitments

Cost of travel and accomodation for enthusiast.

Location wise, Time Wise.

Flights are usually expensive, and can add significantly to the cost.

Basically Australia is big, and travelling a long way is not always affordable or practical for various reasons. For example, while I have attended the past 3 LCA's this year I can't justify travel to Perth. But that is no reason to not have LCA in Perth (or NZ, Antarctica, Norfolk Island or any other AU/NZ dependency. I think Norfolk Island would be a very fun location, lack of internet access and likely need to charter flights aside), since people living in those places have the same difficulty with LCA being in any of the more "central" Australian locations. Personally I'd love to see an LCA in Alice Springs some time as the most geographically central location, but again, you might need to organise a few charter flights (which is surprisingly affordable if you are able to fill a plane, which with proper organisation is not hard) from various cities. The possibility of hacking civil aviation and having flights officially bill-boarded as "Penguin Air" alone is highly attractive, or offer the naming rights for the temporary airline as part of a Rhenium or Niobium Sponsor deal.

My attendance at Linux conf is not subsidised by work. The further away a Linux conf is, the less likely I am to attend.

Cost of travel, accommodation, etc. Perceived benefit of attending does not outway cost.

Australia is a big country, the major cities are far apart. I have a family, and so justifying travel (by and for myself) is hard.

distance and cost

I live full time in three different country. (4 mths each)

not in any city

Cost of travel. Time of year not ideal in relation to the need to protect rural property against bushfire.

Travel and accommodation expenses, especially to Perth or overseas.

the flights are fucking expensive!

Distance, pension

Travel

Cost of travel

Cost, ability to get off work, etc.

located over one hundred kilometer from a major town

Distance to travel by car, bus or train. When LCA is held outside of Australia.

It makes LCA more accessible to me than it otherwise would be, due to, eg, cheap flights.

If it is not in my place of residence I can't get there.

Travel is pretty difficult to justify.

2 hours out of Sydney

to far away heavy costs

travelling to airports, making connecting flights, is long and time consuming

too far from Melbourne.

I do not have much money for travel

Flights to regional centres, and beyond the Eastern Seaboard of Australia are quite expensive; LCA has
 been hosted at such cities for three years in a row now.

Due to budget, I can only attend local events.

Too expensive

cost - both money and (more importantly) time - I have a "life" outside of IT :)

If I cannot get work to pay for the trip, It is unfeasable for me to be able to afford the airfares
and accomodation required.

remote area - high travel costs

Limited ability to travel interstate

lak of funds may prevent my attendance outside NSW

Cost

It's a long way to anywhere else!

exist on a pension - tackling a Unix model domain solo, to raise awareness of a complex health
condition and self funding level. also no one to turn to to back up needs of home and pets.

cost / distance of physical attendance

Limited ability to travel

Time in travel

Higher travel costs, harder to get to as it adds an additional leg of travel Fewer people to travel
with / buddy up with

Perth, NZ, QLD are expensive and/or time consuming to get to, whereas I can drive to MEL, SYD,
Ballarat (more time but cheaper and I have a car when I get there) (and of course ADL)

If you hold linuxconf.au in Maitland or Newcastle I would go :-)

The time commitment makes long distance travel more difficult.

I always attend linux.conf.au when it is held in Sydney. But when linux.conf.au is held in other
places the cost of accommodation and flights mean that I cannot attend. Like the "Grrrr" thread in
recent discussions, I too have difficulty in finding the money to cover the costs to attend as I am a
retired landscaper.

I work on a limited budget, and have limited time to travel. Even if the conference was in Sydney (2
hours distant) time would prevent me from attending (most likely). Ditto for other work pressures.

The cost of travel between where I live and the conference each year is a factor.

.

It might not be here, therefore travel can be expensive.

I am happy to attend linux.conf.au in my own city (and have attended every event held so far in
Brisbane).

distance klm

Cost of travel and accommodation.

Flights to Australia during holiday periods are very expensive (I avoid them when visiting family) so the January scheduling is not conducive for overseas attendees on a budget.

Travel costs same as any other interstate conference though

Increased travel costs to venues

1000km to nearest large city (Townsville)

If it is not in Melbourne, it is hard to get to.

Do you know the distance between Tunisia and Australia?

The conferences seem to be geared towards sys admin people and that is not that relevant to me. I am in a remote area (satellite internet) and would need a good reason to travel to a conference.

Distance

linux.conf.au is not being held near where I live. Travel and accommodation costs money, which is not in abundant supply. Neither is time, more of which is consumed, the further one needs to travel.

In recent years I have been fortunate that the company I work for has been able to assist me in getting to linux.conf.au. However, when it is held in NZ this does become a little trickier. This is not to say that we shouldn't hold linux.conf.au in NZ from time to time - there are clear benefits to the NZ FOSS community when this is done. It's just that when it is held there my geographic location can make it harder to attend.

Costs of travel and accomodation

Travel is expensive from WA to anywhere, plus it make for extra time off.

cost.

I live where I live because I don't have a high income. Linux.conf.au and travel costs are prohibitive for me. Even when it was in my city the price of admission is too high.

Nothing is ever held here or even near to here. The closest place I usually see anything is in Brisbane & that is 1300km away from here. Flying down there and getting accommodation is a bit expensive.

14hrs on a jet plane!

High expenses to attend the meeting physically.

Even travelling interstate can be an issue. The only way to take location entirely out of the equation would be to include a virtual attendance component to the conference. No, I'm not offering to organise it :)

No airport.

I'm self-employed, so not only is attendance at LCA paid out of my own pocket, but I also have no income for the time I spend at it. I only go when it's local, so that travel and accommodation costs are minimal, and I can still service my clients if necessary.

Because I'm on a disability pension I am unable to afford the travel costs to attend the conferences outside the state I live in.

My current employer will not supplement a ticket price to attend

Cost of Travel in $$ coupled with time absent from home is not always feasible.

Cost of travel, Perth, NZ and QLD are costly to get to via plane.

Live in a very rural area.

1.5 Hour trip to town. Running a farm I find it hard to take time off.

location, If one was held in Darwin NT at a time when I am not at work I would consider going to it.

Transport costs!

Distance from the US, time commitments.

The question is not properly constructed. I live in a suburb of a State capital. My ability to attend an LA Conference is partially related to whether it is in a nearby location, whether I have the spare cash and some disposable leave (ie. Not already allocated for family events.

Perth is far away from everywhere :)

Location

Couple of hours from Sydney, so not really worth the effort for me

Attending a linux.conf.au event in Perth is easy; in one of the eastern cities it wouldn't be.

Cost of flights and accommodation are a consideration.

if is in Sydney is ok

I cannot travel due to my age, and myinternet is too bad to actively participate in a voice or video chat.

Health restrictions with travel.

Travel & accomodation add to the cost, which is already difficult for self employed

Time to travel, cost of accommodation and food.

cos taking the time and money to travel physically is not currently possible - even going to user groups is difficult.

Gold Coast,Queensland

Flights from Perth to elsewhere are expensive

Costs associated with attending

Issues leaving family behind if I need to travel too far

Cost and it is shared with other intested. (wife asked for only one conf a year, not unreasonablly)

Travel, costs of travel, cost of accomodation.

Needs to be in or close to the CBD

Distance, but would be willing to travel

Conference budget is limited to Industry Events which makes it hard to justify travel for a tech-only conference. Otherwise it's a time limit as well. Only 24 hours in a day. I would love to go more often . So - it's about time to come back to SA - I will be there.

poverty

geography + travel costs

Cost of travel.

Travel time and convenience.

I also spend a lot of time overseas.

Too far away and the cost is prohibitive in travel and accomodation.

Brisbane is over 5 hours away.

I have no Visa , and i am in the process to immigrate.

cost of travel to any other pplace is expensive

I live in Korea. Linux.conf.au is allready too expensive without having to pay for flights

Because I'm a far :)

This year Perth is a looooog way away.

to much to travel to perth

I can't get a job in Brisbane at present so it is hard to pay for the conference. Down south in ACT or
 NSW I make more money so due to lack of a job and economy I am stuck in Brisbane with little hope of
making money so far so I am excluded from conferences. I can still see the videos on YouTube so
participate that way as I have Vodafone 3G internet and an EEEPC Linux laptop and a Centos server I
sometimes boot. Rest is in storage in Orange as I am broke.

Travel costs

I live on the Sunshine Coast, however, the major factor impacting my ability to attend a Linux
Conference is my lack of cash!!

Cost - it involves flights, accommodation, pet boarding, and paying conference fees and meals. This
applies to every Linux conf as I have to travel for all.

Transport and timings of the conferences

Little ability to afford plane fares to where it is usually held

Distance

We are pretty far away from the conferences

Its too far away

LA is only cursorily related to my current business, though I am still committed to open source values
, so I'm only likely to attend/help for Melbourne-based events, unless I am in the city of LCA for
other purposes.

The last linux.conf.au was held in Ballerat which is a few hours drive from the CBD, someone like me
doesn't have the transport to get there.

Going to meetings in the city, especially at night is too difficult.

Cost of travel

The conference has been in the Eastern States now for 8 or 9 years so it always involves the added
expense of travel and accommodation.

I live between two major metropolitan towns of QLDs and run my own business.

Cost for flights

salary is less in regional areas while cost of living is on par with major cities.

Distance and cost

I am an Old Age Pensioner

Very long distances and the fact that I'm still a L platerGe

Easy to attend.

Financial reasons

Travel distance and expense

unable to travel for health reasons

Cost of travel

Though air travel is relatively cheap it still costs time & effort if it's not in my home town.

Cost of attendance

I live 150Km from Brisbane

Significant distance

Minor impact only. Travel is slightly more expensive from here than Sydney or Melbourne.

The trasnport costs are no insignificant.

I live 140klm East of Melbourne,

Another country

Travel and accommodation expense.

Distance and cost.

Obviously the commute is a factor

I live in Europe. I would love to travel home (Australia) for the conferences but it is often not
feasible.

Travel is difficult for me in general. If LCA would park in one place (not that I'm advocating that),
and I lived in that place, then I could probably go to LCA every year. As it is, whether or not I can
go in any given year generally depends highly on the logistics of getting to/from there, and working
that into the rest of my personal/work life. (which is a PITA, but it's what I'm stuck with).

It's expensive to get around in Aus.

travelling cost

Travel expenses

trael costs and time are higher

If a conference is to be held in Perth, it could be that I am able to attend, depending on the content
 and the organisers. The attitude of the organisers of the 2014 linuxconf, has been shown to be
contemptuous, with the conference shown to be solely for the benefit of organisers, and the conference
 is not one for Linux Users in general. Regarding where I live and the ability to attend linux
conferences, if a conference is held in New Zealand, it requires a passport and travel restrictions,
and is not travel within Australia, and is prohibitively expensive. If a conference is outside Western
 Australia, it is thousands of miles away, and is too expensive and too troublesome for the travel and
 accommodation.

Need overseas visit as currently am residing in Sri Lanka

If it's not in Perth (where I live) then I probably won't attend.

Slightly more expensive to travel to any destination other than Melbourne/Sydney.

My issues are money and health. Even with money my health tends to preclude attendance but I would
dearly love to see linux.conf.au to be a prominent event on the Technology Calendar - we need to have
preferably something spectacular to notify Australia that Linux IS here and is alive and exciting.
Even something more simple along the lines of promoting someone like Stephen Fry who is a well known
Geek and right behind Open Source attend a conference along with promotion of side events prior to the
 conference for example like putting someone like Fry or similar on to local TV. It would be brilliant
 if we could involve the Primary and Secondary education sector it would be even better - sorry I am
now rambling.

Airfares are expensive for a student.

8.8 Appendix - Further comments

No

I was not really critically aware of it's activities, I knew it existed but that's about all I knew about it. I guess it's been a long time since I had any contact with Linux Australia.

Love the conferences :) Wish I could attend more :)

Keen to see what else can be done to promote Linux - but more specifically Open Source in general, especially in Government.

Would love to see some interaction between Linux Australia and SAGE-AU

Focus. Focus on the free and open-source technology that is the reason we exist. Don't throw money away on the grants program - most of the time there is no benefit for our community.

Keep up the good work!

Beer!

Linux is a fantastic platform yet business and government resist widespread use. greter effort needs to go into making the platform better known and the benefits of it use explained. I am sick of hearing from potential 'implementers' that they picked Windows because little information is available on Linux or the packages that it runs.

It is comforting to know you're around, I have great affection for LA.

I was Treasurer for the 2009 LinuxAU in my home city of Hobart. Since then I have sort of lost contact with Linux but as I am coming up to retirement I would like to do more to help. I am not a developer and don't even work in IT but I am proficient in the installation and management of linux desktop systems and a part time advocate. I am a financial planner. Cheers

awesome stuff! haven't seen much around Linux Australia except when I googled for it when I moved here last year.

I feel Linux Australia should keep the Linux Australia name and logo as it's it well known by them. Why fix that which is not broken?

Keep up the good work !

Keep up the great work everyone! I really appreciate what you do for our community. Thanks for letting us give you feedback :-)

Links with the maker movement should be encouraged - lots of synergy, enthusiasm.

thanks for doing a great job

No

Keep the fight going... please, we need it!!

How about a PC's (Running Linux of course) for schools program.

Linux in my country has got a small but very "fast" following, and myself, together with a few learned individuals in Linux and OpenSource are currently undergoing talks to set up a "registered" group called Linux Papua New Guinea. It would truly be great if you guys at "Linux Australia" can assist us in putting a framework together, and help us get started, and hopefully affiliated directly to Linux Australia. Thank you. David

Please keep up the great work

You are doing a wonderful job. Please keep up the fine work. We need more open technologies in government and educations.

Keep up the good work!

Maybe volunteer a bit more. I would also like to get a computer club or two going in local secondary schools. I tutor maths and sciences for a bit of spare cash in my retirement, and do some school community service. I am concerned at how few kids tinker these days, and how few are even interested in IT, and I would like to change that.

Keep up the good work. Bring LCA to Tasmania soon!

More informed about events.

no

I think there is probably a role for Linux Australia to promote freedom more generally.

I love you guys...

I'll confess I mainly joined Linux Australia for the jobs listings, but I also applaud and support the aims of the org as I am a long time Linux fan who has been working with Linux since the start.

With reference to previous question, it depends where the linux.conf.au is held. Unaware of any Linux Australia programs! Why? How well are the programs advertised? I'm not aware of receiving any news letters via email for example. I am active in the LaTrobe Valley U3A sharing Linux with senior members of our society - and the numbers are slowly increasing. The recent realisation that Windows XP support finishes in April 2014 has presented an opportunity to get seniors from Windows across to Lubuntu as a replacement for the older PCs. Maybe U3A is an area that maybe worth looking at for spreading the word. Cheers

Keep up the great work, and try to convince the government (in Tasmania) to be open to open software, and allow the teachers to use it.

I think the discussions should differentiate between IT technology (consumer oriented) and Computer Science (design oriented).

No thank you

Broader member involvement in the core of LA activities may improve progress on those core areas. The Council are highly committed and effective but I'm not certain the same can be said for all the sub-committees. In particular, policy-type subcommittees (as distinct from LUGs and event committees) have low visibility and seem at best sluggish. These ideas are excellent (AV, possibly accessibility?) but appear to lack motivation.

I seem to recall the costs of the Bris linux.conf.au being quite high and I missed it for that reason.

I personally would like LINUX in every computer and kick out microsoft

Keep up the great work.

Just keep it up, Linux need to be more present in Australia. In France, some citizen has forced the city council to stop paying any licensed software and use Open source - this is the power of Tax payer 's money! It IS possible.

Keep up the good work!

no

Raspberry Pi, Auduino, and green technology are my interest. Hope to see events about these.

Overall love ya work guys!

I have used Linux on a daily basis over the last ten years for work such as email, graphics, database, spreadsheet and Youtube in connection with a woodworking club. I am contnually amazed that no other member of our club will even look outside their MS Windows.

Have fun ;).

Keep up the good work.

all in all, you guys are doing a great job - and I would be willing to pay an annual fee to be a
member - say, up to $AU50 pa - maybe even $52 - a dollar a week :)

Keep up the good work. I hope it is recognised by others in our Linux community

You're doing a tough job very well. Thanks!

Look forward to learning more as well as gaining more assistance than just mass produced guides that
be confusing even to one with university level studies, a flexible mind and determination to improve
things for many not just a few.

.

The ability to communicate the following. Professional Development in open source, Educational courses
 that are designed to get work in open source(not beginners. intermediate to advanced),

- we need to broaden our remit to be more open source and not just Linux - we need more focus on
marketing and communications to get the word out there - there are some things that we need to
outsource so that we free our people up from burnout - we need to liaise more closely with other linux
 and open source groups nationally and internationally

I dream of a day in which you can go at places such as MSY, PLE, Austin or Netplus (all PC components
ans systems wholesalers) and have the option of buying a portable PC with Linux preinstalled. Or, with
 NO operating system (e.g. Windows) at all! That's what I dream of!

These days I see FOSS as the focus more than strictly Linux.

Is the higher educational qualification in the field of Information Technology (I.T.) and the related
q on employment is ambiguous - I am a Computer Systems Engineer with a high proportion of system/
software engineering and programming related activities, this overlaps IT but these days IT means
something different from 'computing' because it of business type people

Keep the money and the exposure going and the community will thrive.

Not really, keep up the good work.

I will be looking up where the next Linux meeting is.

This year's conference at the ANU was my first - it was in my home town. I don't expect it will be my
last. It was an amazing experience! Perth maybe a bit far to go, next year sorry, but I'll be planning
 it for future years.

No, thanks !

not at the moment.

This survey is a good idea.

I'd like to see Linux Australia target high school children interested in IT, they are our future.
Linux has a lot going for it to appeal to teenagers: not conforming to big corporate ideals, community
 of like minded individuals working towards a common good, and the freedom to mod... all of these
attributes should excite and interest young programmers and budding administrators. I'd like to see
Linux/Open Source "evangelists" holding IT seminars in schools and encourage High School students to
come to installfests. it would be nice if it could be included into the school curriculum too, anyone
know anyone who works on the Board of Studies?

I think Linux has a huge advantage by not being profit driven. (Huge advantage = to me, the user).
Linux doesn't force me to upgrade because some org that is profit focused wants me to buy a new
edition of something (eg move from W 95 to W98 or Win XP to whatever.) I think the most difficult part
 of getting support for Linux (ie getting people to use it everyday involves the inertia of "installed
 knowledge" for commercial operating systems and applications. After this there is the fear that
documents can't be swapped with documents produced by Windows apps. Linux is useful, but is always "
run over" by something with a larger mass - ie Windows. I use Puppy Linux, because it is small, runs
fast on older machines and is largely immune to attack.

.

I would be considered a "New Boy" of Linux interest, but very keen to expand my Linux knowledge and
application. Our Computer Club committee have extended to me to gather the information on Linux for
the Club to expose to other members "there is another Life with Linux"!

Keep up the good work! Do more! Fight the evil ones! What does Linux Australia think about about so
many governments and corporates vacuuming up metadata, mass surveillance and restrictions on
electronic freedom/building walled gardens around national Internet infrastructure, etc. (?)

not at this time.

Rasp Pi seems like a great way to introduce Linux to newcomers.

The question about the LA jobs board did not mention being subscribed by email. I never visit the site
but am subcribed to the mailing list.

No. Keep up the good work!

No

Please do more public advocacy. Make our values and (and open source technology) the "cool thing" and
the "expected thing" amongst the young. its the only way we will keep our freedoms

Keep up the good work !

Sorry, but I am French and left Australia in August... I do not think that we have great reasons to
workctogether. Good luck for the next...

I love linux.conf.au and wish I could get to every single one of them.

Keep it up guys, and go hard! I think the Dangers of unprotected sharing of PC Fluids with other
unkown PC's needs to be highlighted.

Keep up the good work. Linux is hugely important and will become even more so with support from you. I
work in the APS and it is strange how little awareness there is on the importance of Linux.

yes

Keep up the good work.

Love.

Gentoo Rocks!

thanks for being there!

Thanks for the survey!

get triple A, games on linux that's all linux users are waiting for

I really appreciate having Linux, so THANK YOU for ur efforts in supporting the open source community
in the many ways u have mentioned in this survey.

This is the first piece of correspondence I've received from you in years. Which has a significance to
my survey response.

The Linux Australia mailing list has become a toxic swamp. Noise to signal ratio is woeful.

I'd love to be more involved and offer more to the community, but being self-employed kind of makes
that tricky. I feel bad about that, but not bad enough to sacrifice my ability to provide for my
family. Maybe I can help out more when I retire. ;-) Keep up the good work, folks!

Yeah, sure, lots; You'd have to contact me to hear all of it. send me an email, I'll try to put it in writing. But mainly it revolves around the same thing I have been saying for years, that it never gets enough decent positive press and that nobody seems to be dedicated to performing the role of press attache. Pia Waugh, and her husband Geoff did some amazing positive press for some time, and their connection with the world wide linux community meant that for some time it was in the news. It feels like that momentum has been lost, perhaps better put as reduced, I don't think it is ever going away. But there was at one point a sense that linux would take over the world. I for one never expected it to be in the form of Android, but fair enugh, who would have seen that coming? Try telling prdinary people that they are using an open source system and watch their eyes glaze over. Whats more important is that we gain a sense of what it is that freedome means in terms of software, rights and participation. Good luck. I am still out here, you know, just in case you want to get in touch : mjkortve (AT) optusnet etc.

More linux promition events. More getting linux into the community.

no

Keep up the good work.

LA is doing a great job

I do hope this is not going to be some wannabe politician on the make announcing: "We had a survey and the results show that we should be doing more toward the politcial ends *I* believe in"

No

Great to hear that LCA is coming to Perth.

I am an ubuntu member

Keep up the excellent work... :-)

No

keep it up :) and have fun ....

on jobs list but don't use website.

Be more visible. Do not stay under the radar.

One of the points missing is the promotion / lobbying of Linux & Open Source in general in Government (Local, State & Federal) procurement processes. OSIA is probably aiming at that, but unfortunately with very limited success ....

saying 'still' before 'in higher education' above implicitly contradicts the concept of life long learning.

raspberry pi's rule

If linux.conf.au wasn't held during the last week of school holidays or during school term then I would be able to attend. It's difficult to make it to LCA when you're the primary carer for three children (two with special needs) and it clashes with school.

Keep up the great work!

No.

I love the freedom, security, novelty and community enthusiasm in the FOSS world.

I would like Linux Australia to do more events at base level--

I think what you do is great but I'd like to see more Linux evangelism. An example was the German city of Munich, the council decided to give a cd of ubuntu to evry household that had a pc with win xp on it to help them still be secure on their pc's (as ms is stopping support in 2014)

I've not had much contact with other Linux users apart from largely 'anonymous' support from Distribution Forums. A little 'embroidery' and 'shown-and-tell' from knowledgeable Linux experts (in person), without being made to feel mentally deficient, would help fill in some gaps in my IT know-how .

I want to wish a success at promotion of open source.

I work in the field of Industrial Automation and Control, SCADA, and Industrial databases. Could that be considered IT? Are you employed in the field of Information Technology (I.T.)? could be better phrased

No

Microsoft Partner Network of whom I just started to participate in this year is the only thing bringing in any work for Web development or network support in my pretty dead IT business. They have good business planning seminars which can be used by anyone in IT not just Microsoft. The committee in Linux Australia always seemed aloof but credible. Rusty and Tridge were always good folks I enjoyed chatting to re IT. Also Arjen Lentz. No real work came out of any opensource activities. I build my software on Linux so my labour is commercial but the tools are free. This has been difficult financially lately. Maybe Linux Australia should have some business planning seminars for opensource projects to make some money even if just to break even. A startup might blossom that way from simple beginnings and feed back into the community as a sponsor in kind or funds.

Just a big thank you!!!

I have not received any news letters from Linux Australia. I would like to receive more news letters and about Linux job opportunities in Australia. Currently I am working as Linux Administrator and willing to migrate to OZ based on the Linux opportunities there. Team Kindly do the needful. Thanks for your support.

No information and latest events news about Linux in Brisbane(where I reside) or anywhere in Australia !!

No

None.

Being a NON-Technical types, accept the technical types will benefit greater than self; Usually encourage more technical types to attend similar as we NON-Technical type usually learn more, and benefit more, from technical types attending :-)

More power to you

the clap

Keep Rocking!

Linux Australia need to promote the idea that Freeware is more trustworthy than closed format products when using major services (e.g. email...) Sorry, but negative media succeeds - ask any politician. At least we acknowledge and fix our issues and silence gives consent, right?

you need to allow more flexibility in some of the answers. Eg. I've answered no for the IT questions because my degree is in computer science and my work is in engineering which is not the same as IT. Same as where you live, I put suburbs of big city cos it's 30mins from the city but it's really borderline rural (ie. where do the suburbs end?).

keep up the good work guys and gals.

Great work team, please keep it up!

Re employment: I'm currently involved on a voluntary basis with a community-based internet cafe. We don't use Open Source there (management bias) but I and a no. of customers of our service are interested and use Linux (mainly Mint) on their personal p.c. I see an opening for the promotion of Open Source s'ware in the non-profit i-cafe sector.

there are a lot of silent Linux users out there in your catchment area, who want nothing to do with you and see no point in even thinking about changing that preference. your...membership...are a tiny minority in comparison. do you even know why? do you care? can you even comprehend this is a problem? you might want to start.

To make Linux a more viable solution it needs a commercial image and marketing. Ubuntu is a good example.

No, thanks

no

Keep up the good work :)

Can someone give job without experience, I would like to be an apprentice to start with and learn it. I am already RHCE certified, but my certificate is due for renewal. Get me out of chicken-hen situation.

Keep up the good work. And try and do more to get the word out there that Linux is superior to Windoze

Get more involved in embedded systems

Arrange regular informal gatherings.

This survey is dubious in its intent - a bit of push polling in it!...that partly goes to the " confidence" question about LA Council.

Please focus on Linux. Promote the parts that work, fund development in the areas that don't work (i.e . accounting packages). Lead (actually use, or improve, Linux. e.g. if it won't run on Linux don't use an alternative - fix existing Linux accounting/bookkeeping software) *instead* of "my favourite isn't Linux so we'll use a proprietary package that doesn't run on Linux".

Keep up the good work. Would love to see Linux.Conf.Au come to Adelaide again.

Just a thank you for being inclusive and making the gender question a text box input rather than a m/f drop down for all those genderqueer people :)

I would like to see a sub-group or committee formed like the Australian Computer Society, or some form of Union of IT workers, perhaps published pay-scales to help IT professionals bargain or know whether they are being adequately paid. I love open-source, but I need to eat, so I want to ensure that I get paid appropriately, and that my friends/colleagues/fellows-in-linux are as well!

I have been using linux now for about 15 years and feel that high school students are unaware of linux

Thank you for listening.

I wasn't able to go to LCA for a very long time because it is so costly. It might be interesting to move towards a DebConf model of funding attendees as much as possible and relying on sponsors to allow that.

Keep up the good work. I am aware that volunteering at high levels in an organisation is a thankless task that often recieves negative feedback so I admire your perseverance and optimisim.

I'd like to thank all of the members of the committee for their hard work and dedication.

No

never received much info about Linux Australia ... ??

no

Keep up the good work!

nothing this time around

Please provide us with T-shirt for promotion and marketing

How did you get my email as i am not a member of this group.

I'm not really sure I know a lot about what goes on with Linux Australia, I would say I have an interest but have not tried to keep up with such things, but this survey has made me realise that I know less about what you do than I probably thought.

Diversity is important in the sense of avoiding unreasonable prejudice, however over-prioritising it in such a fashion can negatively impact the freedom of others, and it is sometimes used dishonestly by attention-hogs

Linux Australia needs to change its direction. It needs to change the" us and them" attitude of the people in power, and it needs to be less about gender segregation and all the feminist stuff, and, more about Linux users as a whole. Linux Australia needs to be more about the whole of Australia and not solely concerned with the east coast of Australia and New Zealand, and, Linux Australia needs to change its direction, to be concerned with the Linux users in general, of all of Australia. Also, the Linux Australia mailing list needs an enforceable set or rules of etiquette; the contempt with which people are treated on the list, is annoying, causing breaks being needed from the list, due to the belligerence on the mailing list. As said, Linux Australia, and, its facilities, should be all about serving the Linux users in general, of Australia, and, not just serving the people in power, including the people in the east coast of Australia and New Zealand.

1. Thank you so much for all your hard work! The PyCon and linux.conf.au conferences I've been to have all been awesome. Thanks for giving you time up to be on the LA council. 2. More activism and Free Software talks at linux.conf.au: I sometimes feel guilty about recommending linux.conf.au to less technical Free Software people. I want them to come to enjoy the community of the conference, but feel like they would be bored by the heavily technical talks. If our goal is to eliminate proprietary software, we need these folks too. 3. New city, new team volunteer burnout: I've recently moved to Ballarat and have been pretty sad to find that the local Free Software community has mostly vanished, exhausted after running the very successful 2011 conference. Organising a linux.conf.au seems to come with an extremely high chance of burnout. The new team, new city each year approach is just such an intense workload for volunteers. The PyCon approach seems better. Aside from that though, keep encouraging the volunteers not to waste their energy on lower priority things like T-shirts, swag and complex logistics for dinners in far off places. That stuff seems flashy and fun for new volunteers, but quickly turns into a whole lot of pain. 4. Organisation name: I know you've been through lots of discussion about name "Linux Australia" recently, but for what it's worth, for years I mostly ignored Linux Australia, assuming it to be based on similar values to those of the Linux kernel project's core team - interested in the technology, apathetic about issues of freedom. Turns out that for years you'd been running this awesome conference that's right up my alley. If you do want the organisation to be about the freedom, then the current name is holding you back. Change the name to Free Software Australia and I'll be on the council like a shot! 5. Starting an Australian FSF-equivalent: For a few years I've been seriously thinking about starting a national equivalent of the FSF. I get the feeling that while I could nominate for LA council, I might just find myself frustrated at the amount of work to do with running (awesome) conferences. I'll try to catch up with a few council members in Perth to discuss this further.

keep going!

I wish Linux Australia every possible success - in the meantime I will continue to promote Linux and Open Source through my acquaintances and family members (family employed in IT Sector). I am slowly but surely getting people to change and try Linux for many things, including changing over firstly to Open Source software solutions and in most cases then also changing to Linux once they are aware that Open Source solutions do work.

The ability to apply for LCA financial assistance as with PyCon would be amazing for students like myself.

<div align="center">END REPORT</div>