

IT Smart Workshop in Melbourne April 2011.

WINSO Directors gathered in Melbourne for a solid 2 days of work-shopping, scanning and uploading documents, and generally training in the many uses of Social Media, Website management and investigating the options available to the organisation into the future.

Allen Lui, eThink IT Consultant, who we first met at the Darwin meeting, facilitated the workshop where the Board decided to set up a training website to store archived documents that have been gathering dust at various locations around the National. These documents have been scanned and uploaded onto this site. As Allen explained it is our garage for the future. Down the track this information will be transferred into separate secure sites for members and the Board.

We now have all past conference agendas, brochures, strategic plans, Meeting Minutes and a variety of photos, projects and workshop information safely stored in our *garage*.

It was not all plain sailing as we navigated the realms of uncharted waters for many of us. Some of the Directors have been more comfortable asking their children or grandchildren about the new wave of Social Media than learning about the possibilities of its use for ourselves. Without a doubt we could have continued for days on this learning curve.

Seafood Industry Victoria very generously allowed us the use of their rooms. Thank you Ross for allowing this to happen and thanks to Renee and Maria for arranging the tea, coffee and treats associated with our morning and afternoon teas. Our accommodation was well chosen alongside the Queen Victoria Markets (what a temptation that was) and adjacent to many eateries and the SIV office. This allowed us to walk rather than the expensive option of taxis.

Mother hen, Maria, went the extra mile to ensure that we were all given a chance to have a very memorable trip to Melbourne. Victorian Fishery Association into Resource Management (V.F.A.R.M.) provided us with a mini bus that Maria's husband chauffeured us to an unforgettable Saturday night meal at her daughter's restaurant, La Famiglia Restaurant at Epping. We were treated like royalty as we were ushered to a table decked out with an amazing array of balloons depicting seafood themes (another donation thanks to Maria's associates) and to top off a wonderful meal Maria's family provided drinks for us to toast our achievements of the day.

Allen accompanied us to dinner on the Saturday evening. He must have been suitably entertained because he joined us again on the Sunday morning for another long session of training and even more scanning. WINSO are most grateful to Allen for the donation of his time for this session. He has been a very valuable find in our search for someone who understands the limitations of the slim budgets of a not for profit organisation.

I hope that it is not long before we can extend some of this training to our members.

Anne Whalley
WINSO Admin. Officer.