
From the Editors' Desks

At long last the Legal Technology issue has arrived! One particular editor is largely to blame for the delay but we thought it might be interesting to include in this version some comments about legal technology developments in the United Kingdom and the United States in addition to the situation in Australia and New Zealand. Yes this is a truly international edition. This particular editor has just completed a one month tour visiting law firms, suppliers, universities and electronic publishers in both the UK and the US - hence the delay. In this edition we also have details of Vicki Harris's impressions of legal technology in London and an update on developments in New Zealand by Gavin Adlam.

Other articles include an examination of a new imaging system estab-

lished jointly by the DPP & LMCS, a draft report on the protection of computer programs by Sharyn Chang, an article by one of the Editors on project management techniques for litigation and an article by Chris Priestly, a Melbourne barrister, on a new product called Total Research.

In this edition we have sought to demonstrate that the way in which we provide legal services is changing. Technology is being used to provide clients with more cost effective service and a better legal product. Whereas previously, private law firms only provided targeted legal advice at significant cost, it is now necessary for them to move into the area of generic legal information services provision. This is necessary to compete with electronic publish-

ers who are customising their legal information, providing it at low cost and expanding into the traditional domain of lawyers. Services such as Counsel Connect which facilitate easy communication between corporate counsel are obviating the need for corporate counsel to approach private law firms in a growing number of cases.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Journal. In a future edition we will publish an article by Elizabeth Broderick comparing lawyers' use of technology in the UK, US and Australia.

The Editors wish all their readers a technologically advanced 1994!

The Editors.



COMPUTERS & LAW

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