

1. Chairs Closing
Kent Adams
Director
Information Technology & Resources
James Cook University

It has been an honour and pleasure to host the 2004 QUESTnet Conference. This year QUESTnet has been able to assist AARNet to host the 18th APAN Meetings and my closing remarks are for both APAN and QUESTnet delegates, speakers and sponsors. I especially wish to thank Shigeki Goto, Doug Van Howelling, Kees Neggers, Peter Kirstein, Karel Veitch and Xing Li for their presentations and assistance. The scale of the networks they are managing, the differing models and the projects they're undertaking have provided an international perspective and made this QUESTnet conference special.

As I said in the opening, the sponsors are the backbone of the conference, the delegates flesh out the conference and the speakers provide the very important knowledge and stimulus. Sponsors, delegates and speakers are important but someone must actually organize the conference.

I'm sure that you'll all agree that this year's conference has been one of the best to date. I have a number of people to thank for this. The organizing committee have been an exceptional group to work with. They were quite a small group comprised of staff from both JCU's Townsville and Cairns campus. Obviously with a 400km separation there was a need to have local assistance and I acknowledge the invaluable support of Gary Gulliford, Gavin Robeck, Tim Haberman and Jodi Fisch of JCU Cairns.

The Organising Committee consisting of John Noad, QUESTnet Executive Officer, John Croft, Program Chair, Carl Van Wyk, Logistics and Communications and Jeff Bird, network and mail support were exceptional. The oversight from Ian Hunter, the interaction with the APAN Organising Committee of George McLaughlin, Graham Rees, Marcus Buchhorn and the support of last years organizers from Griffith Thomas King and Bruce Scott was invaluable. Martin and Jackie Lack and Associates were exceptional given that this is the first conference away from Royal Pines for 3 years. Not only did we move, we moved a 1000kms north. Then we decided to complicate matters by supporting and attaching the 18th APAN Meetings. Martin and Jackie Lack, their staff Debbie Wilson and Vicki Dwyer have been professional and efficient.

The vendors have responded to show that they recognize the QUESTnet Conference as the premier national networking and communications conference. I am pleased to acknowledge them individually:

Platinum: Alcatel, Cisco and Telstra without whose assistance we could not have achieved the necessary broadband communications to run the conference.

Gold: DELL, Electroboard, EMC, Fortinet, Foundry Networks, HP, Juniper Networks and NEC

Silver: ASI Solutions, Sheriff, LANLINK, Mirapoint, and RadVision the VoIP Experts

Bronze: Allot Communications, aplhawest, Eucalypt Software Partners, Nortel Networks, PhoneWare and PolyCom

With the support of Apple, ATI, KeyServer DeepFreeze, Intel and SUN.

All contributions and social events are much appreciated. It was a beautiful setting for the Dell sponsored golf at Paradise Palms, interesting array of wildlife from Hartley Creek Wildlife Park at the Telstra CountryWide BBQ and innovative use of the light sticks at the Alcatel Dinner at the Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park; something that might only happen at a networking conference. We hope that vendors will join us again for the QUESTnet Conference 2005 to be hosted by the Australian Catholic University. We hope to see some of our APAN delegates returning for a different Australian experience.

As it pans out, the timing our lighting up the gigabit Sunshine Backbone from Townsville and Rockhampton to Brisbane was indeed fortuitous. The AARNet partnership with Powerlink and Ergon in Queensland, a state with the second largest with the most widely distributed metro/regional and rural population is strategic and invaluable. We are indeed indebted to the contributions made by Mike Sargent as Chair of HEBAC and the ARENAC and to the Federal Government and the Minister for their confidence and financial support.

QUESTnet appointed its first Executive Officer, John Noad in 2001. John has been a valuable contributor in various roles since the inception of QUESTnet and will be greatly missed. John retires at the end of August. In recognition of John's effort over and above the call for both QUESTnet and its sister organization the QRNO we have a gift for John. I'd be pleased if Barbera Olde, the incoming Chair for the QUESTnet 2005 Conference would join me to present John with a token of our appreciation.

Thanks John. Enjoy the golf, the grandchildren, the whale watching and the self indulgence. Should you accept we are pleased to welcome you as our first life member.

I think that covers most business. Please put any comment you might have, positive or negative to myself, Barbera, Martin or Jackie by completing your evaluation.

For those who are reefing, skyrailing, training, visiting other local destinations or simply loosing themselves in the rainforest we wish you good weather, good speed and a safe trip home. Please wear your maroon QUESTnet shirts proudly especially on the eve of the State of Origin decider. There were especially designed for our NSW visitors.

Before we complete this conference I am pleased to hand the baton to Barbera Olde. Good luck and good fortune for ACU as host of the QUESTnet Conference 2005.

The QUESTnet 2004 Conference is officially closed. Thank you all and goodbye.