

CfR XC Meeting 20 Feb 2023

Strategic Plan Update

For the September 2022 XC meeting, I wrote:

“My term as president ends next May. The next president, whoever that is to be, will have different interests and a different set of skills to what I have brought to the role. Together with the executive committee and members, she or he will identify and pursue different strategic objectives, perhaps drawing on the current plan, perhaps not. I would like to draw a line under this plan next May.

Therefore, my focus over the next six months will be on:

- membership: finding half a dozen new members and getting our procedures bedded down;
- technology: completing what is underway and moving our mailing lists to the cloud with Mailchimp;

- leadership and OD: getting as much of this as possible documented so that the next president can be more outwardly oriented.

Others are welcome to pick up any aspect of the plan that excites their interest and pursue it, alone or in a small group. Please keep the committee informed of work you may be doing.”

Half of that time has now expired. Steady progress has been made but even if my modest objectives are to be achieved, much remains to be done in the next three months. Death and illness in my family has impacted and will impact further on available time.

Membership

At tonight’s meeting we’ll be electing Susanna Gorman to a second term of Catalyst membership. She will be very welcome. More new members are needed.

The Membership Committee needs to be reconstituted and quickly resolve some outstanding issues. This work is urgent.

Technology

Content is being added to the website which is now looking good. There is more to be done.

Xavier McLachlan is working on a major refresh of the site, possibly including some new technologies. Its imperative that this work be brought to an outcome.

Electronic banking has now been achieved. Mailchimp is operational, with more to be done.

The entry into social media using Instagram has been a huge success. Congratulations to Richard, Julie and Susan for the work they have done. We need to get onto other platforms as well, probably including Facebook, I hate to say. Unfortunately we lost a good consultant and need to find another one.

We’ve identified an opportunity around podcasting and have identified a technician (John Kenny, Aust Cath Historical Society) who has offered to train Catalyst people if we can identify any with aptitude and time. Fourteena Halim (North Sydney Parish and Alpha program at St Pats) has offered help with the technology of the Crypt.

Leadership and Organisational Development

My term as President, Richard’s as Treasurer and Gay’s as Secretary all expire in May. It is vital that we prepare to hand over. This will involve documenting everything we have done, at least as far as creating checklists to guide our successors. Doing this will also enable several of the Strategic Plan objectives to be achieved.

I am determined that we will put something in place on safeguarding. It does not need to be elaborate, but effective. Our activities are low risk, but the consequences of neglect can be catastrophic for individuals and the organisation.

Bob

20 February 2023