

SOCIETY NEWS

A.C.T. SOCIETY

COMMITTEE

Lisa Slade	- President	- 71 9560(W)
Roger Clarke	- Vice President	- 49 3666(W)
Joanna Longley	- Treasurer	- 71 9574(W)
Moira Burgess	- Secretary	- 71 9572(W)
David Grainger	- Committee	- 70 66920(W)
Gary Tamsitt	- Committee	- 49 5111(W)
Alan Hogan	- Committee	- 67 0610(W)
Phil Crisp	- Committee	- 71 9608(W)
Public Officer	- Peter Harris	

MEETINGS

Committee meetings are held at 12.15pm on the first Wednesday of each month. General meetings will be normally held on the second Wednesday of each month. Currently the venue for all meetings is the lecture theatre belonging to the Legal Workshop in Building F, Fellows Road, Australian National University between the Law Faculty and the Menzies Library. These meetings will be at 12.15pm, unless otherwise notified. They typically last from 1 hour to 1.5 hours.

MAY MEETING: HIGH COURT REGISTRY

On 8 May, Chris Smyth, Registry office manager at the High Court, gave details of the Court's new records management system to a well attended meeting. The Court handles about 400 cases each year and up to 50 enquiries per day are made by parties, practitioners and others to the Registry. A manual index - on cards - had been kept for many years and it was decided to test the capabilities of a small computer system to provide a docketing system which could also provide other information - for planning and statistical purposes - when required. Chris gave details of the hardware and software used by the Court (DEC Rainbow 100+, dbaseII and customised programs) and raised some of the problems so far experienced. Overall, the system is capable of meeting the aims set for it. The number of informed questions at the close of the address showed the level of interest generated.

PUBLIC DOMAIN DISKETTES

The Society has available the following public domain diskettes.

- V1 - Legal Communication (American Bar Association)
IBM-PC DOS format
- V2 - Osborne General Ledger
IBM-PC CP/M format
- V3 - PC-TALK III a communications program
IBM-PC DOS format
- V4 - PC-FILE a data base program
IBM-PC DOS format

V5 is being converted to DEC Rainbow format. The Society has not yet finalised its policy on charging for the copying. The software will, however, be free. Copy charges are expected to be about \$10.00 per diskette or \$5.00 on your diskette. The Society will not accept responsibility for the quality of the software and will not be liable in either tort or contract law for any damages resulting from the use of any supplied software. Please direct any enquiries to the President, Lisa Slade.

EXTRACTS FROM PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1984/85: Peter Harris

The Society for Computers and the LAW (ACT) Inc originated as a result of widespread interest shown as a result of displays during Information Technology Week in August 1983. Regular meetings begin in March 1984 and the Society was incorporated on the 17th October 1984. The Society has a varied membership comprising Solicitors, Barristers, Computer Specialists, Legal Information Specialists and Academic Lawyers.

Total membership is now 55 and amongst its members the Society is proud to include the High Court of Australia, Parliamentary Library, the Attorney-General's Department and many of the prominent legal firms in the Australian Capital Territory.

Discounts have been arranged with local suppliers of consumables for office computers/word processors. The Society is also creating a library of relevant literature and public domain software.

To a large extent, the Society has an educational role in the legal community.