Part 1

1.1 Management

The ACS Management Committee consists of:

- Mr Richard Hogg President <richard_hogg@acslink.net.au>
- Mr Philip Argy Vice President <philip.argy@msj.com.au>
- Ms Brenda Aynsley Vice President <bpa@iss.net.au>
- Mr John Ridge, Immediate Past President <johnridge@zonecctv.com>
- Mr Glen Heinrich, National Treasurer <glenh@acslink.net.au>

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

1.2 Society Activities

Since our last report the IT industry in Australia, as in the rest of the world, has suffered a severe downturn which has affected membership growth rates and has triggered a national debate on the issue of the migration of IT professionals.

Australia reelected its Federal Government in December 2001 and the ACS acted as a facilitator of discussions concerning the IT policies of the major political parties prior to the election. This was part of an ongoing process to improve the Society’s position in regard to influencing government policy.

We celebrated our 35th Anniversary in 2001 and produced a supplement to publicise the event and which also incorporated the history of computing in Australia.

The ACS focus this year has been to further improve the actual and perceived value of ACS membership as well as its communication strategies, both internal and external. More emphasis is being placed on the 26-35 years age group which can be illustrated by the fact that the Society in 2001 became a one-off secondary sponsor of the world famous Sydney-Hobart yacht race.

Market awareness level of the Society in 2001/2 was at 89.2%, an improvement of close to 3% over the previous year’s rate. This improvement is attributed to regular exposures in leading newspapers and IT publications. It is the intention to establish more regular columns in lifestyle publications and work on clearer ACS messages wherever possible.

The ACS has sponsored several reports concerning ITC in Australia and sponsored and facilitated workshops to assist in the formulation of these reports. It has also held meetings with the Press to publicise the reports.

Membership retention remains an important issue for the ACS. Besides strengthening the current tangible value-added benefits, the Society has made the following initiatives:

- Instigated a Corporate Merchandising program, initially targeting student members until the success or otherwise of the initiative is known
- Enhanced its IT Career Portal
- Introduced a Careers Counselling service to assist out-of-work IT professionals to reenter the workforce
- Used in-house telemarketing to follow-up lapsed members
Reinvigorated the Professional Recognition Program (which is designed to encourage organisations to employ persons in Information Technology professional positions who are either members of, or eligible to be members of the ACS; and/or fund ACS membership for their Information Technology professionals).

Professional Development is a very important function of the ACS and this year the trend continued and we have had a record growth in enrollments in the ACS's Certification program.

Another important factor in the future for the ACS is professionalism, which is a flow-on from our election to the Australian Council of Professions in 2000. It is part of the vision for the ACS that as an organisation we should be regarded as the benchmark of a professional society and should lead by example to our members and we are working towards this goal.

The ACS Foundation was launched on 14 Aug 2001 in Sydney. It has proved to more successful in its first year of operation than was planned and thus far over $2m in support has been raised. This has enabled the ACS to offer 54 scholarships and further expansion is expected this year.

The ACS continues to promote the International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL) in Australia and there is strong evidence to suggest that after a slow start the program is gaining in credibility and popularity. Many government instrumentalities are looking at the program and so the marketing emphasis soon will switch to the corporate sector.

The ACS is undergoing an internal review of its structure and an interim report on the findings of the working group undertaking the review is expected shortly.

The ACS Examination in Information Technology, which is held twice yearly, was held in Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Singapore and Sri Lanka in November 2001 and also in June 2002.

The ACS on behalf of the Australian Federal Government assesses the skills of those who claim to have qualifications in IT and wish to migrate to Australia and this continues to place an administrative strain on the resources of the Society.

1.2 IFIP Activities

TC3

Australia's TC3 representative, Associate Professor Anne McDougall, is Deputy Director of the ACS Community Affairs Board, Chair of the ACS National Computer Education Committee, and the ACS representative on the Australian Council for Computers in Education.

TC8

The TC8 representative is Professor Bernard Glasson.

The ACS sponsored, and TC8 affiliated, Australasian Conference on Information Systems was held in December on the north coast of New South Wales. This was the 11th ACIS event and it drew some 240 participants, approximately 10% being international. The TC8 representative Professor Bernard Glasson was General Chair for the 2nd WG8.4 Working conference on Multi-Disciplinary Research in E-Business which was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, June 17-19 between ECIS and the 15th International Conference on E-Commerce in Bled Slovenia. Professor Steve Elliot of Australia Chairs WG8.4 and was Chair of the Conference Organising Committee. The conference was well supported by Australian delegates who made up more than 25% of the attendees. Professor Elliot is also Organising Chair for the WG8.6 Working Conference - The Adoption and Diffusion of IT in an Environment for Critical Change, August 1-3, 2002, Sydney, Australia. Australia's Dr Deborah Bunker is Secretary to WG8.6. Australians continue to support
the work of WG8.2, 8.3, 8.4, and 8.6 but a less well represented in WG's 8.1 and 8.8. Professor Glasson, the immediate past chair of TC8, is a regular attendee at TC8 meetings.

**TC9**

The TC9 position was vacant until January 2002 when Assoc Prof John Weckert was appointed the ACS Representative. John acted as the ACS representative at the 2001 TC9 meeting in Namur, Belgium. One of the main TC9 activities of the past year has been the development of a book on ICT policies in various countries represented in TC9. Unfortunately because there was no official ACS representative for a time, there was no communication with anyone in Australia, nothing has been written on the situation here. An effort is now being made to remedy this deficiency.

At the 2001 TC9 meeting it was agreed to establish a Women in Computing working Group.

**TC11**

Prof Vijay Varadharajan is the TC11 representative.

**Australian ACS Sponsored Conferences Related to TC11**


**Australian Legislation Information Related to TC11**

- Australian Govt passed a Telecommunications Interception Legislation Amendment Bill which amends the Telecommunications Act 1979. It intercepts telecommunication intercept warrants to be obtained to investigate offences of terrorism, serious arson and child pornography and stipulates when services such as emails and voicemails will come within the ambit of the Principal Act. More Information can be found on [http://www.aph.gov.au/library/pubs/bd/2001-02/02bd121.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/library/pubs/bd/2001-02/02bd121.htm) (Date introduced 12 March 2002)

- Privacy Act. The Privacy Act 1988 (‘the legislation’) that establishes a national scheme for the handling of personal information by private sector organizations came into effect on 21 December 2001. It requires organisations to ensure that the personal information they hold is accurate, up-to-date and complete and secure. The National Privacy Principles also regulate the adoption, use and disclosure of Commonwealth Government identifiers. The office of the Federal Privacy Commissioner has developed several guidelines; for more information, refer to [http://www.law.gov.au/privacy/royalinfo.rtf](http://www.law.gov.au/privacy/royalinfo.rtf)

**Other Australian Activities Related to TC11**

Two key publications include:
- Report on E-Security R&D in Australia: An Initial Assessment
- E-Security Skills, Education and Training in Australia Scoping Paper

ACS is currently exploring with NOIE to create a certification scheme for IT Security Professionals. We have had a couple of discussions with them. At present, the process is a bit slow.

**TC12**

The TC12 representative is Prof John Debenham.

**TC13**

The Australian TC13 representative, Judy Hammond, completed her second three-year term as the IFIP TC13 Chair in 2001. She attended the last IFIP TC13 meeting in February, 2002. This year, has been a very busy year as Judy has taken on the significant task of chairing a major stream for IFIP TC13 in the IFIP World Congress to be held in Montreal, Canada in the last week of August held biennially in different countries in the world. The Stream on ‘Usability: Gaining a Competitive Advantage’ is a leading priority for TC13 strategies and plans, and is planned to involve academics, researchers and practitioners in industry as speakers and participants. About thirteen Australians (some of these are ACS members) are among the more than 40 countries who will be attending this World Congress. Judy is also the main editor for the Proceedings of the Usability conference being published by the IFIP international scientific publisher.

Within the ACS, Judy is a Member of the ACS Information Systems Board in her role as TC13 representative. As Usability becomes more accepted in the ITC industry, she continues to promote Human-Computer Interaction and Usability as an essential part of ACS activities. In the broader Australian HCI community, she continues to assist in the annual OZCHI conference in various ways and so ensure that HCI and usability scientists and practitioners are supported in their work and studies.

**Prins Ralston**

ACS IFIP Representative