



New South Wales

The NSW Society has been very active over the last four months. The monthly meetings topics included: 1. Open Systems; 2. Electronic Security of Documents; 3. Computerised Conveyancing; and 4. International Copyright in Developing Countries.

Topics being discussed for next year include: understanding computer jargon; government regulations; outsourcing; developments in product liability; expert systems for lawyers; and systems integration and

privacy, parallel importing and copyright.

If you have any suggestions for future meeting topics please let Liz Broderick know as soon as possible.

The end of year meeting which is advertised on page 23 is certain to be a "GALA EVENT". The topic is "Europe 1992 - What it means for you". Dr Gragolla of the European Commission will chair the meeting. A warm invitation to attend the meeting is extended to

members of any interstate Societies or the New Zealand Society.

After the formal papers, drinks will be served and members will have a chance to renew old acquaintances and to meet new members.

At the last Committee meeting it was agreed that the Society will assist in the advertising of the Pacific Rim Computer Law Conference together with the Computer Law Association Inc. of the US. This conference is currently scheduled for 25 and 26 February 1993.

New Zealand

The inaugural meeting of the steering committee of the Christchurch Branch was held in July 1991. The steering group comprises David Rowe, Dean of the Law Faculty - Canterbury University (chairman), Neil MacLean of Bell Taylor & Co also chairman of the NZ Law Society of Technology and Law Committee, Ed Manco from Deloitte Ross Tohmatsu and Tony Robinson. The branch is organising a series of seminars for 1992.

On 30 May, 1991 the President, Anthony Wong addressed the Society on "An Introduction to Document Handling Using Optical Filing". The seminar explored the use of this technology as well as some of the optical filing concepts involved.

In June, 1991 the Society met in Wellington to explore the new op-

tions for "User Friendly Access to Computerised Legal Information Services". Representatives from KIWINET demonstrated their new search and help interface called "Kiwinet Prompt" which eliminates the use of the less-friendly ".." commands found in BRS Search. David Hinden from Hinden Communications who developed the front end for the NZ Law Society demonstrated the new services which are available including a gateway to ABAnet, the network of the American Bar Association. An interesting graphical user interface search tool called SearchClerk which allows users of Macintoshes access to the Kiwinet databases was also demonstrated by Graeme Ramsay from CDL Systems. SearchClerk is designed to be used by lawyers themselves and all the commands for

each part of the search are available from a pull-down menu.

The Auckland branch of the Society organised an expert systems seminar for 21 June 1991. The speakers were Martin Buis of Ernst & Young who has extensive experience in developing expert systems and Roger Parkinson who has written expert systems for service organisations.

Ian Perry the Society Membership Officer and partner of Deloitte Ross Tohmatsu gave an interesting talk in July 1991 on contingency planning for disasters and events that may preclude a law firm and its employees from access to the office, client files and communication facilities in his address on "Business Continuity Planning for Law Offices". The seminar was of great relevance to New Zealand

businesses particularly because NZ has an earthquake fault line across the length of the country.

On 27 August 1991, John Terry from Baldwin Son & Carey discussed the issues involved in the patentability of computer software in New Zealand and overseas.

On 7 August 1991, the NZ Government introduced the Data Privacy Bill which covers both public and private sector agencies. The Bill sets out a number of information privacy principles and also introduces provisions to allow data-matching between a number of government departments including the Department of Social Wel-

fare, the Inland Revenue and the Accident Compensation Commission. The Minister's media release states that "... it is timely to introduce this Bill now because the Government has decided that in order to prevent welfare fraud and ensure that those eligible to welfare assistance receive their proper entitlement, it is necessary to match some information held by one Government department with that held by another."

Legislation has also been enacted to introduce the Kiwi Card to those in low income groups. The card will be used to obtain payment of any benefit or allowance.

The Society invited the Minister of Justice, the Honourable Mr Douglas Graham to address the Society on a number of issues pertaining to this legislation. The seminar was held in Wellington on 10 September 1991. The seminar will also be repeated in Auckland and will be presented by Tim McBride, senior lecturer at Auckland University.

For information about the Society please contact the secretary, John Terry Baldwin Son & Carey, PO Box 852, Wellington, New Zealand. Tel: 64 -4 721094, Fax: 64-4-736712.

Western Australia

Introduction to Computers for Lawyers

On 12 and 13 March, 1991 WASCAL conducted courses introducing lawyers to computers. The course was designed for computer illiterate lawyers. It involved hands-on experience using the mouse and keyboard. The environment was Windows 3.0 and the packages demonstrated included word processing, spread sheet and database applications.

Privacy Legislation in WA and Related Topics

The speakers were Wayne Martin, Perth Barrister and Convenor of the Privacy Committee of the Law Council of Australia, Bill Hassell past Member of the Legislative Assembly who was involved in introducing privacy legislation into Parliament and John Palmer from the Australian Computer Abuse Research Bureau. This meeting was held on 22 May, 1991.

CD ROM Seminar

On 21 August, 1991 a "legal and not so legal CD ROM Seminar" was held at the Parmelia Hilton Hotel in conjunction with WASCAL's AGM (disposed of in 10 minutes). Approximately 60 people saw demonstrations of the Corporations Law on disk, the LAWPAC Series including New South Wales, Victoria and South Australian State reports, an encyclopedia and Yellow and White Pages Directories on disk. There was also a talk on the use of optical disks for archiving data.

Proposed Seminars

- Business Software Association of Australia Seminar

We are attempting to organise a representative of the BSAA, a representative from an organisation caught pirating by the BSAA and an independent legal practitioner to talk about issues relating to software piracy.

- Government Information Technology Contracts

We are organising representatives from State Services, Australian Information Industry Association and an independent legal practitioner to talk about the proposed Federal Government's Information Technology Contracts.

- Imaging

Early next year, we will be conducting a seminar outlining the technology involved with imaging and how it can affect work practices.

- Computers in the Court Room

We will also be conducting a seminar demonstrating how computers can be used in many different ways in the Court room. It will also include a discussion of evidentiary implications of storing data magnetically and optically.

- On-line Information Providers

Various providers of on-line legal information such as the Titles Office, ASC, Info One, the Victorian Law Council's Link Organisation and the Crown Law Department with its proposed data base containing WA Statutes will be the subject of this seminar.

- **Litigation Support**

We have successfully held seminars and workshops on computerised litigation support in the past. These will be revisited in 1992.

- **Introduction to Computers for Lawyers**

These courses will be held on a more regular basis, hopefully starting towards the end of 1991. It is envisaged that they will be held at least every two months.

A new committee was elected at the AGM. It includes:

President: Tony Sutherland
Vice President: David Sigler

Secretary: Michael Paterson
Treasurer: Ken Green

Committee: Alan Cox
Wendy Campbell
Jon Kenfield
John Picton-Warlow
Kevin O'Toole
David Prast
Peter Robinson

Queensland

The Queensland Society has had a very successful first year. The Society has been able to hold a small number of seminars and discussion groups which, on the whole, have been well attended. 1992 will be the year for consolidation. It is anticipated there will be at least 4 seminars and 4 discussion groups.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **December 11, 1991** at the Hilton Hotel commencing at 5.30 pm. It is hoped that in addition to committee elections, there will be a guest speaker. The meeting will be followed by drinks and savouries so as to offer a chance for everybody to meet and discuss the

Society's future. Notices of the AGM and membership renewal notices will be forwarded to members shortly.

It is hoped that the Society will continue to receive widespread support.

Victoria

News from South of the Border

The newly revamped, reupholstered, and reconstituted Victorian Society for Computers and the Law has been active. Since the last Newsletter entry (way back in the mists of time) we have held aloft the shining flame of truth, ... well, we've had a few seminars.

Ann Caine, an architect of the Government Information Technology Conditions (the "GITC"), spoke on their birth and the likely effects upon the industry of its newborn screams. Most practitioners went away both informed and chastened by, if not a New World Order than,

a differently slanted playing field. In order to show our non-partisan approach, we next heard from David Standen, NCR's legal eagle, and representative of the AIIA. David's all-singing, all-dancing luster light show was perceptive, and struck a chord with the audience, which to a man/woman was biased in his favour.

We next heard from the non-controversial, but nonetheless interesting and informative, Dr Peter Thorne, Melbourne University Computer Faculty supremo and noted expert witness. His comments on the role of the expert in

difficult and technical litigation were new to most of the members, and a less to all. Then came Bruce Akhurst of Malleson Steven Jaques, who spoke on the new Telecommunications regime. Once again a large group heard an illuminating talk on a little-understood field.

Our final speaker for 1991 represented a lateral step for the Society; previously all speakers had focussed on the law as it relates to computers. In October, Andrzej Kowalski of Melbourne University Law School spoke on expert systems and some of the work he has done at the University of British Columbia

and closer to home. Many of the topics which he discussed are canvassed in the pages of this issue of the Newsletter.

All of the talks have been remarkably well attended. Flush with success, and as a curtain-call for 1991, the Victorian Society is therefore putting on an AGM/Cocktail Party

on December 4 at 6.00pm at Mallesons Steven Jaques' aging, but still plush, offices overlooking the Yarra and the bay. Teague J. of the Supreme Court, one of the few computer-literate judges anywhere, is presenting a speech on the differences in computerisation between private practice and the bench. All

the usual suspects will be in attendance, and will desperately be seeking re-election. All members of all Societies for Computers and the Law in each state are welcome to attend if in the general vicinity. Director all enquiries to Amanda Bodger, c/- Malleson Steven Jaques, (03) 619 0619.



The Special Interest Group on Artificial Intelligence

Membership available on corporate, regular, and full-time student basis

For more information on events and membership contact:

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