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MELBOURNE WRITERS FESTIVAL

15 June 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I recommend highly Brigitte Seum as a Filemaker Pro consultant.

At the festival we had developed a database on Filemaker Pro which we had designed and built ourselves over 6 years. It was adequate whilst the staff numbers were small but the design started to show cracks when staff numbers grew and staff became more specialist and tasks became complicated.

The database is the backbone of our work – all our authors, events, sponsors, donors, marketing contacts, volunteers, publishers, media etc are in our database (it is actually 4 interlinked databases).

In the past we have called in consultants to work on the database but they have never grasped what we need the database to do and they have not been pro-active. They have been sorry and expensive exercises and I was loath to try another consultant. I'm glad I was persuaded to change my mind.

Brigitte came into the office and worked with us one-on-one. She grasped immediately the structure of the database, what we wanted it to do, what the problems were and, more importantly, what it would be capable of with some changes (we were not even aware that the database could do some of the things she added). She worked quickly and efficiently and turbo-charged our database. It is now capable of extraordinary efficiencies and has changed the way we work dramatically. It has many in-built email capabilities which are fabulous. She understood that we were a small underfunded arts organization and was very efficient and generous with her time. She has made it more user-friendly, more difficult to corrupt, more efficient and more ambitious. It is a vast improvement on our previous semi-amateur database.

I can't recommend Brigitte Seum highly enough – she is sensational.

Yours faithfully,

Rosemary Cameron
Festival Director / CEO

Founding Patron
The Hon. John Button
(dec'd)

Patrons
Philip Cornish
Allan J Myers AO QC

Board of Management
Jan McGuinness *Chair*
Michael Webster *Deputy Chair*
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