Part 1

1.1 Management

The ACS Management Committee consists of:

- Mr Edward Mandla President <edwardm@alt-u.com>
- Mr Philip Argy Vice President <Philip.Argy@mallesons.com>
- Mr Chris Avram Vice President <Chris.Avram@infotech.monash.edu.au>
- Mr Richard Hogg, Immediate Past President <richard_hogg@acslink.net.au>
- Mr Bob Cross, National Treasurer <r.cross@ecu.edu.au>
- Mr Dave Bradshaw, National Councillor <dave.bradshaw@optio.com.au>

Mr Dennis Furini <dennis.furini@acs.org.au> is the ACS Chief Executive.

1.2 Society Activities

The ACS has about 11,000 members, about 4,000 in each of New South Wales and Victoria, the rest in the other states of Australia. The Australian population is about 20,000,000. Our membership grew recently when ACS joined the Professions Australia. We expect a slight growth from changes to our professional indemnity status, (see the item later in this report). State branch generalist conferences are decreasing in popularity, but the major academic generalist conferences in Australia are keeping up their members. These include

- Australian Computer Science Week,
- Australian Information Systems Conference and,
- Australian Software Engineering Conference.

The Society formed several new Boards (Council Committees) in 2005, being:

- ACS Women
- Communications Technologies
- Economic & Industry Policy.
- Young IT Professionals

The Membership Board was split into two Boards in recognition of its breadth of responsibilities, the Membership Standards Board and the Accreditation, Assessments and Appeals Board. The Marketing Board was re-established as the Membership Lifecycle Board (MLB) and the Publications Board was disbanded and its responsibilities transferred to the MLB.

The Society has spent considerable time on governance issues over the last few years and is planning to alter the way in which the Society is governed. As a first step, members will be asked at a General Meeting in November to alter the voting strengths at Council to allow all Councillors to have an equal say in how the Society is managed.
The ACS continues on the work it did in 2004 to build its relationships with Government and has increased its profile in the general community. As reported in 2004 it has embarked on an ambitious program to produce position papers on a range of issues that impact on its members and also on the industry itself. In particular, its policy on Work/Life issues attracted a good deal of positive comment within the general community.

The ACS President continues to be routinely interviewed for comment on a range of IT related issues and has been invited to join a number of government working groups on IT issues.

Outsourcing is an emotive issue within the Australian community in general and the ACS has been careful to provide balanced comment when asked for input on this issue.

Membership and membership retention remains a major concern and a concerted marketing effort, including selective Television advertising, is planned for 2005/6. We seem to have an average member life of about 6 years. We need to do more to extend this.

The major drive to recruit student members held during the main University enrolment period in 2004, successful at the time, has not been successful in the longer term as many of these students did not renew their membership. It is clear that you cant ‘buy’ membership.

The Society is anxious where possible to replace its administrative staff with ‘business development’ staff whose main role is attracting and retaining members rather than pure administration. Where possible, administrative functions are being centralised.

The ACS has made an application to be registered under the Professional Standards Act which if successful will lead to certified ACS members gaining liability protection. Following on from that, the ACS Council has just approved the introduction of a Professional Practice Program which if undertaken by members will lead to certification status.

The ACS disciplinary procedures will need to be altered to comply with the requirements of the Professional Standards Act.

The Society’s Education Across the Nation web-delivered professional development seminars provide members, and in particular our rural members, with a convenient opportunity to keep abreast of changes in ICT and the program continues to be well received.

The International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL) program has not been a great success in Australia, with Australia lagging behind Europe in adopting it. The Society is hopeful that this situation will alter in 2005 but as the program presently is a drain on Society’s funds its results are being closely monitored. In particular, efforts to attract corporate sector involvement have been disappointing.

The ACS conducts the ACS Examinations as a route to Associate Membership of the Society. The Examinations' syllabus is deemed by the Society equivalent to an Australian diploma or one year of an Australian degree. It covers roughly one third the content of a typical three or four year undergraduate degree qualification. The Society recognises that the ACS Examinations are now used for purposes additional to gaining Associate Membership. We are, as a consequence, upgrading the qualification to an ACS Diploma of Information Technology within the Australian Qualifications Framework.

The ACS on behalf of the Australian Federal Government continues to assess the skills of those who claim to have qualifications in IT and wish to migrate to Australia.

The ACS continues to be an active member of the South East Asia Regional Computer Confederation (SEARCC). Planning is well underway for the 2005 SEARCC Conference to be held in Sydney in September. The ACS has entered into a partnership with Australia’s foremost IT
industry publisher, IDG Communications, to organize and promote the conference and there is every indication it will be a very successful event, notwithstanding that conferences are not as well attended in Australia now as in the past.

The ACS Foundation is now in its fifth year and is a well-established player in the scholarship arena.

### 1.3 IFIP Activities

**TC2**

Australia’s TC2 representative, its first for many years, is Prof Tharam Dillon.

**TC3**

Australia’s TC3 representative is Associate Professor Anne McDougall.

The annual meeting of the Officers of TC3 was held in Stellenbosch, South Africa on July 1, and this was followed by the full TC3 Committee meeting on July 2-3. As Vice-Chair (National Representatives) I attended both meetings. Three other Australians also attended, John Hughes, Chair of Working Group 3.2, Paul Nicholson, Chair of Working Group 3.3, and Arthur Tatnall, Vice-Chair of Working Group 3.4.

The Officers’ meeting included considerable work on further development of a Strategy document for TC3, discussion of conferences and events for 2006 and subsequent years, and preparation for the full TC3 meeting the next day. It was decided to hold the 2006 meeting in Alesund, Norway, in association with a Working Conference to be run there in late June-early July jointly by Working Groups 3.1, 3.5 and 3.3. In the days after the meeting I was able to work with the other Vice-Chair, Tom van Weert, on development of a New Member’s Kit to help new members play an active role in the TC right from the time they join.

At the full Technical Committee meeting I provided a brief Vice-Chair’s report, and presented the set of national reports I had collected previously from national representatives. Discussions over the two days included reports from the Working Groups and from officers liaising with outside bodies including UNESCO, the EU, and IOI, plans for future conferences and events, and arrangements for the TC3 journal *Education and Information Technologies*. I was able to authorise three new Australian members for TC3 Working Groups.

These meetings were followed directly by the World Conference for Computers in Education, the major five-yearly event run by TC3. Thirty-seven Australians presented papers at the conference. I was able to attend a good few of these, and was scheduled to chair sessions including several more. All the Australian presentations I saw were of high quality, well-prepared and presented, and well received. (The 200 papers at the conference were selected from some 500 submitted.) The Conference Program and Abstracts were distributed in book form and the full papers were provided on CD.

During the conference annual meetings were held by most of the TC’s Working Groups; I attended those for Working Groups 3.1 and 3.3 (I am a member of both these WGs).

Throughout the rest of the year I shall continue both aspects of my TC3 activities: as Vice-Chair, working with national representatives from other countries to encourage full involvement with the work of the Technical Committee, and as Australian representative working with education practitioners in this country sharing information about the TC’s activities, future conferences and events, and encouraging the development and international presentation of Australian work in IT in Education.
The Australian representative on TC5 Chris Avram.

Chris attended the 2005 meeting of TC5.

The Australian representative on TC6 is Associate Professor Doan Hoang.

The Australian representative on TC8 is Prof Steve Elliot.

The ACS representative on TC9 is Associate Professor John Weckert.

John Weckert attended that TC9 Annual Meeting in Warsaw in June 2005. One of the more important activities of TC6 over the past year has been the planning for The 7th International Conference “Human Choice and Computers (HCC7), the regular conference hosted by TC9. It will be held in Slovenia in September 2006. This next year the conference will be in memory of Rob Kling and will be focused on social informatics. John is a member of the committee planning this conference.

The TC9 Working Groups cover a wide spectrum of social issues related to computing, and Australian researchers are involved in most of these groups; WG9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.6, 9.7 and 9.8. Two are particularly well represented by Australia; 9.6 Information Technology: Mis-Use and the Law, with five, and 9.8 Women and Information Technology with six. Unfortunately from an Australian point of view, most of the activity of many of the Working Groups is in Europe which makes active involvement difficult. A number of members however have continued to make valuable contributions. Much of the work covered in the WGs is of course pursued actively in Australia, and much of it through the ACS under the Community Affairs Board.

Australia’s TC11 representative is Professor Vijay Varadharajan

Information security researchers and practitioners have been involved in TC11 activities over the years.

In particular in the 2004/2005 period, the annual IFIP SEC2005 conference was held in Chiba, Japan from 30 May till 1 June 2005. There were 2 papers from Australia this time, one on digital signatures and the other on digital rights management. Also in the WG11.3’s prestigious conference on Data and Application Security, there was a paper from Australia on Security in Web Services.

Also people from Australia participate in several working groups such as those on Security Management (WG11.1), Data and Application Security (WG11.3) and Information Security Education (WG11.8). Other active working Groups include WG 11.2 Small Systems Security, WG 11.4 Network Security , WG 11.5 Systems Integrity and Control, WG 9.6 / 11.7 IT Misuse & the Law and WG 11.9 Digital Forensics (this is a recent WG). There are also some other topics such as Trust Management and Critical Infrastructure Protection which are being considered for Working Groups.
In my role as the Australian Delegate for TC11, I also attended the Annual TC11 Meeting held at Chiba, Japan, before the IFIP SEC2005 Conference. In this meeting, Australia participated in several discussions including the role and need for Certification for IT Security Professionals. A separate report on this TC11 meeting has been provided to the National Body ACS in Australia.

The next annual conference of TC11 Sec2006 is to be held in Sweden in May 2006. Preparations for this are well on the way. There was a preliminary presentation of the information on SEC2006 at the TC11 meeting as well as in SEC2005. The closing date for technical paper submissions is 1 Nov.2005.

**IFIP TC12**

The ACS representative on TC12 is Professor John Debenham.

Professor John Debenham is Chair of the ACS National Committee for Artificial Intelligence and Expert Systems and is Secretary and Webmaster of TC12. The TC12 site is hosted by the Australian Computer Society: http://www.ifiptc12.org/.

John represented the ACS at the meeting of TC12 in Edinburgh, Scotland, on August 2, 2005. Max Bramer became Chair of TC12 in September 2003, and John Debenham became Secretary. Since that time, they have both worked to reinvigorate the TC. TC12 now has the following active working groups (noted below with their chairs):

- **WG 12.1 - Knowledge Representation and Reasoning** Professor Timo Honkela, Helsinki University of Technology, Finland
- **WG 12.2 - Machine Learning and Data Mining** Prof. Zhongzhi Shi, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China
- **WG 12.3 - Intelligent Agents** Professor Wiebe van der Hoek, University of Liverpool, UK
- **WG 12.4 - Semantic Web** Professor Tharam Dillon, UTS
- **WG 12.5 - Artificial Intelligence Applications** Prof. Max Bramer, University of Portsmouth, UK, John Debenham Secretary
- **WG 12.6 - Knowledge Management** Professor Eric Tsui, Hong Kong
- **WG 12.7 - Computer Vision** Dr. Petra Perner, Institute of Computer Vision and Applied Computer Sciences, Germany

Since September 2003 TC12 has been gathering considerable momentum. The following events have either been held or are planned:

- International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Adaptive Knowledge Representation and Reasoning AKRR’05 June 15-17, Espoo, Finland
- International Conference on Data Mining and Machine Learning MLDM’2005 July, 9-11, 2005 Leipzig/Germany
- Seventh Agent Systems Summer School, Utrecht, the Netherlands, 18 - 22 July 2005
- First International IFIP/WG12.5 Working Conference on Industrial Applications of Semantic Web University of Jyväskylä, Jyväskylä, Finland, August 25-28, 2005
- Second IFIP Conference on "Artificial Intelligence Applications and Innovations" Beijing, China, September 7-9, 2005
- First IFIP International Workshop on Web Semantics (SWWS’05) Agia Napa, Cyprus, October 31st - November 4th 2005

TC12 presented the AIAI conference within WCC Toulouse - it was the largest component of WCC04, and at WCC06 TC12 will be presenting the IFIP International Conference on Artificial Intelligence - IFIP AI 2006 - Santiago, Chile, August 12 - 24, 2006.
The 2005 annual ACS Artificial Intelligence Conference will be held in UTS, Sydney, Australia, in December 2005.

TC13

The ACS representative on TC13 is Judy Hammond.

Judy will be attending the IFIP TC13 business and Strategic Planning meeting and its INTERACT conference, Working Group 13.1 (HCI Education and Curriculum) annual meeting and workshop and other associated meetings in Rome, Italy, 11 - 16 September, 2005.

Part 2

2.1 Digital Library
The ACS is anxious to be able to highlight to members what tangible benefits that membership of IFIP brings and thus is very keen to be informed on progress with the IFIP Digital Library.

2.2 Conferences
The ACS is in the very early stages of considering making a bid to host IFIP WCC 2010 but as a first step wants to see whether SEARCC 2005 proves to be a viable event.

2.3 ACS’s IFIP Representation
The ACS has requested that each of its TC representatives should aim to arrange an IFIP Working Group event in Australia within the next two years.

IFIP TC representation will be for an initial four year term, with a review at the end of the first year, then renewable for two year term depending on performance and availability etc.

There is to be an IFIP TC representatives meeting each year (the IFIP GA Representatives Technical Council meeting).

IFIP TC representatives are to commit to attending at least one TC meeting each three years, preferably one per year.

22 August 2005.