

ATUG Regional Roadshow 2007

Communications Making a Difference

The Australian Telecommunications Users' Group (ATUG) Regional Roadshow is on the road again, bringing broadband technology providers and telecommunications experts to regional communities. The roadshow, held annually since 2003, aims to increase awareness about telecommunications issues in regional communities.

The roadshow started in late June with visits to Kadina and Port Augusta in South Australia, and then moved to Victoria in July, visiting Bendigo, Portland and Wangaratta. Visits to regional centres in New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia are planned for August and September.

The theme of the 2007 roadshow is 'Communications Making a Difference' and it focuses on the benefits and services that next generation networks can deliver—including e-commerce, e-security, health and government services, teleworking and voice over internet protocol services. The roadshow provides information to users, key local businesses, community groups and local government about the developments and opportunities of converged communications—computing, connectivity and content. Each visit comprises information displays and presentations by key speakers.

ATUG is a not-for-profit membership-based organisation that represents Australian telecommunications users to government and industry. Since 2002, it has had a particular focus on ensuring regional areas have access to the latest



communications platforms at affordable prices. From 2003 to 2006, the roadshow has visited 43 regional centres, travelled 54,489 kilometres and spoken with 1,839 people.

As a sponsor of the 2007 ATUG Regional Roadshow, ACMA is providing consumers and ATUG members information about its many responsibilities and what it does. Other sponsors include the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, the South

Australian Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology, Multimedia Victoria, the New South Wales Department of Commerce, Airspan, Community Information Strategies Australia Inc., Elders Limited, the Rural Doctors Association of Australia, and the Small Enterprise Telecommunications Centre Ltd.

More information about the ATUG Regional Roadshow is on the ATUG website at www.atug.com.au/RegionalRoadshow07.cfm.

Access to benefits from technology the focus of ACMA/Communications Alliance event

ACMA has joined with industry body Communications Alliance to host an event for discussion of communications consumer topics. Discussion will focus on how consumers will gain the benefits that future communication technologies provide and how Australia will achieve equitable access.

The Australian Communications and Media Authority and Communications Alliance 'Communications Consumer Dialogue 2007' will be held at the Sydney

Masonic Centre on 22 August 2007.

Topics include:

- What technologies are on the horizon?
- How will future technologies assist with accessibility?
- Empowering consumers—the way forward.

Moderated by award-winning journalist and documentary maker Jenny Brockie, the aim is to create an interactive and energetic dialogue between participants.

Speakers are drawn from across the community and include Louise Sylvan, Deputy Chair, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. Other speakers will be: Katherine Blashki, Chair of New Media Technologies at Deakin University; Mara Bun, Head of Research at Cannex; ACMA Member Chris Cheah; Teresa Corbin, Chief Executive Officer, Consumers' Telecommunications Network; Federal Disability Discrimination

Commissioner Graeme Innes; Michael McLeod of Message Stick Communications; Dr Christopher Newell, Associate Professor, School of Medicine, University of Tasmania; consultant Tim Noonan; Laurel Papworth of World Communities; writer, inventor and researcher Mark Pesce; and Alex Varley of Media Access Australia.

More information about the event is at www.slatteryit.com.au/congress/.