

Lenswood and Forest Range Community Association

Web site Report

25th February to 15th May 2014

(from Mal Drew)

This period has been reasonably busy with 11 posts added to the website in this period.

Around 50 changes have been made to the websites' appearance and content including:

- 1) Menu changes.
- 2) Repairs to links that were not working and changes to some pages where pictures were no longer on the site leaving blank spaces by default,
- 3) Some alterations to texts that were no longer correct or the context had changed,
- 4) Some new ideas including the art space and a puzzle corner were added,
- 5) An apple time category was added to the home page slider 'accordion slider'.
- 6) The word press update to V 3.82 was completed smoothly, without incident. I implemented a major back-up saves of all files and data bases on the server (thanks to Tom Waterhouse at, [We Know I.T.](#))
- 7) Updates were also done to a number of the plugins and themes on the Website.
- 8) On April 16th a new version of WordPress V3.9 become available and although it has been beta tested before release I propose to the committee that we should wait a few weeks before updating our site in case of hidden instabilities or other problems that might reveal themselves in the next weeks.
- 9) V3.9 is a major upgrade to WordPress and was coded by 267 people under the guidance of two team leaders.
- 10) The new version will make it easier for administrators to:-
 - i) Load text without problems caused by special characters from word processors.
 - ii) There are also improved graphics editing,
 - iii) Video and sound play lists, and
 - iv) It has an improved previewing function.
- 11) We have also taken the opportunity to use a sub domain of the Association web site to create an internet presence for the Mount Lofty Ranges Commons project. (see next page for details).

Using sub-domains (internet) for groups and projects for Lenswood and Forest Range (Received by secretary 1st May 2014)

On Saturday 26th April Tom Waterhouse from [We Know I.T.](#) and myself, set up a new website for the Mount Lofty Commons Project in response to a request from them. The aim of their new website was to inform people and canvas opinions about this new project that is intended to save the PIRSA Swamp road site and its infrastructure from being sold off and lost to the district.

Tom suggested to me that we could set up the Mt. Lofty Commons Project web site by using a sub domain of the lenswood-forestrange.org.au URL.

What is a domain name?

A **domain name** is simply a name like "WordPress.com". You pay a [domain name registrar](#) an annual fee for the right to use that name. A **website** is, on the other hand, a set of documents placed on a computer that is permanently connected to the Internet. When you associate the two, people can view the site and its documents.

What is a subdomain?

The [Domain Name System](#) has a [tree structure](#) or hierarchy.

A **subdomain** is a sub part of a larger domain. This subdivision can extend to 127 levels.

Rather than registering a new domain name for the Commons Project, a sub-domain can be created using an existing domain (in this case, the L&FRCA) domain.

There are no files or connections between the two websites, and nothing that would indicate the Commons project is linked to the Association.

After some consideration Tom and I agreed to go ahead and created a website for the Mt. Lofty Commons project.

It was not possible to first seek the L&FRCA committee's approval for this because the requirement for the Commons site preceded the L&FRCA Committee meeting. However I do apologise for doing this without talking to the committee first.

Note again that there are no files or connections between the two websites except for the URL (addresses). The only connection is that both sites share the same domain name. See below:

The website URL for the Association remains: <http://lenswood-forestrange.org.au>

Mt. Lofty Commons project website (URL) is:
<http://mtloftycommons.lenswood-forestrange.org.au>

As you can see, the Association domain name incorporates the Mount Lofty Commons name such that it is part of the address. It is a bit like personal “snail-mail” that has the name of the person a letter is addressed to (i.e. Mt. Lofty Commons) and followed by the name of the post office (i.e. lenswood-forestrange.org.au).

My reasons for doing this were as follows:

- It seems to me that everyone benefits and no one loses from this minor change,
- I believe that this is something we would wish to do inevitably,
- The opportunity to use the lenswood-forestrange.org.au domain (i.e. L&FRC Association) as a common link for a number of sites is a useful step forward for the Association I believe. It is possible to set up many sites that use the Association domain name in this way. There are groups in Lenswood and Forest Range that may not have an Internet presence. For example churches, sporting groups, etc., who could all have web sites as sub domains growing out of the Lenswood-forestrange.org.au (domain),
- The use of sub domains is common practice. Many website suppliers use this method for people to try out a website or to provide a free websites. For example wordPress.com, or “weebly”. Many commercial operations also use sub domains. For example franchises or companies with multiple sites.eg dpc.sa.gov.au/.../Government_domain_OCIO_P5.3.pdf
- This approach should also help our search engine optimisation, with the domain name being used on more than one site it will be seen more by search engines. This could mean the Association would have a higher ranking on the internet.
- Time and money involved in setting up: we didn't have to buy a new domain for the Mt. Lofty Commons project and then wait for the administrative process to be completed before we could set up the web site. Both sites are running from Tom's server and we just simply added the website the existing Association domain.
- Maintenance also should be a little easier at the Server end for both web sites.
- There is no technical/logical objection to setting up this way, and it is a learning experience for the L&FRCA's further future use.

Note: If the committee does not support this approach, it is simple to delete the site and establish it on any number of other free hosts. For example mtloftycommons.wordpress.com – this could be done in a relatively short time but I think we do lose rather than benefit by doing so. “

Discussion:

Motion:

I would like a motion to be put to the committee to approve the use of sub domains for groups in the district who are interested in setting up a web site – including continuing with the Mt. Lofty Common project to remain as a sub domain of the Association web site.

Report prepared by Mal Drew (Association administrator)

Sincerely

Mal Drew.

4th May 2014