InternetNZ welcomes incoming Councillors

Over 40 InternetNZ members attended the Society's Annual General Meeting in late July where two new Councillors - REANNZ Chief Executive Donald Clark and InternetNZ Fellow Neil James - were elected.

The AGM, which was streamed live to the web, also saw Jamie Baddeley, Michael Wallmannsberger, Chris Streatfield and Jonny Martin re-elected to their Councillor positions.

Baddeley, Wallmannsberger, Streatfield and Clark will each serve three-year terms. Martin and James will serve two-year terms.

InternetNZ President Peter Macaulay congratulates the Society's newly-elected and re-elected Councillors. "InternetNZ's membership provides a steady stream of excellent candidates for board and council seats. Donald and Neil both have strong track records and proven passion for the goals of InternetNZ, and we look forward to their contribution to council deliberations".

Macaulay also acknowledges the valuable contribution made to the Society by outgoing Council members Sam Sargeant and Carl Penwarden, who failed to secure re-election.

"It is a shame to lose good people from the InternetNZ Council, but that is democracy in action. Sam and Carl have provided real and valuable contributions to the work of the InternetNZ Council."

As part of the AGM proceedings members also voted on two constitutional amendments - renaming the Society to Internet New Zealand Inc and rewording the constitution to allow for charitable status. Both changes were voted in by members.

The business end of the meeting saw reports received from the President, Treasurer, and Executive Director. In addition, Domain Name Commissioner Debbie Monahan updated the meeting on the DNC and NZRS Chair Anne Urlwin reported on recent NZRS activity.

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IPv6 workshops - register now

InternetNZ, in conjunction with REANNZ, Cisco, Packet Clearing House, New Zealand Registry Services, auDA and FX Networks, is offering IPv6 technical workshops in Christchurch and Auckland.

The five-day programme will run in Christchurch from Saturday 30 August to Wednesday 3 September, and in Auckland from Monday 8 September to Friday 12 September.

Attendance is limited to 28 in each location. Registration is on a first come, first served basis.

A PDF with more information is available on the InternetNZ blog (http://blog.internetnz.net.nz). To register your interest please email richard@internetnz.net.nz.

Limited PIP funding may be available to Pacific Island technical people wishing to attend the workshops.

Diverse look at identity

The UNESCO Impact '08 ICT seminar held in July featured three diverse angles on the subject of identity.

Technical issues with the Access Grid's sound meant only the Wellington-based speakers presented - journalist Stephen Bell, blogger and InternetNZ public policy chair David Farrar, and NZ Government CIO Laurence Miller.

Bell took a personal approach, blending in his background as a journalist with anecdotes on identity and discussion of how the Internet has changed journalism. A key point he discussed was how the Internet enables people to focus more on their own interests, narrowing their perspective. Search engines reinforce this process.

Farrar looked at the impact of GPS in mobile devices. He defined good features of this such as services like navigation, friend location, child safety, location-based advertising, along with negative impacts including potentially reducing privacy about where you are at any given moment, overzealousness in crime prevention, and stalking. He pointed out there will be issues to be resolved around how long GPS data is retained, and granting of access to that data.

Millar discussed the igovt website www.i.govt.nz, noting the significant economic benefit in getting issues of online identity right. The Government's analysis shows that people have multiple identities depending on the agencies they have interacted with, each containing a different combination of information. There is a core set of data that includes date-of-birth, location of birth, name and gender but there is "no convergence in terms of understanding what identity is across Government. Agencies have been managing on an agency by agency basis."

Igovt will solve the problem of having to take bits of paper from one agency to another to reassert your identity. Once you've done it once, you will be able to refer agencies to igovt to assert your identity electronically.

The seminars are organised and funded through a partnership of UNESCO New Zealand, the 2020 Communications Trust and InternetNZ.

Peter Dengate Thrush named InternetNZ Fellow

Longstanding InternetNZ member Peter Dengate Thrush was announced as the Society's newest Fellow at the Annual General Meeting.

InternetNZ Fellowships recognise members of the Internet industry who have made an outstanding contribution to the development of the Internet in New Zealand or to the Society.

Fellowship Committee Chair Frank March says Dengate Thrush was recognised because of his long and distinguished record of contribution to Internet policy issues both nationally and internationally.

Dengate Thrush provided advice to the Council of InternetNZ from 1995 on management of .nz and represented InternetNZ in the landmark Oggi court case which validated the first-come-first-served domain name policy.

He was President of InternetNZ from 1999 to 2001 and is his international contributions date from involvement with consultations by the US Government from 1997 which led to the formation of ICANN (the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers).

Dengate Thrush was Chair of APTLD (the Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association) from 2004 until 2006 when he was elected by the ccNSO constituency to the ICANN Board.

He succeeded Vint Cerf as Chair of the ICANN Board in December 2007 and, back in New Zealand, was recently appointed to chair the Telecommunications Carriers Forum industry working group for Internet protocol interconnection.

LDT Foundation Launched

InternetNZ is pleased to announce the launch of an Internet entrepreneurship foundation established in memory of Liz Dengate Thrush, a former Councillor of the Society.

Dengate Thrush served on Council from 1998 to 2000 and was an active participant on the Society's policy and research committee. She worked tirelessly to promote the use of Internet technologies in education and entrepreneurship but died tragically in 2006 before seeing the results of many of her projects.

The Foundation will award funding grants for use in practical educational advancement of individuals in Internet entrepreneurship. The foundation, a registered charity, is being formally launched at an inaugural awards dinner in late August where the categories of the first awards will be announced.

More information on the Liz Dengate Thrush Foundation can be found at www.ldtf.org.nz

ACTA negotiations demand scrutiny

InternetNZ is concerned at the paucity of detail surrounding the proposed Anti Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) being negotiated internationally.

ACTA seeks to impose a raft of enforcement measures which have the potential to further erode citizens' fair-use rights in respect of digital copyrighted material.

For instance, a global legal regime for Internet distribution of copyright protected works may be introduced.

To date, negotiations have been held behind closed doors and publicly-available information is scant, with the exception of an ACTA discussion document leaked online.

In response to a call for submissions from the Ministry of Economic Development, InternetNZ filed a submission in July that expressed a range of concerns the Society has with Internet-related aspects understood to be under consideration.

For example, ACTA may see the introduction of procedures enabling rights holders to expeditiously obtain information from ISPs identifying alleged infringers, and could also introduce remedies against circumvention of technological protection measures.

InternetNZ Executive Director Keith Davidson questions the need for New Zealand to be discussing Internet provisions as part of ACTA.

"We already have legislation - the Copyright (New Technologies) Amendment Act 2008 - that covers off the illegal distribution of digital sound and video recordings via the Internet. The Act also deals with circumvention of technological prevention measures and with repeat digital copyright infringers.

"Further, the Act has only recently been passed, with many of its newly-amended and introduced provisions yet to take root and be fully tested," he says.

InternetNZ believes that the proposed ACTA Internet distribution and information technology provisions, if implemented, will do little to strengthen New Zealand's existing measures against digital copyright infringement.

The Society is also concerned that they may coincidentally further restrict what should be the legitimate use of digital content by New Zealanders.

"We strongly urge the Government to adopt a wait-and-see approach with respect to the effectiveness of New Zealand's amended Copyright Act before committing to sweeping multilateral digital copyright enforcement measures as part of ACTA," says Davidson.

A PDF version of InternetNZ's full submission is available at the following link: www.internetnz.net.nz/issues/submissions/2008

events

Impact08 Seminar
August 18, Access Grid Nodes
2020.org.nz/impact

Internet in NZ Book Launch
August 21, Wellington
internetnz.net.nz

Liz Dengate Thrush Dinner
August 21, Wellington
ldtf.org.nz/index.html

InternetNZ Council Meeting
August 22, Wellington
internetnz.net.nz

APNIC 26
August 25 - 29, Christchurch
apnic.net

TUANZ Telco Day II
August 28, Auckland
tuanz.org.nz

IPv6 Technical Workshop
August 29 - September 3, Christchurch
internetnz.net.nz

PacINET
September 1- 5, Rarotonga
picisoc.org

IPv6 Technical Workshop
September 8 - 12, Auckland
internetnz.net.nz

RIPE 57
October 26 - 30, Dubai
ripe.net

ICANN
November 2 - 7, Cairo
icann.org

APTLD
December 6 - 7, Hyderabad
aptld.org

ComCom NGN Conference
February 26 - 27, Auckland
comcom.govt.nz

Tech community to gather for APNIC

This month, InternetNZ and the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) will jointly host APNIC 26. The meeting is being held in Christchurch from 25 to 29 August 2008.

The five-day meeting will continue the ongoing policy development process for the allocation of Internet resources, such as IP addresses in the Asia Pacific region.

Discussions on how to manage the remaining unallocated IPv4 address space will be prominent on the agenda, as will the migration of the world's networks to IPv6 technology.

The event also includes:

- Practical, hand-on training specific to Internet resource management and IPv6 deployment.

- A seminar program showcasing world class speakers discussing the latest technical developments from across the globe.

- A policy development and discussion program tackling the addresses growing challenge of managing the remaining unallocated pool of IPv4.

from the DNC

The Domain Name Commission has recently completed a review of the Authorisation of Registrars policy (AOR). A public consultation was held and four submissions were received.

As a result of the review amendments have been made to the policy and the amended version of the AOR policy has now been published.

NZRS has also amended their Connection Process policy. This policy covers the process registrars must comply with when they connect to the Shared Registry System (SRS).

The updated version of the Connection Process policy has been published on the DNC website.

There have also been two other public consultations in the past month - the Internationalised Domain Names (IDN) consultation and the consultation regarding the application for a new second level domain (.health.nz).

Submissions received for each consultation can be viewed on the DNC website - www.dnc.org.nz

Executive Board members appointed

InternetNZ is pleased to announce it has appointed Peter Dengate Thrush, June McCabe, Miki Szikszai, and Judy Speight as members of its recently-established Executive Board.

The five-person Executive Board is responsible for developing policy relating to the Internet and advocates on behalf of internet users. It reports to the InternetNZ Council.

Chaired by former Minister of Communications Paul Swain, the Executive Board was established earlier this year as part of a structural review of the Society.

Dengate Thrush is an intellectual property lawyer and holds the Chair of ICANN – the US-based organisation that globally coordinates the Internet's unique identifiers.

McCabe has extensive experience in the public, finance and banking sectors and holds several other board positions including TVNZ and the New Zealand Venture Investment Fund.

Szikszai is an experienced executive in digital media and Next Generation Broadband and Mobile networks, with a focus on understanding emerging customer needs and applying best practice risk management.

Speight is the Executive Board's InternetNZ Council representative and has a background as an ICT strategist, advisor, negotiator and lobbyist.

McCabe has been appointed for three years, Szikszai and Speight for two years, and Dengate Thrush for one year. The differing terms are to ensure that Board members' terms do not expire at the same time.

Fast-track accounting separation

In late July, InternetNZ filed a submission with the Commerce Commission calling for the Accounting Separation regime for Telecom to be strengthened and fast-tracked.

The submission was on the "Draft Principles and Regulatory Reporting Requirements for the Accounting Separation of Telecom" and can be found at:
www.internetnz.net.nz/issues/submissions/2008/acctsep

Accounting separation requires Telecom to transparently report on detailed aspects of its operations and behaviour.

It will provide the information needed to allow the Commerce Commission and the industry generally to ensure Telecom is upholding the letter and spirit of the operational separation regime, and its other commitments.