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

The year ended 31 December 1997

THE YEAR IN BRIEF

1997 has been another successful year for the Society with membership back up to record levels. Our members continue to show their support of members' seminars which have again been extremely well attended during the 1997 year.

MEMBERSHIP

The following table summarises the recent history of Society's membership.

Membership Class	1994	1995	1996	1997
Individual	62	64	54	55
Corporate	17	14	14	20
Student	16	7	7	11
Articled Clerk	6	11	3	5
Total	100	96	78	91

The overwhelming majority of the members continues to be individual members and although the number of solicitors remains high, we have continued to see a growing number of non-lawyer members. Further, with 5 representatives per corporate member, this represents a new high in total numbers.

FINANCIAL POSITION

The Society remains in sound financial condition. At 31 October 1997, the Balance Sheet shows assets of $14,867.26. This represents an operating profit of $785.04.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The Society's healthy financial position is such that the Management Committee has again resolved not to increase membership fees for 1997.

The 1997 fees are as follows:

Individual: $ 40

Corporate: $150

Articled Clerk $ 20

Student $ 20

There has been no fee increase since formation of the Society 7 years ago. Despite the relatively inexpensive fees, members would no doubt agree that membership benefits are substantial.

MEMBERS' SEMINARS

The following members' seminars were conducted during the year:

Month	Title	Presenter
25 March	Software Escrow	Andrew McLeod and Ray Chambers, Brambles Records Management
29 April	Patentability of Computer Software the US Experience	John Swinson, Mallesons Stephen Jaques
1 July	Beyond the Year 2000—Just What is the Millennium Bug	Vicki Daniel, Ernst & Young and Hamish Fraser, QSCL
15 July	Powerflex and Data Access—The Appeal (Two Steps Forward, One Step Back?)	Ian Gray, Partner, Phillips Fox
19 August	The Courts, Technology and the Future Foundation Technology Services Pty Ltd	Joanne Sherman, Queensland Law
5 November	What's in a Domain Name?	Phillip Hourigan, Partner, Deacons, Graham

The Society is indebted to all of the presenters who participated in the program this year and contributed to the success of our activities.

Seminar Costs v Fees

The cost of conducting members' seminars is approximately $400 per seminar including postage, room hire, catering and gratuity for speakers. Again, the seminars will continue to be conducted for the members free of charge. The Management Committee's attitude is that the cost of these seminars should be met out of the membership fees especially when the Society's bank account credit exceeds $10,000.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE...

Our next issue looks at

IT Contracting to Government

Contributions from members of all Societies are welcome. Although this is the central theme of the issue, contributions can be on any topic relating to computers and law and can take the form of an article, product or book review, abstract or press release.

✒ Please send your contributions to the Editors no later than 15 May 1998.

Attendance

The Committee believes that the number of registrations at those seminars held has been pleasing and the Management Committee looks forward to the continuing support of the members for the seminar program in 1998.

PUBLIC SEMINAR

No public seminar was conducted during the year. However considerable work was undertaken by a sub-committee in the Scavenger Hunt.

THE JOURNAL

This year we were able to distribute 2 issues of the Society's journal, *Computers and Law*, published by the New South Wales Society.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Society's success this year is due in large part to the enthusiasm and commitment of the members of the Management Committee—past and present—who deserve the appreciation of the Society's membership.

The 1997 Management Committee was as follows:

President	Hamish Fraser
Vice-President	Simon Newcomb
Vice-President	Mary Hockaday
Secretary	Jonathan Corby
Treasurer	Trudy McLaren
Committee Members	Alan Mason
	Phillip Hourigan
	Mark Winn
	Matthew Hall
	Joanne Sherman

Nominations for the 1998 Management Committee are as follows:

President	Hamish Fraser
Vice-President	Simon Newcomb
Vice-President	Mary Hockaday
Secretary	Jonathan Corby
Treasurer	Bruce Parker
Committee Members	Phillip Hourigan
	Mark Winn
	Matthew Hall
	Karen Lihs
	Yvonne Pack Brier
	David Abercrombie

CONCLUSION

On behalf of the Management Committee, I express our thanks to the members of the Society for their continued support of the Society's activities and objectives. The Society looks set for another successful year in 1998.

Hamish Fraser
President
9 December 1997