

1998 and beyond

We have seen the rapid development of law in this field—for instance the Internet and Y2K. This area of law will

continue to grow rapidly as it is tied to rapidly changing technology. The society will hopefully stay at the forefront of developments and

continue to provide a forum for all perspectives.

John Terry

* This document was produced using voice dictation software

Victorian Society for Computers and Law Annual General Meeting— President's Report

The year ended 31 December 1997

The main developments in the VSCL to date have been more than cosmetic although as presaged in August 1997, we have adopted a new logo. The logo appears herewith as we lawyers can't help saying and will also be on our web-site at <http://www.vscl.org.au>.

In addition to the logo up-lift, our committee has had an infusion of new and enthusiastic members which give us confidence that the VSCL will develop strongly this year. With the assistance of Jon Kenfield acting as facilitator we had a strategy meeting to determine our directions for 1998 and into the next century. A number of implementation sub-committees have been formed and we hope to put the VSCL on the map (screen) in 1998.

Winding up the calendar year and in keeping with Victoria's role as the leading State in multi-media developments our Minister's assistant Mr Robert Clark MLA addressed our end of year gathering and gave us heart that the State Government was indeed listening to industry and

adopting the Internet as a way of disseminating information to the public. Concern has been expressed that we have not followed the previous NSW Government in making reported Supreme Court judgments available on the Internet but the Committee has resolved to pursue this issue and also the computerisation of our titles office which lags behind NSW, Queensland and South Australia.

There have been two presentations this year by committee members of the VSCL. In February Kent Davey gave us a presentation on the Australian Communications Authority's Limits on Tort Liability Issues Paper which is located at <http://www.aca.gov.au>. Kent's presentation addressed the tortious liability of telecommunications carriers and service providers in relation to the supply of telecommunications carriage services.

In March there was a demonstration by Peter Searle on legal research on

the Internet. Peter gave a demonstration of how to go about conducting legal research on the Internet which included making use of the NetJustice website which is located at <http://www.netjustice.com.au>. In April we will have a presentation by Ian Christofis concerning encryption on the Internet and its application to electronic commerce. Full details are on our website.

As I was extended the courtesy of a complimentary attendance at a NSW Telecommunications presentation last year, on behalf of the VSCL I extend a similar invitation to visiting members of associated societies. Just check our website for details of meetings when you are coming to Melbourne.

John Macmillan
President
Victorian Society for Computers & the
Law (VSCL)
john_macmillan@compuserve.com