

## **New South Wales**

It has finally dawned on members of the Committee that this year marks the NSW Society's tenth year of operation. To mark this auspicious occasion the Committee has decided to transform the traditional end of year seminar into our tenth birthday party! The big bash will be held at Glover Cottages, The Rocks on 2 December 1992 at 5.00 pm and will take the form of an informal drinks evening. We are delighted to have Mr. Justice Michael Kirby the Patron of our Society to speak. He will start at 5.30 so be early to make sure you don't miss out! We are also hopeful that many of the people who were instrumental in the formation of the Society will be able to attend. It promises to be a great night and a good forum to meet

people who have been associated with the Society over the last ten years. More details on this event will be provided shortly.

The Society continues to thrive with the monthly meetings being well attended. On 1 July, 1992 the Society held a joint seminar with College of Law on Computing Technology for Lawyers. Speakers included Simon Lewis demonstrating the Complete Lawyers Workstation, Derek Hamill, technology adviser at the Law Society who spoke on technology trends affecting the profession and Ian Bollen who spoke on imaging and future technology for lawyers.

The August seminar considered Computer Crime and Viruses. Presenters included Julia Baird, barris-

ter and James FitzSimons, Clayton Utz. The September seminar was held jointly with the Licensing Executives Society and discussed licensing in developing countries.

Our October seminar featured a multi media presentation 'the Virtual Museum' and the second half explored the legal issues relating to multi media. Our November meeting included a paper on "Integrated Computerisation of Law: The Datalex Workstation Software".

If you have any queries about the Society, please contact Elizabeth Broderick on 258 6410. 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.

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## **Victoria**

Since the last newsletter the VSCL has only had one seminar. Anna Sharpe addressed the Society on the impact of the Paperless Business Environment, in particular, the short form EDI Trading Agreement launched by the EDI Council of Australia.

On 26 November, 1992, Dr David Cousins from the Prices Surveillance Authority will address the Society on the Prices Surveillance Authority Interim Report regarding the inquiry to the prices of computer software.

A Cocktail Party will be held in December to end the VSCL's 2nd year since the revival.

Please contact the Secretary, Amanda Bodger at Mallesons Stephen Jaques on 03 619 0619 if any information is required.

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## **Queensland**

On 4 November the Society held a public seminar. The topic of the seminar was Electronic Conveyancing Live. The seminar was held at the Lockyer Room, of the Hilton Hotel, Brisbane, commencing at 5.30 pm and concluding at 7.15 pm. The speakers for the evening were:

- **Mr Jim Redfield** - Faculty of Computing and Information Systems, Bond University, who

focussed on conveyancing software and provided a summary of available solutions.

- **Mr Richard Hudson** - Business Development Manager, Information Brokerage Division, Centre for Information Technology and Communications (CITEC), who provided an overview of the Public Access System and demonstrated existing on-line facilities.

- **Mr Allan Groves** - Principal Advisor, Registrar Development Project and Director of Automated Title System - Land Title Program, Department of Lands (Qld) who discussed the proposed electric register and automated registration process.

For further information about the Queensland Society please contact Rita Mazzocchi on (07) 229 2961.

### **STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION**

The Queensland Society is pleased to announce that:

**Mr Darren C Ho**

is the winner of the Essay Competition.

The Society will present Mr Ho with the prize at the Society's Annual General Meeting to be held in December

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## **New Zealand**

Since the last issue of the journal, the New Zealand Society has continued its seminar programme in Wellington and in Auckland, and the executive is currently planning for an end of year function.

The seminar on parallel importation of computer software included excellent presentations by Peter MacAulay, Managing Director of the No. 1 Software Company, arguing to retain the present law limiting the parallel importation of software through 'unauthorised' distribution channels. The opposite view was put by Jerry Brennan of Solutions Computer Centre, New Plymouth, who favoured suppliers and retailers being able to acquire product from the least expensive source, regardless of national boundaries.

We were also able to host a seminar on 26 August, 1992, by Gerard McGreevy of the Accident Compensation Corporation, with assistance from David Mead and Bruce Kirkham, who were involved in the project. Gerard demonstrated the ACC's new 'expert' claims processing software. The software was developed in parallel with the new legislation, and has greatly expedited the screening and processing of claims.

The Committee aims to maintain a small resource library, including papers and videos from the Society's own seminars and other material which comes to the Society. Recent acquisitions include the proceedings from 2 IIR seminars, one on Management Information Systems held in Wellington during July and the other on Computer and Database Law held in Wellington

during September. These two seminars were endorsed by the Society (thereby also securing a discount for members on the registration fee). The Committee and other members were particularly involved in the second seminar. We also have a video prepared by the Auckland branch, from their seminar on the use of computers in the courts. The seminar featured Mr Justice Tompkins, Stuart Grieve and John Timmins, demonstrating a number of different applications.

The Society expects to hold an end of year event, designed to inform and entertain, in late November. Further details will be circulated to members as soon as possible.

For more information about the NZ Society please contact Gavin Adlam in Wellington on 472 4899 (fax: 473 8232).

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## **Western Australia**

### ***The Computer - A Productivity Tool Even for Lawyers who Cannot Type***

**Will a lawyer without a desktop computer be a lawyer without a future?**

A seminar on computer assisted document drafting was well received by those attending the AGM of the

WA Society for Computers & Law (WASCAL) on 20 August, 1992. Michael Paterson from Picton-Warlow & Co and Ken Green from Freehill Hollingdale & Page showed how:

- spelling and grammar checkers can ensure accurate, easily read documents;
- document comparison software, which highlights the differences between two documents, can be used to compare different drafts of a document and differences between precedents and finished documents;
- the search facilities in word processors can be used to help analyse legal documents;

- a simple macro can ensure defined terms in a document have been used in the body of the document;
- tables simplify the production of common legal documents such as lists of documents and answers to interrogatories;
- sorting and renumbering tools can be used to process lists;
- outlining programs can assist the initial drafting of documents, examining the structure of documents and examining areas of interest without displaying irrelevant text;
- macros and templates can automate the production of common forms such as Australian Security Commission Forms; and
- document assembly systems can prepare complex legal documents such as leases.

The message from the seminar was that the computer is a valuable drafting tool for lawyers. It streamlines the production of documents. It helps enhance quality, speed and accuracy and can reduce costs. The seminar begged the questions: "Does your lawyer have a computer on her or his desk?" and "Does she or he use it?"

One reason for the seminar was the fact that lawyers have equipped their secretaries with word processors but have not embraced computer technology in the drafting process itself. WASCAL is trying to redress this problem by conducting workshops every two or three months to educate lawyers about computers and their uses. Surprisingly, computer literacy is not high on the list of priorities of most lawyers yet it is probable that in five years' time the computer will become an integral tool in the practice of law and lawyers without a computer will perish.

The WASCAL committee elected for the 1992/93 year consists of: David Sigler (President), Tony Sutherland (Vice President), Ken Green (Treasurer), Michael Paterson (Secretary), Alan Cox, John Picton-Warlow, Jon Kenfield, Jane Lodge and Roger Jakeman.

The Committee is planning a range of activities including seminars on: Litigation Support Databases, Legal Issues Affecting Subcontracting in the Computer Industry, Legal Ins and Outs of Electronic Data Interchange, Artificial Intelligence and the Law, Presentation of Computer Evidence in the Courtroom, and New Frontiers in Copyright.

If you have any suggestions for other seminars or want more details about WASCAL please contact Michael Paterson on (09) 385 1389 or fax (09) 385 2125.

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# **Call For Contributions**

The theme of the December issue of the Computers & Law Journal will be:

## **DATA**

The Editors welcome any Articles, Case Notes or Books for Review for inclusion.

Please send contributions to The Editors by 5 December, 1992.