`Spring is on its Way!

August Newsletter 2013

Association of Academic Staff at CPIT

A Message from the President….

Hello Members,

Plenty has been happening since our last Newsletter

I want to extend my appreciation to all those who turned out at the AGM. There wasn't too much to discuss and vote on, none of it contentious thankfully, so it all went to schedule. Thanks also to those who took the time to email their apology and send in proxy voting forms. This is important because if we don't get a quorum to vote on issues at the AGM we can't operate effectively. We rely on your participation and involvement to keep the union functioning well.

The Treasurer has now officially passed to Anna Richardson, congratulations and thanks Anna for your willingness to taken on this role. Dave Dixon has two hats, both of them silly, Vice President and Webmaster … actually, only one of them is silly. Thanks also to Leighton Brown for continuing as Secretary and Andy Blackmur for maintaining his benign influence over us all.

There was also some discussion around appointing new committee members and to that end we have the services of Keith Burston who offered to stand. Welcome Keith. The rest of the committee remain the same, which is important for continuity and consistency. I'm looking forward to working with them for another year.

One of our members is an expectant father for the second time. We have highlighted Andre in this edition. The committee wants to help members any way we can. If you are in a similar situation, or you know someone who is, let us know because we can provide support.

The rewrite of the CEA is going slowly but we have the first draft from the lawyers. CPIT have expressed to me personally their commitment to maintaining the intent of the original document. The next step is to get together and discuss it with management.

In the last Newsletter I indicated the Workload Working Party might be a yearlong process. HR has indicated we will meet in August. I have feedback from a range of members across CPIT. The extra things we have to do in duty time is having the biggest impact on workload. Everything else suffers as a consequence. Keep emailing me with your thoughts on workload.

We have had a bit to do with TEU lately. They have informed us they are doing a nationwide survey of academic staff to gather information about the impact of Government policies on working conditions. TEU have said they would be happy to share the results. We recommend you participate in the survey.

Please log into the AASC Website. You'll find some links regarding Government changes to the Employment Relations Act. Take the time to read the material and make a submission via the link to the Council of Trade Unions site. Maybe Dave's Webmaster hat isn't so silly after all.

Yours sincerely,
Warwick Shillito

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Welcome New Members

- Bruce Sparks
- Linda Fourie
- Kath Harrison
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Want to Join Us?

You know someone who wants to join? Forward mail enquires to aasc@cpit.ac.nz

Member News

Presentation to Andre' de Roo

Andre's wife will shortly give birth to their second child. Unfortunately there is no paid partner/paternity leave provision in our agreement. We have indicated to CPIT that this is something we will be discussing when our collective agreement comes due.

Wages have not kept pace with inflation, particularly in Christchurch. This now makes it very difficult for a family with a single income.

Consequently the AASC committee decided to donate to Andre to provide help during this difficult financial time.

The AASC committee appreciates CPIT's commitment to staff wellbeing such as the Holiday home voucher and providing special leave with pay for earthquake related responsibilities. However, we believe that in the future this is where contributions could best alleviate stress. We have challenged the Staff Wellbeing Committee to match the contribution.

Above : Andre' receiving the cheque from the President recently.

Above : Keith Burston being welcomed onto the committee after a hair raising induction process ... well, hair raising for the President at least.

Pictured above the current Executive at the recent AGM

From Right: Sue Saunders, Andy Blackmur, Dave Dixon, Melanie Lienert-Brown, Leighton Brown, Starr Moffatt, Heather Josland (Inset Anna Richardson, Absent Keith Burston)

ww.aasc.ac.nz

Have you logged into the Website and updated your details lately?

A nervous moment!!

Thank goodness for Andy and his IT skills at the recent AGM when his expertise was called upon!

Quote of the Month

WE NOW ACCEPT THE FACT THAT LEARNING IS A *lifelong* PROCESS OF KEEPING ABREAST OF *change*. AND THE MOST PRESSING TASK IS TO TEACH PEOPLE HOW TO *learn*.

..... PETER F. DRUCKER .....