

the unprecedented threat posed to the privacy of personal information by system administrators, carriers, service providers and hackers snooping on the Internet.

- 1 Federal Government, *Australia Online*, February 1996, 17.
- 2 Australian Broadcasting Authority, *Investigation into the content of on-line services*, 30 June 1996, 30.
- 3 929F Supp 824 (1996). The US Supreme Court has affirmed the decision of the US Court of Appeals: *Reno v American Civil Liberties Union* (Unreported, US Supreme Court, Stevens J, 26 June 1997).
- 4 Department of Foreign Affairs, 'International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights' (1980) No 23 *Australian Treaty Series*.
- 5 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Guidelines for the Security of Information Systems (1992) ('OECD Security Guidelines').
- 6 Australian Privacy Charter Council, *Australian Privacy Charter*, December 1994.
- 7 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Guidelines Governing the Protection of Privacy and Transborder Flows of Personal Data (1980) ('OECD Data Protection Guidelines').
- 8 Directive on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data, No L 281 *Official Journal of the European Communities*, 23 November 1995, 31.

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

Princes Plaza Hotel—31 July 1997

It has been another successful year for WASCAL, thanks to the efforts of the committee who have devoted a substantial amount of their free time on behalf of the Society organising the events held over the 12 months since the last AGM.

Seminars

Once again, the presentation of seminars has again been WASCAL's primary focus and it has hosted another 8 seminars in the last 12 months:

- (a) last year's AGM seminar on Web Page tips and traps;
- (b) Personal Computers and Lawyers—Two Worlds Colliding, a look at Internet Information and Research Tools and a Dragon Dictate demonstration;
- (c) ACARB Joint Seminar—"Our Rights, Your Rights, Left Rights, Out Right?"!!!, the legality of looking at other people's e-mail and files;
- (d) the Christmas "DOOM" party;
- (e) "Providing Speedy Access to Justice - Automating the Legal Process", a legal expert system for compiling AAT applications;

- (f) Microsoft Word vs WordPerfect - a shootout!
- (g) involvement with the Supreme Court Library demonstration of the unreported decisions data base; and
- (h) tonight's double-header: "Electronic Commerce" and "Admissibility of Electronic Documents".

Future Seminars

There is a joint seminar with the Law Society looking at real life uses of the Internet planned for August. There will be a joint Law Society/WASCAL demonstration of different accounting packages tentatively set down for August.

Following the success of last year's idea to generate a seminar topic list, we have instituted a similar discount deal this year. I am sure that the members will take advantage of the deal!

Finances and Membership

The finances of the Society remain healthy, as you will see from the Treasurer's report. Our membership has also continued to grow over the last twelve months.

Contact with Other Organisations

WASCAL keeps close contact with the Australian Computer Society, the Law Society Computerisation Committee (the active Computerisation Committee members tend to be active in WASCAL too) and ACARB. This will continue through the next financial year.

My Resignation

I have been the President of the Society for a number of years now. Regretfully, the pressures of work have increased markedly in that time and I find that I cannot give the Society the attention that is required of the President. I have therefore resigned my position, but will nominate for the position of Vice-President.