

New South Wales

I extend a warm welcome to all our new members for 1992 and of course to all our existing members!!

As you can see, the level of interest in contributing to both Society news and articles to the Newsletter has increased dramatically over the last 12 months, so that we are now able to produce a more informative and interesting publication.

The NSW Society held its AGM on Wednesday 5 February, 1992, in conjunction with a presentation by Katrina Henty on systems integration and Peter Knight on outsourcing. The presentation and the AGM were well attended. Once again the Society was overrun with the enthusiasm of new members who wished to participate on the 1992 Committee. The news Committee members are listed.

At the time this Newsletter goes to print Katrina Henty, the outgoing president will have had or will be about to have her baby and we send her our best wishes.

We hope you find the monthly meetings organised for this year interesting. Once again we have organised a combined seminar with the College of Law in July entitled "Computing Technology for Lawyers". We will have representatives from the profession, The Law Society and computer vendors discussing jargon, existing technology and the future. It would be great if you could join us.

The next edition of the Newsletter will be published in June. If you wish to contribute or have any sug-

NSW Society 1992 Committee

<i>President</i>	Elizabeth Broderick Blake Dawson Waldron DX 355 Sydney	Tel: (02) 258 6410 Fax: (02) 258 6999
<i>Vice President</i>	Connie Carnabuci Malleons Stephen Jaques DX 113 Sydney	Tel: (02) 250 3115 Fax: (02) 233 3133
<i>Secretary</i>	Robert Johnston Ebsworth & Ebsworth DX 103 Sydney	Tel: (02) 234 2366 Fax: (02) 235 3606
<i>Treasurer</i>	Les Lawrence Vondaldy Pty Ltd 3 Tanderra Place South Curl Curl 2096	Tel: (04) 905 1373
<i>Meetings Officer</i>	Stephe Wilkes Gilbert & Tobin DX 10348 Sydney Stock Ex.	Tel: (02) 262 1799 Fax: (02) 262 2783
<i>Media Officer</i>	Stephen Blanks Stephen Blanks & Assoc. 129 Beattie St Balmain 2041	Tel: (02) 555 8654 Fax: (02) 555 7354
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Elizabeth Broderick Blake Dawson Waldron DX 355 Sydney	Tel: (02) 258 6410 Fax: (02) 258 6999
<i>Proceedings Editor</i>	Maurice Gonsalves Malleons Stephen Jaques DX 113 Sydney	Tel: (02) 250 3594 Fax: (02) 233 3133
<i>Committee Members</i>	Phil Argy Raymond Beltrami Sharyn Ch'ang Geoffrey Grinter Katrina Henty Lillian Powell Oliver Townsend	Julia Baird Anthony Borgese Jim Fitzsimmons Michael Hall Robert Neely Michael Saunders Stephe Wilks

gestions please send them to Virginia Gore, c/- Blake Dawson Waldron, DX 355, Sydney.

Victoria

News from the Deep South

Since last we spoke, the Victorian Society has been hyperactive. Contrary to doctor's advice we have not retired to our (separate) beds with a soothing broth of equal parts water and Scotch whisky; we have burnt candles and cliches at both ends in our efforts to instil a love of computer law in the cold-hearted Victorians.

We marked last year's end with our Annual General Meeting, an event notable for its learning and wassailing. Mr Justice Teague of the Victorian Supreme Court talked on the computerisation in the Court. His entertaining and erudite discussion was unfortunately marred by executive members (a.k.a. The Orangutans) shot-gunning ouzo and cola. Mercifully, Mr Justice Teague saw nothing, and we, sorry I mean they, staggered off into the night.

The hangovers passed early in the New Year, and our first seminar for 1992 focussed on the *Circuit Layouts Act*. Mr David Webber, a patent attorney with Davies Collison Cave, talked on the *Nintendo v Centronics* case. Mr Webber was the patent attorney advising Nintendo (the successful applicant) in the case, and showed the assembled throng photographs and other material which made the facts of the case clearer to all. His knowledge of semiconductor circuitry and the Act shows the importance of having good technical advice, married with knowledge of the law.

At the time this goes to press, Mr Julian Burnside QC is scheduled

to talk on the Autodesk decision. His comments, and how they correspond with other notables in the field (some of whose comments will appear in both of the next editions of the *Intellectual Property Law Bulletin* and this humble organ) we will report in the next instalment of the Saga of the Deep South.

Shortly thereafter, we have scheduled an , as yet unnamed, speaker on the other *Circuit Layouts Act* case, *Avel v Wells*. We'll keep you posted.

Victorian Society Committee

<i>President</i>	Gordon Hughes
<i>Vice Presidents</i>	Philip Catania
<i>Secretary</i>	Amanda Bodger
<i>Treasurer</i>	Paul Gleeson
<i>Committee Members</i>	Julian Burnside QC Prospero Franzese Carolyn Sparke Doron Karlier John MacMillan Daniel Hunter

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Studies of Victoria University and the National Library.

The Christchurch branch held a seminar on "Contingency Planning for Law Offices" by Ed Manco from Deloitte Ross Tohmatsu in September 1991 and a seminar on "Information Privacy" in October last year. The speakers for the latter seminar were John Burrows, Professor of Law at Canterbury University, Grant Liddell from the Otago Law School, John Angland from Baynet Systems and Murray Trounson from the Computer Society.

On 12 November 1991, Anthony Wong, the President of the Society presented a paper on the "Legality of Documents on Optical Storage" at the premises of Rudd Watts & Stone in Wellington. He was joined by Bernard Robertson, Law Lecturer at Victoria University who introduced the fundamentals of the rules of evidence. The half day seminar concluded with a paper on "Reform of Documentary Evidence Law" by Loretta Desourdy, Senior Legal Research Officer at the Law Commission.

The Society endorsed the Conference on "Managing the Impact of Information Privacy" which was organised by AIC Conferences at the James Cook Hotel in Wellington on 19 and 20 November. The participants joined the members for end of year drinks at the National Library of New Zealand.

The end of year drinks were held in conjunction with the Society's second legal computer exhibition on 19 November 1991. Ten exhibitors participated in the exhibition.

New Zealand

1991 was another busy and successful year for the Society in the Land of the Long White Cloud.

Data Privacy featured prominently on the agenda. The Information Privacy Bill which was limited to the public sector was passed in Parliament in December 1991. Peter Scott from the National Library of New Zealand was invited to present key points from his paper on Information Policy in Wellington and Auckland. The paper was sponsored by the Institute of Policy

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In March 1992, The Honourable Mr Justice Tompkins spoke on the "Usage of Computers in the Courts" in Wellington. The Christchurch branch is also organising a seminar on "Networking for the Legal Office" in March or April 1992.

The New Zealand Society held its Annual General Meeting on 11 March 1992. To the disappointment of the committee, Anthony Wong gave notice of his intention to resign as President. Anthony has been the moving spirit behind the Society in New Zealand, from the formation of the steering committee in 1987, and his energy and enthusiasm have been major factors in the number and quality of seminars and functions which the Society has conducted.

Gavin Adlam of Rudd Watts & Stone was elected President and there have been a number of other changes to the committee. By the time this newsletter reaches you, all members of the New Zealand Society will have received a report on the AGM and a copy of the Society's accounts for the year.

The new committee is working on a programme for the rest of 1992. The first seminar, on computer contracts and escrow agreements, is proposed for 23 April 1992 in Wellington. Other possible topics under consideration include the legal and business implications of out sourcing, parallel importation and copyright law, computer crime, and issues arising in the valuation of intellectual property and taking security over intellectual property assets.

The Society's new postal address is PO Box 10764, The Terrace, Wellington.

NZ Society 1992 Committee

<i>President</i>	Gavid Adlam Rudd Watts & Stone PO Box 2793, Wellington	Tel: (04) 472 4899 Fax: (04) 473 8232
<i>Vice President</i>	John Terry Baldwin Son & Carey PO Box 852, Wellington	Tel: (04) 472 1094 Fax: (04) 473 6712
<i>Secretary</i>	Mun Chin BP Oil NZ Limited PO Box 892, Wellington	Tel: (04) 495 5895 Fax: (04) 495 5861
<i>Treasurer</i>	Steven Revill Bell Gully Buddle Weir PO Box 1291, Wellington	Tel: (04) 473 7777 Fax: (04) 473 3845
<i>Committee Members</i>	Brendan Brown Brian Blackford Ann Deane Hazel Dobble Phil Shattky	Ross Johnson Chris Matheison John Miller Ian Perry
<i>Auckland</i>	Richard Osbourne Hesketh Henry Private Bag, Auckland	Tel: (09) 309 0552 Fax: (09) 303 1337
<i>Christchurch</i>	David Rowe Canterbury University Christchurch	Tel: (03) 667 001 Fax: (03) 642 757
<i>Dunedin</i>	Garth Lucas Caudwells PO Box 857, Dunedin	Tel (03) 477 5760 Fax: (03) 477 5077

Queensland

The Society held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 11 December, 1991 and it was well attended. The new Management Committee for 1992 was elected.

This year promises to be bigger and brighter for the Society. It has already held a seminar on the Auto-desk decision which drew attendances from the legal profession and the computer industry and a member discussion group on the liability of computer suppliers under the Trade Practices Law.

Coming seminars planned include:

May Legal Issues in respect of Computer Contracts (A joint seminar with the Australian Computer Society)

June Member's Discussion Group on Expert Systems in the Law

July Electronic Conveyancing - Live!

Interested persons should contact the Secretary, Ms Rita Mazzocchi, telephone (07) 229 2961 or facsimile (07) 220 0210

Queensland Society 1992 Committee

President	Darryl McDonough Clarke and Kann L7, Colonial Mutual Building Post Office Square Brisbane 4000	Tel: (07) 231 5245 Fax: (07) 229 0005
Vice Presidents	George Fryberg QC MLC Centre 239 George Street Brisbane 4000	Tel: (07) 221 6576 Fax: (07) 229 8510
	Peter Baston c/- 14th Level Quay Central 95 North Quay North Brisbane 4002	Tel: (07) 236 1916 Fax: (07) 236 2311
Secretary	Rita Mazzocchi Kinsey Bennett & Gill 12 Creek Street Brisbane 4000	Tel: (07) 229 2961 Fax: (07) 200 210
Treasurer	Ross Blanch Ernst & Young PO Box 7878 Brisbane 4000	Tel: (07) 877 4000 Fax: (07) 877 4195
Committee Members	Redmond Byrne George Fletcher Harry Rigney Mark Winn	Allan Mason Mika Hayward Adrian McCullagh

enabling the public to order title searches from remote terminals and receive searches by fax. This will enable the LTO to be generally much more efficient, among the most effective in the world!

Software Theft and Piracy

On Wednesday 8 April 1992, the Society hosted a very well attended seminar on Software Theft and Piracy. There were two speakers:

- Doug Ruttan, Director of Business Software Association of Australia spoke about:

the BSAA, who and what it is, why it was formed and its international affiliations;

the extent of illegal software piracy in Australia, the BSAA's campaign against it and how piracy has markedly decreased since the BSAA launched its campaign; and

some of the successful prosecutions.

- David Sigler, solicitor with Clayton Utz, Perth, followed with a commentary and legal perspective on the issue.

Many questions and spirited discussion followed the presentations.

Workshop Introducing lawyers to Computers

The Society has organised for the Perth based company Corporate Systems Education Pty Ltd to conduct workshops to introduce computer-illiterate lawyers to computers. The first workshop in this series was held on Monday 18 March. The session went from 1.30pm to 5.30pm.

Western Australia

Recent and Coming Events

Imaging Seminar

On Wednesday 18 March, 1992, the Society hosted a seminar on Document Management with Imaging Technology. Three speakers presented very informative talks.

- Brian Varney from Wang Australia gave an overview of the technology;
- David Hubbard from Corporate Systems Planning Pty Ltd gave an overview of how imaging technology is being used in large litigation matters, such as the Rothwells Inquiry and other WA Royal Commissions of inquiry; and
- Don Beer from the WA Land Titles Office showed how all titles are to be stored on optical disc within the next 12 months

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Numbers were limited to eight. The first group saw a mixture of legal experience ranging from articulated clerks to partners. All who attended found it worthwhile and due to popular demand, further courses are scheduled for early May and the middle of June.

Courtroom of the 90's

Two seminars showing what the court room of the 90's can and will look like are scheduled for May and June this year. They promise to spur the imagination of litigators,

judges and computer professionals alike.

AGM

The WASCAL AGM will be in July or August. As with previous AGMs of the Society, the President will give a very brief summary of the Society's activities, the Treasurer will give a very brief summary of the Society's healthy financial position and the committee will be elected. Last year this business took only 10 minutes. The rest of the meeting consisted of a seminar and refreshments.

The seminar topic for this year's AGM is yet to be finalised.

WA Society Committee	
<i>President</i>	Tony Sutherland
<i>Vice President</i>	David Sigler
<i>Secretary</i>	Michael Paterson
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ken Green
<i>Committee Members</i>	Alan Cox John Picton-Warlow Lindsay Bath

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In conjunction with the Intellectual Property Society, the Victorian Society for Computers and Law is convening a half day seminar focusing on recent developments in computer copyright (*Autodesk*) and the *Circuit Layouts Act* (*Avel v Wells* and *Nintendo v Centronics*) Eminent speakers will give their view of the developments and what augurs for the future. Attendees will be welcome at the annual IPS dinner after the seminar where Sheppard J. the Federal Court will speak on intellectual property in the Federal Court.

Speakers:

Circuit Layouts

- David Webber, Patent Attorney
- Sam Ricketson, Monash University
- Bruce Caine, Victorian Bar
- Andrew Guillame, AOTC

Copyright

- Dr Emmerson QC, Victorian Bar
- James Lahore, Mallesons Stephen Jaques
- Peter Thorne, University of Melbourne
- Doug Ruttan, WordPerfect Corporation

Date: 29 May 1992, 2.00 - 6.00pm

Place: Regent Hotel

Cost: \$75 (IPS & VSCL members) \$85 (non-members)

Dinner Cost: \$50

Contact

Paul Gleeson, Abbott Tout Russell Kennedy (03) 609 1855

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