

Evolution not revolution

Welcome to the first issue of the Journal for 1996. This is also the first issue under the guiding hands of new editors David Standen and Simon Pollard. Kent Davey provides some continuity by staying on as an invaluable Melbourne editor.

Changes in the editors will mean little change in the Journal itself. The Journal has evolved over the years into a vibrant, professional publication which serves its readers well. That evolution has been driven by the previous Sydney editor, Liz Broderick, and her colleague and layout and design expert, Virginia Gore. The role of new editors is to restrain any temptation to transform the evolution into a revolution. We will preserve the Journal layout, design and style and maintain the current mix of thematic and general content.

It has been eight years since there was a change in the main editors. We therefore think it appropriate to pay tribute to the service provided to Journal readers by Liz Broderick and Virginia Gore.

Liz Broderick was made a partner in the Sydney office of national law firm Blake Dawson Waldron effective from June 1995. Her road to that position has been intertwined with the Society for Computers and Law from the outset of her career. After completing a BA (majoring in Computer Science) and LLB combined degree at the University of New South Wales, Liz was admitted to practice in 1984. She was a member of the fledgling NSW Society even while a law student. Like many of us, she was introduced to the Society by Graham Greenleaf (now Associate Professor at UNSW Law School and a driving force behind the Foundation Law Web site).

After working for Hunt & Hunt and in London Liz returned to Sydney and joined the BDW research department in late 1987 and also rejoined the Society. In mid-1988 she became only the second editor (together with

Robert Johnston of Ebsworth & Ebsworth) of what was then the Society Newsletter. Robert completed four issues as co-editor while Liz continued on until December 1995. During that time her own personal evolution has paralleled that of the Journal and indeed the Society.

Liz initially built national computer systems for the Blakes national partnership, including policies for the management of the firm's intellectual property. From that base she helped found the Blakes Technology Group which she now heads. That Group is dedicated to legal products development, client consulting and computerised support for all areas of the national practice. The Group is multi-disciplinary, client focused, product oriented and is now a major profit centre as well as generating positive public relations with both clients and the wider marketplace.

In 1990 Virginia Gore joined Liz in the research department at Blakes as a computerised layout, design and desktop publishing expert. Virginia took over the production of the Journal and, as Liz's role within Blakes became increasingly demanding, her own role on the Journal expanded. She liaised with the printers and interstate Societies, desktop published the Journal and, with great help from then-Melbourne editor Dan Hunter, sourced contributions and other content. Virginia became a Society member in 1990 and more recently has been Committee membership and subscription officer.

Liz, Virginia and Dan Hunter grew the Journal by introducing regular input from interstate Societies, thematic issues and by generating advertiser awareness and revenue (1991). Liz and Virginia Gore also changed the layout, colour and design and relaunched the then Newsletter as the Journal (1992). Meanwhile Liz has been NSW Society President (1992 and 1993) and acting President (in 1994, while Connie Carnabuci was

seconded to New York). Liz remains a Committee member, as does Virginia. Liz has still found time for a personal life and will become a mother in late March!

Bill Bernbach once said that the measure of a person was humility in the presence of a great idea. The Journal as readers enjoy it today was the idea of Liz and Virginia. We ask you to thank them, as well as Dan Hunter and all the contributors over the years and those readers whose feedback has forged the Journal. We will attempt to do justice to their efforts and continue to provide you with a Journal which is useful, relevant, enjoyable and consistent.

In this issue we have a timely Telecommunications theme. The Australian Federal Government recently released draft legislation to effect the deregulation of the telecommunications landscape in Australia after 1997. In late 1995 the Trade Practices Commission was folded into the new Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), with broad powers in relation to telecommunications. Our lead article is by Peter Waters and analyses the draft legislation. Brent Fisse then examines the ACCC discretions in relation to telecommunications and the impact of the new Hilmer access regime in particular. Christina Hardy contributes with an article on the post 1997 landscape from the service providers viewpoint. We also continue the international tradition with an article by lawyer Andreas Raubenheimer of Germany on recent German cases which mirror the facts of the Austodesk litigation in Australia. Wendy London is the author of a provocative article on the effects of technology on our work and lives. The evolution of the Journal does include a new regular page on Internet news, which will contain news items and details of interesting and relevant Web sites.