

What's Up? The Official News from UP August 2005

Unlimited Potential Executive – Call for Nominations

Bored with the election? Bored with the candidates?

There's a much more exciting election coming up - and **YOU** can be a candidate! That's right, the UP National Executive Committee is having its own election, and we're calling for nominations.

Like any true democracy we get to elect members to the UP National Executive each year at the AGM. But before any of that can happen, we have to call for nominations for election to the National Executive from the UP membership.

Just like there are rules about who can run for Parliament, there are rules about who can run for the Exec: you just have to be a 'fully fledged' member who's eligible to vote.

We can't promise riveting television debates, but if being on the Executive sounds like your cup of tea, let us know!

Send all nominations to Unlimited Potential Chairman (Graham Scown) [graham@up.org.nz]. All nominations must be received by 13 September 2005. If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of places available on the committee then a vote will be held at the AGM.

Annual General Meeting

So, back to the AGM, a formal notice will be sent to you in due course. In the meantime, here's your "Heads UP" on the details for the AGM:

What: Unlimited Potential Annual General Meeting

When: 5.30pm, Tuesday 27th September (nibbles, drinks and networking during and after the AGM)

Survey Results



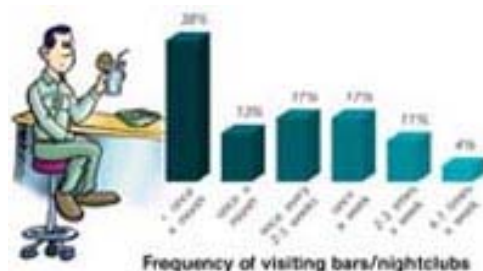
The recent survey run on UP site provided some interesting insight into the Unlimited Potential membership. You are no longer who we thought you were! Surprise, Surprise! Our membership has grown up a little. We have been in business a little longer, we are older, less of us are studying and more of us are employed by companies than running our own business.

We have a few 'Entrepreneurs' and lots of IT types.

Unfortunately many of you stated you don't make as many events as you would like to because of work commitments. Hmm... maybe all these factors combined is why we haven't received any outrageous entries to our Gauntlet Challenge?

While the large majority of you live in Wellington, many of you are new to the area, making contacts, 'networking' and feeling your way around. Unlimited Potential is seen as a great networking opportunity, especially for newbies to meet and get a better feel for what is going, and you stick with us attending 1 or 2 events a year, posting the odd forum and joining up new members.

So, here's a few cold hard facts: 79% of the members are male (although the UP executive has been well represented in the past by female members), 51% of our members are over 30 years of age and 87% are based in the Wellington region. 53% of our members are still with us after 3 years. 56% of you have been in the IT business for more than 4 years. Only 9% of our membership are



students or in the academic world and all but 3% are currently in employment.... Sounds like a familiar statistic.

Our members come from a diverse employment background with the majority involved in IT, Communications, Multi-media and Telecommunications.

Networking was far and away the main reason for belonging to UP, followed by Education, Events and socialising. but there was more than one joker who noted it was for the 'beer'. Although "Graham S. made me under pain of death...." did feature.

We asked you what type of events you would like to see us working on, and quite a number of you said we were doing a good job already and didn't feel the need to add anything suggestions. But, never fear we are looking at those suggestions, which were made and will see what we can come up with. If anyone missed the survey, don't hesitate to log suggestions on the UP forum.

Upcoming Events

Following the success of the Apple event in July we are looking at following up with a workshop later in the year. Look out for details on the website. Congratulations to UP member Matt Adams who was the lucky winner of a gorgeous new Apple iPod Shuffle, presented at the event by David Olliver, Apple New Zealand's National Manager, Corporate and Government.

Next Upstart

So you've been in business for a year or two, the idea seems to be working out, you have an office and an address, the clients are starting to knock at the door... and then the bubble bursts.... Or maybe it's someone else's bubble and you've got splattered. The next UpStart in October is going to touch on a few of the less seemly sides of being in business. Insolvency, Bad Debts, scams. How do you know you are dealing with legitimate businesses... and then of course there's the networking, beer and pizza!



The New Cool – Exhibition Dowse Museum (Until 30 August)

If you have not taken a trip to the Hutt recently there has never been a better excuse. The New Cool exhibition profiles 12 local street-smart businesses who are making it. The exhibition includes some cool multi-media and hands-on toys. Also available from the exhibitions a Business Guide which provides absolute beginners with the basics of getting started, and a comprehensive list of agencies and services available, and those who have already taken the leap, some valuable insight and some do's and don'ts from the New Cool companies.... The Business Guide is \$5 from The Dowse, PO Box 30396, Lower Hutt or free if you attend any of the seminars. Take a business colleague out there and impress with your cool & cultured approach to business, not to mention the great coffee at the cafe. <http://www.dowse.org.nz/new-cool/TNC.html>

Cafenet Challenge

The challenge is still out there.... We really weren't serious when we said "No-one wants Broadband, even for free...." Or maybe it's because the UP Committee member managing this is downing a few pints of Guinness in Ireland and hasn't checked his email. In any case – the challenge is definitely still on.

Tell us the most desperate act you'd perform, and we will give the top three performers 6 months of the GASP Unlimited package from nzwireless and CafeNet (judges decision final, no correspondence entered into, decisions may be biased by any number of things, and conditions apply) - http://www.gasp.co.nz/SITE_Default/gaspCafenet.asp. So get breathless, get on the UP web forum and post your bid in the "Sold My Soul for Broadband" www.up.org.nz/soldmysoul



WARNING - if you are selected you will have to do whatever you proposed in order to get the broadband and you'll have to do it in public. So make it compelling, make it achievable and make it happen. UP the ante!

Changes Faces.... A Huge Thank You

A number of the Unlimited Potential Executive have in the last few months depart the Unlimited Potential Executive.... Lucy Ryan, Dan Feutz and Sarah Wilson. We wanted to extend our thanks for their time with UP. Time is also up at the next AGM for a number of our long term committee members and while there is the opportunity for renomination prior to the AGM, Graham Scown long time member of the UP Committee and current Chairman is becoming a 'Southern Man'.... With a leap from IT to sheep farming in Canterbury.... Or have I got this wrong? Wellington and Unlimited Potential are going to be poorer for the loss of Graham's passion and enthusiasm and sponsorship relationship skills.



Stuart van Rij also a long time serving member of the committee, and representative of one of our lead sponsors, Wigley & Company, is also stepping aside, handing over the legal reigns to a new face. Stuart has kept us on the legal straight and narrow, contributed to the success of many of our events.... and making sure we know how many we need for the executive meeting quorum.

And finally thank you to Wigley & Company for the loan of Robyn Begley as minute taker and meeting facilitator... no easy task to get the quorum each month. Robyn is also moving on to greener pastures.

See you all at the AGM on 14th October.