

# President's Report - 2015 AGM

This last year has been a threshold year for Internet Australia. Determined to move this organisation to the next level, the Board decided to move forward by appointing a CEO. After an extensive process, you'll all be aware that we appointed Laurie Patton. We have not looked back and in the short time he has been in this leadership role, he has, in league with a very enterprising and forward looking board, been responsible for a major transformation of Internet Australia.

Of the many things that have happened, here are some of the highlights:

We have become major participants and contributors in relation to the new and problematic data retention laws. Our work has included the presentation and delivery of two submissions to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security, participation in several working groups including one set up by the Attorney General's Department, and the running of a special interest group nationally, to help smaller ISPs work through their obligations under the new regime.

In order to further inform and educate parliamentarians we have initiated a non-partisan group called Parliamentary Friends of the Internet. Participants include Jason Clare, Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Senator Scott Ludlum.

We have changed and shortened the name by which the organisation is referred to Internet Australia. Whilst the original name - Internet Society of Australia - remains in place formally, it has been far easier for people to refer to us by this new working name.

There has been a significant revamp of our website, which is being evolved with built in membership management facilities and will continue to grow as an increasing useful interactive tool and resource for members.

Our public profile has grown rapidly and we are increasingly seen as an authoritative 'go to' body and authoritative reference point when it comes to matters of the Internet and technology. The board is made up with a breadth of expertise and we have been able to leverage the same in a probative fashion.

Our membership structures have been modified and simplified and membership is on the rise again both at organisational and individual levels.

All of this has come about first, by the comprehensive endeavours of the members of the board, all of whom are volunteers, and as a result of Laurie's work and dedication to Internet Australia. Together with the enthusiasm and expertise of the Board, we have breathed new life into the organisation and have become more vital and relevant than ever before. Things will not stop here. Ahead on the horizon is the prospect of our Digital Future Forum and continued work with you, our members to ensure that we help shape the Internet's future in a way that is focussed on the users.

This has been an exciting period in Internet Australia's history and I am very much looking forward to the next 12 months.

For a full view of all of our work and activities, I'd invite all of you to visit our website and review our submissions and media releases all of which are easily accessible there.

My grateful thanks to Laurie for his hard work and commitment and to our amazing team of board members all of whom have had an integral part in our transformation.

George Fong. September 2015