
NSW Society for Computers and Law Annual General Meeting— President's Report

4 February 1998

Welcome this evening to the Annual General Meeting of the Society for Computers and The Law.

It has been a very busy year for the society which ran another very successful series of seminars.

In February, Wendy Cain gave us a very practical demonstration on the use of technology in a small law firm, showing us that voice recognition software has come of age in the legal office. In March, Freehill Hollingdale & Page hosted a very well attended seminar on "Trade Marks and the Internet" proving that the Internet is still generating an enormous amount of interest. The presentations by Julia Baird and Sue Gilchrist were very well received. In April, Les Lawrence spoke about Encryption and then in May, Philip Argy told us about Electronic Commerce and the UNCITRAL Model Agreement at a seminar hosted by Mallesons Stephen Jaques.

In May, the Society co-hosted a special meeting with the International Institution of Communications at which Andy MacDonald, the then Chief Government Information Officer gave us "A view from the top - directions and strategies for Government and Information Technology".

In June, Alistair Hood and John Gray spoke to us about the "Millennium Bug" and our annual joint seminar with the College of Law was held in July. This was another very successful joint seminar and we heard from Stephen Burley who gave us an update on "Intellectual Property Aspects of the Internet", Peter Jones spoke about electronic prospectuses, I gave a talk on "Electronic Commerce on the Interent" and we then had a hypothetical from Owen Trembath on "Forum Shopping in the Cybermall".

In August we heard from David Liebermann of the ACCC who spoke to us about "Deregulation on the Telecommunications Industry" in a seminar hosted by Clayton Utz. In September, we heard from Natalia Yastreboff on "Digital Cash and Smartcards" in a seminar hosted by Allen Allen & Hemsley. In October the seminar was "Pitfalls in an online world" by Michelle Pheehan and Mary Williams and "Computer Fraud and Crime" was the topic for a presentation in November by Michael Saunders and Paul Zawa.

We ran a joint seminar with the Licencing Executive Society in September on the subject of "Patenting and Licencing of Software" hosted by Mallesons Stephen Jaques which was again very well attended.

The Gala Seminar was again held at Glover Cottages on 3 December, on that very pleasant evening Michael Aaron gave us his thoughts on "The Future Electronic Commerce World" and Peter Waters spoke about the most recent developments in Telecommunications.

The seminar series are the result of the effort of quite a number of people, with a nominated person, usually the chair of the seminar, organising the seminar, the topic, the speakers and the venue. Thank you to those of you who helped organise the year's calendar. To help co-ordinate the meetings and ensure that the notices go out is not an easy job and last year that fell to Lisa Hill who did a tremendous job in assisting in that process, not just once but for the whole year. My thanks to Lisa for her efforts.

Producing the Computers and Law Journal is no easy task and there it really is easy to single out a single person. I think it is very hard to

appreciate how much work goes into producing a journal until you have actually done one. My thanks go to Simon Pollard in particular, for continuing and building on the reputation of the Journal, assisted by his co-editors, David Standen and Kent Davey. Three very substantial issues were produced last year with a great deal of very interesting and informative information. Simon has already planned the format of the publications for this coming year, each focusing on a particular theme:

- Internet Commerce
- The Federal Government Information Technology Market
- Telecommunications Interconnection Issues/Pay TV
- Computer contracts

I would like to thank the Members of the Committee who assisted in conducting the Society's business throughout the year. In particular, I would like to thank Diana Gould for her assistance as Vice President, and Kathryn Everett who is the Secretary of the Society. I would also like to thank James McGovern who stepped in during the year to take over the Treasurer's role after our incumbent treasurer left to visit more exotic places.

Finally, I would like to thank Kirsty Wade our Membership Officer. The keeping of the lists is a very important but time consuming job, and Kirsty has done an outstanding job.

Thank you for your support.