



## **FF-EUC Aus Inc Chair Report**

### **AGM Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2005**

The past year has been a busy one (as usual) for the FFEUC-Aus Inc and following are details on our activities.

#### **COMMITTEE**

I would like to thank the very hardworking committee for their enthusiasm and dedication over the past year. I feel privileged to work with this team, without their efforts the FF-EUC Aus would not be in the position it is today.

For those in the key portfolios I must make special mention of TS Lim, Allen Tighe and Kevin Barnes who are the foundation on which the FF-EUC depends.

#### **TRAINING**

Our focus has been on training and the provision of three training kits which an education provider could use. The result is that we have expended approximately \$17,000 this year in acquiring hardware, computers, software and on the construction of the kits.

Most of the hard work has been completed by Allen Tighe and we must sincerely thank him for this.

Allen is also the course provider of the SAIT essentials course along with the new configuration course.

We feel that the design of our kits is very "smart" in that they are light, transportable and very user friendly. Thanks must go to MTL, PR Electronics, KROHNE, SMAR and ABB for providing the hardware/software whether by donation or at a very reduced cost.

The FF-EUC is working with Allen & Ian to develop a FF maintenance course in the near future.

#### **TECHNICAL MEETINGS**

Whilst we did intend to hold four technical meetings over the past twelve months, this did not occur because of minimal interest in our AG181 "mini course idea". As a result we only held one meeting which attracted around 35 people.

#### **NEWSLETTER**

Thanks to Dave Edge for helping me out with the newsletter, based on the last issue it is certainly getting more colourful.

#### **FINANCES**

We have continued with the focus on being a "non profit" organisation with us making a small loss over the year, using some of our reserves to pay for a proportion of the training kits.

The organisation is in a sound financial position, which will be detailed in the treasurer's report. Thanks again to Duncan Turner and Allen Tighe for taking on the Treasurer role.

## **CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**

The CCI training center is no longer accredited as a FF-CoE, this is due to staff turnover and the rundown FF infrastructure.

How ever we are working with the Australian Centre for Energy and Process Training and Challenger TAFE with a view to a CoE.

## **EASTERN STATES SUBCOMMITTEE**

Our efforts to start a FF-EUC subcommittee in Melbourne have been unsuccessful so far because of the small installed base which results in minimal interest. However we have taken a different direction by working towards the establishment of an autonomous fieldbus user group (FUG) which covers all the major fieldbus technologies. I am pleased to report that a committee has been formed under Marc Stormer as the chair. I must thank Peter Inns for all his support in getting this off the ground as well.

We have offered \$2,000 to help this organisation get moving with the first technical meeting in the New Year.

This initiative is “ground breaking” as my understanding is that it is a “World First”. Time will tell if the initiative is a success however the formation of what looks like being a pretty dynamic committee is very encouraging.

## **WEBSITE**

Our website [www.fieldbus.org.au](http://www.fieldbus.org.au) has been reworked extensively over the year by Allen Tighe, thanks again. It is a great portal for those looking for FF information on a local level.

## **JUMP ABOARD**

Based on our Melbourne leg JA2005 looks like being another massive success. Whilst numbers in Melbourne were better than last year they were still low in terms of end users. The presentations again have been “Top of the Class” and comments very positive. Thanks to the committee who under the guidance of Allen Tighe have done their normal fantastic job. This includes Tiong Lim for the secretarial work and registrations, Duncan Turner and Ian Verhappen for the paper reviews, Kevin Barnes and Brad Tindell for the Table top organisation and for the others in the “wings” who have also made this event so successful.

Finally a big “Thankyou” to the JA2005 Sponsors Honeywell, MTL and Weidmuller, without your support the event would have been difficult to stage.

## **DATABASE**

The database has been subject to a complete review as it had become a matter of concern to me. It is now in a good position.

*Jim Russell*

Chair FF-EUC Aus Inc

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