

President's report - 2022/2023

I am delighted to share with you the significant achievements and notable events that have taken place this year. We have witnessed remarkable growth and success thanks to the collective efforts and dedication of our committee members. Here are the highlights:

1. Meetups: Our meetups in Auckland, Christchurch, and Wellington have continued to thrive and gain strength. We have seen an impressive increase in attendance, with some meetups hosting over 50 people. These gatherings have provided valuable networking opportunities and fostered a vibrant community of AWS users across Aotearoa New Zealand.
2. Recorded Talks: We have recently started recording some of our talks and are exploring the possibility of uploading them to our YouTube channel. This initiative will allow us to reach a wider audience and provide valuable content to those who may not have been able to attend our meetups in person.
3. Social Media Presence: Our society maintains an active presence across various social media platforms. We have grown our presence on MeetUp.com, LinkedIn, Facebook, YouTube and our own website. Through these channels we continue to engage with our audience, share updates, and promote our meetups.
4. Expansion: A second meetup group dedicated to AWS Tools and Programming has launched in Auckland. This expansion caters to a different set of interests and needs of our community members from the existing established meetup group and both groups of meetups are well attended.
5. AWS Club for Auckland Uni Students: Kobe Xu has relocated to Auckland and has been instrumental in researching the establishment of a new AWS club for Auckland University students. This initiative will provide an excellent platform for students to gain practical cloud knowledge and network with industry professionals when it rolls out early 2024.
6. AWS Cloud Day and Community Day: We participated in the AWS run Cloud Day in Auckland where our booth attracted significant attention and engagement. Furthermore, we have a subcommittee which is meeting weekly and planning for an AWS Community Day in Wellington in September 2023 which promises to be a remarkable event for our community. Sponsors and speakers are being lined up and people are already registering for it.
7. Sponsorship: We are thrilled to announce that our existing sponsors have renewed their support, and we are actively seeking out new sponsors to further enhance our initiatives. These partnerships are crucial in enabling us to deliver high-quality events and opportunities to our community members.
8. ReInvent Recap: As per our annual tradition, we successfully ran ReInvent Recap events in December. These events provided valuable insights and updates from the AWS re:Invent conference to attendees who were unable to attend or follow the announcements online.
9. Engaging with Universities: Seb Krueger, Mark Goatley and Terence White delivered a compelling talk on AWS to Victoria University post-graduate computer science students. This session generated significant interest, and many students subsequently joined our meetups to further their learning and network with professionals in the field.
10. Swag and Stickers: We have introduced our own swag to meetups, including stickers and AWS credits vouchers. These items not only promote our society but also serve as tokens of appreciation for our community members and speakers.
11. International Recognition: Our committee member Geethika Guruge delivered a talk which was funded by AWS at the AWS Asia Pacific / Japan get-together in Thailand . This opportunity allowed us to showcase our expertise on an international stage and strengthen our connections within the wider AWS community across APJ.
12. Local Zone Opening: AWS has opened a local zone in Auckland which is a significant development for our community. This local presence will drive interest in AWS amongst local businesses who have data residency or strict performance requirements until the full AWS region opens in 2024.
13. Golden Jacket Achievement: AWS have started to reward people who acquire all their AWS certifications with a golden jacket and I'm happy to announce that there are 3 recipients in Aotearoa New Zealand. This is a major achievement that I would like to recognise as not many of these have been given out world wide.
14. User Group Leaders Slack and Meetup.com: We are pleased to inform you that our committee is now part of the AWS user group leaders Slack community, facilitating valuable networking and collaboration opportunities. Additionally, AWS is now covering the expenses for our Meetup.com subscription, saving us subscription fees.

These accomplishments and initiatives demonstrate the strength and dedication of our committee and our commitment to fostering a vibrant and supportive community here in Aotearoa New Zealand. I would like to extend my gratitude to each and every one of the committee for their contributions and dedication. Let us continue to strive for excellence and create meaningful opportunities for our community into the rest of 2023 and beyond.

Kia kaha,

Terence White

President 2022/2023