

REPORT

A Survey of the Sydney Membership of the Australian Delphi User group

Compiled by:
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Results

Q1. What ADUG related activities would you like ASS to hold or be involved in that would encourage your attendance and/or participation?

Most respondents suggested there was nothing more that ASS could do. A few ideas were:

1. Turn some of the meetings into discussion forums about a nominated topic, perhaps led or moderated by an 'expert';
2. Shift the content focus of activities from 'programming' to 'design' issues;
3. More presentations from Tool Makers (restricting product promotion to 20% max. of time);
4. Conduct a project activity for members using mainly internet based collaboration with short (15 min.) progress reporting at monthly meetings;
5. More activities with involvement of Borland USA personnel.
6. We learn more from our mistakes, so what about constructive criticism sessions on real application code/design.

Q2. What, if anything, is stopping you from attending the current Sydney ADUG meetings (eg location, timing, format, content, etc.)?

Most answers indicated that the member was either too busy (work commitments or family) or had too far to travel. About a quarter of respondents indicated that Delphi (Object Pascal) was no longer their main development language. Several indicated that meetings topics were not aligned to their interests.

Q3. The upcoming Sydney Symposium has had a very poor response to date, yet the Melbourne one is heavily booked. Can you suggest any reason for the lack of enthusiasm here in Sydney?

Most respondents did not know why attendance in Sydney would be down. Others suggested that members might be too busy (work commitments or family) or there has been a drift away from Delphi (Object Pascal) as the main development language. Another thought that the timing was poor because the Symposium fell in a short week and directly after the school holidays.

Q4. Now that the Delphi IDE is hosting other programming languages, would you like to see activities expanded to include these (eg C#)?

Most responded as yes (mainly C#) or maybe. Less than 20% responded with no.

Q5. Is ADUG still relevant to your software development interests? If not why not?

Most responded with yes or inferred maybe. One responded with no as s/he is no longer working in Delphi and has moved to a management position. A few others inferred no by indicating that they or their employers had moved away from Delphi.

Q6. What, in your opinion, should ASS be doing to further stimulate your interest in ADUG membership?

There were not many direct responses to this question. Apart from those included in responses to question 1 here are a few more:

1. Publish a monthly electronic journal with presentations and news from Borland and others;
2. "Getting closer a bit to the Marketing people of Borland";
3. Give Autumn Symposium attendees a copy of the Borland USA Conference CD-ROM;
4. Try changing the day of monthly meetings to Tuesday or Thursday;
5. Organise more Delphi related events.

Circulation

The questionnaire was sent by email to approximately 110 members. Twenty six responses were received.

The Distributed Questionnaire

(via email)

The ADUG Sydney sub-committee (ASS) is currently reviewing its activities. Of major concern is the declining attendance at monthly meetings and the yearly Autumn Symposium. The success of ADUG chapters relies on the participation of its members, so any attempted revival would be pointless without canvassing the views of the members. So we pose the following questions in an effort to obtain some guidance from you. We invite you to be bold, imaginative and forthright in your response (we do have 'thick skins') <g>.

1. What ADUG related activities would you like ASS to hold or be involved in that would encourage your attendance and/or participation?
2. What, if anything, is stopping you from attending the current Sydney ADUG meetings (eg location, timing, format, content, etc.)?
3. The upcoming Sydney Symposium has had a very poor response to date, yet the Melbourne one is heavily booked. Can you suggest any reason for the lack of enthusiasm here in Sydney?
4. Now that the Delphi IDE is hosting other programming languages, would you like to see activities expanded to include these (eg C#)?
5. Is ADUG still relevant to your software development interests? If not why not?
6. What, in your opinion, should ASS be doing to further stimulate your interest in ADUG membership?

We look forward to hearing from you by return email.

Thanks and regards,
Steven Mitchell
for the ADUG Sydney Sub-Committee

Individual Responses

(No name or addresses for anonymity.
Any original questionnaire text is in italics)

R1

Thanks for the survey. Two years ago we were heavy users of Delphi 6 and it was our mainstream development platform. Now we have moved to Visual Studio .NET / C#, and consequently Delphi is of less interest, though obviously we have a number of older apps still needing maintenance in this platform.

I guess we cannot afford to keep up-to-date on two development platforms, and have opted for the MS version despite some hesitation due to fears that it was a technically inferior product.

Hope this gives you the reasons for our lack of interest.

R2

1. What ADUG related activities would you like ASS to hold or be involved in that would encourage your attendance and/or participation?

2. What, if anything, is stopping you from attending the current Sydney ADUG meetings (eg location, timing, format, content, etc.)?

When I do not attend meetings it is almost always that I am busy with a project and I am working late on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

3. The upcoming Sydney Symposium has had a very poor response to date, yet the Melbourne one is heavily booked. Can you suggest any reason for the lack of enthusiasm here in Sydney?

No, not really. We've booked in all three IT staff for the symposium.

4. Now that the Delphi IDE is hosting other programming languages, would you like to see activities expanded to include these (eg C#)?

I do have an interest in C# so I would be happy to see that included (I could possibly present the PocketPc project that I have just completed in C#, although there is no real rocket science involved).

5. Is ADUG still relevant to your software development interests? If not why not?

Yes. My main programming tool for some time will still be delphi. ADUG is a good way to explore tools that I have not used (Recently ECO & RemObjects spring to mind), and different methodologies of other Delphi programmers.

6. *What, in your opinion, should ASS be doing to further stimulate your interest in ADUG membership?*

R3

I don't really have much to suggest, but I can give you some reasons why I have not been a regular at monthly Sydney ADUG meetings. I live in Wahroonga and work from home so getting to the ADUG meetings in the city takes a significant amount of travelling time. Secondly, I usually have two jobs that I am working on at any one time, plus 7 week old twins, so I do not have that much "free" time. Since the meetings often seem to run till about 8:30 pm, allowing for travelling time attending an ADUG meeting takes up 4.5 hours for me. Up until about 6 months ago the scheduling of the ADUG meeting clashed with an existing monthly gathering that I had been attending.

Meeting suggestions:

- 1) Move it to Monday (beginning of the week), or Thursday (end of the week) and I am less likely to be under deadline pressure.
- 2) Try to keep the meetings to 1.5 hours, or at least have an optional "informal discussion" period after 90 minutes, so it is easy for people to go or stay depending on their wishes.
- 3) Have the occasional meeting as a "discussion group" on a topic, rather than a series of presentations (you could have an "expert" as a "moderator" to prompt discussion on the topic). This might get more involvement from members who are too intimidated to give a presentation.

Answers to other questions:

- 1) Cannot think of any suggestions at this stage
- 2) See above
- 3) Don't know
- 4) Broadening the presentation topics wouldn't hurt
- 5) Yes
- 6) I'm presenting at the Symposium!

R4

1. Not entirely sure, the events look fine.
2. Definitely being in the city makes it difficult for me. But even then, as I have a baby on the way, I couldn't guarantee I'd go even if it was in North Ryde or similar.
3. Not sure about that.
4. I'm using Delphi for some C# programming, but I'm not sure it would matter to me, as obviously pascal can do the same things mostly.
5. It is relevant, but more and more resources are available online also. I'd see it more as a networking tool than an educational tool if I went.
6. I'm not sure of anything else that would make it more enticing.

While I haven't been able to attend, I'm sure if I start working in the city I'll probably attend a few of these meetings.

R5

1. Nothing additional that I can think of.
2. Day of the week. I am busy on Mon, Wed, Thu. Friday is not a good day for anyone. Tuesday is now the only day I have free.

As for presentations, I am personally overloaded with work and I also write articles for a US based journal - my time is 110% in use.
3. Possibly everyone being over-worked. Remind people they need to surface for air once in awhile - that's what I'm doing hence I will be attending.
4. Yes, C# and C++ <G>
5. Yes.
6. Apart from not being available for attending.....the last few months topics have not really been much interest to me (but I would have still attended if I was able to). Not being able to present myself doesn't make things any better - and getting people to present is a difficult thing to achieve.

R6

Not too much to suggest here that is of any real use – I have often had a problem with the Wednesday evening timing, but as I outlined below, changing the evening may not be the solution for a little while yet in my case. I am still considering going to the symposium but have as yet, do not know for sure.

1. What ADUG related activities would you like ASS to hold or be involved in that would encourage your attendance and/or participation?

I am reasonably happy with what ADUG is currently doing.

2. What, if anything, is stopping you from attending the current Sydney ADUG meetings (eg location, timing, format, content, etc.)?

Timing, unfortunately. I have uni. Lectures on Wednesday evenings, but were you to change that, it is possible that in future uni. semesters the ADUG meeting times would still clash with my timetable. I am not suggesting that anything can be done about this – the only possible alternative I can think of is a lunch-time meeting, which would probably not work for anyone else. I was very sorry to have to miss Anthony's talk on the Singleton design pattern!

3. The upcoming Sydney Symposium has had a very poor response to date, yet the Melbourne one is heavily booked. Can you suggest any reason for the lack of enthusiasm here in Sydney?

Not a clue, could be something they put in the water down there (or up here). I might still go – I have not yet made up my mind.

4. *Now that the Delphi IDE is hosting other programming languages, would you like to see activities expanded to include these (eg C#)?*

Yes.

5. *Is ADUG still relevant to your software development interests? If not why not?*

Yes it is.

6. *What, in your opinion, should ASS be doing to further stimulate your interest in ADUG membership?*

R7

1. *What ADUG related activities would you like ASS to hold or be involved in that would encourage your attendance and/or participation?*

I'm based south of Canberra, so a trip to Sydney is expensive. All of my development is .NET & ECO. Most ADUG and Delphi resources are Win32. I'm also flat out with a new app. I have demonstrations, installs and code to write up until mid winter.

2. *What, if anything, is stopping you from attending the current Sydney ADUG meetings (eg location, timing, format, content, etc.)?*

Distance & content

3. *The upcoming Sydney Symposium has had a very poor response to date, yet the Melbourne one is heavily booked. Can you suggest any reason for the lack of enthusiasm here in Sydney?*

Work, distance & topics that are interesting, but not super relevant. For the small cost, I'd almost drive that far to hear Danny, but I can't spare the time from work. Misha's presentation would be worthwhile. I'm not that interested in RemObjects. Not at all interested in roaming profiles. The round table would be good.

4. *Now that the Delphi IDE is hosting other programming languages, would you like to see activities expanded to include these (eg C#)?*

Language is less important in a world where the framework & .NET libraries are more important (to me). See item 6 below.

5. *Is ADUG still relevant to your software development interests? If not why not?*

I still attend some Canberra meetings. The peer interaction and discussion is valuable. The mailing list is handy.

I came up to Sydney for the last symposium & the .NET day. Also the symposium before that in Melbourne.

6. *What, in your opinion, should ASS be doing to further stimulate your interest in ADUG membership?*

I think there is a real divergence in the development world. Delphi really demonstrates that well. Some developers are using older versions of Delphi, doing Win32 development and very dedicated Delphi users. Others are doing .NET development, need to use the .NET libraries and due to the lack of Delphi resources need to use C# resources (texts, libraries and web sites) and are less fanatical about the language and more focused on the end result. I'm almost as interested in C# mailing lists and articles, because they are only .NET and show me how I can use the libraries.

Sorry, I don't have the answers...

I hope that is of some use...

R8

1. *What ADUG related activities would you like ASS to hold or be involved in that would encourage your attendance and/or participation?*

Existing style meetings are fine.

2. *What, if anything, is stopping you from attending the current Sydney ADUG meetings (eg location, timing, format, content, etc.)?*

Discussed topics. But this is just me. I like relatevely low level development. I do not get get excited or interested in all those modellings, com, com+ etc etc

3. *The upcoming Sydney Symposium has had a very poor response to date, yet the Melbourne one is heavily booked. Can you suggest any reason for the lack of enthusiasm here in Sydney?*

I'd come if it was free.

4. *Now that the Delphi IDE is hosting other programming languages, would you like to see activities expanded to include these (eg C#)?*

Do not know.

5. *Is ADUG still relevant to your software development interests? If not why not?*

Yes.

6. *What, in your opinion, should ASS be doing to further stimulate your interest in ADUG membership?*

I am fine being on the mailing list.

R9

My lack of interest is because I don't program Delphi any more. I'm using Eiffel, because it's a far better language and because the ECO 1 debacle has left me seriously angry with Borland. How dare they sell such garbage and charge such big dollars for it?

Nonetheless, I remain somewhat interested in Delphi. I almost attended the ECO II presentation on Wednesday, but couldn't be bothered even for that. This is the sort of thing that I would have been interested in, if I were still seriously interested in Delphi.

Maybe if the Delphi IDE allowed plugins for third-party languages, as Visual Studio does, then Eiffel Software might decide to support it. It's a long shot though. Some sort of synergy between ECO (now that it hopefully works) and Eiffel would definitely interest me.

R10

1. I do not feel like ADUG has to do anything more than it does for me to attend the monthly meetings.
2. My 12 hour work days. But, I am currently in the process of trying to correcting this behaviour.
3. I have registered for the symposium, however, if the rest of the crew in Sydney has the same work load as me, I can understand the problem.
4. Personally I am not a Delphi developer, but a C++ developer using Borland C++ Builder. Thus, if any BCB related material was to be introduced to the Sydney ADUG meetings, I would be very excited. However, having said this, I would like to make 100% clear, that I am more than satisfied with the current activities at the Sydney ADUG meetings.
5. Yes it is.
6. I do not feel that my interest has deteriorated.

There is one thing, that I would be very interested in, which I believe would possibly benefit not just me, but every member of ADUG in Australia, that is a monthly electronic journal of the presentations that took place, not just in Sydney, but also in Melbourne, etc, it may also include relevant information regarding announcements from Borland, or others.

I understand that the ADUG Web-site already caters for this in one form or another, but personally, I would like to be able to have the facility of view this as a single document of some sort (PDF for example) as well as having access to the source code used for the presentation if any.

This could be distributed electronically to the members which request it, or subscribe, or simply made available as a single download. However, this is all just an idea 😊

Thanks for putting up with my mental meltdown and I am looking forward to the symposium.

R11

I still go to the ADUG when I can, which ends up normally being every other month. These days I'm working exclusively with C# in VS, so it's kinda hard. I still have some old Delphi apps that I do, so there's still interest there.

As for the symposium, I'm on contract now, and would be attending as I normally do. I'd like to see ADUG cover specific areas, but then it gets into generalisation which is not what ADUG is about. I go to ADUG mainly because it has good content, but mainly to go to chat with the members who I enjoy talking with.

R12

Actually, I'm not a member of ADUG. I signed up for the discussion list a couple of months ago, but the constant yatter yatter got on my nerves, and I cancelled after a few weeks.

I suspect that I'm not at all typical of Delphi users. For a start, I'm 60. I write programs for stand-alone PCs, usually involving analysis of ASCII data files. So I have no interest in COM or .NET or web services.

I think Delphi 2005 is a mistake with its bundling of Win32, .NET and C#. The result is a huge bloated mess that shows all the responsiveness of a drugged sloth. Which is why I have gone back to D7.

The main reason I have not come to a ADUG meeting in Sydney is that the topics do not interest me. I have had a look at the topics listed on the web site. In the whole list, there are perhaps three that might interest me, but probably not enough to spend two hours on trains (an hour each way). And maybe then find I am locked out because I do not own a mobile phone, so could not contact you to ask to be let in.

The Sydney CBD is a rotten place to hold meetings, unless you work in the CBD. If you drive into town, it costs a fortune in parking fees; if you don't drive, it's an eternity on public transport.

Does this help at all?

R13

1. What ADUG related activities would you like ASS to hold or be involved in that would encourage your attendance and/or participation?

The topics of programming skills are just too much, as most members are senior programmers. We might need to talk about bit more about designs. In particular, some designs are very much related to Delphi/VCL, for example, Owner structure, class types as parameter of functions to construct factory. These things make programming

/ design with Delphi very easy, straightforward and elegant. In short, more design topics, rather than programming topics.

2. *What, if anything, is stopping you from attending the current Sydney ADUG meetings (eg location, timing, format, content, etc.)?*

I just happened to be busy, while I love to come. The new office of Borland is relatively isolated. To other people, this could be a factor. I remember, there was a Delphi and Paradox group held in a pub. The environment was more relaxed, and you don't need to worry about 6 pm lock.

3. *The upcoming Sydney Symposium has had a very poor response to date, yet the Melbourne one is heavily booked. Can you suggest any reason for the lack of enthusiasm here in Sydney?*

Microsoft had done a wonderful job in Sydney. dot Net have been becoming a fashion in the business world, especially to those who know a little bit IT and in charge of IT spending. I once got an order to develop a small program that runs as a service to monitor incoming images and process to different sizes into different folders. With Delphi, I could finish within one afternoon. With C#, I had to spend more than 2 days, the folder monitoring functions of MS dot Net is not reliable, I had to develop one of my own.

It is mostly about marketing. Microsoft makes business people believe one magic language will solve every problem, even many programmers believe. The future of Delphi looks dim. I hope, Delphi will not become WinAmp -- the best comes to its end.

4. *Now that the Delphi IDE is hosting other programming languages, would you like to see activities expanded to include these (eg C#)?*

I am using C# mostly for web development. Maybe I should join AC#UG as well. Actually I don't think involving a little bit C# in ADUG is a bad idea.

5. *Is ADUG still relevant to your software development interests? If not why not?*

Yes.

6. *What, in your opinion, should ASS be doing to further stimulate your interest in ADUG membership?*

Getting closer a bit with the Marketing people of Borland.

R14

I have 3 issues that prevent me from making the meetings:

1. I'm a single father raising 3 kids so the opportunity to get away does not always present itself.
2. I reside and work in Campbelltown and trying to make the city by 6pm is difficult.

3. I am also a member of APICS and they hold their meetings always on the same night, so I am always a case of who is presenting what. When I do get the chance to attend.

R15

The main reason I stopped attending the ADUG meetings is that I changed to using Visual Studio.NET around two years ago. From the time I received a beta copy of Delphi back in 1994 until I started reviewing .NET in 2002, I thought Delphi to be the greatest development environment in the world. All the power of Microsoft Visual C++ plus the ease of use afforded by Visual Basic.

With the release of Visual Studio.NET, Microsoft had finally come up with a product that was easy to use, extremely rich in features, had a nice clean programming language (C#) and made available a swag of new technologies.

I waited approximately two years for the full blown version of Delphi.NET to be released but during that time, myself as a Delphi programmer and my fellow workers who are VB programmers, all converted to using C#.

Since then we have committed all future work to be done in Visual Studio.NET.

In addition to the above comments, a quick scan of the employment pages shows that ratio of Delphi to C# jobs is at an all time low. The decision to use Visual Studio has also been one of future employment opportunity.

I hope my comments have been helpful

R16

I found these questions hard to answer. First of all I think ASS is doing a good job of organising ADUG activities. The main reason for my lack of attendance is laziness! At the end of a hard day I can't motivate myself to go into town and talk about programming. Anyway I have registered for the Symposium, and will be attending, and my membership cheque is in the mail (truly). I also think that expanding ADUG to include C# is a good idea.

R17

My participation in the monthly symposium is predominantly hindered by my work. As much as I would like to participate, I usually knock off at 5:30~6:30PM and commute by public transport to the city which will get me there in about 7:30PM. By that time, there is very little left in the meeting to be of merit.

Basically, professional commitments takes priority.

R18

I'll answer your questions as numbered:

1. It doesn't matter to me any more.

2. I no longer program in Delphi.
3. No idea.
4. A forum to discuss C# would be good, but I don't use Borland IDEs anymore so it probably wouldn't be relevant to me.
5. No, as I have moved into a management position.
6. Nothing.

To explain further, I thought Delphi 7 was quite a poor release, just a few third party packages thrown in, an unusable .Net demo and Kylix, which had been all but abandoned. Delphi 8 didn't inspire me as a quality release either - it was too little, too late, and too buggy. By the time it came about, anybody who had to be on .Net was already there using Microsoft tools.

8 months ago I got a management position with some hands on development. I have sold the rights to the software that my business was based on so I had no existing code base and had to start from scratch anyway. I chose to start again with C#. My work has MSDN Universal subscriptions and having played with Visual Studio.Net I quite like it as a development tool. I simply have no need for Delphi anymore, and consequently no need to attend ADUG.

This is a bit sad as I really enjoyed the ADUG sessions and presented there myself a few times. I was almost fanatical about Delphi and it helped me build my business. However, the C# language is very comfortable for Delphi developers and the .Net framework also is reminiscent of the VCL. Even though the .Net framework allows me to use any language, I prefer to use the language that most people use so I can just drop code from the internet into my programs.

I imagine many people are in the same position as me. Good luck with finding a solution to your problem.

R19

1. What ADUG related activities would you like ASS to hold or be involved in that would encourage your attendance and/or participation?

Answer: 1) Invite more tool makers to explain their products (80% content, 20% marketing)

2. What, if anything, is stopping you from attending the current Sydney ADUG meetings (eg location, timing, format, content, etc.)?

Answer: 1) Timing (child care).

2) Work commitments due to company takeover and resignation of key staff.

3. The upcoming Sydney Symposium has had a very poor response to date, yet the Melbourne one is heavily booked. Can you suggest any reason for the lack of enthusiasm here in Sydney?

Answer: 1) Check how many people are USING (not just buy) D2005 for .NET development in their current projects; in our case we use Win32 Delphi 7. Our

company usually buys once every two years because Delphi quality has been bad on the even releases (eg. D4,D6, D8).

2) Companies are reducing the training budget.

3) It may be the chosen date. The date is after a long holiday (and currently it is school/uni holidays) and people may be taking holidays as well during that week. Furthermore, it is very hard to convince your boss you are going to take 25% of your working week for training (20% sounds more convincing for some reason).

4. *Now that the Delphi IDE is hosting other programming languages, would you like to see activities expanded to include these (eg C#)?*

C# would be good, but you need to check if people are still using Win 32.

5. *Is ADUG still relevant to your software development interests? If not why not?*

Answer: Personally yes, company no. Reason: My company is not planning to update development tools any time soon due to takeover.

6. *What, in your opinion, should ASS be doing to further stimulate your interest in ADUG membership?*

Answer: 1) The symposium shall include a copy of the Borland Conference in the US.
2) Check if we can change monthly meetings to Tuesday or Thursday.

R20

Declining attendance at monthly meetings:

I have seen this happen in Sydney ever since the 1980s. The Framework, dBASE, Clipper groups all seemed to peter out in Sydney, while the Melbourne equivalents kept afloat much longer. The demise of the Melbourne Clipper group, when it came, was very sudden, as if the very keen contributors and momentum providers suddenly asked themselves, "Why the hell am I putting all this effort in when so many can't be bothered lifting a finger or switching on their imaginations to provide input or ideas." I ran the Framework group here for a while and it was disheartening to find virtually no one from the regular attenders who was willing to make any sort of presentation.

I think the group is great. I'm almost 77 years old and even if somebody has an uncle who is still using Delphi at aged 95 and attending meetings then good luck to him! I have stopped upgrading at Delphi 5 and its many add-ons (InfoPower, TurboPower stuff and so on) and I plod along at about 10% of my previous prowess.

I used often to wish that the group had a question and answer session no later than after the first talk, but it was not to be. I have little problems which would probably be solved in a twinkle, if raised at a meeting. I used to get all the forum emails, from which I learned a lot, and once got great help from there. But now, with the whole scenario so different (.NET, the web, etc etc), I have switched that stream of stuff off. People like Mathias (also Stuart Wheeldon and Mark Berndt) have always been ready to assist me, but I hesitate before involving people who earn their living with the product.

Declining attendance at the yearly Autumn Symposium:

Again, I'm too old to benefit.

1. What ADUG related activities would you like ASS to hold or be involved in that would encourage your attendance and/or participation?

None would encourage me, for the reasons stated above.

2. What, if anything, is stopping you from attending the current Sydney ADUG meetings (eg location, timing, format, content, etc.)?

Ripe old age and the need to rinse the dishes, watch the news, listen to some classical music and go to bed.

3. The upcoming Sydney Symposium has had a very poor response to date, yet the Melbourne one is heavily booked. Can you suggest any reason for the lack of enthusiasm here in Sydney?

See first item. I think it's something in the water!

4. Now that the Delphi IDE is hosting other programming languages, would you like to see activities expanded to include these (eg C#)?

The active members should answer this one.

5. Is ADUG still relevant to your software development interests? If not why not?

Yes, of course it is, but my development interests are pretty elementary, and are there because I've been a programmer for over 43 years (since February 1962).

6. What, in your opinion, should ASS be doing to further stimulate your interest in ADUG membership?

Sending this email out to us was a pretty good start. Let's hope the Sydney members rise from their torpor and give some good answers.

Thank you for asking. I'd love to be, say, 45 again and making a contribution.

R21

As I am using Delphi quite rarely these days, the relevance of ADUG for me has sadly decreased. Combine that with long work hours and a family and I have little spare time so am quite limited in my involvement with ADUG or time for "playing" with Delphi.

As for your questions:

1. ADUG isn't the problem (see above)
2. see above
3. Not sure - maybe there is little Delphi employment in the CBD?
4. good idea but won't affect me

5. less these days
6. I was a member for years - this is the first time I let it lapse

I hope the numbers pick up for you!

R22

1. What ADUG related activities would you like ASS to hold or be involved in that would encourage your attendance and/or participation?

see below

2. What, if anything, is stopping you from attending the current Sydney ADUG meetings (eg location, timing, format, content, etc.)?

I attend whenever possible, time and place are good for me as a commuter, may be difficult for drivers.

3. The upcoming Sydney Symposium has had a very poor response to date, yet the Melbourne one is heavily booked. Can you suggest any reason for the lack of enthusiasm here in Sydney?

No Idea, I was first in (literally!)

4. Now that the Delphi IDE is hosting other programming languages, would you like to see activities expanded to include these (eg C#)?

Other than Delphi I am more interested in Java. I would like to be a little more cross platform. However C# has a place for those interested in .NET and I would not mind SOME C# included

5. Is ADUG still relevant to your software development interests? If not why not?

Yes.

6. What, in your opinion, should ASS be doing to further stimulate your interest in ADUG membership?

I am close to a hobby programmer, I have a base of installed applications running, but all have been created to 'scratch an itch' where I was employed. Most has been written in my own time. As a result, what I do works well, but I am not proud of the 'plumbing'. I am often embarrassed to ask questions because they demonstrate ignorance in the stangest places. Perhaps I am not alone...

A solution may be to initiate a project within the group. Something that can be guided by the more experienced programmers, but will give those of us with limited or narrow skills a chance to participate. An open source project, perhaps a database, application, web interface and web service. Discussion on structure, schema, naming conventions, project design, loose coupling and a modular design would help everyone. We could allow groups to work on different parts. Stronger personalities and skillsets can focus on some modules and give advice to those of us with 'training

wheels' while we work on smaller or simpler parts. It would require direction, but if sufficiently modular should not burden anyone too greatly.

Those of us with lesser skills would perhaps feel competent to do presentations on the parts we have worked on collaboratively, and if the design allows, we can see progress each month and have a QA session for perhaps 15min/month .

If we stick to the tools supplied with Delphi Pro and open source tools, everyone can participate. Some are interested in Win32, .NET, GUI, ASP.NET or SQL. A correctly designed project would allow all those things to be worked on by those with an interest, or skills in that area.

It does not need to be a big project, in fact smaller is better for me, but the appropriate architecture would allow everyone to see the fruits of their labours, and learn from those more skilled. In the end, everyone takes away something.

If it is done via the list and the web and the normal group meetings it is easier than having a second monthly meeting for a working group.

R23

- 2) during summer I sail on wednesdays - plus I live in the Blue Mountains so if I'm not working in town it's a 5hour commitment for a 2 hour meeting
- 3) just booked
- 4) no I'm a zealot
- 5) yes

R24

1. What ADUG related activities would you like ASS to hold or be involved in that would encourage your attendance and/or participation?

I would like to see more speakers from Borland USA on the ADUG events.

2. What, if anything, is stopping you from attending the current Sydney ADUG meetings (eg location, timing, format, content, etc.)?

The time and the location are not suitable for me - the company I'm working for is in the Western suburbs and driving & parking into the city before 6pm is not possible for me.

3. The upcoming Sydney Symposium has had a very poor response to date, yet the Melbourne one is heavily booked. Can you suggest any reason for the lack of enthusiasm here in Sydney?

I'm attending the Symposium, but as a reason I would say - most of the companies that were using Delphi before .Net, now moved or have plans to move to C#/MS Visual Studio/.

4. *Now that the Delphi IDE is hosting other programming languages, would you like to see activities expanded to include these (eg C#)?*

I personally won't attend only C# related events as I'm currently doing only Delphi development.

5. *Is ADUG still relevant to your software development interests? If not why not?*

Yes, we are currently using Delphi 7.

6. *What, in your opinion, should ASS be doing to further stimulate your interest in ADUG membership?*

To organise more Delphi related events.

R25

1. *What ADUG related activities would you like ASS to hold or be involved in that would encourage your attendance and/or participation?*

We learn more from our mistakes, so what about constructive criticism sessions on real application code/design.

2. *What, if anything, is stopping you from attending the current Sydney ADUG meetings (eg location, timing, format, content, etc.)?*

For the last 3 months I have been convalescing following surgery. But content is a bit of an issue for me, (see table below)

Meeting	Topic	Presenter	Interesting?
April 2005	ECO 2: Enhanced capabilities for Model Driven Development	Damien Bootsma (Borland)	Yes
April 2005	The Singleton Design Pattern	Anthony Egerton	Yes
March 2005	NexusDB V2 Memory Manager and RDBMS	Geoff Harris	Poss
March 2005	Automated Solution Generation Algorithms for Scheduling	Geoff Harris	Poss
February 2005	Creating and Using Web Services with Delphi 2005	Mathias Burbach	Poss
January 2005	Member Built App: A Business Process Management System	Glenn Stephens	No
January 2005	A faster, stronger Delphi 2005	Lachlan Gemell	No
December 2004	Automated Code Generation using CodeSmith	Lachlan Gemell	No
December 2004	Managing Security via User Roles in InterBase	Mathias Burbach	No
November 2004	DUnit on DataModules	Mathias Burbach	Yes
November 2004	Observer pattern with Delphi 7	Zijian Huang	Yes
October 2004	ADO.NET & Borland Data Provider In-Depth	Mathias Burbach	No
September 2004	Object Oriented Design using Together Designer Community Edition and Colour	Lachlan Gemell	Yes
September 2004	Utilising the WebBrowser within	Xerxes Battiwalla	No

3. The upcoming Sydney Symposium has had a very poor response to date, yet the Melbourne one is heavily booked. Can you suggest any reason for the lack of enthusiasm here in Sydney?

No useful comment - I look forward to the Symposia and will be there on Thursday, 28th.

4. Now that the Delphi IDE is hosting other programming languages, would you like to see activities expanded to include these (eg C#)?

This would be a turn-off to me.

5. Is ADUG still relevant to your software development interests? If not why not?

Becoming less relevant - I have been retired for 2 years and treat programming as a hobby.

6. What, in your opinion, should ASS be doing to further stimulate your interest in ADUG membership?

I am happy with what ASS does, but would like to see some more basic topics covered, eg. OOP.

R26

1. What ADUG related activities would you like ASS to hold or be involved in that would encourage your attendance and/or participation?

I guess my participation has been limited mainly because I cant get away from my desk plus the fact I am always travelling with work. We have just recently purchased Delphi 2005, so I would be keen to see some workshops on how to develop with ASP.net with Delphi and .Net.

It would be beneficial to know what is going to occur in the Delphi Monthly meetings instead of just getting an email to attend, maybe the hour will or won't interest some people.

2. What, if anything, is stopping you from attending the current Sydney ADUG meetings (eg location, timing, format, content, etc.)?

AS Above,.. Cant the Adug Meetings be web enabled, Members log in and can download active workshops etc..... This would help with people who cant attend due to work. The Adug website is useful to find out about up and coming events but that's about it, it has no real update information on recent technologies and Delphi, ASP.Net, Webforms. I find it more useful to go to other sites like About Delphi etc....

3. The upcoming Sydney Symposium has had a very poor response to date, yet the Melbourne one is heavily booked. Can you suggest any reason for the lack of enthusiasm here in Sydney?

I have only been a member for about a year and have only attended two monthly meetings. I cant really comment on the Symposium.

4. Now that the Delphi IDE is hosting other programming languages, would you like to see activities expanded to include these (eg C#)?

Don't use this technology yet so I cant comment.

5. Is ADUG still relevant to your software development interests? If not why not?

Yes it is, I am interested in making the jump into .Net but unfortunately we are stuck in development cycles with win 32 still (Delphi 7). I am interested in gaining more exposure into Web as well but my current job limits me to use these technologies for the short - term.

6. What, in your opinion, should ASS be doing to further stimulate your interest in ADUG membership?

[No response]