

## **HUNTER Region:**

*Carolyn Baird:*

As predicted last year, the region remained relatively quiet throughout the year.

Although membership numbers dropped by only 3 (4 lost; 1 gained), the financial impact of those losses was significant and required certain adjustments to be made to ensure that the region remains financially viable in the longer term. The region currently has 16 members made up of 1 dialin, 2 uucp, 1 domain, 5 mail-news, 1 ethernet, 2 organisations & 4 APANA members only.

In December last year, our System Administrator moved to Sydney but still maintains the network remotely and makes regular visits for the purpose of performing backups and/or attending to any problems that arise. The reduction in the fees he pays was the main contributing factor to the loss Hunter experienced in the last financial year.

Problems with connection drop-outs grew even more frequent. Replacing the Ethernet card in Niggle reduced the frequency of those occurrences but didn't eliminate them. It was only after our connection and modem were upgraded to ADSL2+ that this problem was resolved and no further problems have been encountered to date.

The upgrade to ADSL2+ was actioned primarily as a cost-cutting measure, so this was an added bonus. The benefit of replacing old hardware for more cost-effective/energy efficient newer versions was extended and the old 240V 24 port hub was also replaced with a new 12V DC 8 port hub.

Earlier in the year, one of the Ciscos that handles the dialup connections died and was replaced by an identical unit obtained as part of the old equipment sent from the Wollongong region years ago. Unfortunately this failure wasn't detected early enough to prevent the loss of all but one of our remaining dialup members. This has led to the cancellation of the last of the original dialup lines (4954 8168) and led to the conversion of the previous fax line (4954 7879) to a dialup line.

This year also saw the migration of the last of our ECN dialups to an ADSL connection.

Again this year I've been involved in helping with computer-related problems for members, although not as many as in previous years.

Hunter's budget at the moment shows a deficit for the coming financial year of around \$110, but the region will benefit from the credits from Internode (as will both SA and WA) and should be able to record a small surplus by the end of this financial year. In any event our current balance of \$1,644.97 will keep us solvent for a number of years yet to come.

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