

TASICT PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 2024

TasICT as an organisation is now 26 years old. This is my ninth year on the TasICT Committee, with the past year my first as President.

When I stepped into the Presidents role 12 months ago, I put together my own list of what I wanted to achieve in my first year. This included progressing a staff restructure to facilitate us getting a focus on the right things.

Katharine Jayne started with us late 2023 as Events Manager. Having someone focused on events, coupled with the skills and energy that Kath has brought, has resulted in huge success. Not only is the quality of our events up, but most importantly so is the attendance, revenue and participant satisfaction. One event really close to my heart is the cyber conference. Attendance maxed out with circa 650 registrations. The quality of speakers coupled with the highest number of vendors exhibiting their offerings in the exhibition hall, undoubtedly resulted in this being the biggest and best event TasICT has ever run. Well done Kath and I look forward to watching the 2025 events calendar that you have already socialised come to life.

The other major staff change that occurred this year was bringing Russell Kelly in as General Manager. Based on the activity Russell has been involved in since he commenced, I cannot believe that was only six months ago. With Russell's focus on advocacy, engagement with Government elected members and employees has had a major uplift as has the engagement with our members. Alongside this, we have put a focus on our communication with our members, the broader ICT industry and the community. We have uplifted both our social communications and our engagement with the media. Russell has undertaken a number of radio, newspaper and television interviews talking about ICT related topics of the day. I welcome this change, thank Russell for hitting the ground running and I look forward to working with him to achieve bigger and better things in 2025.

It would be remiss of me not to mention something we hadn't planned for this year which required us to spend a lot of energy on. Post the March state election, the district ministry for Technology and Science was dropped. After much lobbying through our communication channels, and direct to the Premier along with other elected members, our effort was rewarded and in August the Premier reinstated the ministry under Minister Madeline Ogilvie. TasICT are very pleased to have this outcome and we are grateful for the support received from TasICT members, Minister Ogilvie, the Shadow Minister for Science and Technology Janie Finlay, and the broader community. Together we made this happen.

Subsequently the ministry has been renamed Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy. This is something TasICT endorses as it emphasises the ever increasing value our sector plays in contributing to the economy. The common phrase we hear nowadays is, every business is a digital business. I therefore see the role TasICT plays in building ICT capability in our state, is as important as ever. Development of skills to support digital initiatives within business is therefore a major focus area for us. We have this year signed an industry skills compact where TasICT has partnered with the Australian Computer Society (ACS) and Government to drive a number of

initiatives to support this. This will include ensuring pathways into ICT roles are clear, promoted and come to fruition.

All I have spoken about today could not happen without the support of my fellow elected volunteer committee members. This year they are Karen Murfett, Kathleen Mackay, Charmaine Stanton, Georgi Brown, Lainie Good, Hayley Sheppard, Mel Wagner, Nigel Bailey, Nick Bird and Chris Jackson. Additionally we have many more volunteers on our subcommittees and also others who help out at our events. On behalf of TasICT I thank you all for the time you have given and the contributions you have made this past year.

Now last but not at all least, after circa nine years as a TasICT Committee member, Nigel Bailey has made the decision not to rerun and will be leaving the Committee. During his tenure Nigel has also been the Vice President and more recently been Chair of the Cyber Security Subcommittee. Nigel has always actively represented the interests of the North of our state and I am hoping he will continue to do that. His experience and professionalism coupled with his tasteful banter will be missed at the Committee table. I know I personally will miss Nigel as through TasICT I have gained a good friend. So on behalf of TasICT, a very big thanks Nigel for your contributions and tenure.

David Mills
TasICT President