



EDITORIAL

'All the news that prints to fit

Like any new publication, this newsletter has to gradually find its true vocation. Our attempts to obtain copy for a special issue on software protection elicited little response, and prompted a reconsideration of the newsletter's function. Our conclusion is that we should aim more toward a true newsletter, a regular brief digest of as many recent developments involving computers and the law as we can cover, with details on where to obtain further information. Our emphasis should be on Australian developments, which don't obtain comprehensive coverage elsewhere, but with a leavening of overseas news of particular interest to Australian readers. Articles offering in-depth analysis will usually be better left to the specialised Journals which are now beginning to appear.

This issue is something of a compromise, a mixture of brief news and longer articles, and certainly isn't as comprehensive as we hope future issues will be. Our main problem is still that of obtaining copy and feedback from readers: news of developments that we might otherwise miss, reviews of books or products, and letters of opinion will be warmly received, and usually published.

MacNewsletter

Observant readers may have noticed a slightly different appearance to this issue. All text and graphics have been set up on a 128K Apple Macintosh, excepting only the cartoons, advertisement and logo. The font used for most text was 12 point Geneva, printed on a dot matrix Apple Imagewriter, and photographically reduced to 68%

before printing. Some of the graphics are from a graphics data file called 'Mac the Knife'.

Setting the newsletter up on the Macintosh allows us to avoid the need for typesetting, while retaining many of its advantages. With luck, it will also facilitate more regular production.

NOW SHOWING on CLIRS

The newsletter is now part of a CLIRS database, DB80 'Computers and Law', and consequently searchable. The Constitution, Proceedings and membership application details of the NSWSCS are also included. Other State Societies might like to do likewise. Like any other database provider, we are entitled to royalties, but we expect that they will be of the peppercorn variety, at least for some time to come.

Instead of CLIRS re-keying or OCRing this issue, we hope to transfer the data direct from the Mac to CLIRS using MacTerminal. More on that next issue.

Graham Greenleaf

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