



IT Report, AGM 2015

11th May 2015

Dear members of our club,

Welcome!

It was one sunny albeit windy afternoon in early spring last year, my family and I had been here for only a month or so and I barely knew anybody. I was stood next to two or three members of the committee eavesdropping on their discussion. They were busy talking about an upcoming event and how to get music working in a place like the Matua hall, which has rather poor acoustics. Some might say atrocious... I stood there for a few minutes, minding my own business, or perhaps in fear that if I say something, I'll end up with some work. Well, I find it very hard to keep my mouth shut, so here I am, eight months later.

The fact is that there are many members in this club from all walks of life and of many different talents. I know that we all have busy lives, bringing up families, studying or building our own businesses. However, we all share one thing in common, we do care about the success of our club, be it for the benefit of our children or because we actually enjoy each other's company. So similarly to me picking up the 'IT gig', I would like to encourage you to donate an hour a week, lend us your talent and volunteer for our fabulous organisation.

Okay, without boring you to tears, let me tell you about a few highlights on the technology front.

In 2014 we sourced some essential IT equipment to enable our teachers bring a little bit more visual tools to the classroom. Equally, Jana Bennett, as a secretary was able to clear her own private computer of club affairs and move everything on a club PC.

We have also acquired a domain name for the club, csclubtauranga.nz. This has allowed us to unify our club presence online, namely Facebook and email and bring flexibility for the future. Our back-end services have been migrated to Google Apps for Non-profits, a free suite of services including email, document creation, online backup and storage. Whilst we are still working out the kinks and sometimes trying to wrap our minds about how to share documents or pictures, I would be happy to declare it a success. It's a solution that makes effective communication a breeze. It also helps me sleep at night knowing that all our important documents are safely backed up in state-of-the-art, fail proof storage.

All our committee members and club volunteers have their @csclubtauranga.nz email addresses, including aliased addresses, such as teacher, secretary or itsupport. We do have an unlimited allowance for users on our platform, so if you are stuck for a reliable email solution, please let me know.

What does the future bring?

After a little bit of persuading I decided to look into building a website to bring a bit more structured information to



our members and newcomers into the area. Whilst our Facebook page is the number one communication tool for many of you, too often I heard that information, particularly anything older gets buried by the timeline. It can be difficult to find static documents, such as registration forms, club rules, bank info, etc. Hopefully, these issues will be resolved with the new site.

Our Facebook page and the website will work in tandem for many things, such as upcoming events and photo galleries, although I'm planning to introduce some new things, such as club library system that will be running only on the website.

Personally and as a family I moved many a time, across the UK, Canada and now NZ. As a newcomer to any new area I found the hardest, not only to find social contacts but also trades people I could trust and foodstuff I like (bread, klobasa, salami, name it all)! We're therefore giving you the opportunity to feature your businesses on the website for other to easily find.

Unfortunately, as our grants for 2015 have been cut in half, we need to find other sources of revenue to support our activities. And as the website is something that we did not budget for, but is needed, we decided to go ahead with it and pay for it through donations. I would like to therefore encourage all professionals, trades persons or business owners or individuals to help us fund this venture. In exchange we will promote your business throughout the site. We will have logos and links on the landing page, a dedicated Partners page and business profile pages, in addition to basic business listings.

So if you are interested in supporting us, please speak to me (contact below) and Jana Benfell our Treasurer (treasurer@csclubtauranga.nz) as to how you can donate for the website.

Thank you.

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