LINUX AUSTRALIA

Annual Report 2025

About Linux Australia

Linux Australia is the peak body for Open Source communities in Australia. Linux Australia represents thousands of users and developers of Free Software and Open Technologies, and facilitates internationally-renowned events including linux.conf.au — Australasia's grassroots Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) Conference.

Linux Australia is voluntarily bound by the principles embodied by its statement of values and the articles of association, and undertakes to operate at all times in an open, transparent and democratic manner.

Individuals who join Linux Australia directly participate in user communities and online discussions on mailing lists covering a range of topics. The Council regularly posts reports and minutes, and makes personal contact with local Linux User Groups.

Members of Linux Australia participate in subcommittees and special interest groups, organise events or stand for election to the Linux Australia Council.

Linux Australia Members may submit applications for funding for projects relevant or beneficial to the Australian FOSS community under the grants programme. Linux Australia membership is free and anyone can join.

Our Values

As an organisation, we aim to represent and assist the groups and individuals who make up the Free Software and Open Source communities in Australia. These communities are diverse in many ways, and the groups and individuals which constitute them have many different needs that should be addressed and supported to the best of our ability. In doing so, it is our goal to uphold certain values reflecting the core philosophies around open source technologies. This statement specifies those values which we aim to embody, embrace and promote as an organisation.

These values should inform the strategic direction, activities and decision making of the organisation as a whole.

Open Technology

Linux Australia was founded with a focus on the Linux operating system but quickly evolved to embrace all facets of open technology.

Open technology is a term encompassing openness in source code, standards, formats, licences and APIs. Whether for software sources, documents, hardware designs, images or works of art, we value the use of open licenses to promote the creative reuse of intellectual effort.

Open source makes code available to everyone to study, modify, repurpose and redistribute. We value the innovation made possible by the sharing of openly licensed intellectual effort.

Community

We value the creation, support and maintenance of community around open technologies. This includes private individuals, community projects, other aligned organisations and businesses engaged with open technologies.

Communities can be any combination of developers, users or advocates of open technologies. We invite participation in our communities and culture, and welcome newcomers.

Freedom

We value freedom in the use and development of open technologies. This includes freedom of expression within accepted community norms.

We strongly encourage the use of free software and free culture copyright licenses.

We value free access to, sharing of and repurposing of information, in particular that information held by the public sector.

Respect

We value respect for people, for community, and for society. This includes respect for the opinions, ideals and choices of others, for the communities which we create and participate in, and for society as a whole. It is vital that while we uphold our ideals, we respect the ideals of others. We obey lawful restrictions placed upon us, particularly with reference to licencing, copyright and patent law, to the best of our ability.

Diversity

People of all ages, genders, nationalities, ethnicities, backgrounds, abilities and walks of life are part of the communities we serve. We respect and encourage diversity at our conferences, events, and other activities.

Council

Joel Addison
President

Sae Ra Germaine
Vice President

Neill Cox
Secretary

Russell Stuart
Treasurer

Council

Jenny Cox
Ordinary Council Member

Andrew Pam
Ordinary Council Member

Jonathan Woithe
Ordinary Council Member

President's Report

The past year has been the most involved period during my time on the Linux Australia Council. We were fortunate to see many events run during the year, including some new ones. This did lead to a lot more work for the Council overall though, as there was much more time needed for our monthly subcommittee meetings and many more queries to field. I would especially like to thank Russell Stuart for his hard work as Treasurer to support everything we do, and Sae Ra Germaine for her valuable guidance and assistance both personally and to the Council and community as a whole.

Everything Open was again a success in 2024. While being a smaller event due to the location, the presentations were again outstanding and there was much positive feedback from attendees. We have made the decision to return AV to be volunteer run, leading to some challenges during the event. This has been worked on and will improve for the next conference.

DrupalSouth continued to run popular events, with their flagship DrupalSouth Conference in Sydney and Community Day in Canberra again attracting a large number of attendees and speakers. I would like to thank Dave Sparks for his time as Chair of the DrupalSouth committee as he steps down following the recent elections, and welcome Julia Topliss into the Chair role. I am sure the community will continue to be in good hands through this transition

Joel Addison

President

Linux Australia was approached to support another new event in 2024 for the Drupal community. In conjunction with the Drupal Association, we supported Michael Richardson and his team in running DrupalCon Singapore. Being a brand new event meant a lot of challenges, especially trying to determine how many attendees and sponsors would get involved. I was pleased to see the attendees got a lot out of the conference by bringing the flagship global Drupal event to the Asia Pacific region.

Following the support given to Python NZ during 2023, it was great to see Kiwi PyCon run again this year. The team did a great job putting on a conference with many local and international speakers, much to the delight of the New Zealand Python community. The committee has had much to deal with over the past year, but had a positive outcome towards the end of the year which will allow everyone to move on and focus on regrowing the organisation. I would especially like to thank Tom Eastman for his work over this difficult period, alongside Danny Adair who has worked tirelessly to help organise the conference. We look forward to continuing our support in 2025.

PyCon AU ran successfully again in Melbourne in November, put on by an organising team led by Peter Hall. The steering committee is currently going through some renewal, with Richard Jones, Katie McLaughlin and Russell Keith-Magee stepping back after many years involved. I would like to personally thank all of them for their dedication to the community and countless hours devoted to running conferences, without which we would not see PyCon AU running as it has over the past ten years.

President's Report - cont.

After several years on pause, WordCamp returned to Sydney under the guidance of Wil Brown. It was wonderful to see many new faces on the organising committee, eager to learn to continue running new events over the coming years. While there was a major challenge at the last minute as many would have seen, the team still managed to put on an outstanding event for the community

PurpleCon in Sydney was a new event for Linux Australia to support during 2024. The organising team were very keen to run an event and approached us to become a subcommittee. The team lead by Anton did a wonderful job, learning very quickly given their relative inexperience to running an event, and I was very happy to see that it ran successfully with many happy attendees. We look forward to helping them for future events.

A common theme across all of our conferences over the past year has been difficulty in obtaining sponsorship, and a lower turnout rate of attendees. We have heard from many companies that their budgets have been reduced, leading to less opportunity to sponsor events, which especially impacts community events such as ours due to running much closer to cost price than many others. I would like to call on all of our community members to help promote events within your workplaces so we can continue to run them - without your support and assistance with attending and sponsoring the events, our organising teams would not be able to put on the conferences that you have come to enjoy.

Our financial position this year was a significant loss, which is not something I take lightly. A large portion of this was due to the assistance we provided to PyCon NZ, which I stand by as being the right course of action to take to ensure their organisation could continue to operate and bring their conference to their community in New Zealand for another year. The lower sponsorship across the events meant we did not have as much combined profit to balance this out, however Linux Australia continues to have significant reserves to cover situations like this, and I feel it was an appropriate use of our funds to support the open technologies community.

The next year will have a focus on the budget to again return a profit. There will not be a grants program during 2025 due to not having a profit over the past year. While we could use some of the reserve funds, we have elected to operate along our long standing policy whereby grants will only be available from the profits of the previous year. We will be closely working with all of the event subcommittees over the next year to ensure budgets reflect the recent trends.

Outside of events, the Council worked to investigate open source tooling for collaboration, based on feedback from some members at the last AGM. While there is still work to be done in this space, we are now using Jitsi for our meetings and have been trialling NextCloud for document sharing. There will be further effort during 2025 to use this for more functions.

Looking to 2025, Linux Australia will continue to support a large range of events to bring our open technologies communities together. We will also be undertaking work to update the Constitution so we can continue to operate as a not-for-profit organisation per the requirements of the Australian Tax Office and Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission. I look forward to working with the Council and our members on this over the next few months.

Secretary's Report

Neill Cox

Secretary

2024 was a challenging year for Linux Australia. Our major activity is supporting groups to run conferences. This year those conferences faced significant challenges in terms of raising sponsorship and meeting ticket sales targets.

I was happy to be able to help with supporting those conferences and managed to attend Everything Open in Gladstone, Kiwi Pycon in Wellington and Pycon AU in Melbourne.

We held 24 meetings in 2024, all of them online and the majority using Zoom. We did use jitsi for some of the meetings, but unfortunately jitsi did not cope well with the larger (subcommittee) meetings. It was adequate for the normal council meetings however.

Minutes for almost all of the meetings have been published online, although there was a significant delay before the first batch were published.

A number of new memberships have been approved, although again there was quite a backlog of approvals that have only recently been dealt with.

On the 29th of December 2024 Linux Australia had 992 active members

A Personal Note
I have very much appreciated being part of the Linux Australia council in 2024 and I hope to be able to be part of the 2025 council as well.

Treasurer's Report

Russell Stuart
Treasurer

The two line summary is:

- The auditor report says we made a loss of $55,590, and
- The auditors report was unqualified.

TL;DR: we made the loss predicted in last years budget. The loss almost exactly matched the bail out of NZ Python Users group, NZ PUG.

This was a difficult year for Linux Australia. Conferences that usually made large profits broke even, while those that normally broke even incurred losses. This was mostly because sponsorship was down across the board.

On the other hand, as you see from the conference P&L presented, Linux Australia ran more conferences this year than ever before. The P&L understates what actually happened because 5 conferences were in progress at the end of our financial year. In particular we took a bet on auspicing Drupal Singapore, our first conference held outside of the antipodes.

Notes on the Profit & Loss by Conference:

- The attached P&L shows income and expenses split up by subcommittee. Effectively each subcommittee has its own set of accounts which shows if they made a profit or loss for the year. But there is a twist. The aqua columns are conferences, and conferences are only reported on once, in the year they finalise. Other subcommittees (yellow and red columns) show the net result for 2022/2023. But because nothing goes according to plan conferences reported on in previous years can have some activity which shows up in the "Closed" column.
- The green column is the sum of all subcommittee columns, which is the net result for LA overall. Expenses and income of conferences still under way at the end of LA's financial year appear in the following two grey columns. Adding the green column to those two two grey columns yields the figure reported by the auditor in the final grey column.
- The difference between the Auditor's figure of a $55k loss and the $72k is mostly due to sponsorship received for conferences that haven't been held yet. That money will appear in next year's blue columns.

The table below shows what your LA Executive spent directly. All other expenses were incurred by subcommittees, mostly conferences.

Treasurer's Report - Council Expenditure

Divsion	Category	2023/2024 Budget	2023/2024 Actuals	2024/2025 Budget
Operating	Accounting Costs	10,000	8,466	10,000
	Advertising & Marketing	1,000	0	1,000
	Cloud (GitHub, Phone, Video)	1500	0	1,500
	Face-to-Face Meetings	0	0	0
	Government Fees & Charges	1,000	760	1,000
	Insurance	6,000	5,582	6,000
	Interest/Fees/Merchant	0	2,733	0
	Employee Assistance Program	0	0	2,000
	Postage & Printing	1,000	575	1,000
	Professional Services (Legal, Accts)	1,000	0	1,000
	Rewards & Recognition	2,000	0	2,000
	Subtotal LA Exec	23,500	18,096	25,500
Admin/Tech Team	Face-to-Face Meeting	0	0	5,000
	Server Maintenance	0	0	0
	Fees, APNIC, Domains, SSL	4,000	2,904	4,000
	Hardware	5,000	0	5,000
	Subtotal Admin/Tech Team	9,000	2,901	14,000
LA Overheads	Total:	32,500	20,997	37,500
	% of Income	13.64%	8.82%	
Conf Steering Ctte	Bid Review	1,500	429	0
	Chair Gifts	1,000	0	0
	Ghosts Conference Drinks	2,500	0	0
	Session Selection	1,500	0	0
	Subtotal of Conf Steering Committee	6,500	429	0
Other	Sponsorship, Donations, Grants	10,000	5,950	0
	NZPUG Sponsorship	55,000	54,884	0
	Foreign Exchange (Gains/Losses)	0	3,341	0
Total non-conference expenditure		**104,000**	**85,602**	**39,500**

Treasurer's Report cont...

Looking forward to next year, I expect the conferences will adjust to the new sponsorship conditions and return to making a profit. I hope the number of conferences we run will at least run steady, but at this stage I am not expecting EO/LCA will be run again. That's a shame as I've attended other developer conferences, and without a doubt LA's flagship is both the strongest technically and the cheapest to attend. There is no lack of speakers, or volunteers, or venues, or money. What we can't find is a team to run it.

The other major change was triggered by the ATO asking all Not-For-Profit's to complete a self assessment this year. We submitted ours and appear to have kept our NFP status for now, but the ATO has advised us we not be able keep it next year if we don't change our constitution. If we can't keep it, we must pay 25% tax on all earnings.
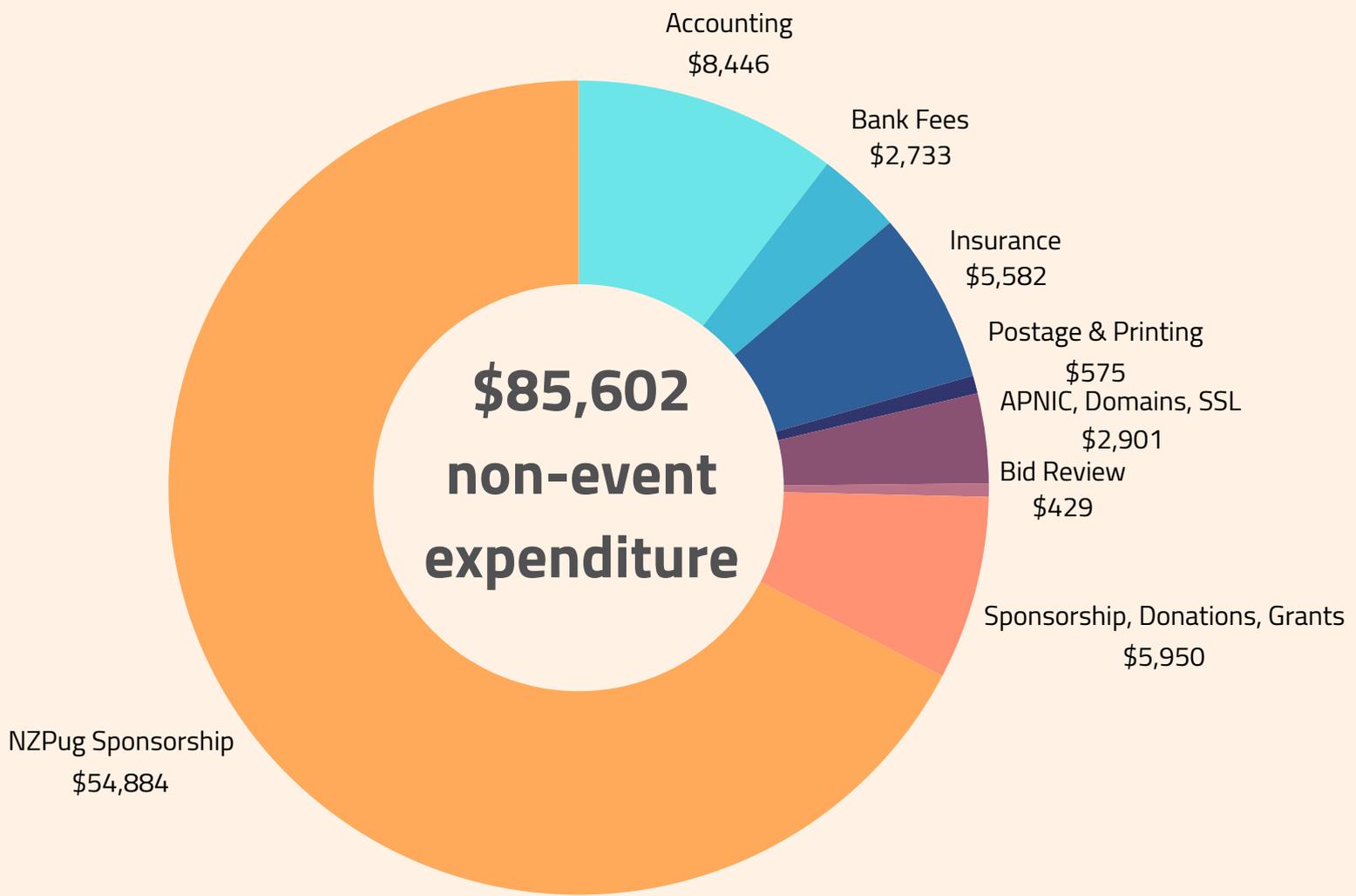
Reading between the lines of their requirements it looks like the ATO and Charities are aligning their requirements. The ATO's requirements for a Not For Profit are now very close to what the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission requires for charities that haven't been awarded deducible gift recipient status.. I guess that's hardly surprising given "Not-For-Profit" appears in the ACNC's name.

The council has looked at two paths forward: modify our existing constitution, which is a slightly modified version NSW model constitution for organisations available at the time.That model constitution is surprisingly (to me anyway) deficient. For example it does not stipulate what can happen to LA funds should it be wound up, and it does not list LA's objects. Both are required by the ACNC and are now required by the ATO for a Not-For-Profit.
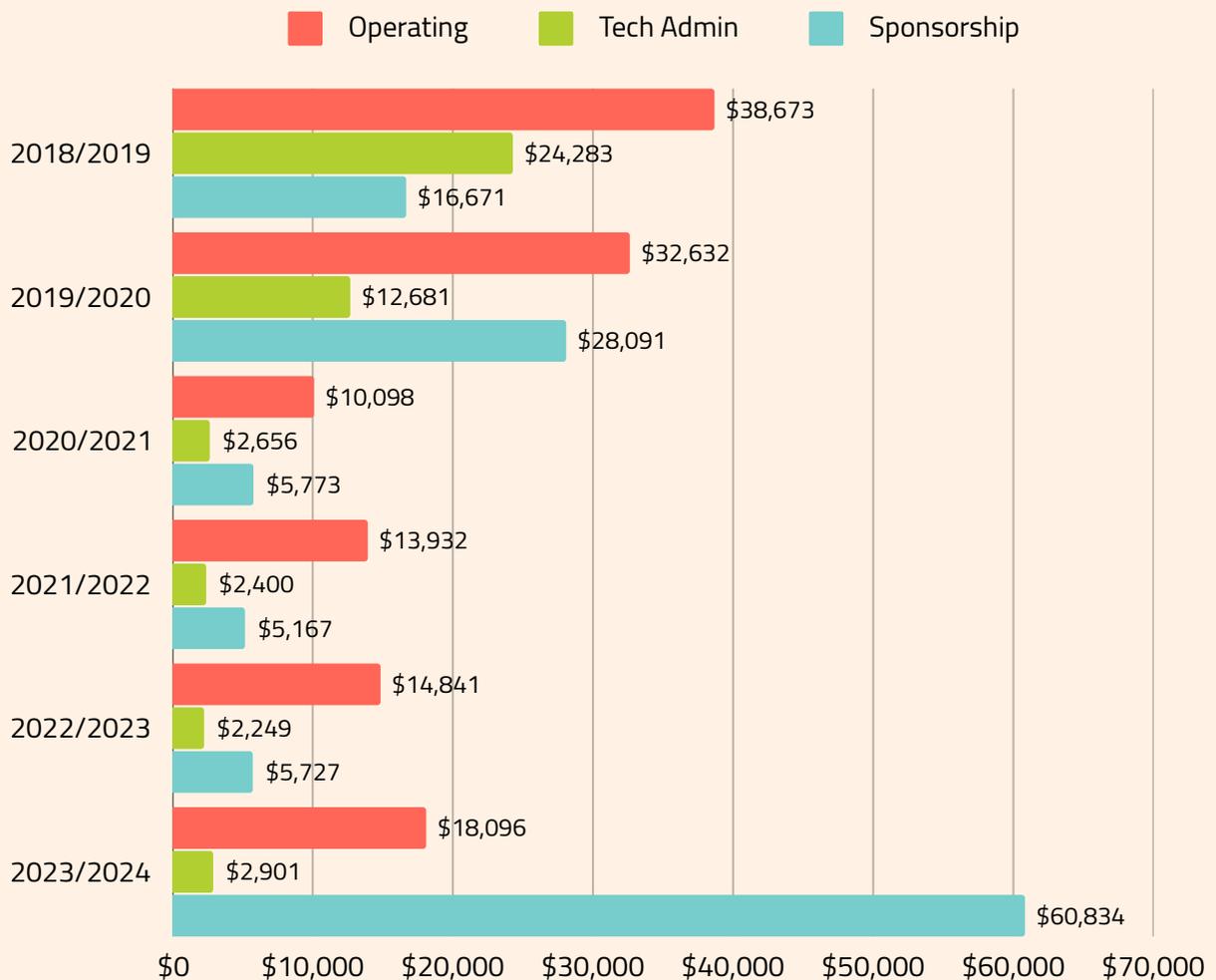
The committee has put forward motions to add them to the constitution at previous AGMs, but those motions failed to pass. Not passing them this time around has fairly severe ramifications on LA's financial health, so this time the executive is leaning toward the approach that succeeded last time: adopt the current version of the NSW model constitution.

I tried to diff the current model constitution to ours, but it was near impossible. They have only a couple of clauses in common, and even then their ordering is different. I'm not sure how our legal brethren track their work but I am converting the current model rules to mark down, adding all the ATO, ACNC, and our tweaks, and will post a pull request for you to peruse.

Non-event expenditure

$85,602 non-event expenditure

- Accounting $8,446
- Bank Fees $2,733
- Insurance $5,582
- Postage & Printing $575
- APNIC, Domains, SSL $2,901
- Bid Review $429
- Sponsorship, Donations, Grants $5,950
- NZPug Sponsorship $54,884

Non-event expenditure 2018-2024

Legend: Operating | Tech Admin | Sponsorship

2018/2019
- Operating $38,673
- Tech Admin $24,283
- Sponsorship $16,671

2019/2020
- Operating $32,632
- Tech Admin $12,681
- Sponsorship $28,091

2020/2021
- Operating $10,098
- Tech Admin $2,656
- Sponsorship $5,773

2021/2022
- Operating $13,932
- Tech Admin $2,400
- Sponsorship $5,167

2022/2023
- Operating $14,841
- Tech Admin $2,249
- Sponsorship $5,727

2023/2024
- Operating $18,096
- Tech Admin $2,901
- Sponsorship $60,834

Admin Team Report

The Admin team is continuing to contest the registration of the opensource.au domain name as part of the AUDA .au registration process, however as the other contesting party is the sole drop domain provider within the au namespace, we expect this process to continue to be a long term task. The admin team started the process for a planned replacement of storage disks on the LA hosting hardware, a process that will extend into 2025 due to demands by the organisation and related subcommittee systems.

The admin team worked with the conference systems subcommittee to define the scope of, and commence a limited scope trial of open source storage and document editing systems, which saw use by the Everything Open sessions selection team in 2024, and will extend to Council and other committees in 2025.

The last of the conference mail systems was moved off the legacy SMTP server and this server was finally shut down, and the mailman installation for lists.linux.org.au were also migrated to a new VM and upgraded to the current 2.x maintenance release.

The Admin team will continue to assess the options for upgrading lists to the 3.x platform, but have not ruled out moving from the mailman ecosystem to a different open source lists management tool that is more suitable to Linux Australia's needs if a suitable one can be found.

Media & Comms Report

Media & Comms activity has been minimal this year due to time constraints of the single person on this subcommittee, with that person also taking on the role of Media and Comms lead for Everything Open 2024. Key tasks undertaken have been posting key announcements on social media, amplifying content from events auspiced by LA on LA's social channels and establishing Linux Australia's presence on the BlueSky platform. We have received feedback that several pieces of content on the LA website are out of date, and time permitting, a web content audit and update will be tackled in 2025. Help is always welcome.

Follow us on:

	Bluesky	@linuxaustralia.bsky.social
	Mastodon	@linuxaustralia@fosstodon.org
	LinkedIn	https://www.linkedin.com/company/linux-australia/
	Web	https://www.linux.org.au

Grants Program Report

Jonathan Woithe

Grants Program Coordinator

During 2024, Linux Australia was pleased to offer another Grants Program as a way to support the Free and Open Source (FOSS) community members. The total funding pool available this year was $10,000. A total of four grants were awarded:

- Canberra Python User Group: contribution towards catering for free monthly community events to create a welcoming after-work environment for sharing, learning and collaboration. Value of grant: $600.

- Research Software Engineer Asia Australia 2024 (RSEAA24) Accessibility Fellowship: a contribution to encourage participation by blind or low vision community members who would not otherwise have the resources to attend the conference. Value of grant: $500.

- Merri-bek Tech: partial funding of hardware to facilitate a community Raspberry Pi Wikipedia hosting course. Value of grant: $1000.

- "Write the Docs" conference sponsorship, supporting a community conference with direct ties to Open Source software. Value of grant: $1500.

A final grant was received within the last 36 hours of the grant program from MakerSpace Adelaide and was still being evaluated at the time of writing. It will be included in Linux Australia's 2025 Annual Report.

Once again, the quality of the grant applications received throughout 2024 has been high with clear justifications for the amounts requested. The Linux Australia Council thanks applicants for this attention to detail, as it makes evaluation much easier. Council would also like to thank members who provided feedback about the grant applications through the grants mailing list or other channels. Such engagement is invaluable since it provides a window into the community's views which helps Council in its decision making process. Members are encouraged to continue providing comments and suggestions during future rounds of Linux Australia Grants.

A brief report is required from all successful grant applicants which describes the funded activities. In addition to reports received for the four grants awarded in 2024, the recipients of the Pinephone grant in 2023 provided a final summary report in 2024. The reports from these five funded grants are included below. Note that the grant to the Canberra Python User Group was for activities spanning 12 months, so they have supplied a preliminary summary with a full report coming in 2025

PinePhone 2023

Now it's about a year after I received the grant from Linux Australia on FOSS on mobile phones, this is an update on the work I've done with the funded hardware.

A major part of the work involves getting the OP-TEE FOSS security enclave working on the PinePhonePro and use fTPM (Firmware-backed Trusted Platform Module) on top of it to provide a hardware-enforced way to isolate and protect sensitive crypto operations in case of an attacker compromising the primary Linux system.

In the end, a general PKCS#11 interface backed by the TPM is available for user space applications to delegate crypto operations. (OP-TEE also provides a native PKCS#11 interface, bypassing the TPM).

With fTPM made available at an early boot stage, U-Boot the bootloader can measure the payloads (kernel, dtb, initramfs...) before continuing with the boot process, and the measurements can then be used to unseal key materials or be used by user space applications.
The demonstrations for the following use case on EO 2024 are available from my blog:
- Access Measurements from Linux Userland [2]
- Sign in to GitLab with fTPM-backed FIDO token [3]
- fTPM-backed SSH Identity [4]

The source code and building infrastructure are available on GitHub: https://github.com/ZhanYF/veritymobile

Using that, it should be easy to build u-boot image you can flash to an SD card and reproduce the demos.
On the other hand, I also worked on virtualisation-based isolation for untrusted workload, here is a demo for web browsing inside disposable, lightweight virtual machine:
- Disposable Web Session [5]

The source code for reproducing that is also on GitHub: https://github.com/ZhanYF/disposable-session

Unlike the security enclave demos, you can run this one on any KVM-enabled system supported by firecracker (amd64, aarch64).

Initially Russell and I used 2 PinePhonePros separately for different areas of work but due to design flaws[1] of the PinePhone backplates my PPP melted its midframe and I ended up using both PPP for my work.

My slides for EO2024 is available here: https://segments.zhan.science/posts/everything_2024_gladstone_links/

On the side note, I'm still working on getting the LoRa backplate to work, the goal is to integrate the PPP with LoRa backplate to an active communication network (e.g. Mashtastic[6]) and add support for the PineDio USB LoRa adapter so that it can be further integrated into the Linux ecosystem. However the progress has been slowed down by some hardware problems. (e.g. the SX1262 LoRa chip used by PineDio has message corruption problem on both TX and RX, and backplate connection instability) At the current stage integration of the LoRa hardware to user-facing software is fairly primitive but it can be done as demonstrated by me during a previous Flounder meeting. [7]

Yifei

[1]: https://segments.zhan.science/posts/troubles_with_the_pinephone_keyboard/
[2]: https://segments.zhan.science/talks/EO2024/BootToSystemAccessMeasurements.mp4
[3]: https://segments.zhan.science/talks/EO2024/SigninToGitLabWithFTPM.mp4
[4]: https://segments.zhan.science/talks/EO2024/ftpmBackedSSHIdentity.mp4
[5]: https://segments.zhan.science/talks/EO2024/BrowserSession.mp4
[6]: https://meshtastic.org/
[7]: https://flounder.linux.org.au/2023/07/02/july-2023-meeting/

Canberra Python Users Group 2024

[This is a preliminary report since the events funded by the grant are still being run. A full report will be presented in Linux Australia's 2025 Annual Report.]

Linux Australia's sponsorship enabled a welcoming and collaborative environment for the Canberra Python User Group.

The group meets at 6pm on a weekday, and Linux Australia's sponsorship goes towards providing refreshments, enabling people to go directly after work.

The following in-person events were held at the Australian National University.

- Thu, Sep 5, 2024 - Django on AWS for chump change
  - No photos unfortunately
  - 20 attendees
- Thu, Nov 7, 2024 - Cultural and Linguistic Influences on Translation: A Study of Novels
  - 21 attendees
- Thu, Dec 5, 2024 - Python Gone Wrong (festive season event)
  - No photos unfortunately
  - 10 attendees

Jonah Sullivan

Research Software Engineer Asia Australia 2024

We would like to thank Linux Australia for their grant for the RSEAA24 Accessibility Fellowship.

We used the funds to provide Harsh Kalra with a Fellowship, and we self-funded a smaller Fellowship with Sanchit Ghule.

These fellowships changed the dynamic of the interactions we had with the organising committee and the keynote speakers. All of a sudden, accessibility wasn't an abstract concept, it was to help Harsh and Sanchit be a part of the event. In my opinion, this was a resounding success and I hope that other conferences and events take up this idea.

You can see Harsh Kalra's Accessibility Blogpost <https://rseaa.org/harsh_kalra> on the website now as well as Sanchit Ghule's RSEAA24 Accessibility Report <https://rseaa.org/sanchit.html>.

Thanks again for providing us with this opportunity and we hope to do this again in the future.

Rowland Mosbergen

Merri-bek Tech

Linux Australia contributed $1,000 to support Merri-bek Tech to run a local training program for people wanting to get into administering servers. The program ran from 5th Sep 2024, weekly until 7th Nov 2025, at Sussex Neighbourhood House (https://sussexnh.org.au/) in Pascoe Vale VIC.

The program had 10 sign-ups, as well as 4 volunteer tutors, and a volunteer coordinator. Over the course of the program we had three people drop (2 due to life commitments, 1 due to finding the material not suitable for their needs), and gained one additional person.

The grant money was entirely used for equipment. We purchased 10 Raspberry Pi 5s, with chargers, which allowed our students to each use a machine for learning purposes.

Through the course, we taught how to flash the Pi with Ubuntu, command line linux basics, web-server and networking basics, and technical collaboration. Details of some of the course materials can be found at https://www.merri-bek.tech/get-involved/cohort1-materials/

After about a month of learning new concepts, our students have their Pi's running local mirrors of wikipedia using Kiwix.

The success of the course, and the interest it raised amongst both non-technical and technical participants, has enabled Merri-bek Tech Inc to continue to develop towards our program of providing local non-profit community web-hosting. Seven people (5 students, 3 tutors) have volunteered to steward "sites" (https://jade.hopepunk.me/posts/sites-the-main-component-of-merri-bek-tech/), that will host wikipedia mirrors and other sites on a small cluster of Pis. These people have all been loaned a Raspberry Pi to continue their work, which has been supported online and by one meetup this december. Next year, we plan to expand our meetups to be monthly "Local Resilient Technology" meetups, hopefully hosted at Ceres in Melbourne. We also have someone wanting to start a Sydney chapter, so we may re-name our incorporated society to be a national organisation supporting local chapters.

We will likely run the volunteer program again in about six months, but for now the focus is on leveraging the excitement raised by the course to deploy some working software in the community.

Jade Ambrose
Committee President, Merri-bek Tech Inc.

Write the Docs 2024

Write the Docs Australia 2024 was supported by Linux Australia through an event sponsorship package designed for non-profits, startups, and open-source organizations. This generous contribution of AUD $1,500 helped cover essential costs such as venue hire, catering, the social event, and our photographer and sketchnote artist.

Event overview

Write the Docs Australia is a two-day conference dedicated to connecting people from various disciplines who care about quality documentation, including programmers, technical writers, customer support, UX designers, product owners, and developer advocates.

The event brought together 70 attendees and featured a mix of speaker presentations, lightning talks, and unconference sessions. Distinguished speakers included Theresa Neate, Director of Engineering at BuildKite, and Gerry Gaffney, a well-known user researcher and UX designer, who provided valuable insights from the fields of engineering and user experience.

Highlights for the FOSS community

One standout session for the free and open-source software (FOSS) community was "Global Voices, Inclusive Docs: How Open-Source Sets the Standard for Inclusivity" by Eeshaan Sawant. This session explored how open-source communities have led the way in inclusive documentation practices, from gender representation to multilingual accessibility.

Additionally, Austin Lai from Datadog delivered a talk on "How We Improved Qualitative Feedback in Our Documentation," showcasing how Datadog empowered users to contribute to their open-source documentation repository, emphasizing the importance of community engagement in improving documentation quality.

Thank you!

We are immensely grateful to Linux Australia for their generous support of Write the Docs Australia 2024. The contribution made a significant impact, ensuring the success of the event and enabling us to continue fostering a collaborative, inclusive space for the documentation community. Thank you for your support!

Felicity Brand

Thank You For Your Support

Information

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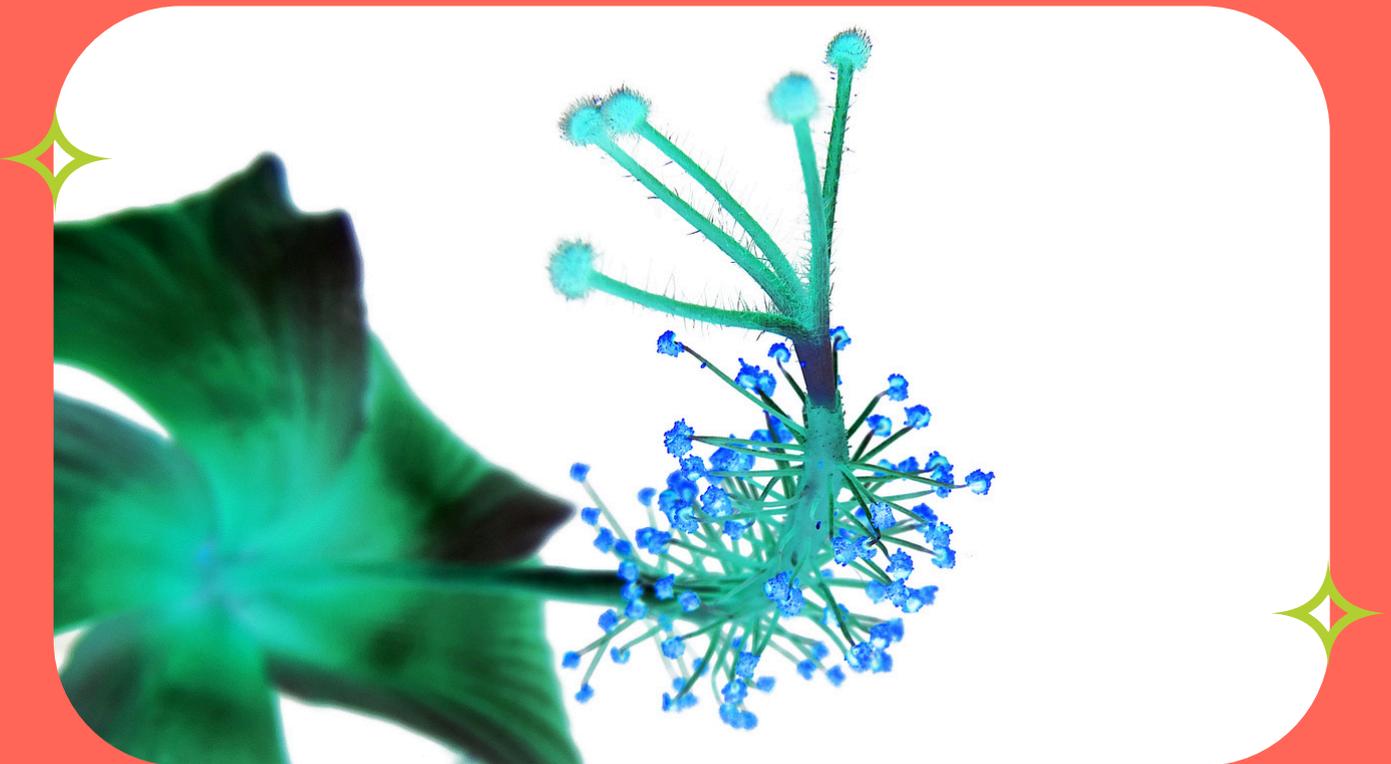Australia

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Appendix 1
P&L by
Conference ↘

Linux Australia + Conference P&L for conferences wrapped up in 2024

All figures are ex GST

	Totals for all years event was active					Figures for current year only					Total	Previous Years	Future Years	Audited
	DruCom23	DruSth24	EO2024	JoomRec24	PyNz24	DruSteer	LUV	WP-Aust	LA	Closed				
INCOME														
Sponsorship - International	0	0	35,000	0	22,967	0	0	0	0	0	57,967	0	85,416	143,383
Sponsorship - Local	12,000	86,168	22,727	250	5,085	0	0	0	0	0	126,230	0	113,562	239,793
Sales - Miscellaneous	0	0	2,238	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,238	0	0	2,238
Conference Registrations	1,761	54,525	46,015	900	41,489	0	0	0	-272	18,265	162,684	-994	75,057	236,747
Donations Received	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,721	0	5,721	0	0	5,721
Interest Received	0	0	0	0	288	0	0	0	26,276	0	26,564	0	0	26,564
Total Income	*13,761*	*140,693*	*105,981*	*1,150*	*69,829*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*31,725*	*18,265*	*381,404*	*-994*	*274,035*	*654,446*
Expenditure														
Advertising & Promotion	0	1,994	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,994	0	2,059	4,053
AV and Network Equipment	2,405	7,500	8,971	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18,876	0	21,808	40,684
Bank Charges	0	15	0	0	5	0	0	0	163	0	183	0	0	183
Cloud hosting & Storage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	890	0	890	0	0	890
Conference Accommodation	0	1,133	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,133	0	0	1,133
Conference Dinner	0	0	12,329	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12,329	0	15,818	28,147
Conference Performance	0	536	400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	936	0	269	1,205
Consultants & Accounting	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,446	0	8,455	0	0	8,455
Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Equipment Write Off	0	0	0	0	784	0	0	0	0	0	784	0	0	784
Events Management	6,820	39,095	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45,915	-2,291	19,200	62,824
Face to Face	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food & Drink	0	0	0	755	0	0	0	1,948	62	0	2,765	0	0	2,765
Foreign Currency Translation Losses	0	0	0	0	729	0	0	0	0	0	729	0	0	729
Foreign Exchange Gains/losses	0	-2	3	0	495	0	0	0	3,341	-880	2,956	0	-200	2,756
Ghosts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	368	0	368	0	0	368
Gifts & Presentations	0	1,521	0	0	0	0	0	0	58,607	0	60,128	0	0	60,128
Insurance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,582	0	5,582	0	0	5,582
Interest Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mechant Fee	0	-1,067	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,595	279	807	0	1,559	2,366
Merchandise And Schwag	0	0	3,128	0	6,801	0	0	0	0	0	9,929	0	2,988	12,917
NZ Tax	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	86	0	116	0	0	116
Office Expenses	0	0	906	0	14,892	0	0	0	3,077	0	18,874	0	0	18,874
Papers Committee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Postage	0	0	279	0	782	0	0	0	575	0	1,636	0	20	1,656
Presentation Materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,029	1,029
Printing & Stationery	0	664	824	7	927	0	0	0	0	0	2,421	0	500	2,921
Server	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,812	0	2,812	0	1,709	4,521
Software	0	358	0	0	1,965	0	0	0	0	0	2,322	0	277	2,600
Speakers	0	5,401	10,920	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,444	17,765	0	0	17,765
Subscriptions	0	0	0	0	0	0	473	0	0	0	473	0	0	473
Telephone & Internet	0	0	0	0	185	0	0	0	0	0	185	0	1,300	1,485
Travel & Accomodation	0	0	3,596	0	1,616	0	0	0	0	0	5,212	0	1,000	6,212
Travelling Expenses - Overseas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,349	2,349
Venue Catering	10,364	1,020	17,420	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28,804	0	3,743	32,546
Venue Hire	1,364	98,060	28,695	0	72,615	0	0	0	0	-2,173	198,561	0	182,960	381,520
Total Expenditure	*20,952*	*156,236*	*87,468*	*762*	*101,827*	*0*	*473*	*1,948*	*85,602*	*-1,329*	*453,939*	*-2,291*	*258,389*	*710,036*
Gross Profit / Loss	**-7,191**	**-15,543**	**18,512**	**388**	**-31,998**	**0**	**-473**	**-1,948**	**-53,877**	**19,595**	**-72,534**	**1,298**	**15,646**	**-55,590**
						6% gross income			22,884					
Less 6%	**-8,017**	**-23,985**	**12,153**	**319**	**-36,187**	LA – Forex+Grant			53,877	14.13%				

Appendix 2
Auditor's Report

Linux Australia Inc
Financial statements
For the year ended 30 September 2024

Linux Australia Inc

ABN: 56 987 117 479

Contents

For the year ended 30 September 2024

Linux Australia Inc

ABN: 56 987 117 479

Committee's report

For the year ended 30 September 2024

Your committee members submit the financial report of Linux Australia Inc for the financial year ended 30 September 2024.

Committee members

The names of the committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Russell Stuart   (Treasurer)
Neill Cox   (Secretary)
Jonathan Woithe
Joel Addison   (President)
Sae Ra Germaine
Andrew Pam
Jennifer Cox

Principal activities

The principal activity of the association during the financial year was:
Linux Australia is auspicing Open Source conferences, sponsoring open source activities and advocating for open source.

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating result

The loss of the association for the financial year after providing for income tax amounted to $(55,590).
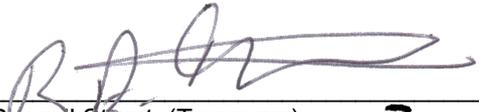
Significant changes in state of affairs

There have been no significant changes in the state of affairs of the association during the year.

Events after the reporting date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the association in future financial years.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the committee:

_____   Dated _23/Dec/2024_____
Russell Stuart (Treasurer)

_____   Dated _23/Dec/2024_____
Joel Addison (President)

Linux Australia Inc

ABN: 56 987 117 479

Income statement

For the year ended 30 September 2024

	2024 $	2023 $
Revenue		
Sponsorship - International	143,383	134,876
Sponsorship - Local	239,793	138,513
Sales - Miscellaneous	2,238	106
Conference Registrations	236,747	275,105
Donations	5,721	-
Interest Received	26,564	10,316
	654,446	558,917
Expenses		
Advertising & Promotion	4,053	1,536
AV and Network Equipment	40,684	62,654
Bank Charges	183	134
Cloud hosting & Storage	890	303
Conference Accommodation	1,133	555
Conference Dinner	28,147	17,445
Conference Performance	1,205	825
Consultants & Accounting	8,455	7,557
Donations	-	1,447
Equipment Write Off	784	-
Events Management	62,824	74,644
Food & Drink	2,765	2,039
Foreign Currency Translation Losses	729	488
Foreign Exchange Gains/losses	2,756	(4,730)
Ghosts	368	1,252
Gifts & Presentations	60,128	13,416
Insurance	5,582	5,189
Interest Expense	0	-
Mechant Fee	2,366	5,644
Merchandise And Schwag	12,917	25,326
NZ Tax	116	108
Office Expenses	18,874	2,467
Papers Committee	-	909
Postage	1,656	528
Presentation Materials	1,029	-
Printing & Stationery	2,921	20,536
Server	4,521	3,674
Software	2,600	-
Speakers	17,765	16,918
Subscriptions	473	-
Telephone & Internet	1,485	-
Travel & Accomodation	6,212	5,027
Travelling Expenses - Overseas	2,349	9,806
Venue Catering	32,546	18,964
Venue Hire	381,520	140,828
	710,036	435,492
Net profit (loss)	(55,590)	123,426

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation report of MEAGHER HOWARD & WRIGHT.

Linux Australia Inc

ABN: 56 987 117 479

Income statement

For the year ended 30 September 2024

	2024 $	2023 $
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	1,078,761	955,335
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	1,023,170	1,078,761

Linux Australia Inc

ABN: 56 987 117 479

Balance sheet

For the year ended 30 September 2024

	Note	2024 $	2023 $
Current assets			
Cash at Bank		964,266	1,056,398
Trade and other receivables	3	124,095	1,467
Other current assets	4	-	37,223
Total current assets		1,088,361	1,095,088
Total assets		1,088,361	1,095,088
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5	65,191	16,327
Total current liabilities		65,191	16,327
Total liabilities		65,191	16,327
Net assets		1,023,170	1,078,761
Members' funds			
Retained earnings		1,023,170	1,078,761
Total members' funds		1,023,170	1,078,761

Linux Australia Inc

ABN: 56 987 117 479

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2024

The financial statements cover Linux Australia Inc as an individual entity. Linux Australia Inc is a not-for-profit association incorporated in New South Wales under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 ('the Act').

The principal activity of the association during the financial year was:

Linux Australia is auspicing Open Source conferences, sponsoring open source activities and advocating for open source.

The functional and presentation currency of Linux Australia Inc is Australian dollars.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

1 Basis of preparation

In the opinion of the committee of management, Linux Australia Inc is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial statements who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the Act.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows, AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors and AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures.

The financial statements and material accounting policies all comply with the recognition and measurement requirements in the Australian Accounting Standards.

2 Material accounting policy information

Income tax

The association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.*

Revenue and other income

Revenue from contracts with customers

Revenue is recognised on a basis that reflects the transfer of control of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration the association expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services.

Generally, the timing of the payment for sale of goods and rendering of services corresponds closely to the timing of satisfaction of the performance obligations, however where there is a difference, it will result in the recognition of a receivable, contract asset or contract liability.

None of the revenue streams of the association have any significant financing terms as there is less than 12 months between receipt of funds and satisfaction of performance obligations.

Linux Australia Inc

ABN: 56 987 117 479

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2024

Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Impairment of non-financial assets

At the end of each reporting period, the association determines whether there is evidence of an impairment indicator for non-financial assets.

Where this indicator exists and regardless for goodwill, indefinite life intangible assets and intangible assets not yet available for use, the recoverable amount of the assets is estimated.

Where assets do not operate independently of other assets, the recoverable amount of the relevant cash-generating unit (CGU) is estimated.

The recoverable amount of an asset or CGU is the higher of the fair value less costs of disposal and the value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from an asset or cash-generating unit.

Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Reversal indicators are considered in subsequent periods for all assets which have suffered an impairment loss, except for goodwill.

	Note	2024 $	2023 $
3 Trade and other receivables			
Current			
Trade Debtors		121,435	558
Other Debtors		909	909
GST on Supplies		1,751	-
		124,095	1,467
4 Other assets			
Current			
Prepaid Conference Fees		-	37,223
		-	37,223
5 Trade and other payables			
Current			
Trade Creditors		64,731	8,407
Rounding		460	696
GST on Supplies		-	7,224
		65,191	16,327

6 Events occurring after the reporting date

No matter or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the association in future financial years.

7 Retained earnings

		2024	2023
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year		1,078,761	955,335
Net profit (loss)		(55,590)	123,426
		1,023,170	1,078,761

8 Statutory information

The registered office and principal place of business of the association is:

Linux Australia Inc

Linux Australia Inc

ABN: 56 987 117 479

Statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 30 September 2024

	2024 $	2023 $
Retained earnings		
Opening retained earnings	1,078,761	955,335
Net profit (loss)	(55,590)	123,426
	1,023,170	1,078,761
Total equity		
Balance as at 01 October 2023	1,078,761	955,335
Profit	(55,590)	123,426
	1,023,170	1,078,761

Linux Australia Inc

ABN: 56 987 117 479

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 September 2024

	2024 $	2023 $
Cash flows from operating activities		
Receipts from customers	577,513	634,970
Payments to suppliers and employees	(696,209)	(542,484)
Interest received	26,564	10,316
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(92,132)	102,802
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	(92,132)	102,802
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	1,056,398	953,596
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	964,266	1,056,398

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation report of MEAGHER HOWARD & WRIGHT.

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Linux Australia Inc

ABN: 56 987 117 479

Statement by members of committee

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 2 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Linux Australia Inc as at 30 September 2024 and its performance for the year ended on that date.

2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Linux Australia Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

_____
Russell Stuart (Treasurer)

_____
Joel Addison (President)

Dated 23 December 2024

Linux Australia Inc

ABN: 56 987 117 479

Independent audit report to the members of association, Linux Australia Inc

Report on the audit of the financial report

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Linux Australia Inc (the association), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 September 2024, the income statement, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and the statement by members of the committee.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report of the association for the year ended 30 September 2024 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report section of my report. I am independent of the association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of matter - basis of accounting

I draw attention to note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist the association in Associations Incorporations Act 2009. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My report is intended solely for the association and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the association. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibility of management and those charged with governance

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 2009, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the association's financial reporting process.

Independent audit report to the members of association, Linux Australia Inc

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

Greg Middleton

Suite 806, 35 Spring St Bondi Junction 2022

23 December 2024

Linux Australia Inc

ABN: 56 987 117 479

Certificate by members of committee

Annual statements give true and fair view of the financial position of incorporated association.

We, being the members of the Committee of the Linux Australia Inc, certify that -

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of Linux Australia Inc during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 September 2024.

_____
Russell Stuart (Treasurer)

_____
Joel Addison (President)

Dated 23 December 2024