

—NEW SOUTH WALES
SOCIETY NEWS —

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held on 21 March. The President's and the Treasurer's reports are included in this edition. The 1989 officer bearers are Richard Davis (President), David Lewis (Vice President), Connie Camabuci (Secretary), Les Lawrence (Treasurer), Jane Rawlings (Meetings Officer), Elizabeth Broderick (Newsletter Editor), Robert Johnston (Assistant Newsletter Editor), Andrew McBurnie (Subscriptions Officer) and Katrina Henty (Proceedings Editor).

The Society wishes to thank Jim Fitzsimons, our President for the last two years. His untiring efforts have been much appreciated.

On Wednesday 5 April, Mr. Don Jenkins gave a most informative talk to the Society on Local Area Networks.

On 10 May, Jim Fitzsimons of Abbott Tout Creer Wilkinson and Philip Argy of Mallesons Stephen Jaques will talk about the Effects of Recent Legal Developments on Shrink Wrap Licensing.

As we reported in the last edition of the Newsletter, the Editors have heard from the New Zealand Society for Computers and the Law and this edition is our first **Australasian** Newsletter. We welcome our New Zealand readers and hope that there can be considerable interchange between our two societies.

About the New Zealand
Society

The Society was founded in September 1987 in Wellington following a special interest meeting on Computers and the Law, organised by the Society's current Chairman, Anthony Wong.

This year's Committee members are Anthony Wong (Chairman), Craig Sinclair, Gavin Adlam, John Terry, Julie Andrews and Robin Anderson.

You will see a list of New Zealand conferences on the last page of the newsletter. For more details please contact Anthony Wong ph: (04) 712 112

NEWSLETTER

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(*"Look and Feel" continued*)

The most important "look and feel" case in the United States is undoubtedly *Apple v. Microsoft and Hewlett Packard* where Apple is suing Microsoft and Hewlett Packard for infringing the "look and feel" of Macintosh software by producing user interface software called "Windows". That case is being heard in two parts and the hearing as to Microsoft's defence that "Windows" was within the scope of a licence granted to them by Apple has recently been rejected. The second part of the case, that "Windows" infringes Apple's copyright, has yet to be heard.

There has been much uninformed comment in the computer press relating to this case. It is asserted by many writers, that Apple cannot own any valid copyright as its user interfaces were based on ideas developed by Xerox. There is in fact no requirement that a work need be new and non-obvious to attract copyright. The press are confusing principles of patent law with those of copyright. For copyright to subsist there need only be "originality" and this basically means that the copyright work was not a copy of someone else's work. It is legitimate to copy an idea provided that there is originality in the manner in which the copy is expressed.