

New South Wales

The first half of 1992 has been a very busy period for the Society. Since we last spoke the NSW Society has held meetings on Computers in Government with Chris Crooks, Unisys and Michael Hall from Phillips Fox as speakers. The April meeting discussed the World Consensus on Changes to Copyright Laws with Sam Ricketson, Monash University and Peter Banki from Phillips Fox. In May the Society held a meeting on Telecommunications and Competition with Peter Waters, Gilbert & Tobin and a speaker from Optus.

On 1 July the Society held a half day seminar jointly with the College of Law. The topic was Computer Technology for Lawyers and the session was well attended. Simon Lewis from LMCS demonstrated the Lawyers Workstation,

Derek Hamill from the Law Society gave the Law Society's view on legal office technology: the present and future, and Ian Bollen, a consultant to the legal profession, outlined applications for the future. Unfortunately it was not possible to demonstrate the videoconferencing techniques that previously had been arranged.

In early May, the Australian Computer Society convened a meeting in Melbourne of representatives of Special Interest Groups. Stephen Blanks, the Society's media officer attended on the Society's behalf. The resolutions agreed at the meeting included a resolution that the ACS contribute financially to SIGs in return for SIGs allowing ACS members to attend their meetings on the same basis as SIG members. This will mean that ACS members

can attend our monthly meetings at no cost.

The Committee has resolved to establish a register of the names of expert witnesses, mediators and arbitrators to assist members of the Society in the resolution of computer disputes. Initially the Committee will be collecting the names of people they have had experience with and whom they recommend. More details of the register will be made available in the next edition of this publication.

If you have any queries about the Society, please contact Elizabeth Broderick on 258-6000. If you have any articles you wish to contribute to the next issue of the journal, please send them to Virginia Gore at Blake Dawson Waldron, DX 355 Sydney.

Victoria

News from the Great Southern Overdraft

What can we say? Do the words 'VEDC meets Godzilla' properly convey the strength and drama of the VSCL? We doubt it, but it is all we can think of now.

Strong and dramatic? How about Julian Burnside QC and Dr John Emmerson QC arguing their various stances on the Autodesk case, in seminars run back-to-back (as we say in the correct code of football). How about Mark Davison from Monash University talking on *Avel v Wells* [extract printed in this edition of the Journal - Eds]. Professor Sam Ricketson talking on the proposed changes to the Berne Convention, and how this will affect computer copyright in Australia.

And if this were not enough in the way of seminars ('Not more?' I hear you cry. Yes indeed, Gentle Reader), the VSCL and the Industrial and Intellectual Property Society put on a galah [spelling? - Eds] half day seminar on *Autodesk* and the *Circuit Layouts Act*. As the promo in the last edition of this journal noted, the venue was the Regent Hotel, the speakers numerous and influential, the topics covered powerful and informative. It was a kind of computer law Mecca, a place to flex the soul as well as the mind. Unfortunately, your correspondent missed it. C'est la vie. However, by all accounts (at least those who can be trusted) it was an extremely well attended congregation, and everyone learned something.

As any barely conscious, moderately sentient creature could have gleaned, the VSCL has focussed heavily on hard core intellectual property law issues. Although we will continue to lead the way in this field, we hope later this year to conduct seminars on:

- law for the computer industry (rather than lawyers); and
- technology for lawyers.

If any readers are fool enough to volunteer to help in organising these love-festivals, they should get in touch with our illustrious Secretary, Mandy Bodger at Mallesons Stephen Jaques, (03) 617 0617. We will confirm details soon. Watch this space.

New Zealand

Since the last newsletter went to press, the New Zealand Society has conducted seminars in Wellington and Auckland. The Wellington seminar held in April and presented by Ross Johnston of Kensington Swan and Tony Tyrrell of Comtex Group, looked at the escrow agreements from both the legal and the software developers' perspective.

The June seminar, on 'Expert Systems for Lawyers', was held on rather short notice in conjunction with the Victoria University of Wellington. It featured Ian Wilson of Queensland Institute of Technology who presented some practical examples of possible applications, and reported on progress in the development of legal expert systems. Unfortunately, we only had short notice of Ian's availability, so people interested in

this topic may have missed out. If there is sufficient interest, it may be possible to arrange for a further presentation.

In Auckland, seminars have been held on escrow agreements and also on computerisation and litigation. The latter featured Mr Justice Tompkins, Stuart Grieve and John Timmins. Some of the proceedings were recorded on videotape, and can be made available for Society seminars in other centres.

The committee has agreed to endorse 2 commercial seminars, on management information systems and on computer law, which will be advertised by the promoters. The Committee only agrees to these endorsements where it feels that the topics, speakers and standard of the seminar are appropriate. The en-

dorsement is a benefit to members in the form of discounts on the registration fees.

Dates have not been finalised for forthcoming Society events, but local newsletters will keep members informed. The Committee is considering several topics which include outsourcing, parallel importation, valuation of intellectual property and legal applications of software. Members are welcome to suggest other topics. Committee meetings are held on the first Monday of each month and members are welcome to raise with Committee members any suggestions they have for Society activities.

Please direct enquiries to Gavin Adlam in Wellington on 472 4899 (fax: 473 8232)

Queensland

Members Seminars

Two forthcoming seminars arranged for members are:

August - The Drafting of Software Licence Agreements

October - Hands on Document Modelling

Public Seminars

August - Electronic Conveyancing - Live!

September - Computer Programmes and Product Liability

November - Computers and the Court - Live!

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. See page 15 for full details. For more details contact Rita Mazzocchi on (07) 229 2961.

Western Australia

August 1992 - Our AGM will be held on 12 August 1992 at the Quality Princes Hotel. A seminar on Computer Assisted Drafting will demonstrate various tools and techniques, including creative uses of word processors, programs that verify grammar and style and advanced document generating programs.

September 1992 - Part 1 of a seminar on choosing appropriate litigation

support database software.

October 1992 - Demonstration of how multi-media presentations can be used in court.

November 1992 - Tentatively, a seminar on legal applications incorporating artificial intelligence.

February 1993 - Legal implications for subcontractors in the computer industry.

March 1993 - Part 2 of the seminar on choosing appropriate litigation support database software.

April 1993 - Seminar on Electronic Data Interchange, Electronic Funds Transfer, digital signatures, authorisation and verification.

For more details please contact Michael Paterson on (09) 385 1389.