

## **New South Wales**

On 18 October 1993, the Executive Committee of the Society met with Bridget Czarnota of the European Community Commission. Ms Czarnota is the acting head of the Copyright Unit and has been with the Commission since 1986. She is the co-author of the EC Green Paper on copyright and the draft of the EC Software Directive 91/250 adopted in May 1991. Ms Czarnota requested a meeting with the Executive Committee as she happened to

be in Australia on other business. It proved to be an extremely interesting and informative meeting and the Society has now established an excellent channel of communication with Ms Czarnota and the European Commission Copyright Unit.

A seminar was presented on the Copyright Law Review Committee - draft report on computer software protection (1 September 1993) and the Society also held a seminar in conjunction with the Copyright So-

ciety in order to discuss the draft report on 12 August 1993.

On 6 October 1993 Alternative Dispute Resolution was the subject of an interesting discussion by Sir Laurence Street and Lucienne Layton.

A multimedia demonstration and a brief discussion of principal legal/commercial issues was discussed at the Gala Meeting on 8 December 1993.

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## **Victoria**

The Victorian Society is keen to organise meetings of interest from both a legal and industry perspective for its members and it has continued to do so in the second half of this year.

In July, the members listened with interest to a presentation by Graham Greenleaf. Mr Greenleaf is a Senior Lecturer in information technology law at the University of New South Wales Law Faculty. He addressed the Society on the advantages of integration of free-text retrieval, hypertext, rule-based expert systems

and automated document generators and demonstrated the DataLex software through applications to intellectual property, privacy and other legal topics.

This was followed in August with a presentation in relation to computer crime. The Society was addressed by two speakers. The first speaker was Detective Acting Senior Sergeant Dave Thompson, the Officer in Charge of the Computer Crime Section of the Victorian Police. He was the officer principally responsi-

ble for the prosecution of the Swinburne "Hacking" case which he discussed in the general context of the Victorian criminal law relating to computers. The second speaker was Detective Sergeant Kenneth Day, Computer Crime Section, Federal Police, appointed the Officer in Charge for the Computer Crime Section in 1989. Detective Sergeant Day discussed the federal laws relating to computer crime. As expected, this meeting was very well attended and was of great interest to lawyers and industry members alike.

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## **Queensland**

### *Members Seminars*

Two seminars arranged for members were:

October/November - Managing Computer Litigation

October 12 - The Application of Trade Practices Legislation to Computer Products and Spare Parts. The speaker was Mr S. Coronos.

### *Essay Competition*

The Society is conducting an essay competition open to tertiary students attending universities and institutes in Queensland. The prize for the best essay is \$500.00 and publication of the essay in this Journal. For more details contact Rita Mazzocchi-Dawkins on (07) 229 2961.

### *Annual General Meeting*

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held at the Sheraton Hotel Brisbane on 7 December 1993. Mr John Garner, Police Forensic Artist was the guest speaker demonstrating a newly developed computer software program for computerised identikits. He also talked about the much broader application of such technology by organisations such as the CIA.

## **New Zealand**

The New Zealand Society's July seminar was presented in Wellington by Clive Elliot, a partner of Baldwin, Son & Carey (visiting from Auckland). Clive outlined the various forms of legal protection which are or might be available for databases and the information within them. Some of Clive's criticisms of the rather unsatisfactory state of the law were reported in the technology pages of the Dominion the following Monday.

The New Zealand Society's lunch-time seminar series continued during September, with a presentation by Keith Thompson and Andrew Christie of A J Park & Sons, patent attorneys. This follows the recent report that the New Zealand Patent Office has decided to accept a patent application for a purely software-based invention. The particular application related to a method of producing shoe patterns, but it has been held up for some years while the inherent patentability of software inventions was being considered. The Commissioner of Patents has now provided some guidelines for the application of patent law in new Zealand, and the

results of other applications are likely to be published in the near future. Keith and Andrew gave a very helpful summary of the Commissioner's decision and looked at some of the implications.

With other commitments, the Committee was not able to arrange a seminar during October. However, committee members presented several papers in conferences arranged by professional seminar organisers, which were endorsed by the Society. Gavin Adlam presented a paper to a conference on Privacy organised by the Institute for International Research, and chaired that conference in Auckland. Ian Perry and Gavin Adlam each presented papers to a conference on information technology security arranged by AIC conference in Wellington. As part of the endorsement, Society members receive a 10% discount on the fee for the seminars and the Society also acquires a copy of the seminar materials to be retained as a library resource.

The seminar for November was a presentation describing *LAWNET*, the legal network which provides ac-

cess to a number of databases, including valuation references, credit references and legal research databases. Pilot studies are well advanced for access to land titles information, which may be followed in future by access to the Companies Register and to the Register of Births Deaths and Marriages.

The Society finished the year with a two hour roundup, including panel discussions of a number of the current legal issues confronting the computer industry.

Committee members continue to maintain contact with complementary organisations, including the Information Technology Association of New Zealand, the New Zealand Computer Society, the Technology Committee of New Zealand Law Society and the New Zealand Electronic Data Interchange Association.

Members and others wanting further information are welcome to contact any of the committee members. The membership Secretary is Paul Perniskie, phone (04) - 385 6683, and the President is Gavin Adlam, phone (04) - 472 4899.