



Society News



New South Wales

In the last quarter the Society has continued to hold its monthly meetings with sessions on CD Rom Law Publishing, Update on Computer Piracy and Integrating Technology Systems.

On 12 December, the Society will hold its annual Gala meeting on "CLR Software Protection Recommendations/Issues Paper". Our speakers have wide experience in the area of copyright law and represent many different views. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served. The gala meeting provides an excellent opportunity to meet other members of the Society and to discuss the copyright law reform recommendations with our speakers. We look forward to seeing you there. A warm invitation is extended to members of any interstate society or the New Zealand society who may be in Sydney at this time.

Yes, we have changed the style of the newsletter yet again! Infact every time we receive a new, flashy piece of desktop publishing software, the newsletter undergoes a major transition. We hope you like the new, more modern style. Given our current resources it may be here for some time!

The circulation of the newsletter has increased dramatically with copies being sent to members of Societies in Western Australia, Victoria, Queensland and New Zealand. The Editors would like to publish articles from the different jurisdictions and they welcome any contributions. Where possible articles should be submitted on disk in Microsoft Word or Macintosh Word format together with a hard copy. They should be addressed to Virginia Gore, c/- Blake Dawson Waldron, DX 355 Sydney. The deadline for contributions for our January issue is 23 December, unless special arrangements are made with the Editor.

New Zealand

In June the Society held a seminar on the Legal Aspects on EDI. The seminar was jointly given by Brenda Cutress from the EDI Association and Elizabeth Longworth from Rudd Watts & Stone. The seminar emphasised the importance of developing an agreement between parties involved in EDI trading to overcome the absense of legislation regulating such transactions.

The Sociey endorsed the 1990 Computer & Law Conference organised by the Institute of International Research. The two day conference in Wellington was chaired by Anthony Wong, the President of the Society. Fourteen papers were delivered by leading industry commentators and topics included the latest legal issues confronting computing, copyright protection, computer fraud, software piracy, multimedia computing & EDI, tax liabilities, alternate dispute resolution and the various issues involved in computer contracts.

The Database Forum has been postponed to 30 October to coincide with the Law Society's focus on Computer Technology in October. The forum will include a panel of people from Baynet, Kiwinet, Netway, Lawnet and Victoria University to which questions can be directed.

On 5 November the Society is hosting the 4th Forum on Protection of Computer Intellectual Property Rights and Copyright in New Zealand. This Forum will deal with the issues of layout designs, piracy, protection of interfaces and enforcement procedures in New Zealand.

The Sociey is holding a drinks evening on 20 November in conjunction with an exhibition of computer legal packages and databases. We will advise all members of the exact details closer to the date.

Coming Events

- Oct 30** Databases. What do you want? Venue: Level 3, Conference Room, Law Society Building
- Nov 5** 4th Forum on Protection of Computer Intellectual Property Rights and Copyright in New Zealand
- Nov 20** Drinks Evening and Exhibition of Computer Legal Packages and Databases. Venue to be announced.

Meetings are to be held in the Level 8 Conference Room, Law Society Building 26 Waring Taylor Street, Wellington unless otherwise indicated. For further information contact Anthony Wong, c/- Philips NZ, 125-127 Wexford Rd, Miramar, Wellington, Tel: (04) 889 788.

Western Australia

The Eighth Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on 18 July, 1990 and was attended by 30 people.

The previous President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer were re-elected unopposed as were the previous general committee members to which one person was added.

The general business was disposed of in approximately ten minutes after which the President of the WA Society, Kevin O'Toole, presented a paper on "The Legal Protection of Computer Software Under Copyright and by Contract, including Contracts for Services and Confidentiality Agreements". This was well received by all attending.

Coming Events

1. In November Margot Watts, Parker & Parker, Perth, will be presenting a paper on Liability under Contract and Tort for Defective Computer Programmes.
2. In February 1990, Tony Wilson, also from Parker & Parker, will be presenting a paper on "Legal Issues Concerning Electronic Data Interchange".
3. In March or April 1991, we will be holding a series of seminars to introduce computer illiterate lawyers to computers.
4. In March or April 1991 we propose holding a joint seminar presented by the Australian Computer Abuse Research Bureau and the Western Australian Ministry of Justice on hacking and privacy legislation.

All queries should be directed to Michael Paterson (09) 322 0321.

Queensland

The formation of the Queensland Society for Computers & the Law appears imminent. The inaugural meeting of the Society is planned for November. For further details please contact Mika Hayward on (07) 231-5222. The Editors look forward to learning of any progress.

Victoria

A preliminary meeting was held on 16 October 1990 with the intention of reactivating a Victorian Society for Computers and the Law. At that meeting it was decided to produce a draft set of rules and a statement of purpose and to reconvene in November to discuss the future directions of the Society.

Anyone who is interested in attending the Society's forthcoming meeting should contact Amanda Bodger, Mallesons Stephen Jaques on (03) 619-0625.