

# AUSTRALIAN COMPUTER SOCIETY INC REPORT TO IFIP GA

**AUGUST 2006**

## ***Part 1 ICT in Australia***

### **1.1 Management**

The ACS Management Committee consists of :

Mr Philip Argy, President 2006-2008 < [president@acs.org.au](mailto:president@acs.org.au) >

Dr Catherine Jaktman, Vice President < [catherine@acsmail.net.au](mailto:catherine@acsmail.net.au)>

Mr Kumar Parakala, Vice President < [chairman@nsw.acs.org.au](mailto:chairman@nsw.acs.org.au)>

Mr Edward Mandla, Immediate Past President < [edwardm@acslink.net.au](mailto:edwardm@acslink.net.au) >

Mr Bob Cross, National Treasurer < [r.cross@ecu.edu.au](mailto:r.cross@ecu.edu.au)>

Mr Adrian Porteous, National Councillor < [adrian.porteous@acslink.net.au](mailto:adrian.porteous@acslink.net.au) >

Mr Dennis Furini < [dennis.furini@acs.org.au](mailto:dennis.furini@acs.org.au) > is the ACS Chief Executive.

### **1.2 Society Activities**

The ACS has about 12,000 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 statutes, (see the item later in this report).

State branch generalist conferences are decreasing in popularity, but the major academic generalist conferences and some special interest group conferences in Australia are keeping up their numbers. These include

- Australian Computer Science Week,
- Australian Information Systems Conference,
- Australian Software Engineering Conference,
- Australian Artificial Intelligence Conference and
- Safety Critical Systems conference.

The Societies National operations are managed by Boards, the Board Directors are members of the peak body of the Society, the ACS National Council. There have not been any major changes in the structure and responsibilities of the boards during the reporting period, August 2005 to August 2006.

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 and 2005 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.

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. So too the issue of new technologies and systems for identification of people in Australia.

Membership and membership retention remains a major concern and a concerted marketing effort, including selective Television advertising has occurred in 2005/6. The profile of the ACS has been measurably and favourably raised by the campaign. We have had a slight increase in membership in the reporting period. But we continue to suffer from an average member life of about 6 years. We need to do more to extend this.

The Society will, where possible, replace its administrative staff with 'business development' staff whose main role is attracting and retaining members rather than pure administration. Where possible, administrative functions have been and 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. Reported last year, our application has yet to be accepted. We have begun the roll out of our registration and certification schemes, as required under the Act. We have created a Computer Professional Program, and two membership classifications.

The CP Program supports two membership classifications:

- Practising Computer Professionals (PCPs), who undertake relevant professional development activities each year; and
- Certified Computer Professionals (CCPs), who are PCPs registered under the Professional Standards Act scheme (when and if the ACS application to register a scheme is approved).

The ACS code of ethics alleged breach disciplinary procedures have been altered to comply with the requirements of the Professional Standards Act.

We continue with the Society's Education Across the Nation professional development seminars providing members, and in particular our rural members, with a convenient web and face to face 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. 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. Work on this is continuing.

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 number of such applications is relatively stable.

University places in ICT courses continue unfilled nationwide, Universities are reducing teacher numbers in response. Some ICT skills shortages have been identified by governments, these are international trends, and the Society is attempting to respond.

The ACS continues to be an active member of the South East Asia Regional Computer Confederation (SEARCC). Past President, Mr Richard Hogg is the SEARCC President for 2006. The 2005 SEARCC Conference was 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 the conference was a success.

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

University and other higher education course accreditation, including joint accreditation with other professional societies, where appropriate, continue. Almost all Universities invite ACS accreditations on a five year cycle.

### **1.3 IFIP Activities**

TC2

Australia's TC2 representative, its first for many years, is Professor Tharam Dillon.

TC3

Australia's TC3 representative is Associate Professor Anne McDougall.

TC5

The Australia's TC5 representative is Mr Chris Avram.

TC6

The Australian representative on TC6 is Associate Professor Doan Hoang.

TC8

The Australian representative on TC8 is Professor Steve Elliot.

TC9

The ACS representative on TC9 is Mr Oliver Burmeister.

TC11

Australia's TC11 representative is Professor Vijay Varadharajan

TC12

The ACS representative on TC12 is Professor John Debenham.

TC13

The ACS representative on TC13 is Judy Hammond.

## ***Part 2 IFIP in Australia***

### **2.1 Digital Library**

The ACS is anxious to be able to highlight to members 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 early stages of considering making a bid to host IFIP WCC 2010.

### **2.3 Other 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.

Reported by Australian General Assembly Representative

Mr Chris Avram

25 August 2006.