

## From the Editors' Desks

In this issue, we look at intellectual property and specifically how it relates to computer technology. We are proud of this issue. Not only do we have a scoop (see front page if you haven't already), but we think we have gathered a range of interesting articles, case notes and reviews.

In this edition there are three major articles. The first is on *Autodesk*. Now, many of you will have read commentary on the case, and are probably tired of all the pundits' comments. We hope that you will find our lead article somewhat different. Not only are our commentators Jim FitzSimons and Peter Knight, eminent and learned, but their attitude to the case is not the usual 'description of facts, followed by decision, followed by brief thoughts of the author'. We think

their view is interesting, and well worth reading, particularly in light of the application to the High Court.

The second article focusses on an area of intellectual property which has been largely ignored by computer lawyers - patents. David Webber, a patent attorney with Davies Collison Cave in Melbourne, discusses not only the patent law but why it has been so ignored. He also examines the recent case, *IBM's Application* and reports on the trends.

The final major article is by Mark Davison, a law lecturer from Monash University. His article looks at *Avel v Wells* and parallel importation under the *Circuit Layouts Act*. But that is not all. He points out the illogicality of having different prescriptive rules of parallel importation

between the *CLA* and the *Copyright Act*.

This issue of *Computers & Law* is endowed with a greater than usual number of case notes. The four notes included are relevant to all practitioners in this field, and in some cases have not been, and may never be, reported. In an effort to make everyone aware of the developments we hope to increase the number of case notes we publish.

Finally, we have reviews of four books, specifically on intellectual property. The reviews cover a number of books of use to computer lawyers. Due to space and time considerations we have not been able to publish a number of reviews we have of other intellectual property law books: notably the authoritative new edition of Copinger & Skone James on Copyright, and Cornish on Intellectual Property. We will include them in our next issue.

Speaking of our next issue, we have decided to broaden our appeal, and in so doing have set ourselves a cracking pace. We are shortly going to bring out a special issue specifically on The Current Use of Technology in Law. We have articles on litigation support, databases and DeskTop publishing to hand, all looking at their use in the legal office. That issue is on top of our usual publication schedule (the next 'usual' issue will focus on the law relating to data). If the response is good, we will bring out other future special issues later in the year.

We hope you like this issue. If you do, or more importantly if you don't, then drop us a line at the addresses noted beside. Who knows, our next initiative might be a 'Letter to the Editors' page.

**The Editors.**



## COMPUTERS & LAW

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