



2015 Linux Australia Office-bearer report: Secretary

Executive summary

2015 was another successful year for Linux Australia Council. Social media exposure of Linux Australia continued to grow gradually, with the @linuxaustralia Twitter account reaching over 1200 genuine followers. In addition the day-to-day running of Linux Australia proceeded without issue; the organisation was again run smoothly, with quorum achieved at all fortnightly meetings, ensuring strong and rapid decision making.

Meetings

During 2015, 26 Council teleconferences and 2 face-to-face meetings were held. Quorum was achieved at each of them, and minutes were produced and made public generally within a week of the conference occurring. Action items were generally tracked well.

Handover activities

This was my first year as Secretary and I am seeking re-election in 2016. Thank you to the previous Secretary, Kathy Reid, for her in depth documentation which, as a result, I was able to assist with the organisation of linux.conf.au 2016 with minimal interruptions to the Council and its day-to-day running of the organisation.

Membership

The current membership system, MemberDB has a number of reporting inaccuracies. Membership is thus reported as below with duplicates removed which is a more accurate estimate of actual members.

On 29 November 2015 Linux Australia had 3207 members

On 27 January 2016 Linux Australia had 3388 members

This represents a yearly growth of around 4% which is steady.

As mentioned in the previous Secretary's report "because member expiry and renewal is not possible with MemberDB, there are likely to be significant 'expired' members in MemberDB. Future Councils should strongly consider selecting an alternative to MemberDB, which although it has served Linux Australia well, is now end of life. Some preliminary measures have been taken here in articulating a draft requirements document.

Future Councils may wish to prioritise the replacement of MemberDB and a concomitant update of member details." - K. Reid

Media and communications

The use of Twitter as a key communications channel has continued to grow, from 620 followers at the end of 2013 to over 1200 as of the time of writing. Scheduling tools are used to schedule important announcements ahead of time, and current relevant articles are Tweeted as appropriate. Other related accounts, such as @linuxconfau – often amplify broadcasts made on the @linuxaustralia account.

Web presence

Linux Australia's web presence remains a key digital property, averaging around 4500 page views per calendar month, with peaks and troughs in line with the key activity periods of the organisation such as voting, calls for linux.conf.au bid cities etc.

The most popular content on the site remains the introductory information around free and open source software, jobs information and information about linux.conf.au. Jobs information is a key section of the linux.org.au site and is one that future Councils may wish to focus on for additional attention or promotion.

Handling of correspondence

Linux Australia handled a large volume of correspondence this year, including requests for termination of membership, requests for work experience, enquiries from like organisations such as EFA and auDa, enquiries from campaigns and related movements (TPPA, EFA etc) and again a small volume of support requests (including one hand-written request). All correspondence was tracked via minutes and responded to.

Council handled 1 formal complaint this year in accordance with the constitution.

Council also handled 2 data/system breaches however in accordance to our values of openness we have released as much information as possible in an open, clear and

honest format and we hope that we have set a high standard for other organisations that have experienced similar breaches. We have been commended by our community of our openness and we endeavour to keep this as our minimum standard. Thank you to the community for your understanding during this time.

Thanks

Sae Ra Germaine
Secretary
Linux Australia
January 2016