**TACTYC Membership Report** November 2018

As a membership organisation, TACTYC’s strength lies in the expertise, varied perspectives, and commitment of its members. Since all Executive Committee functions are carried out by volunteers elected or co-opted from the membership, it is important that we maintain a healthy body of members. We seek to represent their views and interests in all activities and to meet their needs within all of TACTYC’s activities.

Keeping in touch with members is important, and is handled through the website and regular group email updates. We welcome individual correspondence to our TACTYC email (tactic.org@gmail.com) or to Executive members.

Current membership (including life members) is 238. Our numbers have continued to decrease (from 283 last year). We have a small but regular influx of new members, but this does not offset those whose membership subscriptions lapse.

There are risks of further depleted membership ahead. Despite repeated reminders, a large proportion of our members have not changed their payments to our current bank account, instead continuing continue to pay directly or by standing order into the old account which will be closed in coming months. When the old account is closed any payments sent there will simply revert to the payer, rather than coming to TACTYC. It is therefore imperative that all members change their payments to the new account to avoid losing their membership. Plans have been developed to notify by letter and telephone call all members who still have been paying into the old account, in order to assist them to maintain their TACTYC subscription.

Over the past year, efforts and investment have been made toward establishing an online membership register and payment system, in order to relieve the Membership Secretary of onerous administrative work in maintaining the database, sending renewal notices and invoices, logging and acknowledging payments. Unfortunately the technical knowledge needed to establish and maintain a website that would automate these processes has proved beyond the scope the Executive members working on this, and alternative ways to establish online payment and manage the administrative workload are being determined.

In the future, the intention is for the Membership Secretary role to be a strategic one in order to develop approaches to recruiting and retaining members, with oversight of administrative assistance in maintaining the membership information rather than directly performing these tasks. Hopefully this will allow us renewed opportunities to be innovative and proactive in developing our membership base.

Thanks are due to Helen Bilton for her support in membership issues this year, and for taking on responsibilities to support transitions in the period ahead.

Nancy Stewart

Membership Secretary

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