



Annual General Meeting

1 November 2007

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Patrick Rogers

<http://www.up.org.nz>

Realising the Vision

Inspire and connect young, and young at heart, like-minded individuals associated with the Information and Communications Technology industry, to recognise their potential and take action.

Executive Committee

- Patrick Rogers – Chairman
- Marie-Claire Andrews – Sponsorship
- Steve Rush – Events
- Nicola Horwood – Communications
- Gordon Paynter – Secretary
- Jo Booth – Membership
- Mike Balk – Treasurer
- Alan Doak – Promotions
- Arun Stephens – Legal
- Chris Aspros
- Martin Ehrenstein
- Sarah Lock
- Ruth McDavitt
- Bronwyn Smith

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I would like to thank her worship the mayor of Wellington for her support of Unlimited Potential. She recognised the real contribution Unlimited Potential was and is making to the Wellington ICT community and supported our request for administrative assistance and kindly made available the venue, food and drinks for this evening.

I would like to ask the committee members to stand please.

Behind me is the vision of Unlimited Potential. The committee has made this vision real for you our members through outstanding events, memorable and informative speakers, and we have enjoyed record breaking attendances.

This is a very talented team of people that have achieved an enormous amount in the past twelve months. It was a privilege to contribute with them, serve you our members, and be part of a great year for UP.

I urge all of you to consider joining the committee for the great learning opportunity it brings. Make a point of showing your interest to one of the committee after the formalities are over this evening.

Please recognise your appreciation of the 2007 UP committee in the usual way.



The Unlimited Potential network wouldn't be possible without the ongoing support of Wellington's businesses, professional affiliates, and local and regional government.

Support is provided in terms of financial and in-kind sponsorship without which we simply wouldn't be able to host the workshops, special interest groups, speakers and other events we regularly provide free to our membership.

You may notice a significant number of new sponsors. They are industry leaders aligned with our vision that want to be associated with the increasingly relevant and influential organisation we have become.

Most of these organisations have made long term commitments to UP through one of our three tiers of sponsorship: Gold, Silver or Bronze.

Please recognise our sponsors by supporting them in your day-to-day activities.

I would also like to especially acknowledge the speakers that have freely given their time and energy to making our events a notable success this year.

How did we do ...

Statistics

- 9 events UP from 6
- 1,000 members UP from 600
- 13 sponsors UP from 7
- Average event attendance UP

Committee performance

- New website
- Rebranding from “young IT” to “ICT professionals”
- UP fully funded including some long term sponsorships
- Event schedule posted a year in advance
- Strategic plan and committee roles defined
- Administrative support established

Focus for 2008 ...

- Website currency and community
- Relevant and topical events

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For each of us the relevance and success of UP can be measured in different ways.

- for those that went to the workshops with Rod Drury it could have been the impetus they needed to push ahead with their great idea, and I know a few that have done so successfully – eg grptxt, eyemagnet
- some of the formulative businesses could have built their business plans on PlanHQ, the owner Tim Norton is a great supporter of UP and is speaking tonight
- gaining insight from the guru behind the architecture of one of the largest websites in the world at digg.com
- toying with a career in ICT and choosing between contracting and permanent work
- learning from the experts how to fund your entrepreneurial idea
- for me the highlight was probably our first event this year where the informed and irreverently hilarious bloggers stimulated us on a great sunny evening – I can't wait for the repeat in January 2008!

In summary, the slide indicates an outstanding performance for 2007 for which the committee can be very proud. This is a solid base for the incoming committee.

However UP worked for you, the committee's primary focus is relevant events and valuable networking opportunities for our members.

How did we do ...

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BREAKING NEWS

Unlimited Potential
ICT University Scholarship ...
details to be announced!

<http://www.up.org.nz>



... and tonight I am thrilled to announce that a stretch goal of the committee has been achieved with our ability to fund a University Scholarship in the field of ICT! Details of the scholarship and qualification criteria will be announced shortly.

Thank you ...



<http://www.up.org.nz>



For me and the committee it is a real thrill to be immersed in a thriving Wellington ICT community and to find ourselves working together with talented people on the committee, our sponsors , speakers, and through the many privileged invitations we enjoy.

Thank you for your support. I look forward to attending events in 2008 and I wish the incoming committee every success for the future.